

# THOUGHTS & TRAVELS



## BibleMethodist CONNECTION OF CHURCHES

### Events:

#### **Palm Sunday:**

Date: April 5, 2020

#### **Good Friday:**

Date: April 10, 2020

#### **Easter Sunday:**

Date: April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday evening we are planning a Connection-wide Communion service available on Facebook.

#### **National Day of Prayer:**

Date: May 1, 2020

We are planning a Connection-wide prayer meeting through social media.

#### **Heart for the Shepherd:**

Date: May 15, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.

Location: Calvary Bible Fellowship, OKC

#### **Mid America Annual Conference:**

Date: May 16, 2020

#### Serving churches in:

Colorado

Kentucky

Louisiana

Idaho

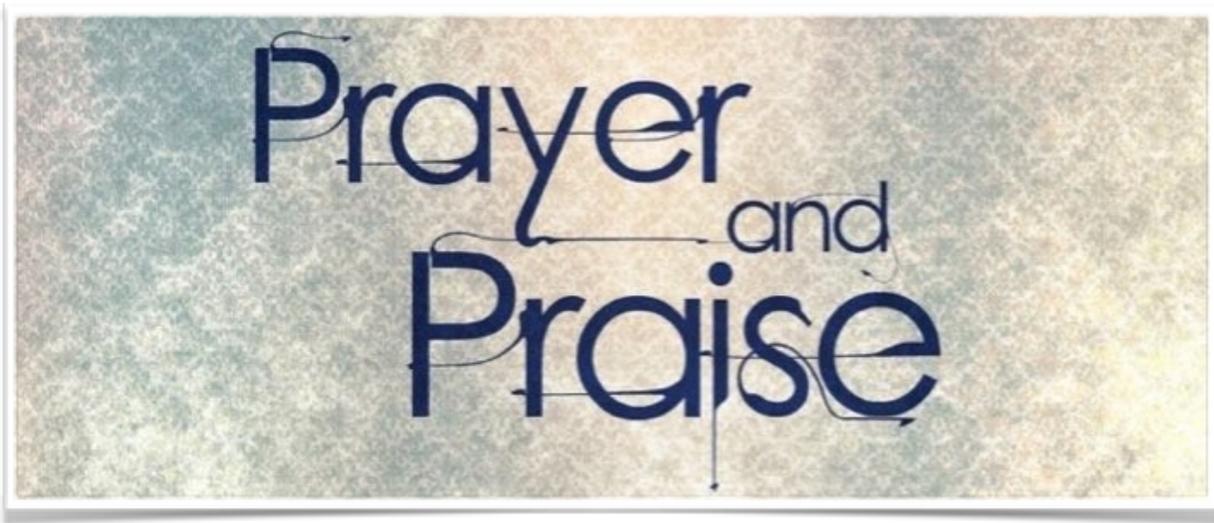
Oklahoma

Texas

Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Location: Calvary Bible Fellowship, OKC

**Camp Meeting 2020:**

Dates: July 28 through August 2, 2020  
Location: Garner Creek Retreat Center,  
Dickson, Tennessee  
Evangelists: Rev. Harry Plank  
Rev. James Plank  
Song Evangelist: Jonathan and Jalena Glick  
Children Service: Harrold Taylor



**Prayer and Praise:**

- During your Sunday morning pastoral prayer, please pray for Pastor Steele and the church in DeRidder, Louisiana.
- Pray for each Pastor and Congregation as they work through the present crisis.
- Please pray for Leonard Sankey. He has been diagnosed with bladder cancer and a possible problem with his kidneys. The surgeon has had to reschedule surgery hopefully for next week.
- Sunday please pray for the Mid America Conference and Conference President Darrell Stetler II.
- Please pray for the President, Congress, Judges as well as state and local officials.

- Pray for protection from the COVID-19 virus, for wisdom for the President, congress and the state Governors.
  - Pray for the people in our Conference who are working in health care!
  - Pray the Lord gives each pastor wisdom in finding ways to meaningfully minister to their people at this time.
  - Pray for Tim Keep and Bible Methodist Missions personnel, Hutchinsons, Marika Herrer, Troyers, Muirs and David Martinez.
  - Pray for the ministry in Papua New Guinea along with Shirley Fogleman
  - Pray for the church in Whitehouse, Texas as they search for a pastor.
  - Please pray for Rhonda Gardner, she will soon be scheduled for surgery.
  - Pray for wisdom as we consider the possibility of a new church joining with us.
  - Pray for wisdom for the members of the Executive Committee.
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- Praise the Lord for protecting Chaplains Chuck Dodd IV and Stephen Snodgrass.
  - Praise the Lord for the opportunity to talk with each pastor in a conference call Saturday evening.
  - Praise the Lord for the report of the healing power of the Lord.
  - Thank the Lord for the great report from Tega Bible College in PNG.

## Thoughts:

Prayer:

I would like us to challenge one another to spend extra time in prayer this coming Sunday. Some suggestions regarding process:

1. Have each church do a conference call and have the participants pray for one another over the phone.
2. Encourage the people in the church to take a hour or half hour and pray through the day or the evening.
3. Encourage each person in the church to pray for and write a card to the other people in the church.
4. Encourage the people to pray for and write notes to the government officials, first responders and medical people in the community.

Some suggestions about the focus:

1. Pray for pastor and his family.
2. Pray for each person who is part of the church family.
3. Pray for the President and government officials who are wrestling with the crisis we face.

4. Pray for Divine intervention in our world, nation, community, Church and family.
5. Pray for protection for first responders and medical personnel.
6. Pray for a spiritual awakening in our nation.

May the Lord give you special grace and strength as you minister to your people.

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Quite a thought from C.K. Chesterton on leadership in his book, *Orthodoxy*.

"One specially and peculiarly un-Christian ideas is the idea of Carlyle - the idea that the man should rule who feels that he can rule. Whatever else is Christian, this is heathen, If our faith comments on government at all, its comment must be this - that the man should rule who does not think he can rule."

He continues, "If the great paradox of Christianity means anything, it means this - that we must take the crown in our hands, and go hunting in dry places and dark corners of the earth until we find the one man who feels himself unfit to wear it."

"We have not got to crown the exceptional man who knows he can rule. Rather we must crown the much more exceptional man who knows he can't."

## Personal:

Last Sunday Melba and I had the privilege of driving to Sherman and joining with Pastor Snodgrass and the people from Durant and Sherman in worship. The drive-in service was planned and executed smoothly. The congregational songs were meaningful, the special song by Chucky Dodd and Stephen Snodgrass was beautiful and fitting, the message by Pastor Snodgrass was appropriate and reminded us that the Lord will take us through the crisis we face.



Left and Right:  
Sherman's drive in  
service Sunday:



This week, we have self-isolated. Wow, I think I need a hobby. Monday and Tuesday I worked on a mailing to the Churches and Ministers. You all should receive that packet soon. Mark Russell and I are working on a mailing that will come from his office with forms and instructions for your church as they prepare for Annual Conference.

This morning I participated in a “Zoom” video conference and prayer meeting with the Conference Presidents, Michael Avery and Tim Keep. We prayed together and planned for a Connection-wide Communion service Easter Sunday evening as well as a focused prayer time for National Day of Prayer. More information about these events will be sent soon.

I am working on some writing. For some time I have felt strongly impressed to write on the subject of forgiveness. For the next several days, I plan to spend extra time on that project. I would appreciate your prayers in that regard.

GCS