



# 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:

Merry Christmas rings from the bells of the Salvation Army kettle ringers, echoes around the house as music plays, and is offered as greetings in the family, market and church.

This Sunday of Advent's focus is on joy. We are reminded to rejoice as Paul announces to the Philippians, Nehemiah reminds Israel, and the Psalmist sings.

Wednesday evening we discussed the difference between happiness and joy. We all like to be happy, but that comes and goes according to the circumstances. You buy a new car and are happy until someone strikes it in the parking lot and leaves a dent and scratch. We are happy with good health until an illness strikes and threatens that prospect. We are happy to have our family near, but sorrow as they are ill or taken away.

Joy on the other hand, according to Thomas a Aquinas rises from faith that is rooted in Divine love. The love of God is foundational to who He is and how He interacts with those who by faith know and obey Him.

Joy then is rooted in the foundational and eternal truth of God interaction with us. His peace, love and joy are tightly woven into the heart of Christianity. That is why Issac Watts could confidently compose the song we acquaint with and sing Christmas time. Joy to the World. According to Wikipedia it is the most published Christmas hymn in America.

Joy to the world the Lord has come.



## Events:

## Advent:

- 3rd Sunday - December 11th
- 4th Sunday - December 18th
- Christmas Eve - December 24th
- Christmas Day - December 25th

## January Prayer focus:

- 21 Days of Prayer - January 9-29
- Pray Around the World - January 29

## Ministerial:

- February 23-25, 2023
- Oklahoma City Church
- Rev. John Peabody

## Men's Retreat:

- Date Mach 17-18, 2023
- Contact Pastor Snodgrass - 903) 816-0175

## Personal:

Last Sunday we worshipped with the people of Durant. This week has included office work. Each pastor and minister should soon receive a mailing with information about the January Prayer Focus and Southwest Ministerial.

Friday evening we plan to attend Duncan's Christmas meal. Saturday I plan to be in Oklahoma City. Sunday I am scheduled to be with Pastor Stetler and the people of the Oklahoma City church.

## Prayer:

- Pastor, during your Pastoral prayer, please lift the church at Durant, OK and Pastor Sams 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, Michael Avery and Bob Blankenship.
- Pray for Missionaries: Brennan and Ivon Muir, Shirley Fogleman, Maricka Herrer and David Martinez.
- Pray for a possible opening in the ministry of Troyers.
- 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 Johnson's sister-in-law who is hospitalized with a blood clot at the base of her skull.

## Praise:

- Thank the Lord Jenkin's son-in-law is much better.
- Thank the Lord for the blessing of Family.
- Thank the Lord for this special time of year.

### Conference Finances:

#### October 2022

Operating Receipts:	\$4,802.87
Operating Expenses:	\$6,900.41
Total	\$2,097.54