



# 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:

Dr. Dennis Kinlaw wrote, "I was reading Ephesians, and found myself laughing aloud, when I came across Ephesians 5:1. "Be imitators of God." How can someone like me imitate God? Many of His attributes come to mind. First, He is the omnipotent One. A few in history have tried to be all-powerful, but they have ended up as fools. Second, He is the omniscient One. He knows all things. But when I'm in the process of finding an answer to a question, I discover I have ten more questions and so my experience is one of exploding ignorance, not knowledge. The more I know, the more I have to learn.

I look again at the passage: "And live a life of love, just as Christ love us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Eph. 5:2) My laughter faded as I realized that God wants us to imitate his lifestyle, not his attributes. What Paul is telling the church to imitate was, the life of love that issues from self-sacrifice modeled by the Lord Jesus.

Suddenly I found myself confronted, not with divine attributes in abstraction, but with the very Cross of Christ."

My allowing the Holy Spirit to confront, cleanse and fill us we can, through His strength and life, model Christlikeness.

## Personal:



## Events:

### Youth Camp:

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

### Family Camp:

- Annual Conference July 25
- Date: July 25-30
- Speakers: Dr. Paul Kaufman and Duane Quesenberry
- Contact LaFreda Roundtree to register; (580) 736-2526 or [lroundtreeat@yahoo.com](mailto:lroundtreeat@yahoo.com)

### Conference Finances:

#### March 2023

Operating Receipts:	\$5,674.50
Operating Expenses:	<u>\$12,253.27</u>
Total	<b>\$6,578.77</b>

Last Sunday we were in Durant for services. It is always special to worship at “home.”

Monday, I participated in cardio rehab and Melba and I did some shopping. Clydette Perkins hosted us for dinner at a Mexican restaurant. Tuesday I worked on material that is being prepared for another possible book.

Wednesday, because of elevated blood pressure, I was not allowed to do the rehab program, so took care of some office work and prepared for mid-week service.

Thursday I met with a fellow who has some interest in obtaining credentials with the Conference. Friday will be occupied with yard and office work

Sunday we were scheduled to be with Pastor Robert Durr III and the people at Osage Road, Duncan, OK, but because of illness that has been cancelled. We are planning to be with the people of Whitehouse, TX

## Prayer:

- Pastor, during your Pastoral prayer, please lift DeRidder, LA and Pastor Steele 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 Whitehouse as they search for a pastor and for Goings as they transition to Pennsylvania.
- Pray for Ronald Pauleus’ family as they work through a crisis.
- Pray for Jamie Gremillion - son of Richard. Jamie has advanced cancer.

## Praise:

- Thank the Lord His healing strengthening presence.
- Thank the Lord for a report from Pastor Underwood for the opportunity to pray with a lady and her son who is ill