

THE
BIBLE METHODIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BIBLE METHODIST CONNECTION OF CHURCHES VOLUME 53 | ISSUE 4

OUR SALVATION AND THE
SACRAMENTS

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FROM THE EDITOR



G. Clair Sams
Editor

This issue concludes articles on the subject of salvation.

If you have been following the progression, you will have read broadly about the need for, what it means to be, and the influences of personal salvation. How you embrace the thought of redemption, forgiveness, adoption, and regeneration deeply marks your relationship with God, with the Church, your family, and community.

Too often we refer to salvation in a loose colloquial way that leaves unbelievers uncertain or confused. Along with that, too often, those who attend our churches sound an uncertain note about what it means to be a Christian. It is our hope that the material presented helps influence a clearer message and a deeper, more meaningful, life of faith.

Salvation, forgiveness of sins, and the subsequent life of faith through Christ is the most important matter of life. I recently saw a person wearing a tee shirt that said “I’m about to sin.” I was startled but then thought, no, that unfortunately is the concept much of the North American church has about Christianity.

Our theology, practice, and testimony should give a distinct and clear message. Christ is able, well able, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit to equip the believer to live in victory. The assurance of faith, the confidence of a living spiritual relationship is a reality. As a person avails themselves of the means of grace and walks humbly in faith in Christ, the ongoing sacrifice for sin and enabling power of the Spirit is overwhelmingly powerful.

I like the quote from Dr. Thomas H. McCall’s recent book *Against God and Nature*. He wrote, “The triune God, whose nature is holy love, created us to share that love, and now draws us into that life of holy love while cleansing us so that we can truly belong there.” ■

THE BIBLE METHODIST

VOLUME 53 | ISSUE 4 | 2021

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PRINTING & CIRCULATION

Country Pines, Inc.
www.countrypinesprinting.com

The Bible Methodist magazine is published four times a year. It is the official publication of the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches.

Subscription price: \$12 per year

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CONNECTION OF CHURCHES

WHAT DO THE **SACRAMENTS** HAVE TO DO WITH MY SALVATION?

BY **RICHARD G. HUTCHISON**



Every week Christian congregations around the world enter into special moments of re-enactment together. Sometimes they are standing on the banks of a river or along some distant seashore with the roaring of waves in the background. In other places the scene may be a neighbor's swimming pool, a farmer's pond, or inside a beautiful sanctuary with ornate décor and a built-in baptistry prominently placed in view of the watching congregation. The ministers read from the holy scriptures and invite the participants to make their confession of faith and vows of obedience. Then, with an uplifted hand, the minister declares, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Although modes of baptism vary, this is commonly followed by placing the participant under the water as a re-enactment of their spiritual union with Christ in His death. And they are immediately



lifted up out of the water as a re-enactment of their spiritual union with Christ in His resurrected life (Rom. 6:3-4).

There is another re-enactment that takes place regularly among followers of Christ around the world. Wherever Christ's church is gathered, one will find them often pausing to hold in their hands the material elements of bread and wine which symbolize the body and blood of the Lord. Sometimes the bread comes as tiny wafers from the supply shelf of a local Christian bookstore and the wine is poured from a bottle of grape juice. But in many countries where resources are scarce and innovation is required, these elements of communion may appear as pieces of saltine crackers and small cups containing a powdered fruit drink or even Coca-Cola. But regardless, the ceremony proceeds with words of scripture and an admonition, followed by a moment of corporately partaking of these tangible symbols of the divine life which brings them together. They are doing this in order to remember Christ's death (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:24) and to proclaim it until He comes again (1 Cor. 11:26).

THE INSTITUTION OF THE SACRAMENTS BY OUR LORD

The sacraments of baptism and the Lord's supper are to be regularly observed by the church, first and foremost, because they were so ordained by our Lord Jesus Christ. A key part of Jesus' command to go and make disciples includes the instruction for "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19). Furthermore, this baptism has historically been the pathway by which believers are publicly joined to the visible church as members of Christ's body, where they may be further instructed in how to live in obedience to him.

Likewise, local congregations are urged to regularly partake of the Lord's supper (also known as "communion") in obedience to the

command of Christ himself, who said, "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). The apostle Paul later implied that this was something already in regular practice within the local church, and referred to it as something that he had "received from the Lord" and "delivered unto [them]" (1 Cor. 11:23).

However, there are reasons why Christ has given us these ordinances. He intends them as a means of grace for forming us into his likeness as members of his body, the church.

THE ROLE OF SYMBOLS AND CEREMONIES IN CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Symbols and ceremonies are vital to any group of people. They embody the collective memory of their shared history. They create a common identity around which people can join in unity. Far from being purely about the past, they also point toward a shared destiny, and thus they also give profound meaning to the present realities which people within the group are experiencing.

Now, more than ever, because of the fractured environment of the postmodern world, the sacraments serve to remind the Church of the story and the identity that binds us together, regardless of our many differences. And, furthermore, it is this identity which then shapes us, in community, forming us into the likeness of Christ who is at the center of both these rituals of the church.

TWO SACRAMENTS – ONE STORY

The outward signs of water baptism and the Lord's supper serve as two sacraments which signify distinct aspects of the same story.

1. Water Baptism – The Believer is Now in Christ.

"We believe that water baptism serves as a symbol of regeneration or the new birth. It signifies acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ, rejection of one's former life

of sin, and identification with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. By means of this sacrament, believers declare their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Baptism is for those who have consciously renounced their sins, accepted Christ as Savior, and are committed to following Him.” *The Bible Methodist Discipline* (2015, p. 20)

Baptism is an initiatory rite by which the believer declares their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and their intention to follow him as the Lord of their life through the regenerating and cleansing work of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, it symbolizes the working of God’s grace, by the Holy Spirit, who has placed the believer in Christ, and who now indwells the believer, enabling them to live in the newness of life that has already been created for them in union with Christ’s death and resurrection. It serves as a powerful testimony to both the church and the world,

while also a means of grace that confirms and strengthens the faith of the new Christian to follow through in living a life of obedience to the Lord as part of the believing community.

2. The Lord’s Supper – Christ is Indwelling the Church through the Holy Spirit.

“We believe that the celebration of the Lord’s Supper is a sacrament of our redemption through Christ’s death and our hope is in His victorious return, as well as a sign of the love that Christians have for each other. To such as receive it in a worthy manner, with humility and faith, the Lord’s Supper becomes a means through which God communicates grace to the heart.” *The Bible Methodist Discipline* (2015, pp. 20-21)

As seen above, water baptism is intended to be a one-time initiatory rite for new believers who are joining the body of Christ. The Lord’s supper, on the other hand,

takes what has begun through the believer’s union with Christ, and offers the church a means for continuously re-centering their minds and affections on the abiding reality of Christ’s indwelling presence. It is a sign of personal reliance upon the blood of Christ, and the life of Christ which that blood represents. But it also symbolizes the organic unity of Christ’s body. If Christ indwells each believer, and if each believer has been placed in Christ, then this means that all believers are part of one body. This has profound implications for the way in which believers are called to live in holiness and love with one another.

We may think of communion as a testimony service. When we receive the bread and juice with our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are first testifying to one another that we are followers of Christ. Second, we are also showing our commitment to one another as joint members of the Body of Christ, the Church. Many are fearful of standing up

Now, more than ever, because of the fractured environment of the postmodern world, the sacraments serve to remind the Church of the story and the identity that binds us together, regardless of our many differences.

and giving a verbal testimony to a crowd of people, but they give testimony of their salvation by coming to the Lord's Table.

3. Two Aspects of One Story

So, while the nature and significance of each sacrament is distinct, they nevertheless bind us together as one people (1 Pet. 2:9-10) who share one identity (1 John 3:1-2) as part of one story (Eph. 4:4-6) – the story of God in Christ reconciling the world to himself (2 Cor. 5:19).

THE ROLE OF THE SACRAMENTS IN SALVATION

“We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the sacraments of the church commanded by Christ and ordained as a means of grace when received through faith. They are signs of our profession of faith and of God's gracious ministry toward us. By them, He works within us, refreshing, strengthening, and confirming our faith in Him.” *Bible Methodist Discipline* (2015, p. 20)

As adherents to Protestant Christianity, Bible Methodists do not believe that the sacraments inherently possess salvific merit. In other words, we do not teach that one can be saved merely by being baptized or by receiving the elements of communion, apart from the work of the Holy Spirit. And, conversely, we recognize that a person may partake of the sacraments without saving faith. However, we must hasten to add that many Christians have mistakenly used the aforementioned facts as a basis for downplaying the importance of water baptism and the Lord's Supper in the life of the believer.

The result has sometimes been a reductionist line of thinking in which some will say, “A person can be saved without being baptized and receiving communion, therefore these sacraments have nothing to do with one's salvation.” The implications of this error are far more serious than most people realize at first glance.

When the sacraments are reduced to merely a nice aesthetic touch that one may add or leave off with no real consequence, the church

becomes vulnerable to a number of theological errors that truncate the gospel, diminish discipleship, and unmoor the community of faith from the grand story that holds them together as one people.

But when the sacraments are regularly and thoughtfully offered to the church as biblical means of receiving grace, they will fortify both personal and corporate faith, and they will draw the saints into ever-deepening levels of living in union with Christ.

1. The sacraments draw us into both the corporate and personal aspects of salvation.

The sacraments were never intended to be received alone. They are to be received in community – with fellow members of the body of Christ. And yet, participation in the sacraments is very personal. The sacraments, when properly administered, should cause each person to reflect upon their significance in ways that touch upon the lived realities of their own life. And so, these means of grace serve as a corrective against the twin errors of individualism (which

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tends to over-prioritize personal interests) and collectivism (which tends to emphasize the priorities of the group over the needs of individuals).

2. The sacraments remind us that our salvation rests in the incarnate Christ and, thus extends to every aspect of our physical and material existence.

Water baptism and the Lord's supper engage the physical senses of touch, smell, taste, and hearing. They also evoke powerful visual imagery. The significance of these aesthetics goes far beyond just that of an object lesson or illustration of doctrinal truth. They are intended to draw us deeper into the human enjoyment of divine grace. And they teach us that God intends for us to partake of His grace as humans in physical bodies, inhabiting a material world.

The church must constantly battle the tendency to downplay the importance of physical and material things, as if true spirituality requires distancing oneself from all but the ethereal. And so, when a new believer feels the waters of baptism wash over their skin in the presence

of the church, their spirit, soul, and body are all drawn into the realm of union with Christ in His death and resurrected life (Rom. 6:1-14). And it is a powerful, unforgettable moment.

Likewise, when the faithful gather and hear the Word of God proclaimed, that Word becomes enfleshed anew within them when the hearing is followed by a physical partaking of the elements of bread and wine. And they are reminded that Christ did not come merely to redeem spirits and souls. He also came to redeem their bodies and the material cosmos in which they live, in the sure hope of resurrection and eternal life.

Thus, Word and sacrament are wed together, proclaiming and embodying the message of full salvation through the sanctifying and renewing work of the Holy Spirit.

3. The sacraments help to keep the church's understanding of salvation centered in Christ and situated within the framework of the Trinity.

There is a reason why, historically, Word and sacrament have been mentioned together as inseparable with the life of the visible church. The faithful teaching and proclamation of the Word establishes the doctrines of the church and gives meaning to the sacraments. The ministry of the sacraments, on the other hand, helps the church to understand the scriptures in the light of Christ's redemptive work, for the glory of the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Through this symbiotic relationship between Word and sacrament, the church remains centered in Christ and is drawn deeper into the glories of the Holy Trinity. This has profound implications for even the most practical aspects of the church's teaching and life together.

4. The sacraments are both an ordinance to be obeyed and a gift to be received.

Some theological traditions prefer to describe water baptism

and the Lord's supper primarily as ordinances to be obeyed. Others have emphasized the sacramental value of these traditions. As Bible Methodists, we recognize both.

And so, we encourage every church to faithfully administer and partake of the sacraments, first of all, in obedience to our Lord's commands to baptize those who desire to follow him (Matt. 28:18-20), and to observe the Lord's supper often in remembrance of him and his sacrifice. Moreover, we also believe that the sacraments, when received with humility and faith, become a means by which real grace is communicated in real-time to those who partake. We do not teach (as some do) the doctrine of baptismal regeneration (in which a person is supposed to be saved only from the moment of baptism), transubstantiation (in which the elements of communion are believed to actually become the body and blood of the Lord), or other similar teachings with regard to the sacraments. But we do wholeheartedly affirm that Christ is present wherever his people are gathered, and that the Holy Spirit communicates the benefits of Christ's death, blood, and resurrection to every believer as they partake of these God-ordained means of grace. Therefore, we also offer the sacraments as a gift of grace, to be received with joy and gratitude.

CONCLUSION

Although we do not believe that the sacraments themselves are the source of salvation, they do, in fact, direct our hearts toward deeper levels of faith in Christ, who is both our Lord and Savior. As our Lord, we obey him in observing the sacraments as he has ordained. As Savior, we come to his table again and again to receive fresh grace as our faith is renewed in response to His redemptive work on our behalf. ■

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REMEMBERING REV. STEVE STETLER

Stephen Wayne Stetler 61 of Pharr, Texas went home to be with Jesus on September 13, 2021, following a short illness.

Steve was born on July 19, 1960 to Kenneth and Jewel Stetler in Cincinnati, Ohio. He attended God's Bible School and College from 1978 through 1983 and received a Bachelors of Arts in Ministerial Education and a Bachelors in Religious Education.

In 1981, Steve met the love of his life, Beth (Sankey), at Gods Bible School and College. Steve and Beth were married on July 23, 1983 and were later blessed with two children, Maria and Kent. He was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Steve worked in multiple areas of ministry through out his life as preacher, educator and missionary. His early ministry life included time in Ohio and Alabama as an associate pastor and

teacher. Steve and Beth joined the Alabama (Southern) Bible Methodist Conference and came to teach in the Conference School in 1986. Steve later became an elder in the Conference and held his credentials with the Conference until his death. He dedicated 18 years as a teacher, principal and associate pastor at Stone City Christian Academy and Faith Mission Church in Bedford, Indiana. From 2007 through 2017, he and Beth served as missionaries with Bible Methodist

Missions in Mexico. Steve was passionate about ministry and his final place of service was as Director of Mission Care for Hope International Missions. Steve showed love and kindness to everyone he met and touched many lives through his service to Jesus.

There was nothing he loved more than spending time with his family. Steve is deeply loved and will be greatly missed, not only by his family but by people around the world.

Steve Stetler was a true friend, an authentic brother with whom I felt so free to share, a fellow missionary joyfully committed to the Great Commission, a Christian servant who exemplified humility, and a man of God. He fought a good fight. He finished his race. Today Steve is receiving his victor's crown!

A few minutes after I had heard the news of Steve's passing, I wrote: "When I heard a few minutes ago that Steve was with the Lord, I thought of these words of missionary statesman, C.T. Studd: "Only one life, twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."

Thank you, Steve for giving your all to Jesus. You have left a lasting impact on so many around the world! We miss you greatly.

- Rev. Tim Keep

Announcing the **STEVE STETLER MEMORIAL FUND** which will help Hispanic students attend Ezra Biblical Seminary in Oaxaca, Mexico.

To give, send your donations to:
Deron Fourman
PO Box E, Port Clinton, OH 43452

WORLD MISSIONS

NEWS UPDATE



Timothy Keep
Missions Director



PAUL AND ESTHER T. FAMILY

Paul and Esther T. testify that they are resting in the grace of God as they await their return to Asia. The Lord is giving them opportunities to preach (Paul), witness, and teach while they await an open door. Paul wrote this summer, “It seems likely there will be no return to Asia in 2021. Despite this, I enjoyed substitute teaching English in downtown Denver. In one week, I taught students representing more countries than I may have ever taught before!”



MEXICO PASTORS RETREAT

Thanks for all your prayers for our Mexico pastors and their families who attended conference in October! We sensed God’s presence in our worship and fellowship. The theme of the conference was “The Beauty of Holiness” from Psalm 29:2. It was wonderful as well to hear our pastors share memories of Steve Stetler in a memorial service we held in his honor. And it was a joy to spend many hours with David and Brennan, thinking, planning, praying for the future of Ezra Biblical Seminary.



MUIR FAMILY

The Brennan and Ivon Muir family has conducted dozens of missionary services this year on their share tour, and they appreciate so much the BMC family for their encouragement and generosity.

DAVID MARTINEZ

David Martinez has now completed all his class work for a ThM in Bible at SETECA - Seminario Teológico Centroamericano, in Guatemala. He will complete his final research project by January and plans to graduate in the spring of 2022. Congratulations Bro. David!

David is also very busy helping Brennan and teaching in the online program at Ezra Biblical Seminary.

MARICKA HERRER

Maricka Herrer is leading efforts to train trainers in Cameroon Africa November 14-21, 2021. She has connected with Christian leaders in that country who are eager for a training program and has coordinated with a joint team from BMM and HIM who will be joining her there, and who will share in the training—Tim Keep, Harold Martin, Glenn and Stephanie Gault and Larry Gardner.

PHILIPPINES UPDATES



CHURCH DEDICATION

This year we've witnessed perhaps a record number of new church dedications in the Philippines! Here is one recent dedication report from Gospel Light:

"Rejoicing with our Ampocol brethren as they dedicated their new chapel. This is situated in a very remote village on top of a mountain. It required faith, tears, prayers, sacrifice, and love to surmount all the challenges for this project. Perhaps, [Gospel Light is] really called to reach out to the 'outermost part of the earth!' When God calls and a servant responds with 'Here I am Lord, I'll go,' amazing things happen. We begin to witness souls that are being saved and lives that are being transformed!"

Thank you for all your support and for continuously partnering with us in the advancement of God's kingdom. Pray for more workers for the harvest is plenty."

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RELIEF

Our BMM family has generously responded to the appeals for emergency relief for our BMC pastors and their families. In October almost \$10,000 was given! Our leaders in Mexico and the Philippines have expressed their deep gratitude for the kindness of their brothers and sisters in the USA during this very difficult time. National President in Mexico, Rev. Sanchez, publicly expressed his thanks during the retreat. Rev. Yucaddi writes, "Thank you for the special love offering for our pastors. Please let our brethren know how grateful we are for their faithful prayers and support during this time of crisis." Rev. Macadangang expressed the same. We are so thankful for the love our BMC family has demonstrated over and over again during the pandemic!

SHEPHERDS COLLEGE

Our Shepherd's College in the Philippines witnessed the completion of their new dormitory. We appreciate all who contributed to this project!

R.G. and Sarah Hutchison are currently serving as interim pastor and wife at Easley BMC. R.G. is also very busy teaching four online courses for the Shepherd's College in the Philippines! The college is still not able to conduct in-person classes, but 10 students are currently enrolled online. Four men from BMGL are also undergoing the training for pastors and church planters.

Over these past few months Bible Methodist Missions are mourned the passing of two faithful Filipino pastors. In October Gospel Light Conference pastors and members pleaded with the Lord to spare the life of pastor Edwardo (Wilma) Santos, but the Lord had a better plan. And in August Nehemiah Conference grieved the loss of Ptr. Froilan (Fely) Calimoso, after he passed away quite suddenly. Both pastors, along with their wives, Wilma and Fely, were dedicated to their calling. Both men were men of integrity. Both were well respected. Both men demonstrated a heart of humility. Both men proclaimed the gospel faithfully. Both helped in the planting new congregations and their ministries bore the marks of Christ's ministry. Both enjoyed a fruitful harvest. They will be greatly missed.

GREAT LAKES

REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



Blake Jones
Conference President



FALL FAMILY RETREAT

The Seth and Heidi Wetherald and Josh and Jodi Emery Families lead in worship at the Fall Family Retreat held on the camp grounds. Friday evening was a perfect evening for worship outdoors, a bonfire and wonderful fellowship. God has blessed us with the joy of families!



EVART BIBLE METHODIST CHURCH

The Evart Bible Methodist Church welcomed Pastor Phil and Heather Mills and their family this summer. They are pictured here with Bro Jones and the Evart Church Board.

GREAT LAKES NAMES CONFERENCE PRESIDENT-ELECT

In a special session of Conference held on September 25th, Rev. David Ward was elected to serve as the new conference president beginning August 1st, 2022. He was elected on the first ballot with 31 of 32 ballots cast. The Great Lakes Conference procedure outlines the steps for this



process when a sitting conference president announces his final year of service. We thank God both for the procedural process and the

election outcome. The presence of the Holy Spirit kindly marked our day with His peace and leadership. It is my joy to congratulate Rev. Ward as Conference President Elect for the Great Lakes Bible Methodist Connection of Churches. He is my friend and has been my kind supporter, confidant, media person, advisor and assistant. His capable leadership and vision will bless our conference for years to come.

– Rev. Blake Jones



GARFIELD COUNTRY CHURCH ADDS PASTORAL STAFF

The Great Lakes Conference’s most northerly church, the Garfield Country Church, has welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Timothy Slavens (pictured on the right) and their three children to their church family. Pastor Slavens joins Rev. and Mrs. Kimberland Hough (pictured on the left) where he will serve as assistant pastor. Some of the board members joined the pastors for this picture.



GREENVILLE BIBLE METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. and Mrs. Steve Bills and their sons have become Michigan residents, accepting the pastoral role at the Greenville Bible Methodist Church. Previously the Bills family served as missionaries at Blind River in northern Ontario.

HEARTLAND

REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



Chris Cravens
Conference President

AROUND THE CONFERENCE



Clockwise from top-right: Mr. Dale Hartle was honored for the hours he invested in the camp bathhouse project; Outreach in the Findlay Parade – Findlay Bible Methodist Church; President and Mrs. Cravens with Pastor and Mrs. Mike Eavey; Cravens family with Pastor and Mrs. Sean English family; Village Park Bible Methodist Church; Trunk or Treat – Franklin Bible Methodist Church; Fall Festival – Calvary Bible Methodist Church, Greenfield, IN.



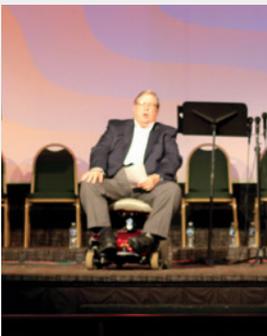
A HEARTLAND ELDER PROMOTED

The Heartland Conference laid to rest Pastor Mike Shiery during the month of October. Our prayers continue for his wife, Evie and their children, Evie Marie and Zane, along with the congregation and

community of the Bible Methodist Church in West Mecca, Ohio. Conference President Chris Cravens officiated the funeral service in the Salem Bible Methodist Church and the Committal in Beavertown, PA. Thank you to so many who attended the funeral and have supported the family during this difficult time.

MEN OF INTEGRITY

The annual Men of Integrity Retreat was held at Beulah Grove in late September. A good number of men attended the event. The theme was His Mind In You. Special speakers were Rev. Duane Quesenberry and Rev. Daniel Edwards. Everyone enjoyed the great food by Chef Mike Pennellatore and a wonderful time of fellowship.



YOUTH CHALLENGE

Higher Ground Conference Center hosted the annual Youth Challenge. A great crowd of young people and support staff attended this year's event. Three of our Heartland ministers spoke during the convention. They were Rev. Rodney Loper, President of God's Bible School and College; Rev. Brian Wardlaw, Pastor of the Franklin Bible Methodist Church and Rev. Jack Hooker, Conference Secretary and Pastor of the Village Park Bible Methodist Church.



FUTURE PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

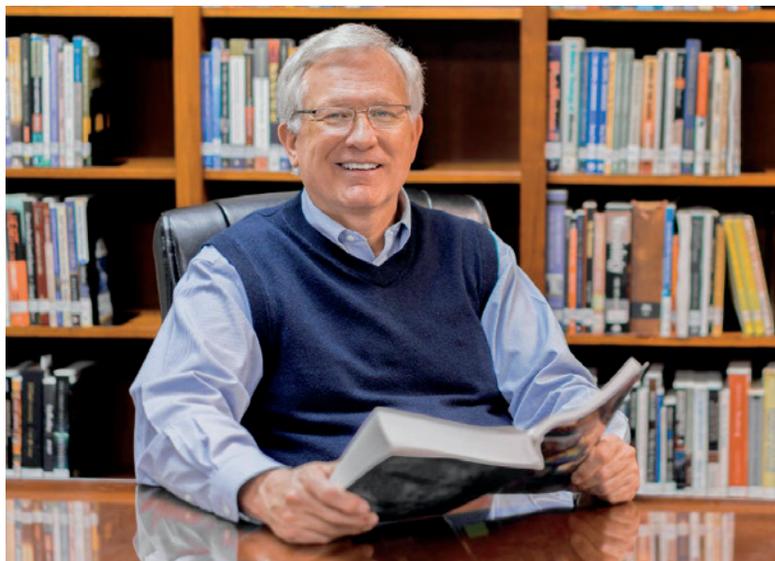
The Heartland Regional Conference was blessed to be involved in the annual meeting of the "Future Pastor's Conference/IMF" held at Pell City, Alabama. It is a valuable time of presenting the conference and interacting with bible college ministry majors – potential pastors!

SOUTHERN

REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



John Parker
Conference President



DEEPER LIFE CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2022

Enjoy the moderate temperatures of Alabama for a few days on our beautiful campground with great fellowship and a challenging

conference led by our Connectional Chairman, Dr. Michael Avery as he takes us deeper in the Word and deeper in the life of holiness. This is the weekend following Hobe Sound Camp Meeting which makes it a great stop on your travels back north! We will treat you with Southern hospitality and assure you that you will be thankful you came!

Dr. Avery will be presenting a three-day conference on our campground February 17-19, 2022. He will be not only be sharing his Deeper Life material in 7 sessions, but will also be giving special attention to helping pastors and anyone who is involved in teaching and discipling others to be better equipped to teach the biblical doctrines of holiness.

Lodging and meals will be available for those who attend the conference! For more info or to get on the list to attend the conference, contact the Southern Conference at: Southern.Conference@BibleMethodist.org.

CONFERENCE PRICING:

Includes 7 sessions, meals, and lodging (Room with private bath)

Couple (Double Occupancy) \$200 (*Lodging without private bath – \$160*)
Single (Single Occupancy) \$125 (*Lodging without private bath – \$85*)

Drive-Ins (Single) – \$70/person (*7 Sessions and meals*)
Drive-Ins (Couple) – \$130 (*7 Sessions and meals*)

TO REGISTER:

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RAYMOND DEWAYNE HOWELL

First Bible Methodist Church (Chattanooga, TN) and the Southern Conference lost a beloved and devoted friend and supporter September 19, 2021 after a brief battle with COVID. Pastor Rob Cravens masterfully honored a special life in his sermon at Dewayne’s funeral. “How beautiful are the feet of him who carried good new...” (Isaiah 52:7) was the Scripture he used. Though Dewayne had many difficulties and limitation in his

life to struggle with, he gave God his very best and was a blessing to many people.

Dewayne was a life long resident of Chattanooga, Tennessee and a graduate of Unity Christian School. He was a life long member of First Bible Methodist Church and served in various capacities in the church. He worked for Goodwill Industries over 31 year and for Tennessee Sling for 10 years. Many of his co-workers and community friends came to express their love and gratitude for his life! He let a clear testimony of his relationship with the Lord! He will be greatly missed.



REV. WAYNE BREWER

Pastor Wayne Brewer received his eternal reward August 8,

2021. After graduating from high school, he joined the Air Force in 1958 where he served his country for several years. After the Air Force, Rev. Brewer was called to the ministry and attended Hobe Sound Bible College in 1969. He served faithfully as pastor in numerous church in St. Clair County and around the state of Alabama. He faithfully served as chaplain at Baptist Princeton and Montclair hospitals and the St. Clair County jail and correctional facility. He worked for 25 years for Contel/GTE Telephone company. He will be remembered because of his

generous spirit, powerful testimony, and wiliness to come at anytime of the night to help a neighbor in need; he was loved by many. His Christian life was exhibited by his love for God and his influence will forever remain in the lives of those who knew him. His funeral service was held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, August 14, 2021 at the Usrey Funeral Home, Pell City with Rev. Morgan Jones, Rev. Philip Brewer and Rev. Paul Brewer officiating. Interment followed at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.



CONFERENCE EVENTS

Ladies Retreat was held on September 9–11, on the Pell City Campgrounds. The special speaker for this event was Liz Stetler.

Future Pastors Conference, formerly known as Inter-collegiate

Ministerial Fellowship, was hosted by the Southern Conference on the Pell City Camp grounds. Pastor Darrell Stetler II and the FPC Board facilitate the event with students from God’s Bible School & College, Hobe Sound Bible College and Union Bible College attending the fellowship.

SOUTHWEST

PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



G. Clair Sams
Conference President



GRANTS, NEW MEXICO

Prior to Conference the Roy Archibalds invited the Conference to consider partnering with them in a church plant in Grants, New Mexico. In conjunction with a trip to the Navajo mission at Rincon Marques, Clair and Melba Sams spent a couple days worshipping with and visiting Archibalds and the work they are doing in this New Mexico community.

During Family Camp the Southwest Conference Executive Committee met the Archibalds who had officially requested we partner with them in the church plant. The committee voted unanimously to join this effort.

Since that meeting the Conference and the Archibalds have been working diligently to secure a facility for worship and a pastoral family to lead. The Conference is actively seeking a pastor and praying for the Lord's leadership regarding a building.

MENA, ARKANSAS

Following a meeting, this Spring, between CP Sams and the Jenkins, the church in Mena, Arkansas requested permission to change affiliation and become part of the Southwest Bible Methodist community. The Jenkins met with the Executive Committee and presented their situation, the committee unanimously chose to partner with them. This is a small congregation. The church recently hosted the Wednesday evening service of the Arkansas traveling Inter-church Holiness Convention.

Southwest Conference is excited about the opportunities that are rising for growth. The Conference Extension Department, chaired by Darrell Stetler II invites you to partner with us. If you are interested in helping with either of these churches, and or other possibilities please phone, email or text Pastor Darrell Stetler II, (405) 974-0507, darrellstetler2@gmail.com.



MOBERLY, MISSOURI

On September 26, the congregation in Moberly, Missouri officially welcomed the pastoral family of Sherwood and Sheila Johnstone.

The Johnstone's had prayed for the church in Moberly for several years, seeking the Lord's will for the church and their family. After a time they talked with the Conference Presence of Mid-America, Darrell Stetler II and though that

connection were introduced to the church. The congregation invited the Johnstones and have opened their hearts to the family.

During the installation service Conference President, of the newly merged conference, Clair Sams performed the installation ceremony which was affirmed by the congregation. Following the service the congregation enjoyed a fellowship meal. Since that service Pastor reports some new people showing interest and attending service.

LIVING HOPE BMC – SALINA, KANSAS

Living Hope Bible Methodist Church had their back-to-school VBS in August which culminated in a community BBQ and Bro. Hurst getting a new hairdo.

Their Fall Revival was in October with Rev. Bryan Line. It was well attended and was a wonderful time of drawing closer to God.



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Annual Conference elected the Missions Committee to oversee the Conference Missions Department. Melba Sams was elected a president of the department. The Missions department will encourage missions in each church and work to uplift an already strong missions focus.

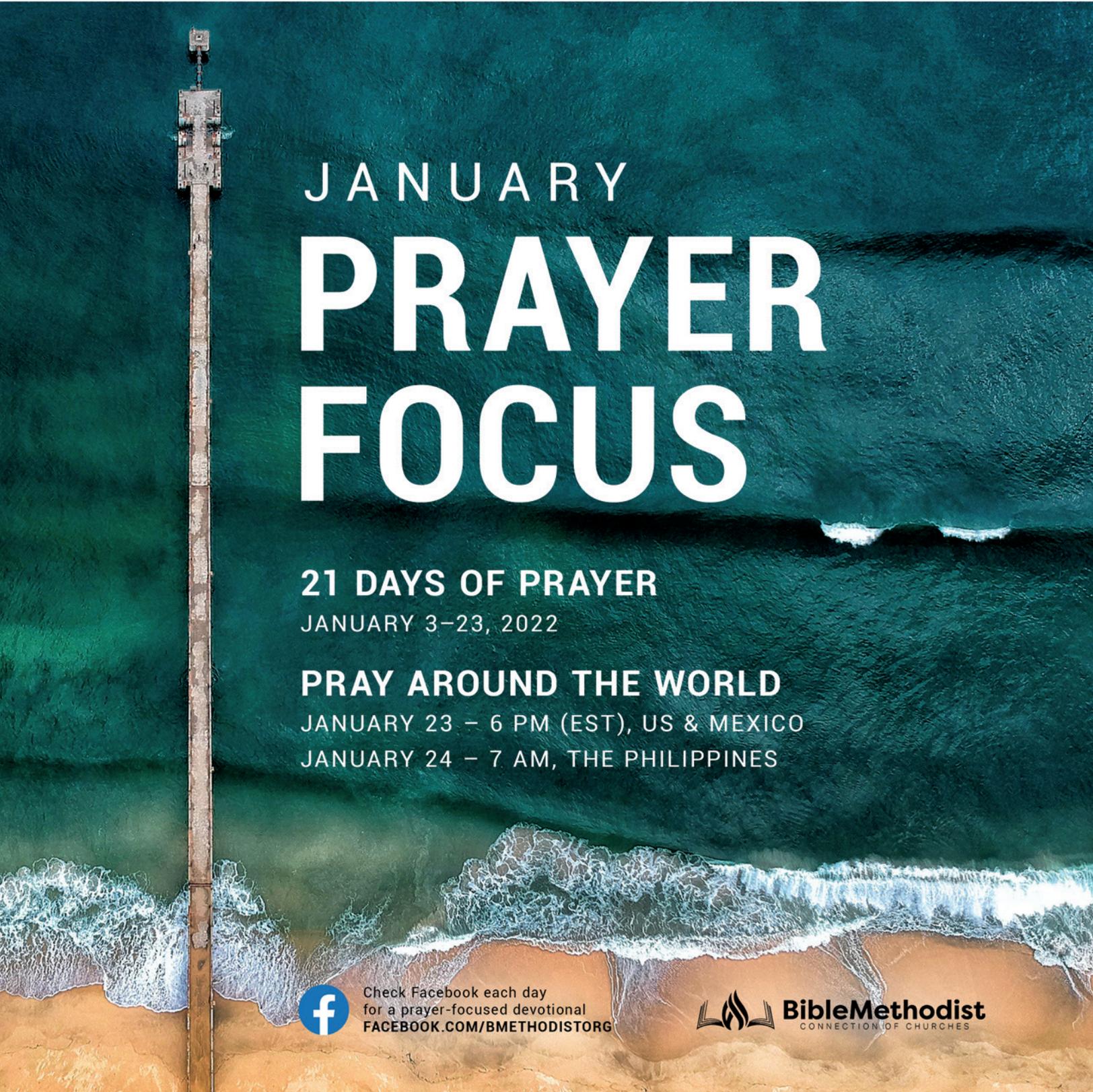
Pictured (L-R) are Darrell and Melissa Underwood, Melba Sams, Shirley Fogleman, and Bethany Dill. (Not pictured, Liz Stetler.)



YOUTH COMMITTEE

Annual Conference elected the Conference Youth Committee. Eric Going is the president of the department. The committee is working on youth camp, rallies and other youth focused events.

Pictured (L-R) are Andrew Blankenship, Eric Going, Caleb Crouch, and Mark Dill.



JANUARY
**PRAYER
FOCUS**

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

JANUARY 3-23, 2022

PRAY AROUND THE WORLD

JANUARY 23 – 6 PM (EST), US & MEXICO

JANUARY 24 – 7 AM, THE PHILIPPINES



Check Facebook each day
for a prayer-focused devotional
[FACEBOOK.COM/BMETHODISTORG](https://www.facebook.com/bmethodistorg)



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