



# 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:

Recently heard a fellow refer to Acts 2:1, where Luke wrote that the “they” the Apostles “were all with one accord in one place And suddenly there came . . .” His comment was, “If we are going to have the Holy Spirit’s infilling we must be unified.” The comment started a train of thought that is probably not complete but goes a little like this.

If they were unified is the focus was:

1. A focus on a Person. Their attention was turned to the Lord Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is important to have a clear and intentional focus on the Lord.
2. A focus on a Purpose. The New Testament Church was united regarding their purpose. A oneness of purpose will help minimize the uniqueness of each person and their personality. The purpose of the Church was preaching the Gospel to anyone who would listen.
3. A focus on a Plan. The Plan was to spread the Gospel. Notice that early in the life of the Church they went - some of the going was occasioned by the persecution - but the plan was to spread the Gospel far and wide.

Now you may say, wait how united were the Apostles? I suspect their personalities were still real and assertive at times. Some of them stayed in or near Jerusalem, some scattered. We know later in the life of the Church there was sharp division between men like Paul and Barnabas, and Peter and Paul articulated differently but they ministered.

The focus on unity cannot be full agreement, it has to be very select and purposeful choice to unite on the fundamentals.



## Events:

### Time Change

- November 5

### 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

### Ministerial

- Dates: March 14-16, 2024
- Location: Prothro Center 269, Methodist Lane, Pottsboro, Texas 75076

<b>Conference Finances:</b>	
<b>October 2023</b>	
Operating Receipts:	\$7,657.91
Operating Expenses:	\$15,1365.96
Total	\$7,478.77

## Personal:

Sunday past we were at Durant worshipping with the people of that church.

Monday we flew to Indianapolis and were met at the airport by Pastor Aaron and Melissa Johnson. We drove to the Shuneman House, a guest house owned and managed by the Wesleyans, for Bible Methodist Leadership Conference. Tuesday and part of Wednesday we worked, worshipped together. The fellowship was great as well.

Thursday Melba and I flew back to Dallas, arriving late. Friday we drove to Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Saturday we plan to have dinner with Pastor and Debbie Steele. Sunday we plan to worship with the people of DeRidder, LA.

### Note:

The church at Grants, NM could use a pulpit, if one of the churches has an extra one! Also Roy Archibald is available to hold a few services in interest of Conference Extension and Grants. Just contact CE Chairman Aaron Johnson 970 749-3864.

## Prayer:

- Pastor, during your Pastoral prayer, please lift Lakewood, CO and Pastors Johnson and Hughes, 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 Troyers while they research a possible place of ministry.
- Pray for your Conference Leadership and Executive Committee.
- Pray for Conference Extension Chairman Aaron Johnson and the churches in Mena, AR, Millersburg, KY and Grants, NM.
- Pray for Whitehouse and Duncan as they search for pastor.

## Praise:

- Praise the Lord for the progress being made in Grants, NM.
- Thank the Lord for safe travel and for His presence at Leadership Meetings.