

## REFLECTIONS

Our church members are struggling with the subject "To Be Committed". We are living in a society that the action and the word commitment is a second thought. Thus, providing economic and manpower resources to the churches is declining rapidly.

However, I believe that commitment changes history. One example is seen in the commitment of Martin Luther and in the Protestant Reformation. Financial abuse designed to increase the papal treasury was the final insult which prompted Luther to formally challenge Rome. Luther's stand was theological, and it involved a commitment to Biblical principles of stewardship.

One definition of commitment is "to take a stand." Look at Luther's commitment. From October 31, 1517, to April 17 and 18, 1521, he held to his theological position. Under final examination at the Diet of Worms, he made his final stand. Roland Briton records Luther's commitment to what he had written: "My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe" (Here I stand: A Life of Martin Luther, p.44). An early version added the words: "Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise."

"Here I stand" expresses the kind of stewardship commitment Christians need to make today. New life in Christ is reason enough for making that commitment, but there is more: there is a world needing Christ. There are Christians with lives and resources to give to make it possible for the world to know Christ. In gratitude for new life in Christ and in response to the world's needs, it is time to take a stand.

When a person is committed, he or she has a course which the person is willing to defend and the individual readily devotes himself or herself to that cause. For example, the Apostle Paul urged the Corinthians to take a stand in 2 Corinthians 9:13 for the ministry. He encouraged the church members to devote themselves in obedience and commitment to the Gospel of Christ by their living. "Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else."

I pray that our members will stand for the Gospel in South Texas. Thusly, supporting church ministries. Let us not follow the uncommitted example of this world, but the example of commitment of Christ the gave Himself to death for the world.

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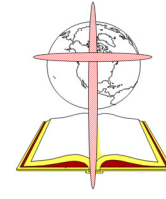
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# Blanco Blessing

## March 2017

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WEEK OF PRAYER FOR  
**North American Missions**

March 6-13, 2016

Goal: \$70 Million

**ANNIE  
ARMSTRONG**  
EASTER OFFERING®

**HERE  
I AM SEND  
ME.**

ISAIAH 6:8



North American  
Mission Board

**March 5-12**  
**Week of Prayer**  
**For**  
**North American Missions**

## PRAY FOR OUR CHURCHES

Pray for our churches and their Search Committees who are seeking for new pastors or other staff members. Churches without pastors are El Calvario, Edroy; La Esperanza, George West; Bethel, Ingle-side; PIB, Odem; Emmanuel, Pawnee; Bethel & Salt Lake, Rockport; PIB and Rising Star, Taft; Good Hope BC Three Rivers and Emmanuel, Woodsboro .

BBA received word that Joyce Kerr, Secretary of Three Rivers FBC has retired and she and her husband, Perry, have moved to Kerrville. Joyce had completed her 17th year and started on her 18th. Much luck in your retirement.

Bruce Irving, Pastor of FBC George West celebrated his 35th year with the church. A celebration dinner was served by the church and presentations were made. Congratulations!!

Holiday Beach First Baptist has called a new pastor. Jerry Mercer was called on Jan. 29 and his family has moved on the field. Jerry and Lynn are from Yoakum. Welcome to our Association.

Eleven of our Companerismo pastors and wives enjoyed a retreat this past weekend at Zephyr Encampment. Victor Rodriguez of San Antonio was the keynote speaker and presented uplifting and inspiring presentations. This is the first for this group and hopefully there will be more and more pastors will be able to participate.

## Calendar of ACTIVITIES



5-12 Week of Prayer for North American Mis-sions Work and Annie Armstrong Offering  
21 BBA Executive Board Meeting at 10 am at First Baptist Woodsboro  
18 Or 19th– suggested dates for Association Bible Drill.



2 Companerismo will meet at 3:00 pm at the La Hermosa Iglesia in Skidmore.  
5-12 Week of Prayer for North American MIssions and Easter Offering  
7-8 Regional Bible Drill– Allen or Huston  
28-30 Congreso at Ferrell Center, Waso



Many of our Coastal Bend College students, teachers and college administrators and staff are looking forward to Spring Break and no classes for a full week. March 13-17 is the week of Spring Break. Some of the students will be going home, others will continue to work. Hopefully, this will be a time to refresh and relax. Enjoy your week off from classes.



### Church Anniversaries:

13 yrs Eugene “Bull” Lewis 3/14/04 Pastor, Union BC, Refugio  
2 yrs Wesley Tew, 3/1/15, Pastor, FBC Mathis  
2 yrs Lisa Herring, 3/1/15, Music, FBC Refugio  
2 yrs Jimmy Allen, 3/15/15 Pastor, FBC Skidmore

### Birthdays

1 Ricky Roman	1 Larry Stewart
8 Abel Almendarez	8 Larry Perkins
11 John Curlee	11 Barbara Styers
12 Alcides Guajardo	14 Ricky Roman
20 Betsy Moers	22 Sherri Samuels
26 Pearl Bellinger	27 Greg Traylor
29 Jorge Ramirez	31 Dottie Traxler
31 Gordon Bellinger	31 Colby Benavidez

### Wedding Anniversarie

6 Scott & Kimberlie Jones	1993
9 Andrew & Mary Barlow	2002-15 yrs
15 Glenn & Patti Killam	2003
15 Sherri & Arlen Miller	1986

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Happy reading!!