



Thoughts & Travels

Southwest Conference of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches:

Serving Churches in:

- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Idaho
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Missouri
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Texas

Thoughts:

The Lord's procession into Jerusalem the week before his crucifixion is a high celebration and the beginning of deep suffering. The choices that rose for those who knew, followed and celebrated the Lord are the same we face today.

According to Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan in *The Last Week* on the same day but on the other side of Jerusalem Pilate was part of a regal procession that coincided with Jesus' humble entry. While those parades were happening the Jewish leaders were in the temple reading Psalm 24, and thinking about God's promise about lifting up heads and gates.

In other words there were three philosophies contending for the people attention at the same time. Those ideas and areas of worship were: the power and prestige of Roman, the religious ceremony of Judaism and the humble sacrificial offering of Jesus as redeemer.

The crowd had trouble deciding which world they would embrace. Do you? Are you attracted to the power of controlling government? Maybe it is more comfortable to identify with the tradition of a religious past? Or are you willing to embrace what on the surface appears to be a quiet, humble faith in the Lord Jesus?



Events:

Lenten Season:

- Good Friday April 15
- Easter April 17

General Conference:

- Dates: June 14-16
- Location: BMC, Franklin, OH

Youth Camp:

- Dates: June 27 - July 1
- Location: Whitehouse, TX

Annual Conference

- Dates: July 25-26

Family Camp:

- Dates July 27-31
- Location: Arrowhead Camp

We are wrestling with the same choices the people in Jerusalem faced on the day we identify as Palm Sunday.

Personal:

Melba and I had the distinct privilege of spending last Friday through Monday morning with our four children, three of their spouses and two grand children. We were in a mountain house in Maggie Valley, North Carolina. What a great time of cooking, eating playing games, seeing sights, and worship. We talked, laughed and wept. We also praying about our future and sought their advice.

Monday we drove to Gatlinburg, TN in anticipation of IHC. We set up the Bible Methodist Connection display that evening. Tuesday I attended the IHC Combined Committee meeting. We were then engrossed in the convention through Thursday evening.

Friday we drove to Meridian, Mississippi and plan to drive to Whitehouse, Texas for Sunday.

Prayer:

- Pray for Grants, NM as we seek a pastor for them
- Pray for Missionaries: Keep, Hutchison, Muir, Shirley Fogleman, Maricka Herrer and David Martinez.
- Pray for Sarah Hutchison as she works through treatment for cancer.
- Pray for Mike Covington, Shirley Fogleman, Holly McCarthy. They have traveled to PNG in anticipation of camp meeting and the dedication of the teacher's housing.
- Pray for your Conference Leadership and Executive Committee.
- Pray for General Conference. We will be electing some new officers, working on some memorials and worshipping together.
- Pray the people of Ukraine.
- Oklahoma City as they work through renovation of the sanctuary following the vandalism and fire.

Praise:

- Thank the Lord for His presence in IHC.
- Thankful for a 42,000 people attending IHC - Gatlinburg.
- Praise the Lord for His Word!
- Thank each of you who pastor for your faithfulness, grace and ministry.

Conference Finances:

February 2022

Operating Receipts:	\$3,280.72
Operating Expenses:	\$6,025.90
Total	(\$2,745.18)