



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:

An amazing Scripture that I was made aware of this week is, *“In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.”* (Isaiah 30:15) The Prophet went on to say, *“But you would not ... you said, “no we will flee on horses.”*

How often do we do as the nation Isaiah was addressing? The Lord invites, in fact insists that we wait in His presence, that we quietly rest in the confidence of His strength, but we refuse. We insist that we must exercise more authority, more power, more of our thoughts and wisdom.

In riding our own horses, we find that they are not quite fast enough. Our steeds are not as strong as we had hoped, our defenses are not as impenetrable as we supposed.

Isaiah, under the leadership of the Lord was calling Jerusalem to turn to the Lord. The city thought there was greater strength and help in Egypt. God reminded them that any source of power apart from God’s power would fail.

We too, are facing incredible odds. Our culture is upside down, we are small and at times feel insignificant. If we were to list our deficiencies the list would be long, so we desperately search for resources.

God is inviting us into his presence and protection. In returning to Him and His word there is hope. In His rest, not our cunning and wisdom, is renewal. In quietly looking to Him will be find the source of confidence. His strength is the only real source of power.



Events:

Men's Retreat:

- Tentative Date Mach 17-18, 2023

Ladies Retreat:

- September 23-24, 2022
Colorado Springs, CO

Personal:

Sunday was a good day in the Lord. Though some were missing because of illness we enjoyed fellowship and the Lord's help at Durant.

Monday, we enjoyed a fellowship meal with the church people in honor of Labor Day.

This week has included office work, yard work and a little time to rest.

Sunday, we plan to be at Durant again.

Prayer:

- Pastor, during your Pastoral prayer, please lift the church at Mena, Arkansas to the Lord. I would encourage you to mention the highlighted church during your pastoral prayer. It is a good time to remind your people of the other churches in the Conference.
- Pray for Connectional Leadership: Blake Jones, Jack Hooker, R.G. Hutchison, Chelle Durr, and Bob Blankenship.
- Pray for Missionaries: Brennan and Ivon Muir, Shirley Fogleman, Maricka Herrer and David Martinez.
- Pray for the work in Mexico and for Missions leadership as they work on a Spanish Language Discipline and meet with the National Board in October.
- Pray for your Conference Leadership and Executive Committee.
- Pray for Conference Extension Chairman Todd Hurst and the churches in Mena, Arkansas, Millersburg, Kentucky and Grants, New Mexico.
- Pray for Pastor Aaron Johnson's Father who has been ill.

Praise:

- Praise the Lord for another month the Conference has operated in the black!
- Praise the Lord for the privilege of fellowship and encouragement.
- Praise the Lord for family.

Conference Finances:

August 2022

Operating Receipts:	\$6,33064
Operating Expenses:	\$5,161.41
Total	\$1,169.23