

THE

BIBLE METHODIST

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CONDUCTING THEOLOGICAL TRIAGE

PAGE 3



FROM THE EDITOR



G. Clair Sams
Editor

In a world that is in significant transition it behooves the Church to provide ethical, stable and spiritual leadership. Historically the Lord has enabled the Church to shine enlightening insight into the culture it inhabits. If you take time to study the history of the Lord's people you will read of their investment in culture and the result of that investment producing spiritual and enlightening fruit. Of course there have been times when the church has offered little strength or depth to the direction of the culture it invaded, but generally it has quietly and effectively been a blessing.

Read of the Christians, during the Roman empire's deep debauchery, going out at night and quietly rescuing babies who had been left in the communities trash to die. You may read of the church standing strongly against the abuses of false doctrine, the persecution of faith and the attempted destruction of churches. Believer's whose names we will not know until eternity stood tall and confident in their faith resisting the clarion call to sin and wickedness.

Believer, you may not know a politician or anyone in a position of power, but you can live as one writer said, "a singularly un-poetic life of faithful Christianity," and influence people around you. In the quiet of your prayer time, in the faithfulness of your worship, in the investment in your family and in the support of Biblical truth you are marking those who know you.

Please, don't allow the disintegrating and demoralizing culture to invade your mind and spirit. Allow the Holy Spirit to renew your mind through the Word. Focus on the work the Lord is doing in your church, family and life. Live carefully yourself and encourage others to faithfully live in Christ, tithe to the Lord's work, speak truth in love and support righteousness. Together we can leave an eternal impact on a dissolving culture.

We may be living in the era of a dying culture, but we don't have to die with it. Embrace fundamental Biblical truth. Support secondary issues and love others through disagreement. Let's show the culture and other members of the Church that God is still working, uniting and strengthening lives today. ■

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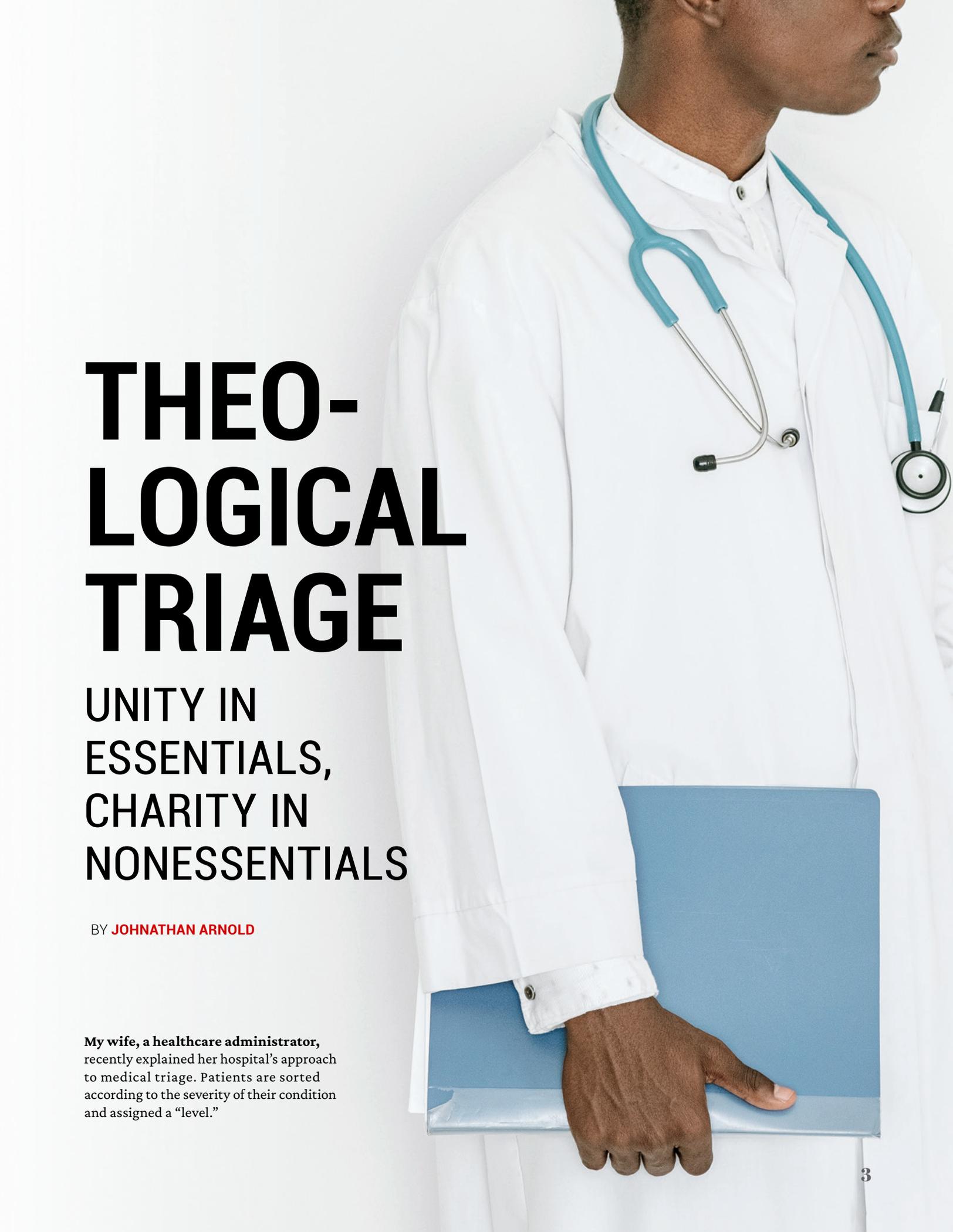
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BibleMethodist
CONNECTION OF CHURCHES



THEO- LOGICAL TRIAGE

UNITY IN
ESSENTIALS,
CHARITY IN
NONESSENTIALS

BY **JOHNATHAN ARNOLD**

My wife, a healthcare administrator, recently explained her hospital's approach to medical triage. Patients are sorted according to the severity of their condition and assigned a "level."

For example,
Level 1: Acute danger
Level 2: Severe injury
Level 3: Minor injury

Every patient is important and deserves treatment. But medical professionals are right to prioritize urgent needs.

In recent years, triage has served as an analogy for how the Church ranks the importance of doctrines. The term “theological triage” gained currency after it was coined by Albert Mohler in his 2005 article, *A Call for Theological Triage and Christian Maturity*. Mohler explains, “theological seriousness and maturity demand that we consider doctrinal issues in terms of their relative importance.” In 2020, Gavin Ortlund published *Finding the Right Hills to Die On: The Case for Theological Triage*, and Rhyne Putman published *When Doctrine Divides the People of God: An Evangelical Approach to Theological Diversity*.

ESSENTIALS VS. NONESSENTIALS

Theological triage (ranking doctrines according to importance) is biblical. Paul explicitly identifies some doctrines as being “of first importance” (1 Cor. 15:3). Level 1 doctrines include the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:3–4), as well as the truths confessed in the ecumenical Creeds (Apostles’, Nicene, Athanasian). These are matters of Christian consensus: “what has everywhere, always, and by all been believed” (Vincent of Lerins). The gospel is at stake in these non-negotiable dogmas. Denying them places us in acute danger. They separate Christians from non-Christians. They’re worth dying for.

If some doctrines are of “first importance,” then others are not. If there are essentials, then there must be nonessentials. Not everything belongs to the “one faith” (Eph. 4:5) which Christ handed down to the Church through his Apostles. If Peter could say of Paul’s

letters, “There are some things in them that are hard to understand” (2 Pet. 3:16), then it should be no surprise that godly men and women often disagree on how to interpret them. At least some nonessentials should be left to personal discretion: “each one should be fully convinced in his own mind” (Rom. 14:5). Paul warns us “not to quarrel over opinions” (Rom. 14:1).

This makes some believers uncomfortable, since all truth is important, and we don’t want our distinctive doctrines (e.g., entire sanctification) to be minimized. But “nonessential” does not mean “unimportant.” I once heard a pastor flippantly claim that as long as we confess “Jesus is Lord,” everything else that divides us is like ice cream flavors: God is letting us choose what we like best. This mentality undermines the importance of all

THOSE
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truth and the fact that secondary issues can have serious consequences for the church’s health. We should all do our best to understand what Scripture teaches on every point, and I’m passionate about many secondary issues. However, it is far more important that we agree on the truth of the Trinity than that we agree on our view of sanctification or on our application of biblical lifestyle principles. Mature Christians gladly affirm this and reflect it in their emphasis and attitude (Rom. 15:1–2).

A TRIAGE SCALE

All Christians begin with a “Level 1” on their triage scale (“first importance”). But as in the healthcare world, there are differences on how many levels to include after that. Some identify three or four levels of importance; others identify five,

six, or even seven. If we're not careful, we can create more and more levels of truth in order to justify splitting the church over minor issues. While Christian unity does not require complete institutional unity, the church is far more fractured than it needs to be. That's why I prefer triage scales with three levels:

Level 1: The faith of the whole Church.

Level 2: The shared beliefs of a theological tradition, confessional community, or denomination.

Level 3: Issues left to the discretion of individuals or local churches.

Secondary issues are important enough that Christians may separate into distinct worshipping communities; they are not so important as to divide from common causes. Historically, many Level 2 issues pertain to the doctrine of the church (ecclesiology). Consider, for example, the differences between the Westminster Confession

and the London Baptist Confession. Presbyterians and Baptists are divided over whether or not to bring infants into the church's membership through baptism. It's difficult to coexist when you disagree on a matter as important as the nature of the church and who belongs to it.

Level 3 issues may be important, but they are usually not important enough to warrant distinct worshipping communities. On tertiary matters, Christians can reasonably "agree to disagree," even within a local church. Differences over the millennium or the age of the earth, for example, are not legitimate reasons to divide a congregation or denomination.

A PERSONAL EXAMPLE

I once visited an Anglican Church (recall that Wesley was a lifelong Anglican priest). The priest learned that I was a Christian pastor, and we were able to enjoy meaningful communion because of our "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph. 4:5). Our communion was far deeper than "extending the right hand of fellowship" in a superficial way, or patronizing one another from a distance: "Some Anglicans/Methodists will probably be in heaven!" I called him "brother." We shared "one bread" at the Lord's Table (1 Cor. 10:17). We joined our voices to confess the Nicene Creed (Level 1 issues). While visiting

churches on vacation, I have enjoyed similar fellowship with conservative Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Eastern Orthodox brothers and sisters.

In the course of my conversation with the Anglican priest, however, I explained a few reasons (Level 2 issues) why I wasn't ready to leave my denomination and join the Anglican Church of North America. We were able to have a robust but respectful discussion. Another clergyman remarked with a smile, "We're long-lost cousins; you can come home any time you want!"

In his sermon, the priest made an argument for postmillennialism. It was the first time that I had heard someone defend this view in person, so I asked him about it after the service. He explained, "The Anglican Church doesn't have an official position on it." It's left to the discretion of individuals or local churches (Level 3 issues).

ADJUSTING OUR EMPHASIS AND ATTITUDE

Those who fail to practice theological triage harm the church. In his essay on church membership and levels of importance in truth, Philip Brown tells of a child who assumed that a group of women with long hair and dresses were Christians, but changed her mind when they didn't align with another similar expectation. This is a heart-wrenching example of elevating a tertiary matter to a gospel issue. Did this child's parents ever say, "Someone who wears such-and-such isn't a Christian"? Probably not. But the child encountered an emphasis and attitude that led her to this conclusion.

This is not an isolated example. A denominational leader once sent me an article on whether or not people outside his movement would be saved. He identified it as a common question among his constituency.

Our emphasis and attitude in preaching should reflect the importance of the truths that we are proclaiming. Level 1 issues should

be preached with uncompromising certainty, at all times and in all places. We should never hesitate to proclaim “Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2). Level 2 issues can still be preached frequently and confidently (as I do with the doctrine of entire sanctification), but our tone should be charitable, and we should use wisdom when speaking to unaffiliated audiences. It is unnecessary and unChristlike to cast shade on good brothers and sisters who disagree, posture ourselves over them, or patronize them by saying that “they just don’t have the light.” Finally, Level 3 issues

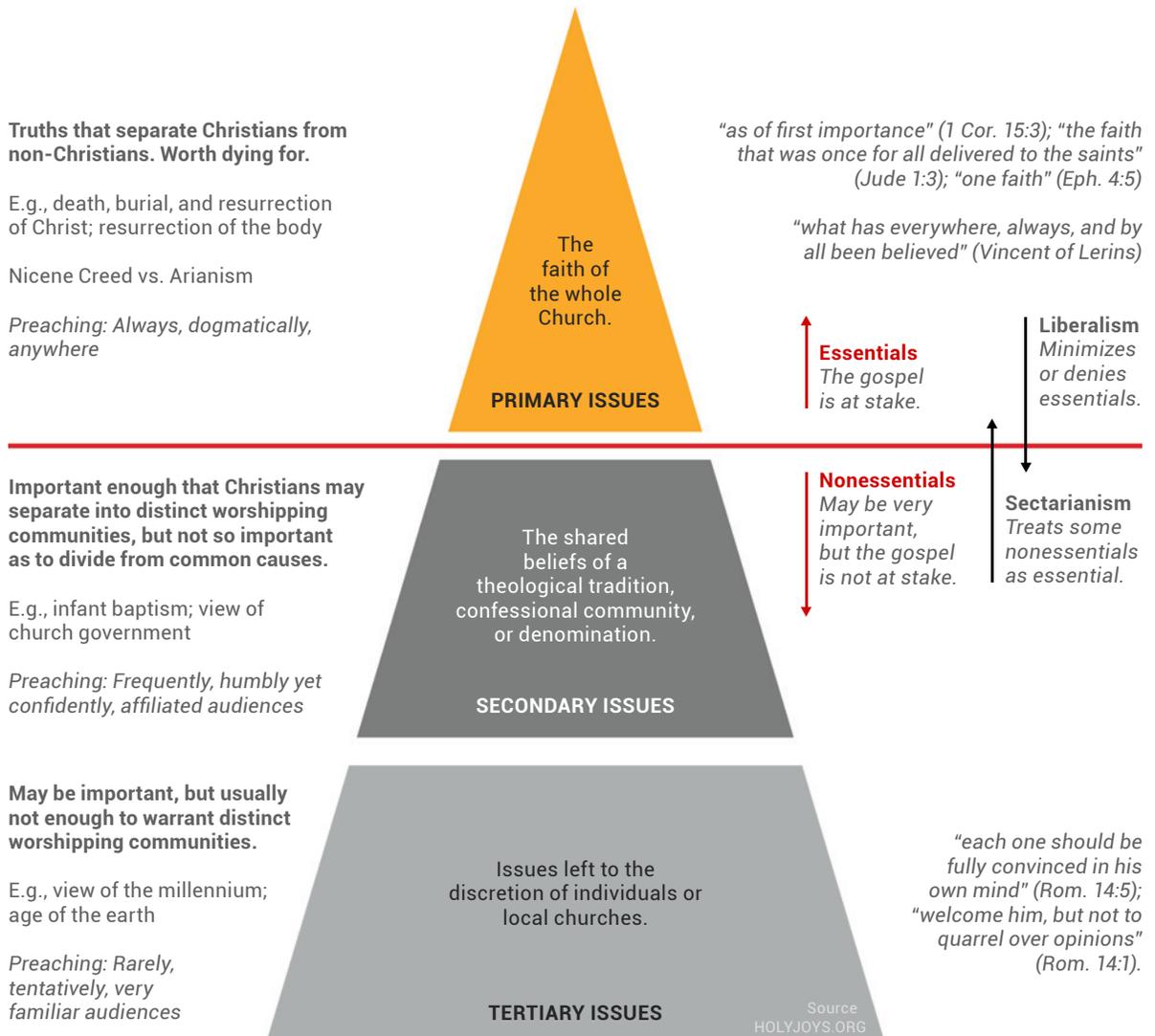
should be preached rarely, tentatively, and with very familiar audiences.

Something is seriously wrong if we preach more frequently or emphatically on our church’s distinctive than we proclaim “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3). Our theological distinctives must take second place to a clear exposition of creedal doctrines

such as the Trinity, incarnation, ascension, unending kingdom, “one holy catholic and apostolic Church,” “one baptism for the remission of sins,” or resurrection of the dead. In fact, failing to first establish a gospel foundation leads to distorted and harmful teaching on secondary matters.

A CALL TO REPENTANCE AND WESLEYAN CHARITY

In his *Crucible for Conservatives*, H. E. Schmul identified a failure to practice theological triage as a systemic problem within the CHM. Carefully read the following quotes:



The error is defining what is spiritual and deciding who is spiritual based on the interpretation of secondary truths instead of emphasizing our agreement on fundamentals.

We face grave danger in elevating secondary truths to the level of primary truths and judging one another's spirituality based on our understanding of these truths.

Since we are 100% agreed on the fundamentals, speak the truth in love on secondary issues.

The solution to our tension is not labels, "radical" or "liberal," but to pray and love one another "maintaining the unity of the Spirit" that the world may believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

We did not get where we are, in our movement, by accident. We are reaping twenty years of a preaching emphasis that has polarized around men and issues; men die and issues change, but Christ and His Word abide for ever. Some of our younger men feel strongly that our leadership bears a large share of responsibility for where we are, because we have permitted the emphasis that has produced this effect. They hear the call for humbling and confession for revival and fail to see leaders setting a genuine example. They feel if anyone needs to admit failure, it's the leadership. I fear they will continue to turn away from us unless we repent and change our ways.

Schmul's call to repentance is still relevant in these divided days. The 2005 *Call to the Conservative Holiness Movement*, written by the President and Faculty of the Division of Ministerial Education at God's Bible School and College, more recently articulated this concern:

Too often we have smugly discon-

nected ourselves from our Christian past; and in so doing we have become theologically shallow, spiritually weak, and blind to the work of God in the lives of others. We have withdrawn ourselves into protected enclaves, congratulating ourselves on our superiority over other Christians, sometimes refusing fellowship with them because of our disagreement in doctrine or in practice, and ignoring the continuing work of the Holy Spirit throughout all the universal Church. At best this is lamentable ignorance and at worst, sectarian bigotry. We call therefore, with John Wesley, for a "league offensive and defensive with every soldier of Christ," reclaiming the richness of our Christian heritage and our essential unity with all who truly confess Him as Lord.

John Wesley was a strong advocate of theological triage for the sake of Christian unity and charity. His sermon "Catholic Spirit" is a must-read for every Wesleyan: Although a difference in opinions or modes of worship may prevent an entire external union, yet need it prevent our union in affection? Though we cannot

think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences. (Sermon 39)

Paul identified an eagerness to maintain unity around the essentials as a mark of a mature Christian (Eph. 4:3), while calling for divisive and contentious people to be disciplined (Titus 3:10; Rom. 16:17). It's not enough to stand for the truth; we must stand for the truth with the right attitude. As we unite to "contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3), let us join Charles Wesley in his prayer of confession for allowing a sectarian spirit to infect his emphasis and attitude, and in his plea for the humility and meekness of Christ:

The spirit of my foes I caught
The angry bitter zeal,
And fierce for my own party
fought,
And breath'd the fire of hell.

To propagate the truth, I fought
With fury and despite;
And, in my zeal for Israel, sought
To slay the Gibeonite.

Lord, I abhor, renounce, abjure,
The fiery spirit unclean,
The persecuting zeal impure,
The sin-opposing sin.

But O! my gracious God, to me
A better spirit impart;
The gentle mind that was in thee,
The meekly loving heart. ■

Johnathan Arnold is a husband, father, and pastor in Central Pennsylvania. He is a licensed minister with the Heartland Conference of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches. He is also the founder and president of holyjoys.org, where he co-hosts a weekly podcast with Dr. David Fry. You can connect with him on Twitter @jsarnold7.



CONNECTIONAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT

On January 10-12, 2022 Connectional Chairman Dr. Avery and his wife Ruth, Southern Conference President John Parker and his wife Cathy, Southwest Conference President Clair Sams and his wife Melba, Heartland Conference President Chris Cravens, and

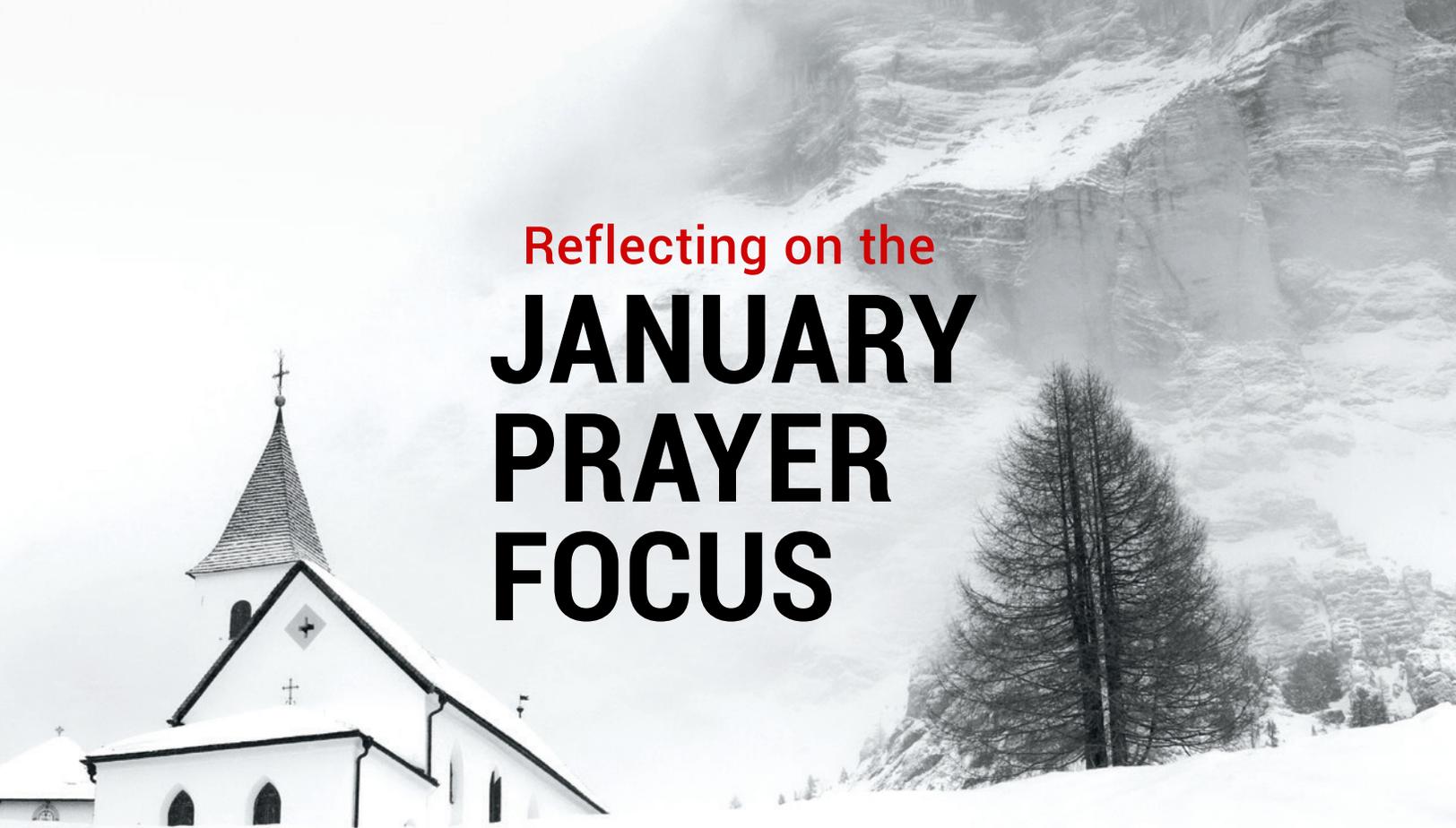
Missions Director Tim Keep and his wife Becky, along with Great Lakes President, Elect David Ward, met in Noblesville, Indiana. We missed Blake and Saundie Jones and Julie Cravens.

The Shunmen House, Noblesville, IN, owned by the Wesleyan Church,

makes this incredible facility available to people in ministry. We had spacious rooms, a kitchen to prepare some meals as well as rooms for meeting and fellowship.

Tuesday morning John and Cathy Parker returned home because they had been exposed to COVID. The remaining people worked, relaxed and deeply enjoyed being together. Part of our time was spent reviewing Memorials for General Conference, part of the time we debated doctrine or church polity as well as playing some games, eating and simply relaxing together. Thanks to each Conference and the Missions Department for allowing and encouraging your leaders to participate in this valuable time together.





Reflecting on the **JANUARY PRAYER FOCUS**

“Without a doubt, one of the greatest assets of the Church and her members is dedicated, unified, and fervent prayer. It is where the saints are refreshed, the sinner is convicted, and the enemy of our souls is put to flight. James reminded us that if we will draw close to God, He will draw close to us. The leadership and presenters of the Bible Methodist 21 Days of Prayer are to be commended for their work again this year. As a pastor, I was encouraged to watch my church family participate and connect with other believers. Intentional prayer was promoted and offered daily, providing not only a directive for the time of commitment, but also as a perpetual habit in each believer’s personal walk. May God continue to hear our humble praise and petitions throughout 2022.”

~ Pastor Stephen Snodgrass at Sherman, Texas

I asked the congregation about the recent 21 Days of Prayer and Pray Around the World prayer focus and it was unanimously agreed that it was a blessing. Every person in the congregation participated through the month. Many of the people followed the daily prayer focus through YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, or the prayer text that Pastor Darrell Stetler II provides. Though I was away, the congregation gathered Sunday, January 23rd for the Pray Around the World simulcast and participated in the focused time of intentional prayer.

While in Caldwell, Idaho on the 23rd, we joined the congregation in praying with and for Dr. Michael Avery, Brendel Macadangdang, David Martinez, Dr. Rendi Moke and the Papua New Guinea men from the Bible Fellowship PNG and then the closing prayer by Rev. Blake Jones.

Deepest thanks to each person who provided material for the videos and for the focus on 21 Days of Prayer.

~ G. Clair Sams at Durant, Oklahoma

WORLD MISSIONS

NEWS UPDATE



Timothy Keep
Missions Director

What are we doing in AFRICA?

Anyone familiar with the Church around the world recognizes that one of the greatest crises within Christendom right now is the crisis of un-trained pastors and leaders—men and women without access to formal theological training. David Livermore, author of *Serving with Eyes Wide Open* has said, “85% percent of the churches of the world are led by people who have no formal education in theology or ministry.” Another missionary leader, speaking specifically of Africa has said, “Up to 90% of the pastors in any given country have never received even one day of training.” This is the well-known and even heart-breaking reality for many pastors, not just in Africa but around the world. And Satan easily takes advantage of these unlearned leaders, entrapping them and those they influence in deceitful doctrines and sensational philosophies.

As a response to this crisis, Bible Methodist Missions and Hope International Missions have formed a partnership to provide foundational training and training resources (Shepherds Global Curriculum) for pastors all over Africa; pastors like Peter Calimambondo from the east African country of Mozambique. Here is a (slightly

edited for clarity) letter he sent to Maricka in January of this year:

I am working here in Tete province of Mozambique. I started this ministry called “Kingdom Builders of Christ,” this was after I’d resigned from the ministry I’d served for 35 years. The Lord led me to go into the area of leadership training. In 2016-18 I started this (training program) from the ground and by the grace of God managed to register it with the government (you know the background of Mozambique and how hard it is to register). I began with a 1-year course but beginning last year the government enforced a law that all schools doing theological training must do a minimum of 3 years. I am now conducting a 3-year pastor training course.

I will be very glad to receive (Shepherds Global Classroom) materials from you, since from the very beginning this has been my challenge. Your readiness to help is an answer from God. I have a team of four teachers who are helping with teachings, and we have two training centers, one in town and one in a district 130 kms (80 miles) from town. I am burdened to help leaders in the

rural areas because they have the heart to serve God but no training. The church in Mozambique is like a river 1 Kilometer wide and 20 centimeters deep.

Thank you, God bless you!
Peter Calimambondo

There are countless stories just like this all over Africa. On that continent, there are literally tens of thousands of pastors eager to learn but with no access to theological education. And there are thousands of ministry leaders who desire to launch indigenous Bible schools and seminaries but who lack the necessary tools to do so. This is what our partnership with HIM is all about—providing the training and the training tools these leaders need, as well as a support and accountability system to help indigenous training ministries thrive. SGC is the tool, and only the tool, but HIM and BMM, together, are the vehicle and engine for training leaders in Africa.

What an opportunity to serve and impact these suffering and under-served brothers and sisters in Africa! What a responsibility too. This is what the New Testament calls us to, as Paul commands Timothy, “and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).

We will not make everyone we train a Bible Methodist or member of HIM—though if the Lord so wills it, some pastors and leaders will affiliate with our ministries—but to produce more knowledgeable, spiritually discerning, and Spirit-filled Christ-followers who will shepherd the Church in Africa. In this, Christ Himself will be served. In this, Jesus will receive the reward

of his suffering. In this, the Kingdom of God will be strengthened. In this, the Bible Methodist Church will fulfill its mission.

DOES OUR BMM/HIM PARTNERSHIP NEED A NAME?

To avoid the problem of confusing our Africa training partnership with Shepherds Global Classroom (the tool), we are exploring the idea of giving our partnership a name. Perhaps, “The Africa 85 Project”, or “Africa 85” for short! This has not been decided, but a name may be coming!

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

In order for Hope International Missions and Bible Methodist Missions to work together to carry out the ministry of training trainers in Africa, both organizations have agreed to organize the Africa leadership team in the following way:

1. Glenn Gault is named Africa Director for Training. Glenn has the vision, the experience, the gifts, and the credibility necessary to develop training

partnerships, lead the training endeavors, and to instruct during the training-trainer events.

2. Maricka Herrer has been named Executive Assistant for Training. Maricka has the gifts and skills necessary to do the work of communicating with pastor-trainers in Africa, providing support, organizing, planning and managing logistics, distributing curriculum, and instructing trainers. Maricka does most of the day-to-day work while Glenn gives direction, takes the lead in major decisions, and helps with training.
3. Other officers and members will be added as the ministry develops.

A CONVERSATION WITH MARICKA HERRER

Tim: Maricka, what are you most excited about in your work in Africa?

Maricka: It has been amazing to watch how God has been answering our prayers for the right people to partner with in training ministry. The diverse ways He brings us in contact with those who we are now

serving is simply astounding.

Tim: Could you share just briefly about some of the doors God is opening to the training team?

Maricka: As far as the training goes, we are currently partnering or seeking to partner with several new contacts, just since the start of the new year. These include a church group in Zambia, a training ministry in Uganda, a Bible training initiative in Nigeria, and an independent Bible school in Mozambique.

Locally, God opened the door for me to join with a local women’s Bible study group. There are also possibilities for teaching music, as well as starting an online Bible study.

Tim: How can we, your Bible Methodist family, pray more specifically for you this year?

Maricka: Pray for continued wisdom and the right open doors as we seek to expand the training ministry across Africa, and discernment in local ministry opportunities.

Pray for His love to flow through me in my daily interactions with neighbors and friends, to be a faithful witness where I live. ■

These pics are from our first HIM/BMM cooperative training trip to Cameroon. Pastor Timothy, along with other Cameroonian leaders, desires to establish a grassroots training ministry in Cameroon and it is always a privilege to establish a training partnership with them.



GREAT LAKES

REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



Blake Jones
Conference President



DAWN VALLEY, ONTARIO

One January 9th, 15 members of our congregation received recognition for completing the Bible 2021 reading challenge. Congratulations to Greg, Madison, Clara, Debbie, Jon, Cindy, Clarissa, Joe, Margaret,

Deborah, Laura, Abigail, Trenten, Katrina, and Aiden. It is exciting to see whole families signing up to read the Bible together in 2022! As Charles Spurgeon said: “The more you read the Bible; and the more you meditate on it, the more you will be astonished with it.”

PREACHERS HOLIDAY MEAL

In January, Pastor and Mrs. David Ward and the Pilgrim Bible Church ladies hosted the annual Preacher’s Holiday Meal. The conference executive committee was invited to participate as well. Along with a wonderful meal, the evening was relaxed and arranged for beautiful fellowship and visiting among the pastors and their wives.



ROCK LAKE CHURCH NATIVITY WALK

The Rock Lake Bible Methodist Church hosts an annual outdoor Nativity Walk on the conference camp grounds. Various community churches participate by setting up special stations that each shares one part of the Christmas story. The Rock Lake Church cares for the Temple Scripture and singing station and the Bethlehem station with soldiers, tax collector, market and the inn. The other churches set up stations with soldiers along the road, interaction with Simeon who has a promise from God, the shepherds, Joseph and Mary at the manger and finally the traveling wise men.



JANUARY COMBINED PRAYER MEETING

It was with delight that Great Lakes participated in the Bible Methodist Combined Prayer Meeting. We wish to express our appreciation for your prayers and intercession. Thank you for lifting us to the throne of God! To each of the conferences here in North America and to our dear brothers and sisters on foreign fields, we send our love and prayers.

Pictured here is a little boy who at least joined in the kneeling part during our united prayer.



GARFIELD COUNTRY CHURCH OUTREACH

Pastor and Mrs. Kimberland Hough are pictured here with some of their newer church family. They are celebrating the dear babies that are part of their congregation. What a privilege to embrace God's wee ones into our lives and church fellowship.

HEARTLAND

REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



Chris Cravens
Conference President

2021 Heartland Ministerial

Thank you to the Ministerial Sponsors who make this event free to all Heartland ministers! We had around 90 attending at Higher Ground Conference and Retreat Center, in spite, of much sickness and sorrow.

The theme for this ministerial was Prevailing Prayer. We were blessed with quality, spirit-filled speakers who challenged us concerning prayer. What a rewarding time of spiritual challenge, personal conviction, edifying conversation, encouraging worship, great food, and rest. Through a generous donor, \$4,000.00 was given away in cash gifts to our ministers as an added blessing this year! The Craguns ministered to us with a relaxing evening of sacred music. The event ended with prayer, scripture, and communion.



Clockwise from top-left: A ladies prayer group; Rev. Mike Mater leading worship; a men's prayer group; Dr. Rodney Loper receiving special recognition; Rev. Mark Cravens receiving special recognition; Dr. David Fry during Communion.



Clockwise from top-left: The Cragun family; Dr. Mark Smith; Rev. Tim Throckmorton; Rev. David Hartkopf; Mrs. Charlotte Frederick.



GREAT NEWS FROM BEULAH GROVE CAMPGROUND

A dream come true for Beulah Grove! For four years we have been praying for a quality compact tractor to help with the maintenance at Beulah Grove. The new John Deere tractor has arrived 100% paid for thanks to generous donations! God has provided!

Pictures left-to-right are Caretaker Jim Spear, President Cravens, and camp board member Dave Thomas.

SOUTHERN

REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



John Parker
Conference President

UPSTATE VETERAN RECEIVES HERO'S WELCOME AFTER RETURNING HOME FROM HONOR FLIGHT

Brother Guy Hester, escorted by his son, Ernie, was honored as a Korean War Veteran with an Honor Flight to the Nation's Capital and recognized there for his service to the country. Guy and his wife Mickey are a vital part of our Easley, South Carolina Church.



They returned to South Carolina after many years in Hobe Sound, Florida. Guy was involved in the planting of missions work in the

Bahama Islands with Florida Evangelistic (Hope International Missions). We honor Brother Hester and all our veterans.



MARK AND CAROL VERNON'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mark and Carol Vernon celebrated their 50th Anniversary on November 17, 2021 with a host of family and friends at the Manchester, Tennessee Church. Their faithful service to the Lord and Mark's stellar military career as a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam Wars as well as his many years as a missionary pilot were honored on the occasion. Mark and Carol attend the Manchester Church and are actively involved in its ministries.

ALABAMA INTER-CHURCH HOLINESS CONVENTION

The Alabama Inter-Church Holiness Convention was hosted in November by the Talladega Church. Rev. Matt Maloyd was the speaker and Larry and Patricia Jewett were the singers for the Convention. The church was packed and the spirit of the services was up-lifting. Many attended an IHC for their very first time! It was good to see our churches uniting for the IHC.



PEGGIE MCDONALD

Peggie McDonald went home to Jesus January 21, 2022 at age 91. Peggie was born to Fred and Rozella Brazier on April 14, 1930 in Talladega, Alabama. Peggie met her husband Herman in 1946 at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, where her father pastored. They married in 1948 and went on to have two children. In addition to being a dedicated and loving mother, Peggie also loved to crotchet and travel. Throughout her entire life she held unwavering faith in God, which she

shared with those around her. She was a real prayer warrior in her later years. Peggie joins her beloved husband Herman, her parents, and brother Gaither Brazier and sister Freda Dudley in heaven. She is survived by daughter, Sue Fleming (Wayne), son Dale McDonald (Karen), grand children Harley McDonald, Heath McDonald (Leah), Krista Collins (Leonard), Ben Fleming (Bethany), and Holly Walker (Daniel), 17 great grand children and 2 great-great grand children, her sister Faye Bailey (Phil) and a large number of nieces and nephews.



CHERYL LYNN GILLESPIE

Cheryl Lynn Gillespie, 53 of Bland Virginia went to be with the Lord on Thursday, December 30, 2021. She was born February 15, 1968 in Jacksonville, Florida, the daughter of Jack and Donna Jones Blankenship.

Cheryl was an active member of the Bland, Virginia Church where she was Sunday school teacher, pianist, and secretary. She was a piano teacher and home schooled her children. She took pride in her home and family.

Left to cherish her memory are her loving husband of 28 years, Harold A. Gillespie, her son, Aaron Luke Gillespie; her daughter Amber Brook Gillespie; her parents, Jack and Donna Jones Blankenship; her brother and sister-in-law, Rev. Bob and Karen Blankenship; and several special nieces and nephews.

Cheryl was a beautiful example of God's grace in her faithful service to the Lord and in her suffering! She leaves a great void in many lives.

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL

Our Southern Conference Pastors and Ministers gathered with their wives on our beautiful campus to share a profitable time together on January 6-8 being challenged to Preach Christ and to Represent Christ to those we are called to serve. Dr. R.G. Hutchison and Monte Stetler Jr. spoke clearly and powerfully to the realities of the challenges we face as preachers.

We enjoyed great times of fellowship and food together as well as our new Conference office facilities.



NANNIE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mrs. Louise McCoy celebrated her 100th birthday with her family in early January 2022. Dear Sister McCoy is a beloved part of our Southern Conference Family and we rejoice that she has reached this amazing milestone and in such great spirits.

SOUTHWEST

PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



G. Clair Sams
Conference President

TREASURE VALLEY – CALDWELL, IDAHO

Christmas Sunday at TVBMC was a special one. Our program titled “Every Knee Shall Bow” was special and well-attended. Our young people and children did so well under the direction of Karen and Kalli Bork and all their able helpers. We listened as two angels communed with God and led the residents of one little town to worship at the manger of King Jesus. At the close of the service, we dedicated a new park bench and piano to the memory of several sweet loved ones from our church who have moved to heaven in the last few years. We are

thankful for the sweet presence of Jesus and truly bow before him in humble thankfulness for his unspeakable gift of a Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

On December 4th we joined in the Treasure Valley Night Light Parade with a nativity float. Many of our group worked hard on preparing and donating time and materials. Our children and young people had a great time as part of the nativity and others of us passed out candy and church fliers. We later read that there were 75,000 in attendance. We are grateful for God’s help and protection in this endeavor and pray that God will touch the hearts of those in attendance with the light of His love.





MOBERLY, MISSOURI

We were very thankful for a beautiful day to take part in our town's Christmas Parade on December 4th this year. We were able to pass out 500 flyers and candy canes that had our church information on it. It was exciting to get our name out into the community that we so badly want to reach for Jesus. Please continue to pray as we try to reach those that desperately need Him.



LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

The church in Lakewood hosted an excellent Christmas pageant that included beautiful decorations, and children reenacting the incredible story of the Incarnation.

BIBLE METHODIST CONNECTION OF CHURCHES

GENERAL CONFERENCE

— JUNE 14-16, 2022 —

LOCATION

Franklin Bible Methodist Church
6000 South Dixie Highway
Franklin, OH 45005

FIRST SERVICE

June 14, 7:00 PM



BibleMethodist
CONNECTION OF CHURCHES