# THE **BIBLE REPORT OF THE BIBLE METHODIST CONNECTION OF CHURCHES** VOLUME 55 L ISSUE 1

# Why the creeds still matter



# FROM THE EDITOR



Travis J. Johnson Editor

In his recent book, "The Thrill of Orthodoxy," Trevin Wax

writes that, "The Church faces her biggest challenge not when new errors start to *win* but when old truths no longer *wow*" (emphasis mine). As with the New Testament church and Rome, Christianity in the West is experiencing a declining relationship with its surrounding culture. Our culture no longer aligns itself with Christian values. Most homes do not teach them, and some churches even question them. We live in a culture that increasingly doubts the existence of absolute truth or the ability to know it. Creeds and other ancient documents are often viewed with apathy, indifference, and even suspicion. In short, some truths no longer "wow" because they are no longer believed or even confessed. As the Western world enters a post-Christian era, it is important for the church to make a more deliberate effort to transmit the faith. This is one reason we need the Creeds.

This year, each issue will focus on encouraging the Bible Methodist family to be "wowed" by the beliefs and truths that matter most. Although all truth is important, even the Apostle Paul stated some truths are of "first importance" (1 Cor. 15:3-4). The truths contained in the Creeds are of "first importance." The Creeds have served the church as a part of our faith tradition and liturgy for thousands of years. From the apostles to the present day, these fundamental truths have sustained and nurtured every generation of Christians. The Creeds summarize "the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3).

In this edition, Dr. Randall McElwain helps us to explore why we need the Creeds and why they are essential and valuable for the church and believers today. The following issues will focus on the three universal Creeds of the church: The Nicene Creed, the Apostle's Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. Truth is of the utmost importance, and the Creeds remind us of what is essential. My prayer is that you will be wowed and captivated by what matters most.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Our sincere thanks go out to all who have subscribed to *The Bible Methodist* over the years. In order to streamline operations and be better stewards of our resources, the publication will now be mailed in bulk to each Bible Methodist church and made available to those who are interested. If you do not attend a Bible Methodist church but would still like to receive the publication, please contact the nearest regional conference office. A list of the contact information for each conference president can be found above. The annual subscription fee for the publication is \$13.25 per year.

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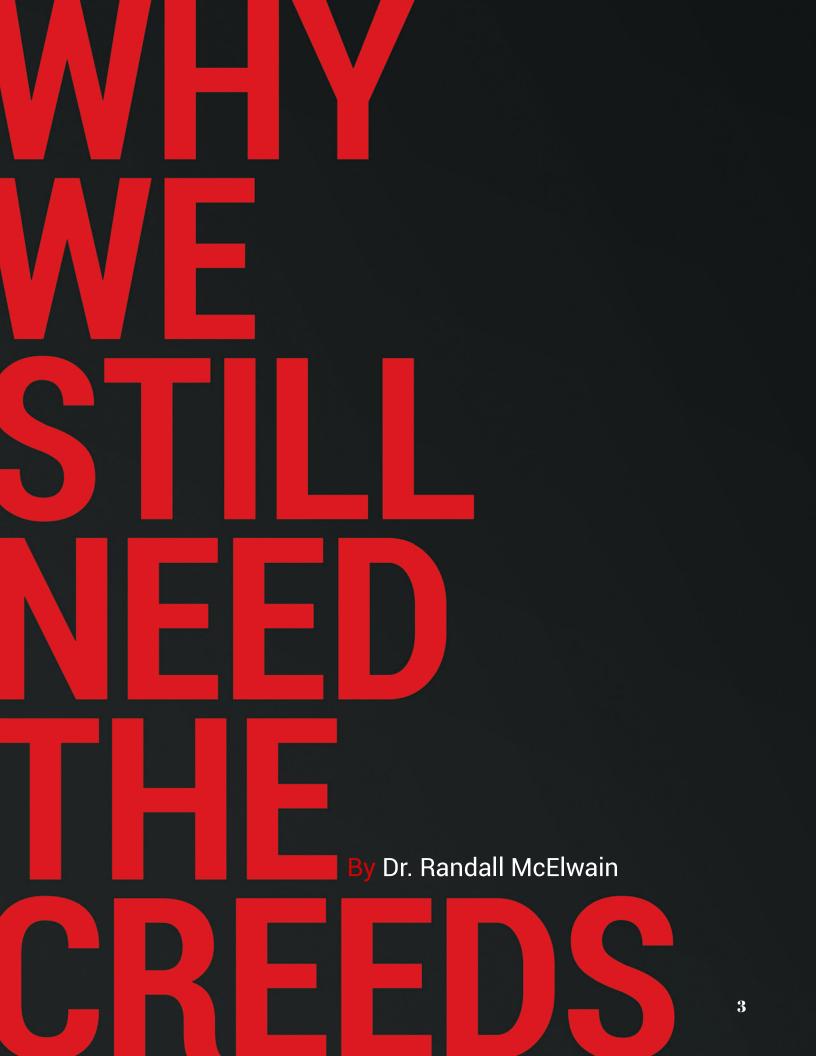
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# SCENE 1: THE PLAINS OF MOAB, 1406 B.C.

Listen to Moses's words to the people of Israel before they enter the Promised Land. His final instructions are recorded in Deuteronomy. Centuries later, the prophets would point back to this book as a summary of Israel's belief. This is Israel's creed.

The core of this creed is the *Shema*. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deut 6:4-5). This was the key to Israel's identity. Other nations worshiped many gods; Israel worshiped Yahweh, the one true God. Other people served their gods because of fear and oppression; Israel's obedience was motivated by love.

Moses emphasized the importance of this creed in Israel's daily life:

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Deut 6:6-9).

"Teach these words to your children. Talk about them while you are traveling. Meditate on them at night. Keep them

THE CREED WAS MORE THAN A MINDLESS RECITATION OF EMPTY PROSE; IT WAS A LIFE-CHANGING STATEMENT OF WHO ISRAEL WAS AND WHAT THEY BELIEVED. constantly before you. This is your creed." The creed was more than a mindless recitation of empty prose; it was a life-changing statement of who Israel was and what they believed.

Tragically, Israel would soon abandon her creed. When Judah was carried into exile, the prophets pointed to her failure to follow the *Shema* as the cause of her fall. Obedience motivated by love was crucial to Israel's relationship with Yahweh.

#### SCENE 2: SECOND CENTURY ROME

Move to second century Rome. Visit a group of new believers preparing for baptism. Because of their conversion, they may lose their jobs and be rejected by their families. Some will be imprisoned or even killed. The public witness of baptism carries with it the likelihood of suffering.

Before this step, pastors taught new believers what it means to be a Christian. Some of this instruction was practical: this is how Christians live. Some of it was theological: this is what

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Christians believe. At their baptism, the pastor asked each candidate to affirm • Do you believe in God

the Father Almighty? • Do you believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, who was crucified, raised from the dead, and ascended into heaven?

these beliefs:

• Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

These questions became the basis for the Apostles' Creed. "I believe" was much more than an empty ritual. Belief in the creed separated a believer from his old life and marked him as a member of a new community. The creed was a life-changing statement of faith.

#### SCENE 3: NICAEA, A.D. 325

Travel to the village of Nicaea, a few years after Constantine legalized Christianity. Government officials are no longer persecuting Christians. A more insidious danger has arisen; the integrity of the church is now threatened by heresy.

Early in the fourth century, Arius, a deacon from Egypt, began to teach that Jesus was the first of God's created beings, but not truly divine. His logic was simple: A son must be younger than his father. Therefore, if Jesus is the Son of God, he was not eternal. Arius concluded that Jesus was a created being. He denied that Jesus was fully God.

Orthodox Christians responded that Jesus could not forgive sin if he were not fully divine. Salvation requires a divine savior. Conflict over this issue soon led to political strife. Crowds paraded through the streets of Alexandria chanting competing slogans regarding Christ's nature.

When Emperor Constantine saw that religious conflict threatened the unity of his empire, he called 318 bishops together to resolve the issue. After hearing both sides, the bishops at the Council of Nicaea affirmed the eternal existence and deity of Jesus: he is "God of very God." The Nicene Creed summarized the theological beliefs confirmed at the Council of Nicaea. It became the standard by which orthodoxy, right doctrine, would be measured.

#### **SCENE 4: SIXTH CENTURY ROME**

Listen to theologians argue in the early fifth century as they debate nuances of Greek and Latin. This debate might seem foreign to our 21st Century ears. We might ask, "Does this really matter?"

Yes, it matters! Even after the Nicene Creed affirmed the deity of Jesus, many Christians struggled to understand the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Bruce Shelley gave this comparison. Maps drawn by early explorers of America showed the shorelines, but they revealed almost nothing about the uncharted interior. As explorers moved further inland, cartographers drew increasingly detailed maps.

In the same way, the Athanasian Creed moved deeper into the mysteries of the Trinity. As theologians explored the doctrine of the Trinity, their understanding was often colored by popular philosophies of the day. As a result, some teachers affirmed the unity of the godhead, but minimized the distinctive character of each member of the Trinity. Others went too far in the opposite direction, creating a perception of the Trinity as "three Gods." The Athanasian Creed carefully defined the Trinity as three "persons," each of whom is equally and eternally God.

The Athanasian Creed begins, "Whoever will be saved...." It ends, "This is the catholic (universal) faith; which except a man believes truly and firmly, he cannot be saved." For orthodox Christians, all further study of the Trinity would take place within these boundaries.

#### SCENE 5: FLORIDA, 2022

Move from the world of the early church to the Hobe Sound beach. Ask someone, "Are you a Christian? Do you go to church?" They might respond, "I love God. But I don't like the church, and I'm certainly not interested in theology. Call me 'spiritual, but not religious." This may sound noble, but Paul would respond, "This is nothing but ancient paganism with a modern face." He preached in Athens: For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you (Acts 17:23).

Paul knew that we cannot truly worship a god we do not know. We must know who and what we believe.

Today, many Christians say, "I don't need man-made creeds. I just follow the Bible." This sounds spiritual, but the apostles recognized that false teachers could twist biblical teaching to lead others astray. Peter warned, "There are some things in them [Paul's letters] that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures" (2 Peter 3:16). In response to this danger, church leaders developed creeds that summarized Christian doctrines in a clear and memorable form—and did so with specific purpose.

PAUL KNEW THAT WE CANNOT TRULY WORSHIP A GOD WE DO NOT KNOW. WE MUST KNOW WHO AND WHAT WE BELIEVE.

# THE CREEDS DO NOT INCLUDE ALL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES, BUT THEY SUMMARIZE DOCTRINES THAT ARE CENTRAL TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.

# THE CREED IS A MEASURING STICK FOR DOCTRINE

A creed is a statement of faith, a summary of Christian belief. It provides a measuring stick that says, "All doctrine must be faithful to these standards."

The creeds do not include all Christian doctrines, but they summarize doctrines that are central to the Christian faith. We may differ on many issues, but all true Christians confess what is stated in the Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed and Athanasian Creed.

You may say, "I believe in a pre-tribulation rapture." Another Christian may say, "I believe in a post-tribulation rapture." But together we say, "I believe that he shall come again." The doctrines in the creeds are not optional. Thus, to put it simply, if you do not believe the statements in the ecumenical creeds, you are not an orthodox Christian.

This concept is foreign to many in our individualistic society. Someone told me, "I don't believe Jesus was the Son of God, but I believe he was a great teacher. I try to live by the principles he taught. So I consider myself a Christian." Imagine a person who says, "I have not been inducted into the military, and I have never attended boot camp. But I like the Marine uniform. I am a Marine." That is absurd! It is equally absurd to say, "I do not believe the doctrines that are fundamental to Christianity, but I am a Christian."

#### A CREED IS A GUARDRAIL AGAINST HERESY

From the earliest days of the church, theological drift has been a threat. A gifted church leader begins to teach something that is *almost* right but is not completely faithful to Scripture. Little by little, he moves further from orthodoxy until he has abandoned it altogether. The creeds guard against these deviations from biblical truth.

Even in the first century, false doctrine threatened the church. Jude wrote, "although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3).

The Council of Nicaea was necessary because Arius was leading Christians into doctrinal error. Arius was a fluent speaker, and his teaching was logical. He did not set out to teach heresy, but little by little, he wandered from biblical truth. The Nicene Creed was a guardrail that warned, "Stop! This is heresy."

The creeds protect against two dangers

in today's church. One is the temptation to accept false teaching. The creeds warn, "Regardless of the size of your crusades or your visibility on social media, you are a heretic if your teaching contradicts these foundational statements."

The other temptation is to interpret every doctrinal difference as heresy. Two Christians can disagree about whether or not there is a pre-tribulation rapture and both be within the limits of orthodoxy. One is right and one is wrong, *but neither are heretics*. By defining orthodoxy, the creeds warn us against falsely accusing our Christian brothers of heresy.

I disagree with many of my Christian brothers and sisters regarding charismatic gifts, unconditional election, and other significant doctrines. But if they hold to the core doctrines of the Christian faith, these believers are not teaching heresy.

In our pluralistic world, many people say, "Doctrine divides." Paul taught the opposite. He insisted, "Doctrine unites."

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:4-6).

This does not mean we ignore doctrinal differences. Those differences are important, but we share one faith. We will disagree, but we are one body.

Our common faith unites the church. Alister McGrath wrote, "The creeds emphasize that to believe is to belong. We are part of a church that reaches around the world, extends back to the apostles, and bridges cultural, linguistic, ethnic, and denominational barriers. The creeds proclaim that we are one body in Christ."

#### A CREED IS A ROADMAP FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

I cannot swim; I cannot even float. I have read that the Dead Sea is so salty that anyone, even non-swimmers, can float in its dense water. When we visited Israel, my children asked, "Do you believe that anyone can float in the Dead Sea?" "Of course! The guidebook says it." "Will you get in the water with us?" "No, I might drown!" I said I believed. But when time came to put it into practice, I discovered that I did not truly believe.

It is not enough to say, "I believe." We must live our creed. The creeds are more than historical artifacts; they are maps for the Christian life. After we profess the faith, we must live it. The truth that God is "the Father Almighty" must impact how we relate to Him daily.

BY DEFINING ORTHODOXY, THE CREEDS WARN US AGAINST FALSELY ACCUSING OUR CHRISTIAN BROTHERS OF HERESY.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SAY, "I BELIEVE." WE MUST LIVE OUR CREED. THE CREEDS ARE MORE THAN HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS; THEY ARE MAPS FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

Belief must not be separated from behavior.

During the London Blitz in 1941, the BBC asked C.S. Lewis, an Oxford professor to give a series of radio broadcasts on the core doctrines of the Christian faith. London had just suffered through fifty-seven consecutive nights of bombing. Thousands of young men were dying on battlefields in Europe.

In this setting, Lewis began one broadcast:

Everyone has warned me against today's topic [the Incarnation]. They all say, 'the ordinary person does not want Theology; give him plain practical religion.' I have rejected their advice because I do not think the ordinary person is such a fool.... I think any man who wants to think about God at all would like to have the clearest and most accurate ideas about Him.

Lewis knew that our theology guides our way of life. He was confident that if his fellow countrymen truly believed that God is a personal God, it would impact their daily life. A Christian in an underground bunker would face the terror of the Blitz with a different spirit than the person who believed God to be distant and uninvolved in human affairs.

Eighty years later, our world is in turmoil yet again. Today, as then, we live according to our beliefs. If we truly believe that God is sovereign, we will face the uncertainties of the 21st century with a different spirit than the person who believes that life is no more than chance. Because we believe, we will live with a new spirit.

When you recite the creeds, do not allow them to become empty rituals. Use them as the measuring stick for your doctrine; allow them to serve as guardrails against heresy; and make them a roadmap for your daily Christian life. Then you can truly say, *"I believe.*"

Adapted from holyjoys.org. Used by permission.

Dr. Randall McElwain currently teaches overseas pastors for Shepherds Global Classroom, serves as Teaching Pastor at Palm Beach Chinese Christian Chapel, and Discipleship/ Teaching pastor at Hobe Sound Bible Church.

# WORLD MISSIONS NEWS UPDATE



R.G. Hutchison Missions Director

## Dear Bible Methodist Family,

Wow! What an incredible quarter this has been! As I look at what God is doing through His Church around the world, my heart sings and rejoices! It's difficult to capture everything in such a limited space, but here are some highlights from the past several months. I hope it spurs you on to continue praying and interceding for our brothers and sisters around the world, that God will anoint and use them powerfully in spreading the gospel to those who are yet unreached.

**R.G. Hutchison,** Director Bible Methodist Missions

## INDIGENOUS TRAINING UNDERWAY IN REFUGEE CAMP IN ZAMBIA [1]

Our missionary, Maricka Herrer, continues to work closely with Glenn Gault (Hope International Missions) in developing the Africa 85 Initiative. Together, BMM and HIM are seeking to connect leaders throughout the continent of Africa with the training and curriculum that they need in order to train their own people in local settings. Maricka and the Gaults are filling a vital role in day-to-day communications, consulting, and coordination with local trainers in several countries in Africa at this time. They are also continuing to use Shepherd's Global Classroom curriculum to put solid tools in the hands of those who are doing the training.

Recently, we received the

following update from Pastor Allegri, regarding the ongoing training that he and Bishop Angel Chipulu are conducting in Zambia. He wrote: "It's been a wonderful week for me and Bishop Angel Chipulu! I was overwhelmed by the presence of God and how committed a group of about 59 Christian leaders representing more than 7 Churches in a small area that makes the oldest refugee camp in Africa. Special thanks to God for His grace and to all who praved for us!

This is just the beginning of many wonderful and transforming moments that God has in store for this training ministry. Keep praying for this ministry, as we will go back in April 2023.

The Africa 85 Team is planning to conduct SGC training seminars in several countries during the first half of 2023.

#### ANOTHER NEW CHURCH IN THE PHILIPPINES [2]

#### On February 4, the Bible

Methodist Gospel Light conference dedicated a new chapel in the community of Esperanza, in Sison, Pangasinan. BMM Director, R.G. Hutchison was privileged to join with BMGL Overseer, Pastor David Yucaddi Sr. and the host pastor Arturo Datario for the dedication service. At least four additional new church constructions are scheduled for 2023. Please pray for these new congregations and their pastors.

### YOUTH CONVENTIONS AND GENERAL ASSEMBLIES IN THE PHILIPPINES [3-4]

Last November and December were busy months for the various conferences in the Philippines, as they held a number of youth conventions and general assemblies. They were very well attended!

#### BIBLE METHODIST GOSPEL LIGHT CAMPMEETING [5]

We rejoice with our brothers

and sisters in the Bible Methodist Gospel Light conference as they were able to have camp meeting this week—for the first time in 35 months (because of the pandemic)! The theme of this year's camp meeting was "The Perseverance of the Saints" and speakers included Rev. David Yucaddi Sr., Rev. Brendel Macadangdang, and Rev. Jhun Bunuan, Jr. They report that God moved powerfully upon their hearts during the services.

#### STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRAINING IN MEXICO [6]

The newly appointed national board for the Mexico Bible Methodist Church met together for a strategic planning retreat in December. Missionary Brennan Muir reported it was a time of building relationships, being refreshed, and also establishing plans for enhancing communication and cooperation between churches throughout the conference in Mexico.

They have now launched an official Facebook page (in Spanish) and are also producing a series of training videos that provide local congregations with instruction in the Bible Methodist Discipline, to prepare for local church training and discipleship that will take place this year.

The Ezra Biblical Seminary is continuing to conduct both online and in-person classes. Last December, they held closing ceremonies, celebrating the completion of another semester of courses.

#### THANK YOU!

#### The entire BMM team would

like to express a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Christmas cards for missionaries this past December. We were overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness, kind words, and generosity during the Christmas season! Thank you! And may God bless each of you richly in return!













# **GREAT LAKES** REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



**David Ward** 

**Conference President** 

#### PASTOR'S HOLIDAY DINNER [1-3]

# Our Great Lakes Pastor's

Holiday Dinner is always a great time for food and fellowship among our ministers and their families. Scheduled for mid-January, after the busyness of the Christmas season and deliberately low key, this event provides an opportunity for those who invest so much in others to relax and be served. This year it was hosted by the ladies of Pilgrim Bible Church in Cedar Springs, who did an awesome job of providing a plentiful buffet and a beautiful setting.

#### NORTHERN LIGHTS YOUTH RETREAT [4-9]

After a break because of Covid, it was exciting to see a return to Northern Lights Youth Retreat this year. Under the capable leadership of Youth Director Doug Derscheid and his assistant Eli Albring, Dr. Matt Hallam connected with the attendees with humor and effective speaking. Our worship was led by Rev. Philip Mills of our Evart church and God certainly blessed our time together. There were four Bible colleges that sent teams, and their contributions were greatly appreciated. The weather did not allow for snow activities, but that did not prevent our young people from having a great time.







#### **GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS**













# HEARTLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



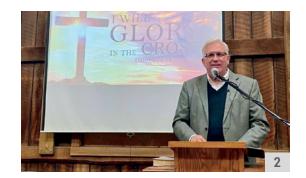
Chris Cravens Conference President

#### HEARTLAND MINISTERIAL

The annual Ministerial Conference held last November was blessed by God! Fellowship! Conviction! Encouragement! Challenge! Resources! These words best define the invested experience shared by Heartland's ministers and spouses. A huge "thank you" to our annual sponsors that underwrite this event so that our ministers can attend free of charge! Contact President Cravens if you wish to help invest in this opportunity.















1–5: Speakers included Dr. Michael Avery, Dr. David Bubb, Rev. John Manley, and Mrs. Ruth Speas Garland (ladies' session). The Sankeys provided special music. 6: The ministers and their wives enjoyed times of fellowship and prayer. 7: Some Heartland ministers visited Rev. "Bishop" Larry Smith on their way home from Ministerial.

#### **HEARTLAND** REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

#### **AROUND THE CONFERENCE**

















8: President Cravens preaching the Winter Revival at GBSC 9: Brian and Beth Wardlaw welcome a new daughter 10–12: Churches at Franklin, Danville, and Findlay participate in the Prayer Around the World service
13: President Cravens with Pastor and staff at Frankfort, IN
14: Executive Committee enjoys a Christmas Dinner prepared by Chef Mike and Sue Pennellatore 15: Conference Presidents meet for a retreat at Pell City, AL

# **SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS**



John Parker Conference President

#### ALABAMA INTER-CHURCH HOLINESS CONVENTION [1]

**Our Talladega and Pell City** Churches hosted the annual fall Alabama Interchurch Holiness Convention on November 1-3. Our own, Rev. Curtis Going preached powerfully, and Larry and Pat Jewett provided music. Rev. James Plank, Director of IHC, led the Convention. We had wonderful crowds and services.

### WILLIAM SNIDER RECEIVES PHD [2]

#### On November 5, 2022, Dr.

William Snider received his PhD from the University of Manchester in Oxford, England. Dr. Snider is a well-known and trusted scholar, especially in matters related to our history. He is a gifted teacher and speaker. Dr. William and Martha Snider live in Pell City, AL. His ministry includes serving in our Conference churches as well as speaking at revivals, camps, and conventions. To book him for speaking engagements, please contact him at wsnider2@aol.com or (772) 341-3143.

## CONFERENCE MEN'S RETREAT [3-5]

# Over the weekend of November

10–11, several men gathered at Shangri-La, The Crawford Farm, to camp, fellowship, feast, and worship together. During a presentation in the Crawford Farm Event Barn on Friday evening, Roger Patterson, a Christian outdoorsman and missionary, demonstrated archery skills to the men. The experience also included shooting and ATV adventures.

## BIBLE METHODIST CONFERENCE PRESI-DENT'S RETREAT [6]

The Southern Conference was blessed to host the Conference Presidents and our Missions Director for their annual working retreat in November. During our time together, we enjoyed rich fellowship and unity as we discussed strategies and plans for the future, as well as challenges and ways to address them. A wonderful spirit of unity and love was felt by all.

## DEEPER LIFE CONFERENCE

#### Dr. Michael Avery will be

presenting a three-day Deeper Life Conference on our campground February 16-18, 2023. Dr. Avery will not only be sharing his Deeper Life material in seven sessions, but will also be giving special attention to helping pastors and any who are involved in teaching and discipling others to be better equipped to teach the biblical doctrines of holiness.

# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL [10]

**The Southern Conference** Ministerial was held at the Hodge Conference Center on January 13-15, 2023.





#### **SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS**

#### **GRACE WILSON** [7]

#### Sister Grace Wilson of

Chattanooga Temple Bible Methodist Church passed away at the age of 89 on November 23, 2022. Grace served faithfully as church organist, children's Sunday School teacher, and church treasurer for many, many years. Her faithful love for the Lord and service to the local church will be a lasting legacy.

#### **ANNELL SHIRAH** [8]

#### On January 13, 2023, Sister

Annell Shirah of the Trinity Bible Methodist Church in Eight Mile, Alabama, went to heaven at the age of 84. Her faithfulness to the Lord throughout her life leaves a rich legacy. A large crowd attended the celebration of her life on January 19, in which Rev. David Black remembered her fondly.

#### THANK YOU! [9]

#### Thanks to donations received

from a variety of donors in our Conference, Rev. Walt and Linda Hedstrom were able to purchase a beautiful 2007 Toyota Highlander Limited. We rejoice with them in God's provision of this need. Thank you for giving!

















# SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



**G. Clair Sams** Conference President

# DURANT, OKLAHOMA [1-2]

#### The church in Durant,

Oklahoma celebrated Advent and Christmas with a pageant that included both children and adults. The presentation included both the Christmas story and Christmas carols. Recently, Daniel Stetler conducted a revival in which people sought and found the Lord. We have had new people attending and receiving help in their lives from the Lord's presence in services.

### OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA [3-4]

#### **The church hosted a live Nativity** for the people of the community. A large number of people attended the celebration and heard the powerful and lifechanging message of the gospel.

## DERIDDER, LOUISIANA [5]

The church at DeRidder took part in the local Christmas Parade. The float included many of the people from the church. Along the parade route, treats and church information were distributed.

## CALDWELL, IDAHO [6]

**During the Christmas season,** the church presented a public pageant for the neighborhood. They set up just outside the front door and celebrated the Christmas story for the many who attended. The church continues to invite and welcome new people with innovative and Biblical portrayals of the gospel stories in their Sunday School and worship services.

#### SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE MEN'S RETREAT

# The Conference is hosting its

first annual Men's Retreat with Dr. David Boardman as the featured speaker. The event will take place at the Soaring Eagles Ranch in Sasakawa, Oklahoma. The dates are March 17-18, 2023. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Stephen Snodgrass at (903) 816-0175.

# MOBERLY BIBLE METHODIST CHURCH [7-10]

#### From youth night activities,

song night, Christmas program, and packing Operation Christmas Child boxes, our young people play an important role. God is doing great things!



#### SOUTHWEST PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

















# THE BIBLE METHODIST

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# CAMP SCHEDULE

# Great Lakes Conference

**YOUTH CAMP** June 26-30

FAMILY CAMP AND CONFERENCE July 14-23

# Heartland Conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE June 19-20

**FAMILY CAMP** June 20-25

**YOUTH CAMP** July 17-21

# Southern Conference

**YOUTH CAMP** June 5-9

FAMILY CAMP July 3-9

# Southwest Conference

**YOUTH CAMP** June 26-30

**FAMILY CAMP** July 25-30