



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:

Barbara Crafton in Living Lent wrote, "What saves us about Jesus' sacrifice is that he joins us in what we must endure. . . Death is in all our futures - it was even in the future of the Son of God, living among human beings. In Christ, God forever closed the chasm between heaven and earth. Henceforth, nothing human is foreign to God and no human sorrow separates us from the love of God. Not even our great fear: the end of earthly life."

It is amazing! Through Christ we can have peace even in the face of serious pain and possible death. It is not that the pain does not exist. The suffering is real. If there is death the separation is a fact. But in Christ, none of us live as though there is no hope. Paul wrote, "we sorrow not as those who have no hope." (1 Thes. 4:13)

Even in the face of difficult times and collapsing culture, the Christian should be optimistic. God's plan is eternal, His love unchangeable and His grace enduring.

God knows where you are! He has strength for this day as certainly as He has shown Himself able in the past.

Personal:

Last Sunday I concluded special services with Pastor Joel Byer and the Pilgrim Holiness Church in Tunkhannock, PA. Monday I flew



Events:

Lent:

- February 22 - April 8
- Ash Wednesday - Feb 22.
- Good Friday April 7
- Easter April 9

Youth Camp:

- Date: June 26-30, 2023
- Speaker: Marc Sankey
- Contact: Pastor Crouch - (812) 734-6946

Conference Finances:

February 2023

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Operating Receipts: | \$5,711.74 |
| Operating Expenses: | <u>\$7,417.90</u> |
| Total | \$1,706.16 |

from Wilkes Barre, PA to Charolette, NC and then from Charolette to Dallas.

Tuesday was a day of rest. Wednesday I prepared for mid-week service at Durant.

Thursday I prepared and mailed 45 pieces that included information that prepares us for Annual Conference. The mailing includes instructions and forms for the church and ministers.

Friday we plan to spend some time at Youth Challenge West.

Sunday we are scheduled to worship with the people of Durant.

Prayer:

- Pastor, during your Pastoral prayer, please lift Osage Road, Duncan, OK and Pastor Durr 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..

Praise:

- Praise the Lord CP John Parker (Southern Conference) is recovering from surgery that appears successful.
- Praise the Lord for making it possible to bless the needs of others.