



Thoughts & Travels

Southwest Conference of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches:

Serving Churches in:

Arkansas

Colorado

Idaho

Kansas

Kentucky

Louisiana

Missouri

New Mexico

Oklahoma

Texas

Thoughts:

Valentines Day! What a special day. I am writing this sitting in the airport in Atlanta and am amazed to see people wearing little head bands with hearts bouncing around on springs. It that what the day is about? We know it is more than that, but it should be about more than nice cards and roses too.

A one source explains Valentine's like this, "The ancient Romans may also be responsible for the name of our **modern day of love**. Emperor Claudius II executed two men — both named Valentine — on Feb. 14 in different years in the third century. Their martyrdom was honored by the early Church with the celebration of St. Valentine's Day."

Valentine's Days as we know it is about love and there is no clearer evidence of that than to embrace the primary message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There are too many facets of love to address them in one short devotional, but true love, love that rises from the presence of the Spirit and the influence of the Gospel is love that is motivated by a heart that wants to give of itself. The whole story of God's creation of and intervention in human life is about His expression of love.

The promise of the Father, which Jesus reminds us of particularly in the great commission is the promise of God's presence in and among His people.



Personal:

Last Sunday I preached morning and evening in Durant. Tuesday I flew from Dallas to West Palm Beach, Florida, was then given a ride to Hobe Sound by my friend, Dale Hartle.

Thursday morning I'm scheduled to meet with the HSBC Ministerial students for breakfast. In the evening I plan to attend the school's invitation to meet with the students during their job fair.

Friday I'm scheduled to fly back to Dallas.

I was scheduled to be with Pastor Johnson and the people of Lakewood Sunday but felt for my sake we should reschedule. I appreciate Pastor and the Church making that possible. As a result of the change I plan to preach in Durant again this coming Sunday.

Prayer:

- Pastor, during your Pastoral prayer, please lift Living Hope, Salina, KS and Pastors Todd and ZaneHurst 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 and granddaughter, Mike Covington and Covington's daughter as they travel and minister inNew Guinea.
- Pray for Pastor Mahin's family as they grieve the loss of David's Mother

Praise:

- Praise the Lord for the Conference financial report being in the black in recent months.
- Thanks Pastor Aaron Johnson, Pastor Todd Hurst and Pastor Ronald Pauleus for their presentations to 21 Days of Prayer.

Events:

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:

January 2023

Operating Receipts:	\$8,303.25
Operating Expenses:	\$6,564.95
Total	\$1,738.30