



THE BIBLE METHODIST

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MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER

Returning to the New Testament model of prayer and power.



FROM THE EDITOR

TRAVIS J. JOHNSON

When I first became a Christian, I struggled deeply with prayer. I knew it was important, but I didn't know how to pray. I had never been disciplined in it. My prayers often felt shallow, repetitive, or aimless. I wanted to talk to God, but I didn't know where to begin or how to stay consistent.

Everything changed when I read a book by Donald Whitney titled *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. One chapter in particular—on praying the Scriptures—revolutionized my understanding of prayer. Whitney explained that the Word of God is meant to shape the words of our prayers. Instead of searching for the right phrases or trying to muster up emotion, I began opening my eyes to my Bible and turning the words of Scripture into a conversation with God. The Psalms gave me language for both joy and lament. The letters of Paul gave me words for intercession and thanksgiving. The Lord's Prayer showed me a beautiful pattern of prayer that balances worship, confession, dependence, and submission to God's will. Soon, prayer was no longer a duty, it became a delight.

This discovery not only transformed my personal prayer life, but it changed how I led prayer in the church. Praying Scripture together gave focus and freshness to our corporate gatherings. It reminded us that prayer is not about persuading God to act but aligning our hearts with His Word and will.

Some years later, I was introduced to the ministry of Strategic Renewal, led by Daniel Henderson. His passion for "Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, worship-based prayer" resonated deeply with what God had already been teaching me. Through his books and training, I learned practical ways to help others experience this same renewal in prayer.

In this edition, we are honored to feature an article by Daniel Henderson introducing his ministry and its approach to biblical prayer. My prayer is that it will inspire you as it has me. As the Bible Methodist Connection prepares for our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting in January, I can think of no better time to rediscover the transforming power of praying Scripture—together.

May this season renew our hearts, unite our churches, and reawaken our confidence in the God who still delights to hear and answer the prayers of His people.

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SEVEN MARKS of a True HOUSE OF

Is This Your Church?

by Daniel Henderson

Few would argue Jesus' declared intention that "His house" (today the assembled church and our physical bodies as His living temples) should be a house of prayer (Mark 11:17; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19). However, the romance of extraordinary prayer can fade quickly in light of the reality of what it takes to get there for many individuals and churches.

I know pastors who publicly declare that their congregation is a "house of prayer", which too often amounts to little more than receiving and distributing prayer requests. Others consider their occasional prayer events as tantamount to being a real house of prayer. If we dilute the New Testament model and spiritual essence of the "house

of prayer" Jesus had in mind, we have missed the goal and sadly lulled ourselves into a substandard experience of His presence and power.

The Original Intent

The Old Testament temple was built as a dwelling place of God's holy presence and a center of sacred worship, prayer, and sacrifice. In reviewing Solomon's original dedicatory moments for the temple (2 Chronicles 6:12-42), I've been impressed with the frequent mentions of prayer. After Solomon's prayer, the glory of the Lord filled the

temple. The people fell to their faces in awe-inspired worship. The Lord reminded them that this temple would exist as the focal point at which His people would humble themselves and pray, and seek His face – turning from their wicked ways for healing and restoration (2 Chronicles 7:14).

But what does this spiritual reality look like for your church and mine today? What does Jesus desire of us each week if we are to be an authentic house of prayer? I think the model of His own disciples gives us great insight as to what Jesus meant, since they were present when He made this declaration and had been personally taught and mentored by the Lord. Their priorities and approach provide a standard every leader and believer should consider. Here are seven salient observations from the model of the church from the book of Acts.

Seven Biblical Indicators of a True House of Prayer

1 Prayer was the priority over all self-centered activities.

Jesus' anger over the temple money changers was rooted in the self-serving system created by the religious leaders in order to use the funds from the sales of sacrificial animals for their own gain. He called it a "den of thieves." A real house of prayer is a place of humility, sacrifice, and spiritual pursuit, not religious enterprise that exists for the reputational, financial, or egotistical advancement of the church, the leaders, or even the denomination. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of prayer and He has one objective – to glorify Christ (John 16:14), not people, man-made enterprises, or evangelical strategies.

2 Prayer was the birthplace of all vision and ministry.

Based on Christ's instruction, the church was birthed from the womb of a 10-day corporate prayer experience in the Upper Room (Acts 1:12–2:1). This became the pattern of the early church. In Acts 13:1-3 we see extraordinary prayer as the launching pad of mission expansion. Today, much of our ministry aspirations and plans are the fruit of planning, discussion, borrowed ideas from books, and the need for a new "BHAG" (Big Hairy Audacious Goal) –

rather than the fruit of hearing from the Spirit in the context of extraordinary prayer. In the early church, the Holy Spirit was not some "plug-in" to help them with their humanly-concocted plans. He was the very operating system of ministry. He was the "how-to" for all ministry.

3 Prayer was a consistent corporate experience at the same level of priority as all other activities.

The core spiritual culture of the early church as a house of prayer was best described in Acts 2:42, where the entire congregation was continually committed to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayers. Today, very few churches prioritize a consistent church-wide experience of passionate prayer. Our gyms, fellowship halls, ball fields, and classrooms are abuzz with constant activities while our prayer meetings are marginalized. Jesus did not say "my house shall be a house of programs."

4 Prayer was the primary resolve and resource in the face of any challenge.

The example of the early church leaders and congregation in Acts 4:23-31 demonstrates their understanding of the meaning of a house of prayer. In the face of threats and persecution they gathered the entire congregation to worship and pray from the Scriptures, asking for a greater infilling of the Holy Spirit for a bold advancement of the Gospel. Today, we too easily seek to solve problems via human reason, more money, or increased ecclesiastical muscle.

5 Prayer was modeled first in the leadership culture.

I often point to Acts 6:1-7 as a powerful model for a biblical leadership culture. Refusing to personally administer the feeding program for the widows, the early leaders selected other competent leaders for this task so they could maintain the priorities of "prayer and the ministry of the word." Supernatural blessing and expansion followed (see v. 7). A real house of prayer is guided by leaders who spend extraordinary amounts of time together in prayer because they have a conviction that this is the source of power, unity, direction, and blessing.

6

Prayer was the means of God-glorifying power and provision.

Whether it was the church praying for boldness, the saints gathering to intercede for Peter's release from prison, or Paul and Silas praying at midnight from the belly of the Philippian jail, we see that the church viewed prayer as the means of doing the work of Christ in the power of Christ. This is the DNA of a house of prayer. Again, our churches must ask honest questions about our reliance on modern ministry tools and humbly evaluate our compelling engagement in passionate, persevering prayer. Today, we have more tools for ministry than ever before. There is nothing wrong with all our high-impact ministry tools. But there is a difference between simply *using* the tools and *depending* on the tools. The acid-test is our demonstrated devotion to extraordinary united prayer.

7

Prayer was the fuel for Spirit-inspired mission accomplishment.

In a true house of prayer, prayer is not the end, but the means to the end. It is to be a house of prayer "for all nations" with a local and global gospel passion.

Prayer exists to empower us to accomplish the Great Commission of Christ in the power of Christ and for the glory of Christ. There is no other way to do His work and reach this lost world with the truth of the good news. The apostles prayed to know Him and make Him known through the enablement of the Holy Spirit. Both were core to their understanding of a house of prayer.

My friend, Pastor Jim Cymbala, has often said that the greatest answer to prayer is more prayer. The ideals we've just explored help us understand why. May the Lord help us to make His church a true house of prayer, not just by our declaration of the idea but through our resolute demonstration of the ideal of the New Testament.

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Daniel Henderson is the founder and president of Strategic Renewal. As a senior pastor for over 20 years, he has brought prayer-based revitalization to numerous churches and is now one of the most respected leaders on prayer. Daniel dedicates his time to helping pastors and churches across the country and around the world experience renewal. He has authored numerous books on biblical leadership and prayer, including *Old Paths, New Power* and *Transforming Prayer: How Everything Changes When You Seek God's Face*. Daniel is also a husband, father, and grandfather.





WORLD MISSIONS

R. G. HUTCHISON, MISSIONS DIRECTOR

NEWS UPDATE



Fellowship while Visiting Pioneering Works in the Philippines

Philippines

In September, Dr. Hutchison and Pastor Steve Bills, Great Lakes Missions President, traveled to the Philippines, where they spent a week visiting numerous pioneering works in each of the Philippine regional conferences. Currently, there are a total of 17 pioneering works (new church plants) across all conferences (Gospel Light, Jehoshaphat, Joshua, Joseph, and Jabez) and more than 18 additional outstation ministries. If you would like to help one of these new congregations to be able to build their very first chapel, please contact R.G. Hutchison at: rghutchison867@gmail.com or 1-865-635-1894.



Future Site of a New Church in Jabez Conference

Africa 85 Initiative

Maricka Herrer (South Africa) reports that through our partnership in the Africa 85 Initiative, at least nine new training centers have been established in 2025. SGC training programs are now active in 19 countries across Africa, with Burundi and Ethiopia newly added. Africa 85 now maintains active training partnerships in every geographical region of the continent. Two more groups of students graduated this year, bringing the total number of individuals who completed the full SGC program in 2025 to 45. Please pray that God will provide the needed personnel to meet the growing demand for “trainer training” and coaching offered through Africa 85.

Papua New Guinea

In October, we mourned the passing of a beloved leader and missions partner in Papua New Guinea. Pastor Timothy Rapula went home to be with the Lord after faithfully serving as the national chairman of the Bible Fellowship Church of PNG, Inc. for more than 30 years. Please pray for their national board and local pastors as they mourn this great loss and navigate this important transition in leadership.



*Pastor David Yucaddi, Jr.
at Construction Site for New
Church in Kinakin, Banaue*



*RG Hutchison, Pastor
Mark Turqueza, Steve Bills,
Pastors Manuel Balido &
Brendel Macadangdang*



Martinez Family

David and Diana Martinez have welcomed a son into the world! David wrote: "Today, our hearts overflow with gratitude to God for the precious gift of life. On October 29th, 2025, José Emmanuel Martínez Navarro (long Mexican name!) was born – a beautiful reminder of God's faithfulness and love. Our baby boy is healthy and 'big' enough that Diana had to undergo a C-section. By God's grace, everything went smoothly throughout the process. We're now home, learning our way through the new adventure called parenting. (So far, parenting has mostly consisted of changing way too many dirty diapers!) Yesterday, more than ever, we thanked God for allowing us to be part of this wonderful BMC family that prays for us without ceasing. Knowing we are not alone, we feel uplifted by all of you. Please continue to keep us in your prayers."



Muir Deputation

The Muir family has been busy completing their Share Support tour throughout the summer and fall of this year. They have held services in all four regional conferences, and are looking forward to their return to Mexico in January. Thank you to all who have welcomed them and to all who are supporting and praying for them as they embark on a new term of service!.



Slavens Family with other Intercultural Studies Students at Rio Grande Bible College

Slavens Family Language School

The Slavens family is now nearing the completion of their first semester in language and cultural training program at the Rio Grande Bible Institute in Edinburg, Texas. This is a very intense, full-time program, and is designed specifically to prepare evangelical Christian missionaries for living and working in Latin American (Spanish-speaking) cultures. They still have one full year remaining in the program. Thank you for praying for them during this time of preparation!



Aerial Picture of Rio Grande Bible College

Ezra Biblical Seminary

Brennan Muir and David Martinez continue teaching and leading the training ministry of Ezra Biblical Seminary. This fall, EBS enrolled 75 students from locations in various parts of Mexico as well as Argentina and the U.S.



GREAT LAKES

DAVID WARD, PRESIDENT

CONFERENCE NEWS

Men's Retreat

The Men's Retreat, held annually the weekend before Labor Day, is a highlight of the Great Lakes Conference. This year's speaker, Rob Stoddard of Covenant Eyes Ministries, spoke directly to our men about pornography, offering practical tools and strategies for lasting freedom.



We applaud the Men's Retreat Committee for being willing to confront this issue. Pictured from left to right are: Rev. James Durr, Rev. Nathaniel Tucker, Speaker Rob Stoddard, John Bishop, Rev. Steve Bills and Derek Jones.



Between sessions, we enjoyed great food and fellowship. John Bishop roasted a whole hog, and others brought all the fixings for a fantastic meal. We also had an outstanding team of guys who prepared breakfast.



The guys enjoyed plenty of fun and friendly competition with disc golf, cornhole, horseshoes, and shooting events.

Because of the sensitive topic, Ivan Palmer arranged activities for our younger attendees. Rev. Blake Jones assisted him.



Ironwood

One of Ironwood Church's recent projects was repaving the parking lot—a much-needed and welcome improvement. We applaud Rev. Christopher Blankenship for his leadership.



Campground Projects

In preparation for hosting the General Conference next summer (June 2–4), the Trustees are completing several major projects. New electric and water lines have been trenched to the Whispering Pines Dorm, and work continues at a steady pace in the Cobblestone Lodge.

We welcome any and all help to help see these ambitious projects completed.



Future Pastors Conference

Conference President, Rev. David Ward, along with the other Conference Presidents, attended the Future Pastor's Conference, held on the campground of the Southern Conference in Pell City, Alabama. Pictured are, from left to right, Great Lakes President, Rev. David Ward, Heartland President, Rev. Chris Cravens, Southwest President, Rev. Aaron Johnson and Southern President, Rev. Doug Eads.

Rev Matt Hallam was one of the featured speakers. As a Conference sponsor, Conference President Rev. David Ward had the privilege of representing the Great Lakes Conference to the ministerial students in attendance.



HEARTLAND

CHRIS CRAVENS, PRESIDENT

CONFERENCE NEWS

Conference President Cravens represented Heartland at the I.H.C. Future Pastor's Conference, the School of the Prophets, and most recently at the ministerial plenary meeting at God's Bible School and College.



Zanesville went all out for the summer Vacation Bible School! A great program and impactful response. Kids are on fire at ZBMC!



Men of Integrity enjoyed another well-attended and impactful event at Beulah Grove. Pastor Travis Johnson served as the main speaker, with Drew Dahler also speaking and Mike Mater leading worship. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, recreation, and soul-searching—and everyone appreciated gathering in the new JD Young Chapel.



Along with several other renovations, York Bible Methodist Church completed a major remodel of the parsonage! See Facebook for more photos.





Pastor Jack Hooker preaching the Fall Revival at Penn View Bible Institute.

Conference President Cravens spoke at the World Changer's Conference at Union Bible College and represented the conference to the ministerial and missions students.



Franklin Bible Methodist Church held its annual fall picnic, and it was a great success! They also celebrated a Baptism Sunday.



Findlay BMC partnered with area churches and Hancock Co. Right to Life for the Life Chain event. They also resealed and striped their parking lot—beautiful!

The musicians at West Mecca led a wonderful Conference Rally Sunday, with great worship and fellowship enjoyed by all!



Pastor Jeffrey Paulus, Jr. is installed as the interim pastor at the Bible Methodist Church in York, PA.

Beach City Bible Methodist Church held a great fall picnic featuring homemade cooking and freshly made apple cider!





SOUTHERN

DOUG EADS, PRESIDENT

CONFERENCE NEWS

These are exciting times in the Southern Conference. So much is happening: people are reaching out with the Gospel to a hungry world, churches are growing, pastors are preaching with anointing, and hearts are catching a vision to do more. Great days are ahead and great days are happening right now!

It was wonderful to have the Muir's travel through the Conference in August and September. They were able to stay at the Campground in Pell City for most of their time here. A lot of work was accomplished! Thanks to all who gave during their deputation services. Three generations of Crawfords attending Camp

A group from the Southern Conference made their way to Rome, Italy, in conjunction with Gospel Publishing Mission, to minister on the streets of Rome. Over 10,000 books were passed out that told the gospel message.





Happy 30th Anniversary to Pastor Mark and Kathryn Stetler



Crandall Bible Methodist celebrated their 43rd Homecoming. Carson and Linda Scarbrough have demonstrated deep faithfulness to this church and community



Happy 85th Birthday to Sara Marchant.



Congratulations Pastor Cale and Kirsten Manley on the arrival of their baby boy.



Conference Elder Charles Sullivan made his journey to heaven. We are blessed by the legacy he has left behind.



It was a great day in Graham, NC, as the church burned its mortgage—a joyful celebration of being completely debt-free!



Brent Bible Methodist received a beautiful remodel—thanks to everyone who made it possible!



Bro. Walt Hedstrom was able to hold revival services at West Blocton Bible Methodist.



Jack and Donna Blankenship from Bland Bible Methodist are the definition of faithfulness. The amount of work this couple accomplishes is truly amazing.



SOUTHWEST

AARON JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

CONFERENCE NEWS

Rev. and Mrs. Don Newport were installed as pastor at Durant, OK Bible Methodist Church



A pie to the face for a good cause!



Pastor Lane Williams speaking at Grants, NM Light in the Desert event



Light in the Desert banner representing participating churches.

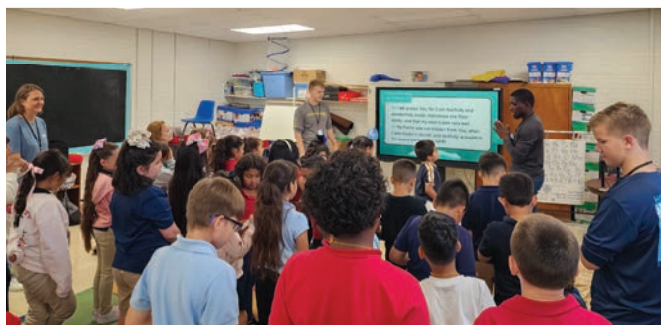


Pastor Darin Baldwin, Eric Baldwin, Lane Williams, Jordan Sankey and Darrell Underwood at Light in the Desert



Light in the Desert had about 60 in attendance.





Oklahoma City Bible Methodist Church began their third year of doing Bible Clubs in the local public school, in partnership with In the Gap.



The church in Lakewood was able to reach people in the neighborhood through a Trunk or Treat.



The Johnsons made a conference visit to the church at Whitehouse, TX.



The Southwest Conference Ladies Retreat was held at Pure Hope Inn at Talco, TX.



Rev. Clair Sams
(513) 267-6717
gcsams46@gmail.com



A good group of ladies attended the Southwest Ladies Retreat.

It is my delight to announce that Rev. Clair Sams is available to hold revival services, camp meetings, and weekend services for the Bible Methodist Connection of Churches at large. He has served Bible Methodism with distinction as both pastor and conference president in the Heartland and Southwest Conferences. With a deep understanding of pastoral challenges and local church needs, his ministry is marked by faithfulness to the Scriptures, practical application to daily life, and the gracious anointing of the Holy Spirit.

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PRAYER FOCUS **20 26**

21
Days of Prayer

January 5-25, 2026

*Find Daily Devotionals on
Facebook and YouTube*

Prayer Around the
WORLD

January 25, 6 PM (EST)

USA & Mexico

January 26, 7 AM

Philippines



BibleMethodist
CONNECTION OF CHURCHES