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## Message From the Superintendent

Hello Friends,

With so much going on in our lives as we try to be more Christ-like each day, sometimes we find ourselves looking outward instead of inward. We become more concerned at what others are saying or doing and we want them to change instead of looking at ourselves and our own actions.

In the end, we will be accountable for ourselves to God. Paul tells us in Romans 14:12: *“So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.”* So let’s look inwardly, instead of outwardly and pay attention to our own souls. Obey and honor God. Leave all the consequences up to Him for you and everyone else.

I pray that Christ may use us in others’ lives and that they will see Christ in us as we seek to become a reflection of His example. May His light continue to shine in and through our family of churches. Have a great week!

God Bless,

*Matthew Cook*

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## **FSW Office Updates**

### **Christy Wimber**

After serving Friends Southwest as a consultant, we are thrilled to let you know that Christy Wimber officially came on staff in March as Director of Global Church Planting for FSW. Christy has experience in planting and leading churches as well as mentoring church leaders from all over the world. Christy is passionate about what God is doing among us at Friends Southwest as we take the best of what God has done and build into the future.

### **Shaun Glenn**

We are equally excited to introduce our new Controller, Shaun Glenn. Shaun is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a Master of Science in Accounting. He has gained extensive accounting and operations experience through various for-profit and nonprofit roles. Shaun's work with ministries and churches has uniquely equipped him to oversee the financial systems and operations of the FSW office. We look forward to seeing his expertise and love for the church come together to help us be even better stewards at FSW.

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## **Ministry Development**

### **Leadership Journey**



The *Leadership Journey* recently completed its inaugural season as part of Leadership Development within FSW. This program is designed to create a shared experience and united footing for pastors, church staff, and lay leaders across our denomination. Those who participated were challenged to deeply understand and experience the depth of the Gospel, grow in self-awareness, become increasingly emotionally healthy and mature as they are equipped to think and lead like Jesus. Micah Darden, Equipping Pastor at Canyon Hills Friends Church writes of his experience:

*"My wife and I have loved our experience in the Leadership Journey. From the start, we were given a clear roadmap of the course material along with the books we would be going over as a cohort. Going through these resources with other committed leaders week in and week out was a great experience of spiritual growth. Additionally, there were amazing speakers each month that helped us further develop our understanding of leadership and God's calling for our lives."*

As we celebrate all God has done with the 24 participants from 8 churches, we are looking ahead to the future and the next iterations of the journey.

Starting this fall, the *Leadership Journey* will be renamed the *Leadership Foundation*. It will be shortened from 9 months to 12

weeks, allowing more people to take part in it as it will move to different locations across the Southwest each fall and spring. The *Leadership Foundation* will run in Orange County in the fall of 2023 and in Los Angeles County in the spring of 2024 with plans to expand to other regions in the near future. Applications for Fall 2023 in Yorba Linda are currently live.

[Click here to learn more and apply today.](#)

### Pastors Conference 2023

A graphic with a light green and beige background. On the left, the text "Save the Date!" is written in a dark green, sans-serif font. Below it, the word "RESILIENT" is written in large, white, outlined letters. On the right, the text "Pastor's Conference" is written in a dark green, sans-serif font. Below that, the dates "October 2-4" and location "Palm Springs, CA" are written in a smaller, dark green font, followed by "Spouses & Staff Invited" in the same font. The graphic features abstract shapes, including a large dark green semi-circle on the right and a large beige semi-circle on the left.

Mark your calendars and save the date! *Resilient* is the theme for this year's Pastors Conference in Palm Springs, October 2-4. This is an

opportunity to gather and connect with FSW lead pastors, staff, and spouses. We encourage you to bring along young leaders, lay staff, and other ministry personnel who would benefit from a time of equipping, connecting, and encouraging. Begin to ask God whom He would have your church bring to Pastors Conference this fall. We hope to see you there!

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## FSW Summer Meet-Up



The *FSW Summer Meet-Up* is an opportunity to connect with others from our family of churches. The night will begin at 5 PM with games for the whole family, dinner will be served at 6 PM, and we will end the night with bilingual worship.

All are welcome! Feel free to invite others, but please help us plan accordingly by registering. [Click here to](#) register or use the QR code on the flyer. There will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer as well,

[click here to sign up to serve!](#) If you have any questions or would like copies of the flyer, email Evelyn Portillo at [evelynp@fsw.church](mailto:evelynp@fsw.church).

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## Missions News

Friends from all over the United States and Mexico attended the Future Missionary retreat in Colorado Springs. Together with missionary mentors, they sought the Lord as to how He might be leading people of all ages and life stages to go and preach the Gospel message to the unreached peoples of the world. Many FSW members either participated in the retreat or facilitated portions of the retreat. We were all greatly encouraged by the leading of the Spirit and the potential for new fields.

In addition, please pray for:

- Scott Sward as he visits various Friends churches in Cambodia. Pray that this would be a time of encouragement and building up of the body of Christ.
- Elise Paty and Evan Aristol as they make plans for their marriage ceremony in the summer! Pray that they enjoy this season of their relationship as they prepare for marriage.
- Pray for fruit in ministry as the Board met together to discuss where the Lord will continue to use EFM around the world.
- Pray especially for Teddy Omondi, Heidi Matson, Ron Maestas, and Sung Kim as they return from board meetings and share praises of how the Lord is using EFM and all the Friends regions.

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## Evangelical Friends Mission



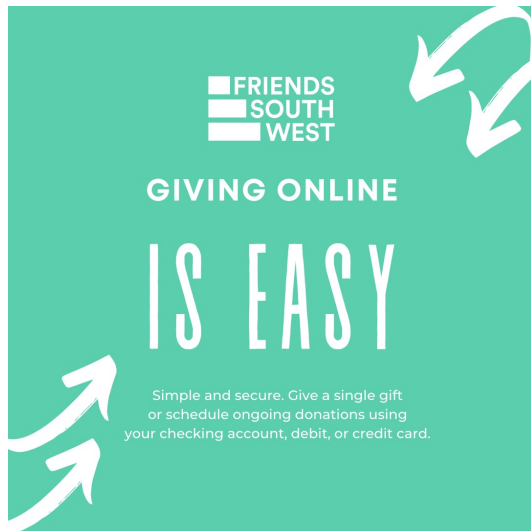
EFM is excited to announce the launch of our new [Family Mission Focus Offering, available here](#). There is no such thing as a Junior Holy Spirit. God works in children's lives as powerfully as in adults. EFM wants to help parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends of children nurture this work. Four missionary families (including their kids) and one missionary support family have contributed to a children's devotional resource (available online) hoping to spur on conversations about how God is at work around the world as well as in our families. We are praying that many children will want to respond in generosity. We are collecting a Family Missions Focus Offering. It will be used to support our Five-Year Goal that is fueled by the Luke 10 Initiative – sending 10 New Households to 5 New Fields by the End of 2025. Please prayerfully consider inviting the children in your life to participate in this opportunity to learn the joy of giving. You can also download a copy of the devotional to share with your family!

## New Giving Platform

We've launched a new online giving platform through Tithe.ly to allow you to give one-time or recurring gifts to the denomination.

To get started click [HERE](#). It's a safe and secure way to give any time.

*As a reminder, all missions giving for*



FSW transitioned to [Evangelical Friends Mission](#). Visit their website to learn how to support Friends missionaries and missions programs.

We are loving our new giving platform! In case you missed our Tithe.ly Webinar training on March 2nd, click [HERE](#) to register and gain access to the recording.

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## Church Resource

Our very own Christy Wimber shared with a group of Friends Southwest women through a series titled *Called to Lead*. Her insight on character, calling, and spiritual gifts were so impactful, we have linked her two talks below as a resource.

[Click here to watch Session One](#)

[Click here to watch Session two](#)

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## What Is God Doing in Your Ministry?



As a family of churches, we would love to hear what God is doing in your ministries, so we can pray, support and celebrate with you! Click the button below to share updates.

[Share Now](#)

## Prayer Requests and Praise Reports

Would you join us in praying? One of the great gifts we have from the Lord is the ability to pray with Him and for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Today we bring before you three opportunities to pray in love for our family of faith.

- Tweed Moore is the lead Pastor of Citrus Heights Friends Church and serves as the associate clerk of the Meeting. He is currently wrestling with stage 2 cancer. Please join us in praying for Tweed and his family.
- Bob Webster recently and suddenly lost his uncle. We offer condolences as well as prayers for him and all those who grieve this loss alongside him.
- As summer arrives, we encourage all of us to come before the Lord on behalf of each other. One of the ways we are encouraged to act in unity as a body of Christ is by praying for one another.

If you have any specific prayer needs and/or praise reports we desire to join you in prayer. Click the link below to submit your specific request(s) and/or praise updates.



[Prayer Requests & Praise Reports](#)

## Careers



### Interested in employment at a Friends Church?

**New Postings** // Check out career postings from across the southwest region at <http://fsw.church/careers>.

## Staying Connected

Follow us [@friends\\_southwest](#) on [Instagram](#) and search for us at [Friends Southwest](#) on Facebook.



FSW Website



Instagram



Facebook



Fueling a Spirit-led movement where Jesus changes people who change the world.

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