

Baptist Progress

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South Park, Fort Worth loving, learning, launching and laughing

By **JERRY FULTON**

Baptist Progress Editor

My wife and I were privileged to worship with South Park, Fort Worth Sept. 6, 2015. We were most impressed that as guests, we did not have to wonder or ask what the church was about or what it was doing in the community; it was obvious. From the pulpit, on the screen and in the bulletin, the congregation's vision as well as opportunities for ministry were well publicized.

During a time of confession, group prayer and Bible Study the weekend previous to our visit, church leaders developed a vision statement that expresses the members' desire to be a missions sending family. The vision includes:

- Loving the Lord through vibrant worship
- Loving each other and others through relation building fellowship and service
- Learning together to walk obediently with Christ and to raise up leaders in the process
- Launching those leaders into ministry and mission by equipping, empowering and sending them into their place of service
- Laughing as they celebrate God's victories along the way

When my family lived in Crowley, a few miles from the church campus from 1986-1987, the area was mostly comprised of an Anglo population, with a 2 percent minority among students in the Crowley High School. Since the eighties, the area has transitioned. People from all over the world live near the church's campus, and South Park is reaching them with the Gospel. I recall how it was the dream



of former longtime pastor Gaylan Henry to pastor a church that looked like the world. Bro. Henry saw that dream become a reality before he concluded his fifty-five year tenure with the church.

Today, Pastor David Pickard, formerly of Oklahoma, is leading South Park to make an impact on their community. For example, the church gathered Sept. 8, 2015 for prayer at a nearby Planned Parenthood center. The pastor said, "It is important that we pray for God to save the people working in this institution, that He might help our leaders to admit the truth about abortion and that He would bring an end to this evil practice."

He continued, "We want to show that we care about unborn children and their mothers, but also about the people who are involved in the abortion industry. We want them to come to know Jesus. He alone can bring true change."

The church will also participate in the national campaign, "Back to Church Sunday," Sept. 20. Members are inviting people to "come home" on the special day. Yard signs and other resources

have been made available to members to advertise "Back to Church Sunday."

"Do You Believe? The Movie" will be shown at the church at 6 p.m. Sept. 27. The film begins with an opening quote from James 2:17. By highlighting several life crises, the core message for all involved in the drama as well as the audience is a simple question—"Do You Believe?"



▲ Pastor David Pickard

AWANA Clubs for age 3 through eighth grade meet at the church for from 6:40 to 8:20 p.m. each Wednesday.

Also, members have been involved in putting together 57 shoeboxes to be distributed by BMAA Missions at Christmas. The senior adults have made

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From the Editor

Called to be holy

Maybe you have read it behind the cover of a church hymnal or it could be that it hangs on the wall in your church foyer or at the front of your church's sanctuary. I'm referring to a church covenant. Some view such a document as a creed and dismiss it noting Baptists' long-held opposition to the use of creeds, although such opposition has not always existed. Others argue that a church covenant is simply a tool used by church leaders to keep church membership in bondage and to control their behavior.

Sensibly, I view a church covenant to be exactly what it is, a promise among church members to live according to the doctrine it preaches from God's Word. A church covenant is not extra-biblical, but is rather a clarification of biblical teaching and expectations.

The most widely used church covenant in Baptist churches was written in 1853 by J. Newton Brown and reads as follows:

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We endeavor, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also endeavor to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further endeavor to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover endeavor that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

If every church member would abide by such a promise as the one written above, more churches would have all things in common, be filled with more mature members, experience greater joy in worship and service and live in a way that more resembles the life of our Lord.

Worldliness has become all too common in churches today because churches have failed to uphold godly requirements, ceased from church discipline and tried to do what is most popular to attract a crowd. One of my former pastors use to say, "I'd rather pastor a holy church than a huge church any day." The size of a church is not necessarily an indication of the blessings of God. What a church teaches and how church members live is real proof of holiness.

I am told that before he would ever present a candidate for membership to the church, Bro. Royce Sanders who served as pastor of Eighth Avenue, Teague for several years, would always read the church covenant to the candidate so they would know upfront what was expected of them as a church member. Some churches recite the church covenant each Sunday. I think such practices might very well be good ones.

How holy is your church? Are your members being reminded of the fact that they have been called to be holy?



▲ Jerry Fulton

South Park, Fort Worth loving, learning, launching and laughing cont.

plans to attend a Heaven's Harbor concert at Beacon Hill, Waco Sept. 19. Men of the church are going on a fishing trip soon and the church has plans to attend a Rangers game and a David Crowder Concert Sept. 20. Ladies of the church are making warm hats for the homeless to be distributed through the Fort Worth ministry, Feed by Grace, in October. Feed by Grace's mission is to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of the homeless community of Fort Worth. The ministry develops and implements cost-effective, Christian-based programs that meet the needs

of a diverse population working to break the cycle of homelessness.

As the congregation worships, disciples, performs ministry and missions, and rejoices along the way, Pickard is quick to remind them to give the glory to God, to remember that who they are and what they do is because of Jesus, and to always be available to be where He wants them.

May the Lord continue to bless South Park, Fort Worth as they love, learn, launch and laugh together.

Family Matters

Someone in your family is doing drugs, Part 2

By **DR. TRAVIS PLUMLEE**

In last week's article, we discussed the emotions that occur when you discover someone in your family is doing drugs. I wrote about changing our attitude quickly so we can move forward on being "solution focused" rather than "problem focused." We have to grieve, but at the same time we have to be able to adapt and change to our new family life so our loved one can get help. I offered a half dozen Scriptures of comfort.

This week I will offer some ideas to consider regarding the actual healing process. Drug and alcohol abuse is a horrible event in the life of a family. It can destroy the family, but it can also be used by God as a "valley walk" that leads to a strengthening of the family for the future. It can actually bring people closer together as we discover what is truly important in life — love and relationships; the love of the Father and the life that can only come through Jesus Christ.

What we have to understand is that all humans make choices to cope with life. All people have problems in life. When any human is faced with a problem, we choose how we will deal with it to return to a state of normalcy. There are many options.

We can choose healthy, holy options such as Bible study, prayer, meditation on the Word, warm bath, exercise, walking, communicating in a group setting, talking it out with others, etc. Or we can choose unhealthy options such as drinking, drugging, overeating, purging, cutting on yourself, gambling, sexual addiction, etc. One way or the other, we all choose a way to cope.

The problem with your loved one is that they made wrong choices. This is still the wonderfully made little baby you held once upon a time. If it is a spouse or parent, this is still the same adult person you have always loved. They may already be saved. They can, beyond this problem, be a good person. They have simply made wrong choices, and they are responsible for those choices. There will be consequences from these choices that you should not rescue them from because it will cost them in the long run.

However, in the blight of this problem of drug/alcohol abuse, don't lose sight of the fact that this is still someone you love. This is also a person God loves. This person was made in the image of the Father and they are a child of God. This is still someone Jesus died for, and Jesus still wants to heal and to restore their soul. Look beyond the drug addiction, and see that there is still a person in there, trying to climb out of this thing; they just keep self-destructing because of their choices.

If you love them, you must restore them. (Gal. 6:1-2)

- They don't need a lot of preaching right now about how drug use is wrong. They know that. They just need you to love them unconditionally as God so loved the world. (I John 4:8-11)



- They need you to forgive them unconditionally, as you have been forgiven. (Eph. 4:32)
- They need to completely redirect their life and pursuits. (Rom. 8:5)
- The person using drugs must come to an understanding that even though they have made choices that are destroying their life and the lives of others, God still loves them. (Rom. 8:38-39)
- They must realize that they can be totally forgiven by Christ. (I John 1:9)
- They must realize that they have to repent of their choices and turn to following God. (II Chron. 7:14)
- They must battle the devil and claim victory, and realize that they can beat this thing with Jesus. (Phil. 4:13, Luke 1:37, Rom. 8:37)

You have to get them help, and that usually requires help from a third-party, objective helper. God is the One who helps, but He often uses others to help us. As a former counselor, I never helped anyone. God did the helping. Jesus did the healing. But God used me as an instrument in His hand to help this person. That is how He uses us — for His glory, by serving others.

So move past the ignorant belief system, if you have it, that Christians don't need counseling, all they need is to pray more. We all need to pray more, and I know God can just instantly and miraculously heal someone of a drug addiction. But He often makes it a journey of faith so we can learn,

grow and become more dependent upon Him. Therefore we seek counseling. (Prov. 1:5)

You must be fervent in praying as a family. You must seek direction from God. Realize that many people will offer many opinions. Keep in mind that every family and every individual is still unique.

What worked for one may not work for another. Therefore, while you listen to all of the opinions offered, you must ultimately let the Holy Spirit of God lead you to the help you need.

Do not let the abuser talk you out of getting help. If they say they are going to stop and promise you they will stop, you are being fooled. People who use drugs/alcohol are grand manipulators, and you are being played like a fiddle. You have let this go on long enough. Stop enabling the abuse to continue. Set down some tough love — they are going for help, and it is not an option. You simply have to decide, as a family, what the best treatment option is for this person.

Dr. Travis Plumlee is a full-time professional speaker and leads Family Ark Ministries. He is national board certified as a therapist/specialist in various areas of human behavior. For more information or to contact him, visit www.travisplumlee.com.



Church Health

Paradigm shifts

By LARRY BARKER

Today you hear a lot about the need for change or a “paradigm shift.” Those who love new things and experimenting love this concept while others are not so sure. A paradigm is defined as a typical example or pattern of something; a model. A paradigm “shift” has been defined as a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions and a time when the usual and accepted way of doing or thinking about something changes completely.

Truth never changes but there are times we must evaluate assumptions, perceptions, and the way we are carrying out the Great Commission. A paradigm shift is needed when the rules of the game change. This is why Paul was so masterful in how he handled the Greeks, Romans, Jews and the Judaizers. You see, a paradigm defines reality for the situation we are in and we must be aware of our audience and of the culture in which we are ministering.

This is what Paul was talking about in 1 Corinthians 9:19-22, “For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save

some.”

Paradigm shifts can correct past problems but they are not a fix all. The reality is that new problems will arise. Great paradigm shifts are occurring in churches, denominations, and in leadership. These are usually needed because of momentum created by a certain focus that causes the pendulum to swing too far one way or the other. One paradigm shift that should be applauded by all is in evangelism. The goal has shifted away from scoring a decision to securing a disciple!

In *Revolution in Leadership*, Reggie McNeal says, “Paradigms inform both vision and values in people and in organizations. They drive actions as well as influence attitudes.” Paradigm shifts help us to refocus and to place the importance back where it needs to be because somewhere along the way we drifted. This is why Reggie McNeal also says, “God has given each denominational system the freedom to become completely irrelevant or to be a relevant servant of the churches.” Just remember “perception becomes reality.”

This is why our office has stressed so strongly, “Churches do not exist to serve us but we exist to serve churches and help you carry out the Great Commission.” The center of the mission of God is the local church (Eph. 3:10). There are a couple of paradigm shifts here that are occurring:

- From a church has a mission to God’s mission has a church to carry it out!

- From missions driven by an office or organization to missions driven by a local church!
- From the mission field being “over there” to we live in a mission field!
- From we will send our money to accomplish missions to we will also get personally involved!
- From planting churches to planting churches that plant churches!

Never fear, there is still plenty of work for us to do in coming alongside churches to help them develop their missionaries through assessment, training, and coaching. Also, we have a network that enables everyone to help financially in getting missionaries and church planters to the field.

Churches are also going through paradigm shifts:

- From being inwardly focused to becoming outwardly focused!
- From being performance focused to concentrating on developing disciples!
- From busyness and frenetic activity to spiritual health and vitality!
- From one doing everything to the team being trained to do the work of the ministry!
- From seating capacity to sending capacity!

What paradigm shifts might you or your church need to consider? How well are people progressing in their spiritual walks? Are you making disciples who are making disciples? Is your church behaving like the body of Christ is supposed to behave? What are the easiest changes you could make to get back on the right path?

The two biggest mistakes many churches make is, first, an unwillingness to evaluate their spiritual health. The problem is that we know how to count but we do not know how to measure. The second is this, an unwillingness to take the necessary steps the evaluation uncovers. Once we discover our errors we must first repent and then begin to take the necessary steps for our behavior to change.

Healthy churches are willing to embrace paradigm shifts that are directed by the Holy Spirit!

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Larry Barker is the operations director for North American Missions. For more information or to contact him, visit www.bmamissions.org.





Auxiliaries

The perfect woman: under construction

By SHARON COLE

A fun and inspirational day was enjoyed by approximately 135 ladies at the Texas Ladies' Retreat at Farley Street, Waxahachie, Aug. 29, 2015. The host church presented a skit illustrating a van load of ladies traveling to the retreat and all the anxiety as well as fun that ladies can have traveling together. The theme of the meeting, "The Perfect Woman: Under Construction," was emphasized as Texas WMA President Diana Morris stated that we are all under construction and need help from each other at work, church or with our family and friends. But our greatest help is received from God when we seek Him.

Our theme song, "The Bible Tells Me So," was sung several times. We were blessed with the presence of former missionaries Frances Heflin and Belinda Caudle and missionaries to the Arabic-speaking people, Ashraf and Jenny Sara and their sons in the Dallas area.

Competition between Charlotte Johnson and Diana Morris for the "Pie in the Face" contest brought excitement as they challenged each other with posters and trying to outdo one another, encouraging everyone to give from the heart as we raised more money for the Texas WMA Project: The Ministry of Ashraf and Jenny Sara.

Door prizes were given throughout the day. Alycee Evans sang a song that she wrote about her testimony: "Just To Be His Hands," and "Praise His Name." The Construction Crew Breakout Session leaders each did an excellent job in discussing their particular topics including: Esperance Nasezerano on "Forgiveness," Amanda Erickson on "From Fearful Worrier to Fearless Warrior," Jennifer Mosty on "Judging Others," Susan Williams on "Mercy," Mellissa Henry on "Damaged Testimony," Keri Southern on "Divorce," and Erin E. Smith on "Loving One Another."

We were further blessed to have Ashraf and Jenny Sara present. Jenny sang "Shout to the Lord" in English and then in Arabic. Bro. Ashraf spoke of their work in the Dallas area. In the last six months 15 people have given their heart to the Lord Jesus and been baptized. They currently use the facilities of Northside, Garland. They also have a work begun in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to which they go to once a month and also one in New Orleans. He showed a PowerPoint presentation of the progress of their work.

Charlotte Johnson led in an interview on "Good Morning WMA" with Jenny Sara as her guest. She related how God had directed her path from the time she was a child then coming to America and until now working alongside her husband. She also related that children are on her mind and heart and how important it is to instill God's Word in them at an early age. The final report for the project offerings from missions books, t-shirts and special donations was over \$4,000.

Charlotte Johnson won the "Pie in the Face" contest, but both she and Diana received the pies by the Sara. All the speakers, former students of Jacksonville College, were asked by Mrs. Johnnie Ross to sing acapella, "I'll Fly Away." Paula Ohana of Farley Street sang, "Be Still and Know" and "I Bowed On My Knees and Cried Holy."

To end the retreat, a video of Bro. Richard Smith quoting chapters 5, 6, and 7 of Matthew of Jesus' words of the Sermon on the Mount was shown. Thank you Farley Street, Waxahachie, WMA officers and all who had a part in making this retreat one of the best. As of Sept. 3, 2015 the total offerings from all sources was \$10,389. Much more is needed to reach our goal for this project. Sincerely pray and open your heart to support Bro. Ashraf and Jenny Sara and their

ministry to the Arabic-speaking people here in America. Their needs are many, but they most sincerely desire your prayers.

September thoughts

September brings to mind many pleasant memories and some not so pleasant: the beginning of school, cooler temperatures, Grandparents Day, 9-11. Many mothers and fathers have recently witnessed their youngest child enter the world of gaining knowledge perhaps at the hands of a stranger in a public school. For homeschoolers it isn't a culture shock, but for those four or five year old little ones, it is a new world of tight schedules, rules, strange people, eating lunch at a cafeteria or taking a sack lunch from home, being in a room with one or two adults and 20 plus kids they have perhaps never met before.

To a young child who has seldom been away from mommy, those are scary things. But somehow they get adjusted realizing that they are not alone in those new experiences. Then they slowly make their way through the years to walk across a stage, receive a diploma that says "You've made it." Grandparents Day hasn't caught on like Father's Day or Mother's Day, but it is still worthy of note.

The Bible speaks of the wisdom of the aged. White hairs seem to denote learning. A person who has walked with God through his life should have gained some wisdom. The Lord commands us to honor parents (Exodus 20:12). Grandparents should be honored, especially if they are Christian examples. We are to esteem others for their godly actions (Philippians 2:3; I Thessalonians 5:13). "The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness." (Proverbs 16:31).

If you are a grandparent, be worthy of honor. If you are a grandchild, honor your grandparents. September is symbolic of learning; therefore, may we respect wisdom by giving more attention than usual to those who have walked before us. September 11, 2001 is still mind boggling to many of us who remember that day. For some in our country it made a huge impact because of loss of loved ones. For some they took notice for a while, got "religious," but soon went back to their old ways. For others it did not make a difference at all. They are still trying to destroy this country that was founded upon freedom of religion, not freedom from religion. God have mercy upon us.



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Sharon Cole is the editor for the Texas WMA. Contact her at S9Co@aol.com. For more information on the Texas WMA, visit www.texaswma.com.





Repent

By DR. MIKE SMITH

Matthew records Jesus' first sermon is, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). Now, emphasis is upon the positive rather than the negative. Preaching against sin is considered by many to be ineffective.

Several times, Susan and I have had the privilege of visiting Prague, capital of the Czech Republic and home of Jan Hus, the famous Protestant preacher during the Reformation. His messages vigorously attacked the sins and indiscretions of the priests and people. This did not sit well with the church leaders. On November 28, 1414, Hus was arrested and burned at the stake. As the flames shot up around him, he was heard singing to Jesus. The followers of Hus developed into the Moravians, who led John Wesley to the Lord as they traveled together on a ship. Wesley's ministry continued the Moravian emphasis on holiness and repentance from sin.

Jacksonville College is unashamed to be considered a Baptist Christian college with high moral standards. We do not allow the use of drugs or alcohol, or the practice of premarital sex on campus. Every semester, it seems we have to instruct students to leave and find another college because they do not want to follow our standards. Jacksonville College is not for everyone, but it is a great place to receive an excellent faith-based education. If you know of a student who is attending or planning to attend a secular college noted to be a "party school," urge them to consider Jacksonville College, a college that provides an excellent education with a biblical worldview.

REPENTANCE IN CHAPEL

On Wednesday, August 26, Donny Saddler, pastor of Woodland Heights Baptist Church of Jacksonville, shared the Gospel in Chapel. Thirty-seven students responded to the altar call. The following Sunday, two students were saved during Jag Day at Woodland Heights. Bro. Saddler is a former Jacksonville College student and currently serves as volunteer chaplain for the College.

Dr. Mike Smith is the president of Jacksonville College. Contact him at msmith@jacksonville-college.edu or 903-589-7106. You may also visit the Jacksonville College website, www.jacksonville-college.edu



▲ Students enjoyed food, live Christian music, sand volleyball, and water slides at the JC Labor Day Party.



▲ Jacksonville College Chaplain Donny Saddler presents the Gospel in Chapel.



On Friday, August 28, JC President Dr. Mike Smith was the speaker for the Leadership Banquet for First Baptist Church, Jacksonville. ►

UPCOMING EVENTS

AMPED East Texas Youth Conference

Saturday, September 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. in Buckner Chapel

For students and youth leaders

Cost: \$10 per person (includes dinner)

Contact information: Ricky Berry (214) 883-0851, rberry87@yahoo.com

Register through the AMPED website at www.ampedetc.com

Distinguished Manley Lecture Series

Wednesday, October 7 at 11:00 a.m. in Buckner Chapel

Speaker: Gillian Sheridan, news anchor for KYTX CBS 19

Topic: *Behind the Scenes of the News Desk*

Fall Theater Production

The Women of Lockerbie

October 22-24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Theater on the Joe Wright campus

Tickets: \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students

Christmas Show by JC Theater and Music Programs

Scrooge (a reader's theater production)

November 20-21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Theater on the Joe Wright campus

Tickets: \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for students



Friendship, Mesquite to honor Sarratts



Friendship, Mesquite will be honoring Bro. Elmer and Sister Juanita Sarratt for their years of service to our Lord on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015 during our morning worship service.

Bro. Elmer began his first ministry at Bible, Terrell in 1954. He then served at Rocky Hill, Huntington (1957-1959). While serving as associate pastor at Friendship, Dallas, he was sent as mission pastor to plant Friendship, Mesquite. He served as their first pastor from November 1959 to March 1970. He then served Calvary,

Crockett (1970-1978); Gethsemane, Pleasant Grove (1978-1991); Liberty, Gun Barrel City (1991-1999); Central, Mabank (2000); and Long Creek, Sunnyvale (2001-2003).

Sister Juanita has served as a faithful and willing helpmate during these 61 years of service, even learning to play the piano when one of their churches lacked a pianist.

Brother Sarratt retired from the ministry in 2003 and now serves at Friendship Baptist Church, Mesquite as a much loved Sunday School teacher.

Noah Launch Kit Focuses on Salvation From Sin

From children's Bible stories to coloring pages, Noah is the jolly guy who has a floating zoo and likes rainbows. In this series, however, we will discover the real Noah, a man full of faith, and the huge task that God placed on his shoulders in a very perilous time.

In this seven-week Launch Kit called *Noah*, students will see that, like in Noah's day, the world is spiraling out of control and God's not happy about it. Students will discuss that even though God punishes sin, he always provides a way of salvation - for Noah, it was an ark; for us, it's Jesus.

Launch Kits are lesson plans for student pastors, small group leaders, volunteers, and parents that are easy to use.

Lessons are designed to ignite a conversation around Scripture as students discuss their faith in a life-changing way. Each Launch Kit is crafted for use with middle-school through high-school age youth. Since Launch Kits are conversation-based, the lessons do not have student handouts or worksheets. Instead, they

contain a leader discussion guide that steers conversation toward living out genuine faith and a life centered on Scripture.

Launch Kits are sold per series and the cost is based on the number of weeks in the series. Once churches or individuals buy a series, they own it and may reproduce as many copies as they wish. Each series has been written and developed by Stephen Castleberry, a student pastor at Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Arkansas, where the lessons have been used with great success.

Find the growing Launch Kit series and an introductory video at DiscipleGuide.org under "shop," then "students," then "Launch Kit."



Monsoon rains cause flooding and landslides in Myanmar



Editor's Note: The following is from Rama Bochung, Lifeword speaker and missionary to Myanmar (formerly Burma), sent to Phil Knott, BMAA International missions director Aug. 19.

"Heavy monsoon rains during the month of July have caused flooding and landslides in several parts of Myanmar and over 100 people dead and thousands are displaced. Among many victims Ko Nyi Nyi, one of our trained leaders and his family are out of them. They live in Nanchung village, Sagaing Division, northwest of Myanmar. He and his wife and 3 kids are now in rescue camp for 4 weeks. Now the water is gone but mud remain in his house and all over the village and they could not move into their home yet because of mud and bad smell all over the village. The Myanmar government has appealed for international aid to flood victims. International aids have been arriving from several countries including the US. Thanks for it. But I think it would need long term for recovery. Bridges and roads have been destroyed or damaged by the flood landslides in Chin State and Sagaing Division and communications in those areas are still very difficult.

Ko Nyi Nyi is one of our workers in the area of Athetsaka (LifeWord Burmese program). He has been advertising our LifeWord Burmese program and collecting our listener's letters from many villages. By answering those listener's questions through him we have another chances to share Christ

in that region. Two people have been saved and another two people made profession of faith through him and our lifeWord Burmese program.

Now, the Lord has opened doors for Ko Nyi Nyi to share the gospel in rescue camps every day and night. He told me that many people are more interested in the gospel after the flood. The only way we can reach region is by flight and it is very expensive. Please pray for the recovery of those damage roads.

Our mission church members who live in five different villages of Irrawaddy Division have been affected by the flood also. No one is dead but their rice fields have been covered by waters.

I asked uncle Myint about our brethren in Paletwa area of Chin State. Chin State and Irrawaddy Division are two out of five regions the Myanmar government has declared disaster zones. Uncle Myint told me our brethren in Paletwa, Chin State are okay. No one is dead but all of their crops were destroyed by the recent heavy monsoon rains. Please pray for them.

We never have that kind of flooding and landslides in Myanmar. But we have it now and at the same time that kinds of disasters were not only in Myanmar but also in some parts of India and in Macedonia etc., I believe it is the sign of Christ coming! His coming is very near. Pray for us so that we might able to share the gospel in effective ways to unbelieving people of Myanmar.

9TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Anchor Bible Baptist Church - Pharr, Texas - October 3-4, 2015

Saturday, October 3:
7 p.m. — Southern Gospel concert by Jerry Fulton, editor of Baptist Progress

Sunday, October 4:
9:45 a.m. — Jerry Fulton teaches Auditorium Sunday School Class
10:50 a.m. & 6 p.m. — Dr. Randy McDonald, founding pastor of Baptist Temple, McAllen preaches

Dr. John Tisdale, pastor

Dr. Randy McDonald **Jerry Fulton**

SCHEDULE FOR 115TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE BMA OF TEXAS November 10-11, 2015

Champion Forest Baptist Church
15555 Stuebner Airline Road • Houston, Texas

Theme: "In All Judea—In All Texas"

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8*

Tuesday morning, November 10:

8:30 W.M.A. registration
9:00 W.M.A. Annual State Meeting in chapel building (adjacent to worship center)
9:00-11:00 Leadership Conference in choir rehearsal room
Agenda – TBA

Tuesday afternoon session (chapel building):

12:00-2:00 Registration for annual meeting
2:00 Opening praise and worship directed by Jason Wofford, Northside Baptist Church-Conroe
2:10 Call to order & introduction of theme
2:15 Welcome & prayer by CFBC representative
2:20 Seating of messengers/rules of order/appointment of parliamentarian
2:25 Introduction of annual speaker and special music (TBA)
2:30 Annual sermon by Bro. Eddie Marsh, president of Texas Baptist Home
3:00 Baptist Progress report, Bro. Jerry Fulton, editor/business manager
3:20 Administrative Committee Report
3:25 Election of administrative committee representatives
3:30 Nominating Committee Report
3:40 State WMA Report
3:45 Initial report of Enrollment/Finance Committee
3:50 Presentation of constitutional changes
3:55 Offering for associational expenses
4:00 Closing prayer by BMAA Missions Department representative

Tuesday evening (main worship center):

6:30 Combined worship service with Southern Baptists of Texas Convention
Service will include: performance by Jacksonville College choir, report on the College by Dr. Mike Smith, president; report on Texas Baptist Home by Bro. Eddie Marsh, president; message by Bro. Andy Comer, pastor of Davis Street Baptist Church, Sulphur Springs; and message by SBTC speaker.

Wednesday morning, November 11 (chapel):

9:00 Praise & worship led by Jason Wofford
9:10 Opening prayer by representative from LifeWord Media Ministries
9:15 Special music by Roy & Loretta Stephens, Rose Hill Baptist Church-Mineola
9:20 President's message
9:50 Texas Baptist Home report & recommendations, Eddie Marsh, president
10:10 Jacksonville College report & recommendations, Dr. Mike Smith, president
10:30 State Missions report, Bro. Jerry Burnaman, director
10:50 BMA Loan Association report, Bro. Jerry Burnaman, business manager
11:10 Representative from DiscipleGuide Church Resources
11:15 Master's Builders report
11:20 Election of officers for 2015-2016
11:25 Election of annual speaker/alternate for 2016
11:30 Vote on constitutional changes
11:35 Final report of Finance/Enrollment Committee
11:40 Miscellaneous business
11:45 Passing of the gavel
11:50 Announcements
11:55 Representative of BMA Theological Seminary to lead closing prayer
12:00 Adjournment



Hotel/Motel Information for Baptist Missionary Association Of Texas Meeting November 10-11, 2015

Champion Forest Baptist Church
15555 Stuebner Airline Rd. • Houston, Texas

LAQUINTA INNS AND SUITES – Willowbrook

FM 1960 Rd. West • Houston, Texas 77070
Phone: 832-617-5757

Special association rate: \$ 99 (includes breakfast)
50 rooms available (32 double queens, 18 kings)
All rooms have interior entrances
Cut-off date: Oct. 19, 2015

Best Western Premier Ashton Suites

7495 W. Greens Rd. • Houston, Texas 77064

Phone: 281-970-9696

Association rate: \$129

Cut-off date: Oct. 9, 2015

Reservations should be made directly with the above facilities. Be sure to mention you are with the BMA of Texas to receive the reduced rate. These hotels are approximately 5-6 miles from Champion Forest Baptist Church. These two hotels are in close proximity to each other. There are other hotels in the area which you may choose, but keep in mind, many of these have blocks of rooms reserved for the SBTC messengers.

You may avoid state sales taxes on your hotel room by going to the Texas state comptroller's website and downloading a sales tax exemption form. Note: The hotel will usually require you to provide your church's sales tax exemption number to qualify.

LOCAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

DATE	ASSOCIATION	MEETING PLACE
Sept. 19	Tarrant County	Calvary, Arlington
Sept. 27	Tryon	Northside, Conroe
Sept. 28	Dallas County	Bethel of White Rock, Dallas
Oct. 3	Mt. Olive	Walnut Springs, DeBerry
Oct. 3	Original Bethlehem	Bishop Chapel, Jasper
Oct. 3	Trinity River	Little Flock, Jewett
Oct. 4	Gulf Coast	Circle Drive, Bridge City
Oct. 10	Central West	Pecan, Robert Lee
Oct. 11	Liberty	First, Judson
Oct. 11	Van Zandt	Old Bethel, Canton
Oct. 12	Cherokee	Cornerstone, Jacksonville
Oct. 13	Wood County	Clover Hill, Quitman
Oct. 14	Harris County	Suburban Wood, Humble
Oct. 15	Angelina	Fairview, Lufkin
Oct. 17	Central Texas	Iglesia Bautista Hispana, Mexia
Oct. 18	Navasota River	Enon, Iola
Oct. 20	East Fork	First, Terrell
Oct. 22	Landmark Nacogdoches County	Landmark, Cushing
Oct. 24	Ellis-Hill	Farley Street, Waxahachie
Oct. 25	Houston-Anderson	Antioch, Palestine
Oct. 25	Plains	LakeRidge, Lubbock
Oct. 25	Polk	East Tempe, Livingston
Oct. 26	Smith	First, Omen
No information	Landmark of Montague County	
No information	Navarro County	



Vision, conviction and grit

By **JERRY BURNAMAN**

State Missions Executive Director

We have a VISION! And we have the conviction and grit to start new ministries and new churches to extend the Kingdom of God beyond existing boundaries.

Our process calls for spending a lot of time and energy motivating, training, and coaching people to develop skills and discovering ways to influence people who have no connection with a church.

We want more churches planted, we want more ministries started, and we want more people taking risks for Jesus in their sphere of influence. So what do we do? We get people together and we train, inspire, and coach them. We give them detailed instructions about time management, how to develop a presence in the community, and how to reach people with the gospel. And we encourage them to develop a list, a network of people with the idea reaching them.

All of those things are great and most ministry leaders are intentionally involved in such activities. We have some wins. However, to have greater and expanded ministries in the local church, and to start new churches more aggressively, it's essential to spend more time in prayer and hear what God is saying. How much time do you spend in prayer? How about spending at least one hour each day in prayer? Here are some ideas that will assist you and your church in your prayer time:

A Sample Guide for Prayer Time

Psalm 95:1-3

1. **Recognition:** God builds the church.

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).

- God's place in the church
- God's compassion for lost people
- God's power in church planting

2. **Repentance:** Personal prayer

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties, and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).

- Lack of compassion for lost people
- Preoccupation with position, church work or programs
- Personal neglect of prayer

3. **Requests:** Group or Team prayer

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayer, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men” (1 Timothy 2:1).

- Compassion for lost people like God's heart
- Vision for a movement of new churches
- Positive changes and value shifts that inspire new church starts
- Specific planters and projects
- More church planters, workers and resources

4. **Response:** Group or Team

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

- Thanks for what God is already doing
- Thanks for what God will do through your church and BMA of Texas Missions church multiplication
- Share personal commitments regarding prayer and church planting
- Share what you are hearing from God

Some Ideas for Mobilizing Prayer

1. Pastor's prayer time for our Aggressive Mission Movement
2. Prayer Banquet for church
3. Prayer Vigil
4. Identify and mobilize prayer warriors
5. Organize prayer teams to pray specifically for church planters
6. Specific day of prayer
7. Prayer at Pastor's meetings (Breakfast or Lunch)
8. Phone prayer with a pastor friend
9. Take a half day a week for personal prayer time & Bible reading
10. Prayer chain

Jerry Burnaman is the executive director of State Missions and the Baptist Missionary Loan Association. Contact him at jerryburnaman@yahoo.com or 972-923-0757.



An Expression of Everlasting Love

Many of our friends choose to honor or remember a family member, a friend or an associate with a gift for the children of the Baptist Home. Texas Baptist Home, in turn, notifies the appropriate person. Listed in capital letters are those honored or remembered from August 1, 2015 – August 31, 2015.

ENDOWMENTS

E ANN PACE: R. T. Willis

MYRA STOKES: Mr. Bill Stokes

HONORARIUMS

ALL THE CHILDREN: Soda Baptist Church

ROBERT BOUDREAUX: Robert & Frances Boudreaux

TBH EMPLOYEES: Bob & Lilla Benefield

BOBBIE FARRAR – MY MOTHER: Carolyn Suzanne Temple

OUR GOD: Earlene Crenshaw

MY SISTER & BROTHERS: Earlene Crenshaw

RACHEL & ANN USSERY: Felix & Peggy Lee

PATSY WEBB: Robert & Dorothy Olchesky

MEMORIALS

MRS. DORIS ALLEN: Rose Moore

LEON & OLLIE ALEXANDER: Stanley & Terry Mann

MYRTLE BASS: Larry & Ann Garner

WALTER BECKER: Dennis & Ilona Myrice

DOROTHY SIMPSON BURROW: Gregory Reinwald

RICHARD CALLAHAN: Christine Callahan

MARTHA NELL CANNON: H J & Berta Cannon

THOMAS DOYLE CANNON: H J & Berta Cannon

GRAIG COOK, MY BROTHER: Don & Mary Cook

EULA DENDY DAVIDSON (JUDY): Judith Moyers

PEGGY DEAN: Mr. & Mrs. Bob Thomman

NANCY DOUGLAS: Pecan Baptist Church Sunday School

JOYCE EATON: Anonymous

LOWELL EUGENE FISK: Brent & Tammy Swanner

LOIS & HESTER GIBSON: Janice Dore

MARGIE GOODWYN: Margaret & James Wolf

BILLIE GRIMES: John Grimes

DAN HILL: Temple Baptist Church

HELEN JOHNSON: Bro. & Mrs. Charles M. Johnson

BECKY JONES: Linda Lewis

RONALD RAY KALE: Brent & Tammy Swanner

ROY LEWIS: Linda Lewis

JOSEPH LIBERTO: Mary Liberto

BRO. GARY MAPHS: Jeffie Bell

HOMER & MARIE MCKINNON: Jean Menough

DAISY MELTON: Don & Una Mahaley

MR. & MRS. HARRY MEYER: Roy & Elizabeth Talbot

JIM MILLER: Pine Acres Baptist Church

JARREL MILLICAN: Pecan Baptist Church Sunday School

BENITA MORRIS: Mr. & Mrs. Bob Thomman

ROBERT LEE PREUNINGER: Mr. & Mrs. Billy Sanders

MAXINE POST: Pecan Baptist Church Sunday School

EDWARD ROBB: Suburban Wood Baptist Church

HERBIE SORENSEN: L Sorensen

BRUCE & WANDA STANLEY: Charles & Valera Green

DOROTHY SWIFT: Robert Swift

LUCEY RAE SWINDLE: Camillia Baldwin

“UNCLE BILL” TAYLOR: Linwood & Jennetta Whitehead; Ron & Wanda Alsbrooks

TOMMY THOMAS: Nelda Thomas

MANDIE WHITAKER: Clyde & Debra Wilson

EDWARD WILLIAMS: Lonnie & Brenda Williams

PEGGY WILLIAMS: Larry & Nancy Langford

JAMES E WILSON: HR & JD Wilson

MARY WOLFINGTON: John Wolfington

DONNA YATES: Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2015

Eternity: The Ultimate Experience
A Dramatic Production
About Life After Death
@ Farley Street, Waxahachie
7 p.m.
For more information,
call 972-935-0000.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

75th Anniversary
@ Central, Mineola

SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

79th Anniversary Homecoming
@ Woodland, Gilmer
(6049 FM 3358)
Message by Jim Crump
9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Dinner at noon in the
Fellowship Hall and Singing:
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 11, 2015

Liberty Association Annual Meeting
@ First, Judson (3 p.m.)
First Session Speaker:
Charles Johnson
Dismiss for Supper (5 p.m.)
Begin second session (6 p.m.)
Second Session Speaker:
Randy Stracener

NOVEMBER 10-11, 2015

115th Annual Session
of the BMA of Texas
@ Champion Forest Baptist Church
15555 Stuebner Airline Road, Houston

APRIL 25-27, 2016

67th Annual Session
of the BMA of America
@ Gatlinburg Convention Center
Gatlinburg, Tennessee
Headquarters Hotel: Glenstone Hotel

PERSONNEL & POSITIONS

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

MUSIC/PIANIST—First, Desoto is seeking a bivocational music leader/pianist. Mix of contemporary and traditional. Contact Dr. Kerry Moore at 972-233-7448 or fbcdesototx@gmail.com.

PASTOR—Meadowside, Pittsburg, Kansas is seeking a pastor. Send resume to 1406 S. Rouse, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762.

PASTOR—Anthony Drive, Ennis is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 9, Ennis, Texas 75120 or adbc@sbcglobal.net.

PASTOR—New Beginnings Bible, Ferris is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 558, Ferris, Texas 75125. ^{10/21}

PASTOR—Lake Highlands, Sulphur Springs is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 441, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483-0441. ^{TFN}

PASTOR—First Missionary, Morton is seeking a fulltime pastor. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 981, Morton, Texas 79346 or to jimmysealy@aol.com. ^{TFN}

MUSIC—First, Crandall is seeking a bivocational music leader. Salary negotiable. Mix of contemporary and traditional. Call Bro. Mike Waits for more details: 214-697-7998 or mbwaitssr@att.net. Visit church website at firstbaptistcrandall.org. ^{TFN}

YOUTH—Soda, Livingston is seeking a fulltime youth pastor. Send resume to Pastor Wayne Bickley, 8105 Us Hwy 190 East, Livingston, Texas 77351 or youthguywayne@yahoo.com, or for more information, call 936-433-9526. ^{11/4}

YOUTH—Antioch, Gilmer is seeking a bivocational youth/student minister. Send resume to the church at P.O. Box 688 Gilmer, Texas 75644; Contact person—Michael Pool, pool-michael@hotmail.com. 903-315-6822. ^{TFN}

AVAILABLE MINISTERS

MIKE MCEUEN is available to serve as a pastor. He is a member of Bethel, Bentonville, Arkansas. Contact him at karen.mceuencox.net or 479-295-1054. ^{10/7}

STEVEN MARSH is available to serve as a bivocational pastor. He is a member of Farley Street, Waxahachie. Contact him at 972-935-0009, sportsfan8019@yahoo.com or 315 Choctaw Trail, Waxahachie, Texas 75165. ^{9/16}

DR. BOBBY ADAMS is available for pulpit supply or to serve as interim pastor. Contact him at 972-342-3085.

SPEAKER FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

STACIE BOSTIC is available to speak at women's luncheons, youth retreats, adult conferences, seminars, Bible studies and other events. She has a powerful testimony that focuses on the art of surrender, walking by faith and rising above circumstances. Her message resonates with a wide range of listeners. She has the ability to tailor her message to fit a group's unique event theme. Stacie is a member of Liberty, Gun Barrel City. Contact her at Stacie@claypotworks.com or 903-603-8597. Also, visit www.claypotworks.com or connect with Stacie on Facebook at https://facebook.com/claypotworks. ^{12/16}

PASTOR'S LIBRARY FOR SALE

APPROXIMATELY 600 VOLUMES FOR SALE—Dr. Bobby Adams has an approximate 600 volume pastor's library for sale. If interested, contact him at 972-342-3085.

PASTOR & STAFF CHANGES

MARV WITTENBURG is serving as interim pastor of Round Prairie, Fairfield.
STEVE COWART has resigned as pastor of Eighth Avenue, Teague.
JOHNNY VERETTO is the new pastor of Cedar Creek, Teague.

CHURCHES IN REVIEW

AUGUST 30, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	70	99	
Cedar Creek, Teague	13	20	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	520	533	
First, Omen	42	73	
First, Palmer	33	73	
Little Flock, Lufkin	5	10	
Little Mound, Big Sandy	40	45	
Merriman Hills, Sherman	17	20	
Pine Brook, Tyler	50	84	
Pine Forest, Huntington	39	45	
Rosewood, Gilmer	131	223	
Round Prairie, Fairfield	101	196	6 By Baptism
Security Calvary, Cleveland	22	70	1 By Statement
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	19	26	

SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

Church	SS	Worship	Additions
Anthony Drive, Ennis	64	91	
Cedar Creek, Teague	13	23	
Farley Street, Waxahachie	437	545	
First, Blooming Grove	222		
First, Omen	36	55	
First, Palmer	35	70	
Glade Creek, Gilmer	24	56	
Jackson, Joaquin	96	158	
Little Flock, Lufkin	10	15	1 By Statement
New Harmony, Tyler	287	344	
Pilgrim Rest #2, Golden	37	49	
Pine Forest, Huntington	35	55	
Rosewood, Gilmer	120	211	2 By Profession
Round Prairie, Fairfield	90	141	
Security Calvary, Cleveland	19	40	1 By Baptism
Temple, Mexia	30	44	1 By letter
Yellowpine Macedonia, Hemphill	18	23	

For publication, statistics for Churches in Review must be received by Monday at 5 p.m. on Monday.

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Sunday School Lessons

Leviticus: Atonement

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 20, 2015

TEXT: Leviticus 7:37, 38; 10:8-11; 16:29, 30; 23:1-3

THOUGHT PRIMER

Thus far in the first three of our survey of the first 13 books of the Holy Scripture, We see the fall of man into sin - Genesis; The deliverance from bondage—Exodus; and this week in Leviticus, we see the sanctification process, God's command to Holy living.

The subject of Leviticus is the priestly tribe—the Levites. They were set aside (sanctified) by the Lord to be priests, worship leaders and servants. The high priest went into the Holy of Holies one time a year, offering blood sacrifices from animals, sprinkled on the floor and the Mercy Seat, at the Ark of the Covenant, to make atonement for the sins of the people

Today, every believer, because of being covered by the blood of Jesus Christ, and each one being a believer-priest, is eligible to approach God's throne, confessing sin. Leviticus is filled with types and foreshadowings of the Savior Who would come in the future and make that sacrifice with His own blood.

STUDY

The Burnt Offering—Leviticus 1:3-4—Pictures the crucified Christ, and signifies the atonement for the worshiper's sin. Atonement means "one who was at enmity with God has been reconciled through a sacrifice. Fire was to never go out (6:13)

The Grain Offering—Leviticus 2:2—The meat, cooked with oil, grain and frankincense, was offered up as a "sweet savor unto the Lord." Revelation 8:3-4 No leavening was to be contained in the grain or meal. It was taken to the altar as a memorial. Today, we eat the unleaven bread and drink of the fruit of the vine as a "memorial till he come."

The Peace Offering—Leviticus 7:11-18—Offered to the Lord as an expression of

desire for communion with God. It had to be eaten in one day (7:15)

Three peace offerings:

Thanksgiving offering—Leviticus 7:12-15

Wave offering—Priest's portion waved before the Lord signifying that it was His. Leviticus 7:30-31

Vow offering—Leviticus 7:16-17

Sin Offering—(purification) Necessary for forgiveness of sin and cleansing. Leviticus 4:2-3

Guilt Offering—(reparation) Leviticus 5:16—Making amends for wrongs done. (Not only being sorry for sin, but a willingness to make restitution - to make the wrong right.

APPLICATION

No longer must we make these Levitical sacrifices. They were foreshadowings of the great sacrifice made by our Savior, Jesus Christ on the cross. When He gave His life's blood for the remission of our sin, we were brought into fellowship with God, with Whom we at one time were at enmity. We were brought into a state of communion and fellowship with Him. We have received forgiveness for our rebellion and trespass against Him; and we have been relieved of our guilt for sin through a right relationship with him.

CHALLENGE

Worship of our Heavenly Father and following His precepts is very serious. This lesson serves as a reminder to never take His commands casually nor flippantly. Since positionally, we have been brought into a right relationship with God through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, may our practice be to walk in accordance with the leadership of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Paul Gauntt is the former BMA of Texas Department of Church Ministries director. He has served several churches as pastor, and is a correspondent and featured article writer for Baptist Progress. Contact him at pop.gauntt@gmail.com.



Numbers: Responsibility

By PAUL GAUNTT

DATE: September 27, 2015

TEXT: Numbers 2:1, 2; 9:1-3; 13:17, 18; 14:23-25; 21:8, 9.

THOUGHT PRIMER

This week's lesson from Numbers, focuses on the urgency of the Israelites to be faithful temple worship, particularly the Passover. But the book of Numbers also reveals the rebellious, murmuring, faithless spirit, which prevailed among them.

STUDY

God takes personal interest in His children: The numbering of the different tribes of Israel is indicative of God's personal interest in His people, and His willingness and desire to have an intimate relationship with each.

God has a prescribed plan for worship: Numbers 9:1-3, He had a time, day and month appointed for the Israelites to observe the rites of the Passover—the commemoration service to remind them of the salvation of the first-born of each household, upon which the blood was applied to the lintels of the doorposts, thus being saved from the death angel in Egypt.

God is honored when His people demonstrate faith in Him: God always delights to bring victory to His people through means which are impossible in fleshly standards. Numbers 13 reveals the command of God to send out men from every tribe, to spy out the land of Canaan. The report they brought back was dismal—saying the men of Jericho were as giants, and the Israelites were as grasshoppers to them. (Hebrews 11:6)

God's wrath is kindled by unbelief: Numbers 14:23-25: God has been long-suffering and merciful (verse 18) but the Israelites failed to remember past victories (verse 22) which should have presently bolstered their faith.

Eventually everyone, with the exception of everyone under age 20, along with Joshua and Caleb, were permitted to enter into the Promise Land because their faithlessness provoked God to wrath. Numbers 14:29. The writer of Hebrews referred to The Provocation in Hebrews 3:15-19.

God is a merciful God: Numbers 21:8-9 Fiery serpents were sent to bite the people who murmured against Moses and God. Even at that, God a way of escape through the brazen serpent, lifted up on a pole, providing sparing everyone from death who gazed upon it. Not only was this a means of deliverance for them, it served as a type of the coming Christ, who, being lifted up on a cross, would provide deliverance from death and hell to all who would believe on Him.

APPLICATION

As God prescribed temple worship for His chosen people, so today, the Lord has given us His New Testament Church. We are commanded to not forsake "the assembling of ourselves together. . ." Hebrews 10:25. As God called on the Israelites to "do the impossible" in spying out the land of Canaan, so is He calling upon us today to be "living sacrifices." Romans 12:1-3

CHALLENGE

Trust God with all your heart, even when His commands do not line up with human logic; Be faithful to worship Him in spirit and in truth; Unlike the Israelites who murmured at Moses' leadership, do as Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey them that have the (spiritual) rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CONFERENCE

Hilton Convention Center, Branson, Missouri
October 28-30, 2015

Details & Registration - discipleguide.org/nsa - 501-205-8753



Richard Smith
Speaker



Antioch Vocal Band
Concert



Gordon Mote
Concert



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Branson Show



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Shelby Race
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SOUTHERN GOSPEL Round-Up

Northside Baptist Church

2510 N. Glenbrook Rd & Garland, Texas

Friday, October 23, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Dinner will be served from 4-6 pm

Donations from Dinner will be Donated to Evangelistic International Ministries!
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women's conference OCTOBER 10TH • 9 am – 3 pm

Please join us for a day
where we can be real,
laugh, and enjoy being
women together!



Do you ever wonder if you are the only one who does not have it all together?
Are you "faking it til you make it" as a Christian woman?
Is it time to drop the pose and just be real?

We will have a box lunch from Chick-fil-A;
if you plan to join us for lunch please RSVP to Kelly Williams
at kellgirl0805@gmail.com or call 214-534-9875.

Northside Baptist Church
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