

The purpose of the First Baptist Church of Auburn is to glorify God by developing disciples who know Christ personally as prescribed in God's Word, through worship, teaching, fellowship, and outreach to our community and world.

From the Pastor ... Sarcasm



SARCASM (sar·casm) – noun; the use of irony to mock or convey contempt; a sharp and satirical or ironic utterance designed to cut or give pain; a mode of satirical wit depending for its effect on bitter, caustic language that is usually directed against an individual

From that definition it is clear that we need to be careful with our use of sarcasm. In fact, we should probably not use sarcasm if it is *“designed to cut or give pain.”*

Some of us may have been on the painful side of sarcasm. It's not fun and we should not make it a part of our conversation. We need to use Ephesians 4:29 as our guide.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

But is there another definition for sarcasm? Someone has said that sarcasm is *“drawing attention to something that is really just silly or crazy when you stop to think about it.”*

One example of this type of sarcasm is found in Isaiah 44:14-17. The prophet writes:

¹⁴ He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak. He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow.

¹⁵ It is used as fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it.

¹⁶ Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, “Ah! I am warm; I see the fire.”

¹⁷ From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, “Save me! You are my god!”

When you stop to think about it, the worship of idols simply does not make sense. One half of the stump heats your house and cooks your food, the other half becomes the god you worship!?! This type of sarcasm reveals that there is something definitely wrong with

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Upcoming Events for APRIL

Every Sunday –

Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting – 4:00 p.m.
Small Group Service – 4:45 p.m.

Every Wednesday –

Game Time – 4:30 p.m.
15 minutes of Prayer – 5:30 p.m.

Every Thursday – Quilting Circle –
9:00 a.m. thru 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 5 –

Men's Breakfast – 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 8 –

All Church Business
Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9 –

Blood Drive at St. Gabriel Parish
Hall – 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 13 –

All Church Potluck
(right after the morning service)

Friday, April 18 –

Good Friday Service – 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 20 –

Easter Sunday

Tuesday, April 22 –

Women's Breakfast at M's Cafe
in Midland – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 27 – Food Pantry



Finances through March 23, 2025

We are currently in the RED — \$2,770.04

From the Pastor ... (continued from page 1)

this picture.

The book of Job has its share of sarcasm. After listening to his friends wax eloquent about the reasons for Job's suffering he says to them:

"Doubtless you are the only people who matter, and wisdom will die with you!" 12:2

These three are talking like they know the very mind of God and that Job must be dumb to not notice. Job is highlighting the lunacy of their comments.

The man born blind, that Jesus healed by putting mud on his eyes and then having him wash in the pool, recorded in John 9, uses sarcasm after being harassed by

the religious leaders.

They had asked him several times to tell his story, but refused to believe him. They ask him again and his reply is, *"I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"* (vs. 27)

Of course his sarcasm gets him kicked out of the synagogue, but it illustrates the pointlessness of their continual asking.

The reality is that sarcasm can be used to point out illogical ideas or actions but can often be used to hurt others. It is probably best to avoid sarcasm. Back to Ephesians 4:29, let's build others up and give grace.



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 5

9:00 a.m.

Blood Drive!

St. Gabriel Parish Hall

Wednesday, April 9

1:30 thru 5:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 18

6:30 p.m.

Women's Breakfast

M's Cafe in Midland

Tuesday, April 22

9:00 a.m.



FEBRUARY 2025

ECCLESIOLOGICALLY CRIST (PART 2)

Praises

- Banyo, Cameroon: Gateway Sister-Church Partnership Vision Trip – This was an amazing experience as I led this small group from Park Meadows Baptist and as they, in turn, discern as a congregation how they may partner among believers from a least-reached people group in this region.
- Phoenix, Arizona: NAB Executive Team Meetings – We discussed much regarding the future of the NAB Conference and also had the opportunity to have new Saskatchewan Regional Minister Mike Anderson join us.
- A wonderful Christmas celebration and season with family and friends!

Prayer

- Sunrise, California: Short-Term Mission Leader Workshop for NAB NorCal churches (and anyone else!) – This is Gateway's 'signature' and longest-tenured training; the A-to-Z of leading a mission trip. Register to attend(!) at: nabonmission.org/get-involved/nab-gateway/gateway-registration/.
- Detroit, Michigan: NAB Great Lakes Association Mission Conference – Please pray for me and other NAB mission reps and missionaries attending, sharing, and speaking at this multi-church event.
- Hungary and Serbia – Central Europe Field Director visit for future budgeting and planning with our Global Mission Partners, the Daróczy-Csuhais and Čizmanskis.
- Chicago, Illinois – NAB SuperWeek, including Mission Advisory Team meetings and Bonfire.
- Interim Vice President of International Missions role for the NAB – I was asked to serve in this role until a new permanent VP of International Missions can be found. Thank you for your prayers for me during these busy and challenging months. And please pray for the search for a permanent VP.
- Central Europe Field Director role for Hungary/Serbia – Thanks for your prayers as I continue in this role as well.
- For all Gateway's ongoing sister-church partnerships in various stages of development and engagement in Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, Mexico, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Hungary, Romania, and Cameroon.
- For more North American churches to engage in sister-church partnerships.

Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body.

COLOSSIANS 1:18A (NLT)



Scenes from the Least-Reached People Group village I visited with Park Meadows Baptist.

As you'll recall from my last [newsletter in November](#), I took some time to reflect on some of what continues to inspire NAB Gateway's missional paradigm of sister-church partnerships (SCPs). In this newsletter, on a more practical rather than hermeneutical approach, I'd like to share about how diverse the SCPs actually are that we work with.

As I'm fond of saying in our SCP orientations with pastors and church leaders, not one of the SCPs we currently see inspired or under the umbrella of NAB Gateway is the same. Some of these 'sister-church' partnerships are between mature and well-established Baptist churches that, at first glance at least, share similar roots, beliefs, etc. Others are between churches (or a network of churches or ministries) in North America and 'seed-planting' ministries in the majority world that have among their goals the establishment of communities of faith as those seeds grow and mature. In the case of the latter, a specific/local church, traditionally defined, could be a goal in the future but will require a number of steps to get to; even with a partner, whether that partner is a local (sister) church or another entity/community. Here are a few examples of these different points along the spectrum when it comes to SCPs.

SCP Scenario #1: A Canadian Baptist church and a Hungarian Baptist church in Romania - Although at first glance, this partnership looks like a classic sister-church relationship, in 2025 the Canadian church is quite multi-ethnic and the Hungarian church finds itself as an ethnic minority congregation in this country.

SCP Scenario #2: A Baptist church in the USA and a ministry in Hungary focused on reaching the holistic needs (poverty, economic, spiritual, community) of

Roma/Gypsy villages/neighborhoods - A church is clearly the partner on one side, but on the other side, there is a future hope to establish a congregation or Christian fellowship. Nonetheless, this is within Gateway's parameters of our sister 'church' partnership paradigm.

SCP Scenario #3: (An example from the past) NAB's student/youth ministry and the Cameroon Baptist Youth Department - In this case, a local church was not the focus on either side of the SCP, but the guiding principles of relationship, mutuality, and global church identity, as well as partnership for the sake of mission (all SCP values) were always the focus.

SCP Scenario #4: Two churches in Canada and the USA and a church/planting ministry in Mexico established by a former NAB missionary - Here we have a multi-church sister-church partner on the North American side combining their aligned efforts with this Latino congregation in Mexico City.

SCP Scenario #5: This scenario is more of a future pursuit in the beginning stages - a Canadian Baptist church that recently merged with an African congregation that is pursuing partnership with churches back in Africa from the same ethnic group. (Incidentally, as is the case in a number of areas of the world where Gateway is involved, there is room for more sister-church partners in this specific scenario.)

So, what's in a name? The moniker sister-church partnership is definitely descriptive (as was said in my prior newsletter) as far as our original intent; "this IS the goal of SCPs, to find ways to do MISSION together as a result of the purposeful intentions of integral relationships and mutuality." But, clearly, there are factors that come into





play as parts of the Global Church seek to partner with each other. ‘Making room for growth’ is one major factor to consider when one looks at what the Spirit is doing among different groups of people around the world. As God draws all humanity to Himself, and as these communities and individuals find themselves on the trajectory to being part of the Global Church, we find ourselves ‘making room for growth’ in these diverse communities and among these people groups. It’s exciting to partner with people across the globe who are created in God’s image, and, yes, that image is one of a relational, community-driven, missional God (*missio Dei*).

And as these examples from our own experience with NAB Gateway show, the church in sister ‘church’ points more at the presence of each of our diverse places in the Global Church. And most often, that presence describes what we’ve come to understand as church in our own local setting rather than somehow forcing our understanding of what church is onto another part of the Global Church. (We do not force our understanding of being a ‘foot’ onto others who are clearly ‘hands’ – 1 Corinthians 12:15.)

So, does ‘sister-church partnerships’ describe what this is all about? Yes, but with an understanding that allows for the Spirit of God to do the amazing work of drawing all humanity (and creation) into this amazing body (Global Church) in all its diversity that Jesus is King over.

Please contact us (rschmor@nabconf.org) at NAB Gateway for more information on SCPs, as well as training and opportunities for doing short-term mission with excellence, something Gateway has been about for more than thirty-five years.

For the Kingdom,

Randy Schmor

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CALIFORNIA, 95678, UNITED STATES
RSCHMOR@NABCONF.ORG



Cameroon Sister-Church Partnership Vision Trip – Jacky Ketel (far left), Randy Schmor (third from left), and Gary Dupuis (far right).



February 28-March 1, 2025
7:00 pm–9:00 pm, Friday
9:00 am–5:30 pm, Saturday

Cost: \$15/person
Sunrise Community Church
8321 Greenback Lane
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

A WORKSHOP FOR SHORT-TERM MISSION LEADERS

ON BEST PRACTICES IN SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

NAB Gateway Short-Term Mission Leadership Workshop
Hosted at Sunrise Community Church, Fair Oaks

Mark your calendars for February 28th and March 1st as Sunrise Community Church welcomes Randy Schmor of NAB Gateway for a hands-on workshop designed to equip and inspire short-term mission leaders.

What You’ll Learn:

- **Missional Theology:** Living globally, fostering long-term partnerships, and defining short-term missions.
- **Mission Trip Timeline:** Master the stages of preparation—from planning and team selection to re-entry and follow-through.
- **Leadership Excellence:** Apply Standards of Excellence, prepare your team effectively, and discover resources available through NAB Gateway.



Quilting Circle! Every Thursday

Lots of Fun! Bring Your Own Lunch!

Items needed:

- ***gray or cream colored thread***
- ***any material you don't need anymore***
- ***any "Ty" animals***

See Jackie Ware for Details!

9:00 a.m. thru 4:00 p.m.

Game Night! Every Wednesday

Lots of Fun! Come One ... Come All!

Many Challenges with Different Types of Games!

4:30 p.m. — in the Adult Sunday School Room



Italian Pasta Diet in Six Easy Steps

Steppa #1

You steppa pasta da bakery.

Steppa #2

You steppa pasta da candy store.

Steppa #3

You steppa pasta da ice cream shop.

Steppa #4

You steppa pasta da table and fridge.

Steppa #5

You steppa pasta da plate a pasta.

Steppa #6

Guessa what?! You losa da weight!

