



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:

This morning's devotional from "Come After Me" dealt with the return of the people of God, to Jerusalem under Nehemiah. They were repopulating the city, a city that was quite empty. The Scripture portion was an amazing reminder of the promise God made to his people of their return to the land and also an incredible message of commitment about those who returned and by principle moved into the city.

Nathan Brown's comment about the involvement of bringing people into the city to begin filling it with people and restoring the fortunes of the city and nation caught my attention. He said, Warren Weirsbe's comment was people just filled their place. In other words they did what they should do, because it was needed. There are times in our lives when we just need to be where we are, without drama. Just be who you are where you are because it is important to those around you. Just be there because you are needed.

As I have contemplated the thought of just being in place, I've thought of the silent years between the testaments. Think of the men and women, whose faith continued even in the quiet and sometimes dark years between the Prophets and the Gospel writers. People who lived by faith and rightness on purpose. They were where they should be and influenced the likes of Mary and Joseph. May we live fully in the place the Lord has placed us.



Personal:

Two Sundays ago I was with Jollys in Middleburg, Kentucky. The following Monday I flew home. Thursday I began feeling ill and by Friday had confirmed that it was COVID. By the weekend Melba and Adrianna were also ill.

Thanks to Chucky Dodd for filling the pulpit at Durant for me! By Wednesday morning I tested negative so have been trying to catch up.

This coming Sunday after noon some of the people of Durant plan to join with Sherman in a baptism service. It is exciting to know people are interested in publicly testifying to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Events:

Thanksgiving

- November 23

Advent

- December 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent
- December 10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent
- December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
- December 24- 4th Sunday of Advent

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 Fogelman, Maricka Herrer and David Martinez.
- Pray for Troyers while they research a possible place of ministry.
- Pray especially for Muirs and the situation in Mexico.
- Pray for your Conference Leadership and Executive Committee.
- Pray for newly elected Conference Extension Chairman Aaron Johnson and the churches in Mena, Arkansas, Millersburg, Kentucky and Grants, New Mexico.
- Pray for Whitehouse and Duncan as they search for pastor.

Conference Finances:

August 2023

Operating Receipts:	\$9,160.45
Operating Expenses:	\$12,744.50
Total	\$3,584.05

Praise:

- Praise the Lord, for safe travel.
- Praise the Lord for people planning to be baptized this Sunday.