



CROSS POINTS

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Please allow me to share the following thoughts from a dear pastor friend of mine. He expresses one of the most important issues in the pastor/congregation relationship. I believe every pastor & every church member needs to hear his words and his heart!

Reprinted with permission.

Withdrawing

Thursday, August 20, 2009 at 5:53 a.m.

One of the hardest things to accept about being the pastor of a church is becoming the focal point of church decisions when there are good people you love on both sides of the issues involved. Whether deserved or not, the pastor personifies the issue and becomes the recipient of hard and hurt feelings from those who disagree, and unfairly receives the credit and is lauded for “good leadership” from those who do agree. The reality is often much different than the appearance of things.

As pastor I spend much, if not most, of my administrative time seeking “win-win” situations for everyone involved and encouraging people to see things from a larger perspective. On those rare occasions when a “win-lose” situation does emerge, either by design or by insistence from church members, I am usually on the losing side because of the heartbreak involved in seeing hurt feelings and because of the way those feelings are expressed.

I was told long ago that I needed to develop a thicker skin if I was going to stay in the ministry for any length of time because I would receive many wounds. To this day I refuse to develop a thick skin or wear a suit of armor because that implies that people’s opinions don’t matter and their words do not affect me. The reality is...I love those people, what they think matters, what they say does affect me deeply. When we are wounded, we bleed. Those inflicting the wounds need to see the blood and understand the power of their words and actions—there are consequences.

In the body of Christ it is each person’s responsibility to express their passions in such a way as to build up the body of Christ and not tear it down. To do otherwise is a sin. This is especially vital during those times when a win-lose situation arises. We are to rejoice with those who rejoice, we are to mourn with those who mourn, the body of Christ is to be built up, and the world is to know we are followers of Christ by our love for one another. Not all churches are able to withstand even the smallest amount of conflict, but I am convinced our church is very healthy and can weather even the strongest of storms. And there are clouds gathering on the horizon as the church moves to discern how the Lord is leading us into the future. To do nothing would be failure, but are we able to take action and remain unified at the same time?

Today I feel like withdrawing in order to pray, study, and meditate on these things. My responsibilities will not allow this, of course, but as I inwardly withdraw I am praying for my brothers and sisters in Christ and asking God to save us from the worst parts of ourselves and fill us with His presence instead.

In The King’s Service,
Bro. Bobby Fletcher



BAPTIST STUDENT MINISTRY

New School Year

We are very excited about the beginning of the new school year, as classes are about to begin on both of the Grayson County College campuses (Denison and Van Alstyne) and at Austin College (Sherman). In addition, the GCC campuses are expecting a record enrollment this fall.

Our GCC BSM "Welcome Luncheon" will be held Wednesday, August 26th. We use this event to acquaint as many students as possible with our ministry. At Austin College, we will promote our ministry by joining other campus and community organizations at the Opportunities Fair on Thursday, September 3rd. Please pray that the Lord will use these events to reach new students.

International Student Ministry

It is with mixed feelings that we share with you that Brad McClenny, our International Student Minister, has accepted a full time position with Grayson College as Coordinator of the International Student Program. Brad has done an outstanding job in developing our international student ministry and has demonstrated the love of Christ to numerous international students over the past few years.

We are prayerfully seeking for someone to serve in this capacity as we feel led to continue this ministry. GCC continues to attract new international students giving us an amazing opportunity to minister to students from over 50 different countries. Thank you for your continuing support for this ministry.

ANNIVERSARIES

- 35th** Earl Oglesbee, pastor, Emmanuel, 9/29/74
- 32nd** Mark Martin, pastor, Epting Memorial, 9/14/77
- 30th** Danny Wood, pastor, West Sherman, 9/79
- 11th** Gahlen Warren, pastor, Fellowship Misny., 9/27/98
- 9th** Larry Blain, pastor, Southmayd, 9/3/00
- 7th** Steve Kretzer, missions & senior adults, Parkside, 9/3/02
- 2nd** Ron Ethridge, music, Van Alstyne FBC, 9/1/07
- 2nd** Bob Rutherford, pastor, Belmont, 9/9/07

GBA Pastorless

ChurchList

COUNTRY CHAPEL
c/o 3423 Bethany Rd.
Sherman, TX 75090
903.463.6347

IDA BAPTIST
7056 FM 697
Sherman, TX 75090-7534
903.813.3263
Interim: Jack Washington

DORCHESTER FBC
11831 FM 902
Dorchester, TX 75459-2421
903.476.5525
Interim: Bernie Gallagher

TRINITY BAPTIST
2627 Loy Lake Rd.
Sherman, TX 75090-2519
903.892.1568



BELLS FBC...has called Alex Miller as worship leader. The church will be hosting Team Impact, Sept. 16-20, 6:30 p.m.

BETHEL...is seeking a part-time youth minister.

COLLINSVILLE FBC...looking for a part-time education minister. They have called Aaron Davis as bi-vocational music minister.

COTTONWOOD CREEK, DENISON...is searching for a bi-vocational worship leader and a bi-vocational student pastor.

CRUTCHFIELD HEIGHTS...is in need of a child care worker. Call 903.647.0209 or email moody5@cablone.net

EAST SHERMAN...is searching for a part-time youth minister.

ELMONT...is searching for a part-time youth minister.

EMMANUEL...is needing a part-time youth minister.

FOREST AVENUE...is seeking a minister of music.

GUNTER FBC...needs a full-time secretary. Email resumes to chad@fbcgunter.org.

HAGERMAN...has called Neal Alexander as pastor. They are seeking a part-time minister of music. Send resumes to hagermanbap@msn.com. They also need a pianist. Contact Chuck Bell, 903.436.8215.

IDA...has 30 new Baptist Hymnals. If interested in them call 903.364.2519.

LUELLA FBC...has called Jeremy Moore as associate pastor in charge of youth & young adults.

PARKSIDE...is accepting resumes for a full-time recreation assistant. Submit resumes to Tan Flippin, 301 N. Lillis Ln., Denison or tan@thepark.org. PBC will be hosting a senior adult revival Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 10:30 a.m. There will be a revival kick-off, "Jubilation", Southern Gospel program, Aug. 30, 6:00 p.m. In conjunction with the revival there will be a "free" parent conference, Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 6:30 p.m.

POTTSBORO FBC...is in need of a keyboard player and a used van that is in good condition.

SHERWOOD SHORES FBC...is searching for a part-time music/youth minister.

WHITESBORO FBC...will be celebrating 150 years Sept. 27, 10:30 a.m.

WMU NEWS

**PASTOR & WIFE
APPRECIATION DINNER
TUES., SEPTEMBER 15, 2009
WHITESBORO FBC
6:30 P.M.
Tickets available Sept. 8-10 at
GBA office
\$6.00 per person**

**Sneak Peak tour of the new TMC
hospital...
Jeff Lancaster, chaplain at TMC is
offering a tour of the new TMC
hospital for area ministers & staff
(and spouses), Sept. 8, 4:30 p.m.
Call 903.416.4118 for more info.**



If anyone is interested in helping at the lake property please call Steve Kretzer or Delbert Vest at Parkside Baptist Church, 903.465.1686. We are in need of someone who is interested in mowing, cutting/trimming trees, painting, cleaning bathrooms, cabins, dorms, etc.

NEWSLETTER EMAIL

To be good stewards of the resources we have GBA would like to start emailing as many newsletters as possible. But in order to do this we need email addresses. Please send them to svestgba@verizon.net. Please do this as soon as possible. Thanks for your help.

Missing from GBA library...

**Dr. Henry Blackaby's
"Experiencing God" Series
If you have this please return it
or call the office to let us know
that you have it, 903.868.9361**

Mission Needs

Native American Partnership Ministries needs quilts, blankets, school supplies, backpacks, new Bibles. Please email Bill Roberts at bbrob@texoma.net or call 903.364.2515. Please have these supplies ready by October 1st.

Billy & Bettye Roberts

GBA MONTHLY MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2009
10:00 A.M.**

BETHEL

3072 HWY 160, WHITEWRIGHT



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**GBA ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009
WEST SHERMAN
BAPTIST CHURCH
6:30 P.M.
DR. JIMMY DRAPER, PREACHING**



A PUBLICATION OF

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER 2009

- 8 GBA Monthly Meeting, Bethel, 10:00 a.m.
- 13-20 BGCT Week of Prayer for Texas Missions
- 15 WMU Pastor/Wife Appreciation Dinner, Whitesboro FBC, 6:30 p.m.
- 20-27 SBTC Week of Prayer for Texas Missions

OCTOBER 2009

- 3 WMU Annual Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- 6 GBA Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m., West Sherman

GRAYSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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LOY LAKE RD. OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY.....8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
FRIDAY.....Closed