THE

# BIBLE METHODIST

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BIBLE METHODIST CONNECTION OF CHURCHES

VOLUME 55 | ISSUE 4

THE ATHANASIAN CREED

# FROM THE **EDITOR**



Travis J. Johnson Editor

Throughout this year, I have endeavored to convey to our Bible Methodist community the reasons behind our need for the Creeds and their ongoing significance in today's church. These publications have aimed to clarify what is fundamental to our Christian faith. It's important to note that the Creeds were never meant to replace the Bible but rather emphasize its core teachings. They draw attention to the most critical doctrines within the Bible—those areas where believers find common agreement. Not all verses in the Bible hold equal weight. Keith Drury, in his book Common Ground, makes the following point. He uses the example that there are more verses addressing the topic of tongues compared to the virgin birth. However, this doesn't imply that tongues is more significant than the virgin birth. He powerfully states that the church doesn't establish doctrine through a mathematical tally of verses on a particular subject to determine its relative importance. Instead, the early Christians, guided by the Holy Spirit, recognized these foundational doctrines and encapsulated them within the Creeds. He further states, "The creeds remind us what we are willing to die for. Who would be willing to be burned at the stake for eternal security or the ordination of women? However, we would die before rejecting Jesus Christ as God. The church writes some things in pencil they are easily erased by the next generations. Other things are written in ink—they are hard to erase because our church believes them so strongly. The creeds, however, are written in blood. The martyrs died for these beliefs. We would too. The creeds do not change with the winds and whims of the times. If thousands of martyrs have died for these beliefs, we at least can take some time to study them." His words capture the passion that this year's publications have strived to express.

During this quarter, we have the privilege of featuring Dr. Thomas McCall professor of theology from Asbury Theological Seminary, who has contributed an insightful article on the most extensive among the three primary creeds of the church. We sincerely appreciate Dr. McCall's contribution, which brings clarity and aids our understanding of The Athanasian Creed. My hope is that it proves to be a source of blessing for our readers.

#### THE BIBLE METHODIST

VOLUME 55 | ISSUE 4 | 2023

BIBLEMETHODIST.ORG/MAGAZINE

EDITOR

Rev. Travis J. Johnson pastortravisj@gmail.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Shane Muir

shanemuirdesign@gmail.com

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.

#### **BIBLE METHODIST CONNECTION OF CHURCHES**

CONNECTIONAL CHAIRMAN

Rev. Blake Jones Box 5, Cedar Lake, MI 48891 bejones@nethawk.com

MISSIONS DIRECTOR

Dr. R.G. Hutchison

124 Harry Stanley Dr, Easley, SC 29640 rghutchison867@gmail.com

> GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Rev. David Ward

Box V, Cedar Springs, MI 49319 davidward@biblemethodist.org

HEARTLAND REGIONAL

CONFERENCE PRESIDENT **Rev. Chris Cravens** 

16346 TR 166, Arlington, OH 45813 chriscravens@biblemethodist.org

SOUTHERN REGIONAL

CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Rev. Doug Eads 40 Skyview Lane, Pell City, AL 35125

reveads@aol.com

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Rev. G. Clair Sams

2235 Cale Switch Rd, Durant, OK 74701 gcsams@biblemethodist.org



# THE **ATHANASIAN** CREED

Whoever desires to be saved should above all hold to the catholic faith.

Anyone who does not keep it whole and unbroken will doubtless perish eternally.

Now this is the catholic faith:

That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity, neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence.

For the person of the Father is a distinct person,

the person of the Son is another, and that of the Holy Spirit still

But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal.

What quality the Father has, the Son has, and the Holy Spirit has. The Father is uncreated, the Son is uncreated, the Holy Spirit is uncreated. The Father is immeasurable, the Son is immeasurable, the Holy Spirit is immeasurable.

The Father is eternal, the Son is eternal, the Holy Spirit is eternal.

And yet there are not three eternal beings; there is but one eternal being. So too there are not three uncreated or immeasurable beings;

there is but one uncreated and immeasurable being.

Similarly, the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, the Holy Spirit is almighty. Yet there are not three almighty beings; there is but one almighty being.

Thus the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God. Yet there are not three gods; there is but one God. Thus the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord. Yet there are not three lords; there is but one Lord.

Just as Christian truth compels us
to confess each person
individually
as both God and Lord,
so catholic religion forbids us
to say that there are three gods
or lords.

The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten from anyone.

The Son was neither made nor created;

he was begotten from the Father alone.

The Holy Spirit was neither made nor created nor begotten; he proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Accordingly there is one Father, not three fathers; there is one Son, not three sons; there is one Holy Spirit, not three holy spirits.

#### Continued

Nothing in this trinity is before or after,

nothing is greater or smaller; in their entirety the three persons are coeternal and coequal with each other.

So in everything, as was said earlier,

we must worship their trinity in their unity

and their unity in their trinity.

Anyone then who desires to be saved

should think thus about the trinity.

But it is necessary for eternal salvation

that one also believe in the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully.

Now this is the true faith:

That we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, <u>is both God and hum</u>an, equally.

He is God from the essence of the Father, begotten before time; and he is human from the essence of his mother, born in time; completely God, completely

human,

with a rational soul and human flesh;

equal to the Father as regards divinity,

less than the Father as regards humanity.

Although he is God and human, yet Christ is not two, but one. He is one, however, not by his divinity being turned into flesh, but by God's taking humanity

to himself.

He is one,

certainly not by the blending of his essence,

but by the unity of his person.
For just as one human is both
rational soul and flesh,
so too the one Christ is both

God and human.

He suffered for our salvation; he descended to hell; he arose from the dead; he ascended to heaven; he is seated at the Father's right hand;

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people will arise bodily

and give an accounting of their own deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life,

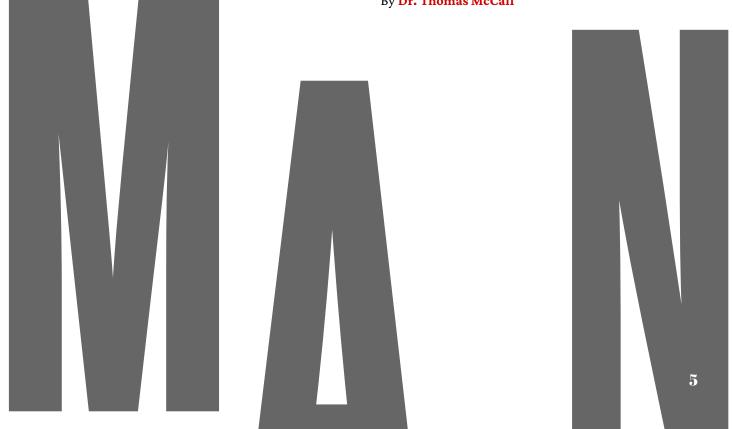
and those who have done evil will enter eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith: one cannot be saved without believing it firmly and faithfully.



# THE ATHANASIAN CREED

By Dr. Thomas McCall



# O THIS POINT

in the series, we have looked at the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. Now we turn our attention to the Athanasian Creed. Even at first glance, we can see that these creeds are getting longer and longer. The Apostles' Creed is the most succinct (and thus easiest to memorize), the Nicene Creed is longer and more expansive, and now the Athanasian Creed is considerably longer than either. We can think about them this way: the Nicene Creed builds upon and clarifies various statements made in the Apostles' Creed, and the Athanasian Creed builds upon and provides even more specification on selected topics of central importance. This creed was not written by Athanasius (although it echoes his teachings in many ways), and it has not been accepted as an "ecumenical" statement of faith (as was the Nicene Creed). But it has served Christians well across a broad range of times and places.

# YET THERE ARE NOT THREE GODS, BUT ONE GOD

he Creed focuses on two major areas of Christian doctrine. The first concerns the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and the Creed rightly affirms the central importance of the doctrine and helpfully lays down guidelines for interpreting it. Notice first how important the doctrine is. In contrast, for many contemporary Christians, the Trinity is just an impenetrable mystery that seems completely irrelevant to Christian life and piety. For critics of Christianity, of course, the doctrine is literal nonsense; but for many Christians, the doctrine is not only difficult but also simply remote and irrelevant. Indeed, many contemporary Christians might agree with the skeptical philosopher Immanuel Kant when he says that the doctrine of the Trinity "has no practical relevance at all." Quite frankly, many expressions of Christian faith and practice are functionally Unitarian rather than Trinitarian-and we are so accustomed

to it that we don't even notice. The Athanasian Creed rightly recognizes the importance of the doctrine, and it calls us to return to the full riches of our faith.

The Creed summarizes the historic Christian doctrine this way: there are three divine persons who together are one God. God just is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The divine persons are really distinct from one another, and they are fully personal. The divine persons are not just "roles" that God takes on or disguises that God assumes. God does not at one point in time present himself as "Father" and then at a later point in time as "Son" (and then, later yet, as "Spirit"). No, the divine persons are genuinely distinct and fully personal. The Son addresses the Father as an "I" speaking to a "Thou." The Father speaks of and to the Son as an "I" to a "Thou" (Matt 3:17). The Holy Spirit addresses the Father on behalf of those who are joined by faith in union with Christ (Rom 8:26-27). The

FOR MANY
CONTEMPORARY
CHRISTIANS, THE
TRINITY IS JUST
AN IMPENETRABLE
MYSTERY THAT
SEEMS COMPLETELY
IRRELEVANT TO
CHRISTIAN LIFE
AND PIETY.

THE TRINITY IS NOT HIERARCHICALLY STRUCTURED. IT IS NOT AS IF THE FATHER IS SOMEHOW MORE DIVINE...THAN THE SON OR THE SPIRIT. TO THE CONTRARY,... THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT ARE FULLY DIVINE.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are related to one another in a holy and eternal communion of love. They give to one another and receive from one another. They love one another. Indeed, although we see through a glass darkly, by the light of grace we do see. And what we see is astounding: we see that the very life of God—God on the "inside"—is a life of purest, holy love.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three distinct persons who are fully and completely divine. Note carefully how the Creed denies that any divine person is "greater" (or "lesser") than the others (of course Jesus says that the Father is "greater" (John 14:28), but this is to be understood according to the Son as he is human, i.e., taking on the "form of a servant" (Phil 2:7). We should not think that there is a "boss" at the "top" of the Trinity. The Trinity is not hierarchically structured. It is not as if the Father is somehow more divine (or more really God) than the Son or the Spirit. To the contrary, as the Creed reminds us, the divine persons are "coeternal and coequal." The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are fully divine.

And yet they are one God. They are three persons, but in a very important sense they are not like three human persons. They are not three gods who happen to get along well. They are not three "parts" of God that happen to be attached to one another. There is no autonomy. There is no hiding. There is no conflict. There is no competition. There is no division or separation. There is no tension. Instead, there is mutuality there, mutuality and openness and fullness of life. There is full and complete oneness of action. Think of the life and ministry of Christ: The Son becomes human and then lives, dies, is resurrected, ascended, and glorified precisely according to the will of the Father and in the power of the Holy Spirit. And this complete unity of action is based upon something that goes even deeper: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are maximally unified in action because they are one being.

# BOTH GOD AND HUMAN, EQUALLY

he second major area of the Creed's focus is directly on Christ. Directly echoing the Nicene Creed, it tells us that Jesus Christ is both fully human and fully divine in the unity of his person. Ideas and theories about the identity of Jesus abound. They are all around us. Some people recognize his humanity—but then think of him only as a good moral teacher. Others think of him as a great prophet-maybe even the greatest. Some suggest that he was a fairly ordinary dude who was found worthy by God and uniquely adopted to play a special role. Others see him as a mysterious godlike creature.

JESUS IS NOT PART HUMAN AND PART DIVINE; HE IS NOT SWITCHING BACK AND FORTH FROM ONE TO THE OTHER, AND HE IS NOT SORTA-DIVINE OR DIVINE-ISH.

Some see him as "divine"—but then insist that his divinity is a lesser or lower-ranked deity. Some understand him to be the highest creature, one who is before and above all others but not really "God." At the other extreme, some take him to be God who only appears to be human. Still others think that he switches back and forth between humanity and divinity, and others theorize that he is a unique mixture of God and man.

But the biblical witness to the full and complete humanity of Christ is obvious. He has a specific family heritage. He is hungry and thirsty and exhausted. He displays human emotions. He is born...and he dies. In fact, the genuineness of his humanity was never in question to those who knew him. And he is more than merely human-indeed, he is fully and completely divine. He is worshiped by his earliest followers. He does the things that only God can do. He is referred to in the New Testament not only as "Son of Man" but also as "Lord" and even as "God" (theos). He is not part human and part divine; he is not switching back and forth from one to the other, and he is not sorta-divine or divine-ish. No, he is both fully human (and thus, to use the formal language, homoousios with humanity) and fully divine (and thus homoousios with the Father and Spirit).

WHAT THE
DOCTRINE OF
THE TRINITY TELLS
US IS THAT THE
ULTIMATE TRUTH
ABOUT GOD IS THIS:
GOD'S OWN NATURE
IS HOLY LOVE.

#### **WHY THIS MATTERS**

t should be obvious that the Creed insists that the doctrines of the Trinity and the incarnation are of utmost importance. But why do these doctrines matter so much? How are these doctrines so important? Let's start with a question: what is the first thought that comes to your mind when you think of God? Do you think of raw power? Stern justice? A remote monarch who is nearly impossible to please? There is some truth in all of those conceptions, of course— God is just and powerful. But if we are Trinitarian—really Trinitarian all the way down-our understandings of divine justice and power will be informed and shaped by something even deeper. For what the doctrine of the Trinity tells us is that the ultimate truth about God is this: God's own nature is holy love.

God's love is not a contingent thing; it is not something that God decides to have or that God occasionally decides to exercise. No, it is essential to God's own life. It is who God is (1 John 4:8), and all that God does is an expression of that love. There is nothing better, nothing greater, nothing stronger.

Let's think of another question: why are you here; why were you created? The answer of the Trinitarian faith is clear. You do not exist as a cosmic accident, and you were not created as part of a cosmic experiment. You are created—and redeemed—for the purpose of knowing and sharing that love.

And just how are we related to this Triune God? The New Testament answer is straightforward: by being joined in union with Christ. And just how does this happen? Faith is the

"instrument" (like a tool) that is used, but it is the Holy Spirit who uses our faith to connect us to Christ and his benefits. Because Jesus Christ is both fully divine and fully human he is able to bridge the chasm between sinful humanity and a holy God. These benefits include those that are (or are much like) legal benefits; there is "no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom 8:1), and those who are saved are going to heaven. But the benefits go so much further-indeed, we are made for nothing less than participation in the divine life. We are made to know and love the God whose nature is holy love. This means that the Holy Spirit will work to conform us to the image of the Son, not only to bring us to heaven when we die but to bring heaven into our lives.

The doctrines of the Trinity and incarnation, while surely the deepest mysteries of the Christian faith, are also at the very heart of the gospel. The good news is such astounding good news precisely because God is goodness itself. "God so loved the world" precisely because "God is love."

WE ARE MADE FOR NOTHING LESS THAN PARTICIPATION IN THE DIVINE LIFE. WE ARE MADE TO KNOW AND LOVE THE GOD WHOSE NATURE IS HOLY LOVE.

# **WORLD MISSIONS**

**NEWS UPDATE** 



R.G. Hutchison
Missions Director

# REMEMBERING FRANK RENNER [1]

Frank Renner, went home to be with the Lord on October 8. Frank, together with his wife Priscilla, and their family, faithfully served as Bible Methodist missionaries in the Philippines from 1990-1996. Several leaders have credited Frank's integrity and faithfulness as laying the

One of our former missionaries,

and faithfulness as laying the foundation for the fruitful work and growth that has followed through the national church in the Philippines.

Here are some of those words of tribute that were shared:

"Bro. Frank Renner is a true brother in the Lord. He has a heart in supporting the Lord's work. God has used him to help us in the infancy of the ministry we are doing. We appreciate his investment in our humble beginning of the ministry. We were only two workers when we started. Now we are 43 workers by the grace of God, 38 local churches, and 5 pioneering works. He has a part in the work we are doing. Thank you and God bless your family in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ."

David Yucaddi Overseer, Bible Methodist Gospel Light Church (Cordillera Conference)

"The Frank Renner family gave many years of their life to Bible Methodist Missions in the Philippines for which the whole church is deeply indebted. I worked with Frank for 5 years of while I served as General Secretary for Missions. Frank served the Philippines with diligence, integrity, perseverance, and significant personal sacrifice. He often felt that he was not gifted in many ways that a missionary is often assumed to be gifted, however he was God's man for the work at that time. Frank's spiritual integrity, personal honesty

and commitment to Biblical principles changed the whole trajectory of Bible Methodist Missions in the Philippines. A field that was clearly going in the wrong direction and lacked God's favor was turned for righteousness and true holiness. Today the Philippine Church is a work that thrives under the favor of God. A lesser man could not have accomplished what he accomplished. The Bible Methodist family and the Philippine Church owe him a great debt."

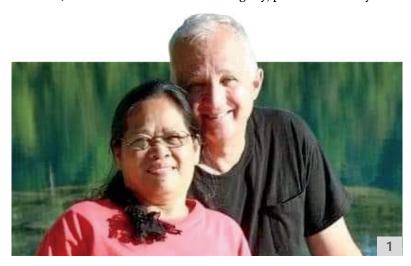
Michael Avery Former General Secretary of Foreign Missions

"We will never forget the Renner's huge contribution to the people and the work in the Philippines. Many souls were saved, churches were built, and pastors were raised during his term. We might not see him anymore physically, but his work will never be forgotten. He is now receiving his reward in heaven. We will be meeting him one day, and there will be no more parting over there."

Rev. Brendel Macadangdang National Overseer/President of the Philippine Bible Methodist Church, Inc.

If you would like to send a card of encouragement to the family, you may address it to: Priscilla Renner

9127 SE Harmony Way Apt 210 Hobe Sound, FL 33455



# PRAYER AND VISION MEETING [2]

In September, Dr. R.G. Hutchison

met with the general missions committee for a time of focused prayer, vision casting, and strategic thinking. We are thankful for the unity, diversity, good thinking, and passionate hearts of our BMM leadership. Some of the fruit of this meeting will be communicated in the coming months as we move forward in the strategic planning process.

# A VISIT TO PARIS, FRANCE [3-5]

**Dr. R.G. Hutchison, accompanied** by Rev. Doug and Judy Eads, traveled to Paris, France October 5-10, where they joined with

Pastora Daisy Comilang and her congregation in celebrating their church's 21st anniversary. They also enjoyed visiting in the homes of some of the members. Pastora Daisy, and some of her fellow workers, are alumni of the Philippine Bible Methodist Shepherd's College. Together, they serve a significant number of Filipino overseas workers who reside in Paris. Over the years, God has used this church to strengthen the faith of fellow believers, and to reach out in love to those who are not only far from home but also far from God. Please keep this congregation in your prayers.

### NEW BOOK COMING IN SPRING 2024!

Would you like to help your church, discipleship group,

or Sunday School class to get more connected and involved in world missions? Bible Methodist Missions is producing a brand-new course that is designed to address this need. The title is Finding Your Place in God's Global Mission.

The book will provide 12 lessons, and also will come with access to additional video content and presentation materials to enhance the teaching and learning experience.

It will answer many questions that you may have about missions. But, more importantly, it will broaden your horizons to see the opportunities that exist for following Christ into the world for which He gave His life. Plan now to incorporate this course into your church's discipleship curriculum!









# **GREAT LAKES**

### REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



**David Ward** Conference President

### MEN'S RETREAT [1-4]

The Great Lakes family enjoys opportunities to be together. Our second Annual Men's Retreat was held the last weekend in August, led by Pastors Steve Bills and Nathaniel Tucker. John Bishop roasted the hog and others donated sweet corn, donuts and more. We were well fed, not only in the kitchen but also in the Word and fellowship.

### **FAMILY RETREAT** [5-8]

**Another Annual Event is** Family Retreat, the last weekend

in September. Pastors Philip Mills and Tim Slavens led this year. This is an event for the whole family and was enjoyed by all who attended.

# CAMP WORK WEEK [9-12]

During Camp Work Week our primary focus was the Cobblestone Project which will serve as a Mission's House when completed. Beyond dorm space for campmeeting, it will offer housing for missionaries on furlough, as well as hosting conferences, retreats, reunions and more. Through a generous donation, materials have been donated for siding, soffit, and fascia. Besides beginning work on siding and soffit, the metal roof was completed and the mission's apartment drywalled. The next stage will be spray foam insulation and we are looking for sponsors to make this a reality before next camp season. The cost for the remaining spray foam is \$25,000. Could you help with this important next step? We need donors for the spray foam and volunteers for the siding.







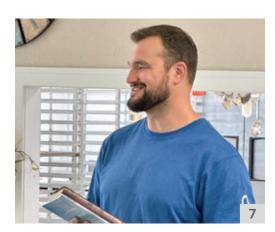


















# HEARTLAND

### **REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS**



Chris Cravens Conference President

### **MEN OF INTEGRITY [1-2]**

Several men gathered at Beulah Grove in September for the annual Men of Integrity Retreat. Special speakers this year were Dr. Michael Avery and Rev. G. Clair Sams.

### **SPECIAL HONOR** [3]

Heartland Elder and Mrs. Henry Miller were honored as Alumnus of the Year at the God's Bible School and College Homecoming.

### **SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS [4]**

President Cravens was a special evening speaker at this annual event in Pell City, AL.

## **BEULAH GROVE CAMP [5-6]**

The J.D. Young Memorial Building is up and almost closed in. We are so thankful for the faithful giving of the Heartland people.













# AROUND THE CONFERENCE

#### WESTFIELD, IN [7]

Westfield was privileged to host the HIM Hispanic Youth Fellowship. WBMC was blessed by a large corporate donation of material and labor providing for the paving of a very needed area of our parking lot. Praise the Lord!

#### MCDONALD, PA

The McDonald congregation joined Pastor Randy Brown and

Conference President Chris Cravens in celebrating their 55th anniversary.

#### WEST MECCA, OH [8]

West Mecca breaks ground on a new parsonage. Notice President Craven's gold hard hat!

#### FINDLAY, OH [9]

Findlay installs Christopher Dean Cravens as Youth Pastor and Jayshaun Williams, pictured here with his wife Clarissa, as assistant pastor of outreach and discipleship.

#### SALEM, OH [10]

Salem is responding to growth in its congregation with expansion of its parking lot.

# NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH, CINCINNATI, OH

The Mike Mater family joins the staff as Assistant Pastor.

#### AUBURN, OH [11]

The Auburn church is blessed in constructing a new fellowship building.











# SOUTHERN

### REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



**Doug Eads** Conference President

# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE NEWS

In an ever-changing world,

the constant message of the cross is needed. God has commissioned the body of believers to take this message and share it in their communities. Throughout this past quarter, Southern Conference churches have been doing an amazing job reaching out beyond their four walls. Homes are being touched, and lives are being changed through men and women "going into all the world." Whether it is a Fall Festival, a Homecoming, a hayride, or one-on-one conversations, God's work is marching on. As the old song says, "spread the tidings all around, Jesus saves."

### **CAPTIONS**

- 1 Happy 75th Anniversary to Alvin and Gelene Hodge
- 2-3 Former Ada Chapel Pastor,
  Walter Hedstrom preached
  the 117th Homecoming
  service at Ada Chapel in
  October. Special Singing
  provided by Cale and
  Kirsten Manley, Logan
  and Miranda Sankey, and
  Dwight, Lorna, and Isabella
  Crosley.
- 4 Pastor Mark Stetler offering horse rides to children in the community during Pell City Bible Methodist Trunk or Treat.
- 5-6 Biker Sunday at Greensboro Bible Methodist was led by Pastor Steve Vernon. It was a powerful day for the

- gospel to reach multiple people.
- 7 Graham Bible Methodist and Pastors Marcus and Micheal Evans welcomed the local Police Department for a special Sunday service.
- 8 Pastor Jonathan Slagenweit and the men from Easley Bible Methodist showed the love of Christ through maintenance work.
- 9 Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Durst from Talladega Bible Methodist, on your new position teaching English at Samford University in Birmingham, Al.
- 10 Tarrant Bible Methodist Church and Pastor Jon Earls reached out to their community using Candy through the Bible.





### **SOUTHERN** REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

















# SOUTHWEST

### REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS



**G. Clair Sams**Conference President

### SHEPHERDS HEART CHAPEL, CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO [1-2]

We had the honor to baptize a married couple at the same time. Jose and Maria Cardenas began attending our church in April. Since then, they have given their hearts to God and expressed interest in being baptized. After completing the Baptism Challenge workbook, we scheduled the Baptism Celebration for Sunday, August 20, 2023.

It was wonderful seeing a family decide that "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

### DURANT, OKLAHOMA [3]

#### Sunday August 27th we celebrated with Annie Reeves and Pam Curlee as they marked milestones in their journey of

freedom. Annie was celebrating 9 years and Pam 23 years of sobriety. We rejoice in the victory and strength of these women.

### SHERMAN, TEXAS [4-5]

# **Sunday October 1, the church** in Sherman, Texas and Pastor Steven Snodgrass hosted a

Steven Snodgrass hosted a combined baptismal service with the people from Durant, Oklahoma. Six candidates from each church were baptized. What a joy it was to watch people who have publicly testified to their faith in Christ, rejoice as they confirmed that with baptism.

Together the congregations celebrated God's great grace and forgiveness and the public statement of being part of his family.

Durant baptismal candidates, left to right: Loy Bridges, Easton Thayer, Norma Beal, Lloyd (Dino) Bridges, Ashlynn Bridges, Velma Bridges—Pastor Sams and Charles Dodd performed the baptism.

Sherman baptismal candidates, left to right: McKaylyn Moore, Landon Hall, Kaden Hall, Madelyn Snodgrass.
Amanda Gardner and Jared Hall were also baptized but not in the picture.

### OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA [6-9]

#### Hundreds of people came

through the Oklahoma City Trunk or Treat on Halloween night. Pastor Darrell Stetler II taught about God's eternal love that made him send his Son.

James & Linda Shiery served as Abraham and Sarah, and remind us that even when people laugh, God kept his promise!

Micaiah Anigbo served as Goliath by falling down dozens of times.

The Christiansens braved the cold to serve as Noah and wife.



















Nonprofit Org U.S. Postage PAID Shoals, Ind. Permit No. 18

