



Crossroads

Helping churches unite to reach the lost for Christ in the Pulaski County Region!

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www.pulaskibaptistassociation.com

March 2018



From the Desk of Your Missionary

As settlements in America west of the Mississippi were being established, Baptist and Methodist preachers rode from town to town evangelizing these new pioneers. What happened over the years to the Methodists is that they shifted their emphasis from evangelism to social concerns. Today, Methodists are doing good just to maintain the few churches and members they have left.

I hope I am wrong, but I foresee the SBC beginning to go down the same slippery slope as the Methodists. For the most part, I fear, we are replacing evangelism with social concerns. For the last 20+ years, we are seeing a continual drop in our baptisms and converts. Our churches members are getting older and, for the most part, we are not starting the number of churches we once did.

Along with the decline in our converts to Christ and baptisms, we are no longer seeing the number of young men surrender to the ministry we once did. Those who do these days, seem to want to start out as a Senior Pastor in a large church with an impressive salary and do not understand the importance of starting out under the mentorship of a Senior Pastor or caring Associational Missionary (DOM).

Where are the young men these days? Why are they not answering the call to the Pastorate as they did just 30-40 years ago? What happened to the people of the "Jesus Movement" of the 60s and 70s? I submit to you that we are losing this spiritual war due to the fact that we have changed the emphasis of our church work and have allowed the world to creep into it. We no longer emphasize evangelism, VBS, Summer Camps and discipleship of our new converts.

I learned as a young man that the more "things" I owned, the more the "things" would own me. Pam and I have deliberately and purposely chosen to live a frugal life. We did not go to the movies, we did not go out to eat, we did not even purchase disposable diapers (we used cloth ones). We made do with what we had and were thankful for it. I do not think our four girls were deprived of anything. In fact, they experienced more love in our home because my wife was there to give it to them. If I did not earn the money, we did not spend it.

As parents, we used our vacation time to support our daughters at VBS and Summer Camps. We found the money for our daughters to go to Summer Camps. Because Pam is a housewife, she had the time two years in a row to take our grandchildren four states over to go to Summer Camp and stay there to bring them home. Our priority was based upon the spiritual education and training of our daughters, then our grandchildren, and now the children and churches of our Association.

I ask the churches in our Association and all their members to make evangelism and discipleship a priority again in their lives. Invest a week of your vacation time in your children in our Summer Camps. If you do not have children, then take a week of your life to invest in someone else's children. Learn to disciple a younger person through mentoring them. Invest your life as the Apostle Paul did in the lives of others to see them mature in Jesus Christ. You will never regret it and Christ will bless you for it.

God bless you as you give of yourself to others,

Brother Nick

Secret Church 18

April 20, 2018 6 p.m. to midnight

Berean Baptist Church

(potluck at 5:30, everyone welcome)

Secret Church is an intense Bible Study led by David Platt via simulcast. There is no cost. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Topic this year is: **Cults and Counterfeit Gospels**

The apostle Paul was astonished that some followers of Christ in his day were “turning to a different gospel,” and he pleaded with them not to be deceived by those who wanted to “distort the gospel of Christ.” These warnings given to the church in the first century are just as relevant today for the church in the twenty-first century.

For the good of our souls and for the sake of the church’s mission, followers of Christ need to ask, “What false gospels are being taught today?” and “How can I recognize the true gospel among so many counterfeits?” Answering these questions will be the aim of Secret Church 18, “Cults and Counterfeit Gospels.”



PLEASE NOTE:

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Here’s a challenge for you—imagine you are 7–12 yrs old, you do not have a third grade reading level, then get a movie you haven’t seen before, watch it with the sound turned off and see how much of the movie you were able to understand

or watch the movie again with the sound off, but turn on the subtitles and see how much you are able to read and follow the movie. Take down some notes of what you “thought” the movie was about then go back and watch it again with the sound on and make a comparison. I believe you will get a small glimpse of what deaf youth experience daily.

Deaf Youth Camp allows the deaf youth to communicate in their natural language—American Sign Language where there are not any barriers of communication. This Spring, we will be hosting our annual Deaf Youth Retreat on March 16th–18th at Baptist Hill in Mt. Vernon, MO. The retreat is for deaf youth from the ages of 9 years old through high school, and cost is \$50 per camper. All forms are on our website: deafyouthcamp.com.

If your church or Sunday School Class is looking for a mission project, we are needing camper sponsorships for these children. Many of their parents cannot afford to send them to the retreat. Please be praying for safe arrivals, that hearts will be opened to receive His message and that lives will be changed.

For more information contact Vivian Crowley by email: praisinghim53@gmail.com



PASTORS/WIVES BIRTHDAYS

March 4

Leota Dinwiddie, Pastor’s wife, Independence

March 5

Jessica Hendrix, Pastor’s wife, Berean

March 6

David Stevens, Pastor, Cedar Bluff

March 7

Elisa Hawkins, Pastor’s wife, Berean

March 10

Hollie Shaughnessy, Pastor’s wife, New Salem

March 12

Elizabeth Harris, Pastor’s wife, Hopewell

March 20

Lilly Dudley, Pastor’s wife, FBC St. Robert

March 20

Pam Lilly, Pastor’s wife, FBC Richland

March 29

Francis Stiles, Pastor, Fairview

March 30

Matt Mallonee, Idumea



PASTORS & WIVES ANNIVERSARIES

March 14

Mike & Holland Shaughnessy, New Salem

March 25

Larry & Elizabeth Harris, Hopewell

March 26

Al & Luci Slohr, FBC Waynesville



Monthly Happenings

*Hymn Sings, Ongoing
Events, and Revivals*

Gasconade Baptist Church — Third Saturday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Mount Gibson Baptist Church—April through September, second Saturday of the Month—Pot Luck Meal at 5:30 pm and Singing starts at 7 pm.

Bethlehem Baptist Church—Fifth Saturday of the month – fellowship and snacks at 6 pm. Singing at 7 pm.

FBC Church Crocker — FBC Crocker invites all men to their monthly Men's Breakfast the last Saturday of each month at 8 am.

New Salem Baptist Church Youth — Fourth Sunday of the month - movie night from 5:30 to 6:45 pm.

Berean Baptist Church — Monday nights, Women's Bible study Wednesdays - Fellowship dinner at 6 pm; Bible study at 7 pm, all ages. Greeter security training, Sunday, March 11, 5—6 pm.

FBC Richland — REVIVAL, March 11-14: Doyle Williamson, Evangelist

Westside Baptist Church — Thurs, 1st and 3rd, American Heritage Girls (AHG), K-12th) 6-7:45 pm
Sat, Men's Ministry, 1st Saturday of each month, 8 am, Room 112
Mon. - Prayer & Share, 6 pm, Fellowship Hall, bring a dish to share (1st Monday each month)
Thursdays—Celebrate Recovery, 5:15 pm meal; 6 pm large group & worship; 7 pm small group studies
Fridays —Beth Sar Messiah service, 7 pm in Choir Room

FBC Swedeborg — Spring Evangelistic Event with Pastor Sam Dyer of FBC Heavener, OK, April 28-29. Call 573-512-1695 for more information

New Friendship

REVIVAL on March 19-21 at 6 pm with Brother Gary Humphrey Preaching.

Deacon Training—March 9, Friday, 6—8:30 pm at the Association Chapel. All deacons and their pastors are invited. You do not want to miss this training.

Evangelism Conference — FBC Saint Robert, 7 and 9-10 April. Call PBA office or FBC St. Robert 573-336-4943 for more information.

MARCH CALENDAR

- 4—M.E. (Ministerial Education) Day
- 8 –Pastors' breakfast, 8 am
- 8—Mission team meeting, Association office, 6 pm
- 9—Deacon training, Camp Chapel, 6-8:30 pm
- 10—South Central Regional WMU Training, Licking
- 11—Executive Board meeting, Association Camp Chapel, 2:30
- 20-21— DOM Conference
- 24— Spring Fling
- 30— Office closed for Good Friday



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Thank you to all the contributors that make this publication possible.

Your input is appreciated and is requested

IMPORTANT: All input for the monthly newsletter must be sent to the editors (*names, emails and phone numbers in box to the right*). Do not send it ONLY to the PBA office. This will ensure that your input is included.

BILLY GRAHAM

1918–2018

Billy Graham faithfully proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world, sharing the love of God and His forgiveness of sin. He often said, "I'm not afraid to die, for I know the joys of Heaven are waiting. ... Will you be making the same journey someday?"

The Bible says, "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ... Believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:11, 13, NKJV).



REMEMBERING BILLY GRAHAM, EVANGELIST TO THE WORLD

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Feb. 21, 2018 — Evangelist Billy Graham died today at 7:46 a.m. at his home in Montreat. He was 99.

Throughout his life, Billy Graham preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to some 215 million people who attended one of his more than 400 Crusades, simulcasts and evangelistic rallies in more than 185 countries and territories.

Born Nov. 7, 1918, four days before the armistice ended World War I, William Franklin "Billy" Graham Jr. grew up during the Depres-

sion and developed a work ethic that would carry him through decades of ministry on six continents.

"I have one message: that Jesus Christ came, he died on a cross, he rose again, and he asked us to repent of our sins and receive him by faith as Lord and Savior, and if we do, we have forgiveness of all of our sins," said Graham at his final Crusade in June 2005 at Flushing Meadows Corona Park in New York.

Graham, a country boy turned world evangelist, who prayed with every U.S. president from Harry S. Truman to Barack Obama, was raised on a dairy farm in Charlotte. Back then, "Billy Frank," as he was called, preferred baseball to religion. *"I detested going to church,"* he said when recalling his youth. But in 1934, that changed. At a revival led by traveling evangelist Mordecai Fowler Ham, 15-year-old Graham committed his life to serving Jesus Christ. No one was more surprised than Graham himself.

"I was opposed to evangelism," he said. *"But finally, I was persuaded by a friend [to go to a meeting]...and the spirit of God began to speak to me as I went back night after night. One night, when the invitation was given to accept Jesus, I just said, 'Lord, I'm going.' I knew I was headed in a new direction."*

Several years later, Graham's "new direction" led him to the Florida Bible Institute (now Trinity College of Florida), and later, Wheaton College in suburban Chicago, where he met fellow student Ruth McCue Bell, the daughter of medical missionaries in China. The couple graduated and married in the summer of 1943. Mr. and Mrs. Graham and their five children made their home in the mountains of North Carolina. They were married for 64 years before Ruth's death in 2007.

Graham authored 34 books, including his memoir, *Just As I Am* (Harper Collins, 1997), which remained on *The New York Times* best-seller list for 18 weeks. Billy Graham may be best known for his evangelistic missions or "Crusades." He believed God knew no borders or nationalities. Throughout his career, Graham preached to millions in locations from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to Zagorsk, Russia; and from Wellington, New Zealand to the National Cathedral in Washington. In 1973, Graham addressed more than one million people crowded into Yoido Plaza in Seoul, South Korea—the largest live audience of his Crusades.

Throughout his life, Graham was faithful to his calling, which will be captured in the inscription to be placed on his grave marker: *Preacher of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

"There were a few times when I thought I was dying, and I saw my whole life come before me..." said Graham at his Cincinnati Crusade on June 24, 2002. *"I didn't say to the Lord, 'I'm a preacher, and I've preached to many people.' I said, 'Oh Lord, I'm a sinner, and I still need Your forgiveness. I still need the cross.' And I asked the Lord to give me peace in my heart, and He did—a wonderful peace that hasn't left me."*