



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:

As we were reading through this week's devotional, following comeafterme.com, I had a thought that changes my understanding of God's intention is placing the Book of Job in the cannon of Scripture.

Oh, I understand that Job's friends were at times brutal and even leaned toward accusing their friend of sins he didn't commit. I also understand that both Job and his friends were thinking and speaking out of their understanding of God and His interaction with people.

But the thought that gripped me was, "Do I have any friends, or colleagues who will confront me in the way Job's friends confronted him? Though we know these fellows were wrong, because we have read the whole book, remember they are speaking out of their misunderstanding of the need to defend God. But, they were arguing with Job out of their hearts. They were willing to be frank and at times sharp in confronting Job, hoping to awaken him.

Also think of this, Job was willing to listen and debate with these men. Too many of us would have dismissed them and walked away, without deeply searching our hearts and minds for the truth. Job did not abandon his friends, nor they they abandon him. Their friendship was deep enough that they could debate and disagree without destroying each other.

Too many of us have our trigger points so near the surface that we cannot hear honest criticism, let alone someone warning us when the misunderstand.



Again, are you willing to embrace a friend who will be honest with you? Are you intentional about seeing yourself through another's eyes?

Personal:

Saturday, past, we flew from Greenville, SC to Dallas. My energy for the rest of the day was expended in preparing for Sunday.

Sunday morning, Melba and I presented, Missions and the Conference and then I preached for Pastor Snodgrass and the people of Sherman, Texas. It was a joy to see several new people in the service.

Sunday evening we were back in Durant for service. In both services I attempted to encourage people to participate in the Bible Methodist focus on 21 Days of Prayer.

This week has included some office work as well as preparations for services in Durant.

Prayer:

- Pastor, during your Pastoral prayer, please lift Grants, NM and Interim Pastor Underwood 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 Dr. RG Hutchison, Shirley Fogleman, Holly McCarthy, Mike Covington and Covington's daughter, Carrie, as they plan a trip to New Guinea in February.
- Pray for the family of Rex Bullock.

Events:

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
- Speaker: Dr. David Boardman
- Contact: Pastor Snodgrass - 903) 816-0175

Conference Finances:

December 2022

Operating Receipts:	\$5,564.40
Operating Expenses:	\$4,707.51
Total	\$ 856.89

Praise:

- Praise the Lord Sarah Hutchison has received a very good report from the Doctor.