

Colorado Baptist Association:

JULY 2021: Vol.15, Issue 7

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(Above: Mowing my backyard this past week !)

Facebook: Colorado Baptist Association Texas Coastal Plains

CBA Financial Report and Update for 2021

2021 Yearly Budget: \$103,879.24
Budget Reduction of \$5,124.60 from 2020

Monthly average needed: \$8,656.60

Received in June: \$9,084.18

PTL !!!!

Help us minister to you !

Thank you for your support & contributions !

Table Contents: JULY 2021 Newsletter :

- May's Financial Report pg 1
- Life's Celebrations pg. 2
- Men's Ministry pg. 3
- Prayer Requests & Answers pg. 4
- Baptist Distinctives pg. 5
- July's Message of Hopepg. 6
- Jan-June Messages of Hope pgs.7-12
- Pastorless Churches & Projects pg.13

• Local CBA News:

- **July 27th: WMU Mtg: For more details contact Georgia Hobbins: 979-578-2074.**
- **Many of our CBA churches are hosting VBS this summer for the first time since Covid. PTL ! VBS is Ministry !**
- **FBC El Campo is Praising the Lord for having 100 kids present during their VBS, plus their workers and volunteers !**

UPCOMING CBA EVENTS
in July—August—September 2021:

This Summer, we are emphasizing returning to corporate worship and live participation in your local Baptist church. As the rain showers come down may we grow and bloom again in our desire to gather in person to worship and study God's Word together in our local Baptist Churches. The fellowship is sweet! ! It is time to grow and bloom again!

- **AUG. 3rd : CBA Admin. Tm. Mtg.**
College Heights, Wharton at 10 am.
- **AUG. 22 : CBA Back 2 School**
Youth Rally at FBC Bay City 4-6 pm.

Speaker: Pastor Joshua Slater
Lots of food, fun, and fellowship for all.
Don't Miss this fellowship opportunity !

- **September 14th : CBA Executive Board Meeting at FBC Ganado**
10:30—Small group Planning Meetings
11:30 am. Fellowship Lunch
12:00 (Noon) : Executive Bd. Meeting

With you and your church's participation we are a stronger and greater !

Celebrating Life's Big Moments with you !

JULY 2021:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8 Richard DuBroc, pastor, FBC, El Campo

14 Lane Par-Due, pastor, Calvary Bay City

29 Carrie Carpenter, pastor's wife, FBC Ganado

ANNIVERSARIES

7 Juan & Petra Aguilera, pastor, Primera, Palacios

CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES

1987 Ramiro Jaime, pastor, Bethel, El Campo

1993 Willard Hill, pastor, FBC, Pledger

2007 Victor Morrison, pastor, FBC Columbus

2013 Danny Henderson, pastor, New Beginnings
Weimar

2013 Mike Patterson, pastor, Cedar Lane



Men's Ministry Opportunities :

- **FBC Bay City : Men's Prayer Breakfast—Every 1st Saturday of the month
In the Gym / Kitchen area. 7:30 am.**
- **FBC Sargent : Men's Prayer Breakfast : Every 2nd Saturday monthly.
7:30 am. in Fellowship Hall.**
- **FBC Columbus : Men's Prayer Breakfast
6 am. Every Tuesday AM. in the Main Bldg. Kitchen area.**
- **FBC Sheridan has started a new Baptist Men's group complete with Brunch, Bible Study, and Prayer time. They had 12 men show up for their first meeting ! PTL !**

Texas Baptist Men and SBTC Disaster Relief Teams and Ministries need Volunteers and Helpers !

Contact Billy Welborn: 979-240-4989

**November Disaster Relief Project: Louisiana : Tree cutting,, & debris pickup
While ministering to the physical, emotional, & spiritual needs of the disaster victims.**

Local Ministry Projects

Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Tree Removal

Lane City after the Beta Hurricane Passes.

Start a Brotherhood at your local church !



**Look on our CBA Website
For more Men's Prayer & Bible
Study groups meeting in your
local area.**

**Come and be fed physically,
emotionally, and spiritually.
Bring a friend with you !**

WARNING

**CONSTRUCTION
AREA**

Prayer Requests and Praises:

- Pray for our CBA Churches as they host VBS and seek to minister to the children in their local areas through VBS for the first time since COVID hit. Pray for workers and positive fruit.
- Pray for Pastor Larry Swift at FBC Blessing to experience God's healing and recovery from several serious health issues which put him in the hospital. PTL ! He is back at home and doing better. Pray for his healing and recovery, and FBC Blessing as they minister during his recovery.
- Pray for Hispanic pastor, Juan Maturino, as he has broken a leg and is in the hospital and looking at physical therapy. Pray for his healing and recovery, his family, and the church members at Nueva Jerusalem in Columbus.
- Pray for IMB Missionaries serving in Africa who have contracted Covid-19 virus and are being treated in Africa. Pray for their healing and recovery, families, and their ministries.
- Pray for our CBA Pastorless Churches: FBC Eagle Lake, FBC Palacios, and FBC Sargent as they start the process of searching for God's next pastor for their church. Pray for unity and direction.
- Pray for Maurice Marrow's nephew as he has test regarding a mass in his body. Pray for doctors to have God's wisdom and knowledge in diagnosing it and its treatment.
- COVID—19 Victims: Pray for our CBA pastors, their families, church members' families, and those victims of the virus living in our CBA communities. Pray for healing, recovery, and for God to speak loudly and sensitively to those fighting the virus. Pray for the victims of Covid-19 to feel the love and compassion of God's presence with them in this scary moment and chapter in their life.
- Pray for retired pastor Chester Sassman, fighting macular degeneration, Pray for God's peace and for him to sense God's direction as to his ministry options and moving forward.
- Pray for CBA Churches to be able to restart their Bible Studies & return to a normal schedule. Pray for internet worshippers to return to corporate worship & fellowship.
- Pray for Primera Iglesia Bautista in Wharton as the church transitions through this time of leadership transition and new growth. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be directing and guiding Primera, Wharton as they seek God's direction and will for the future. Pray for Gilberto Garza and Brother Roy Salazar as they lead out pastorally and lead the worship service. The church is basically starting over, rebuilding and re-connecting with their neighborhood ministerially. Pray for them to continue to grow in service and reaching out to their community.
- Pray for Lane City Baptist church. Pray for Church Revitalization in Lane City. Pray for Bob Keptra, and Luis Martinez as they begin to visit and minister in the Lane City area. Your church can join in the Project !





Baptists' Theological Distinctives & Beliefs: Why are we Baptists ?

On October 31st Martin Luther shared his 95 point thesis on needed Catholic Church reforms. This is important since he was a Catholic priest and professor that had his life transformed radically as he experienced a near death experience. During this period in his life he was teaching the book of Romans. As he taught it and expounded upon the scriptures his own life was touched and transformed and he began to seek spiritual reformation in the Catholic Church. His efforts were rebuffed by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, and he was persecuted for his beliefs and reformation efforts. However, he set in motion the Protestant reformation movement which would impact the world, and return the Bible back into the hands of the laity, and focus back on the basics of Christianity. What does it mean to be a Protestant? These are five of the major teachings of the reformers by which they distinguished their beliefs from those of the Roman Catholic church of their day. As Baptists these theological points formed who we are today.

- 1. Sola Scriptura** – “The Bible alone.” Scripture alone speaks authoritatively, and it speaks to all believers, independently of church leaders and councils, human interpreters and so-called spokesmen for God.
- 2. Sola Gratia** – “Grace alone.” It is only by the unmerited favor of God that Christ went to the cross and paid the price for man’s salvation. Man is by nature depraved—he has no virtue that commends him to God. Therefore God’s grace to him is truly undeserved and amazing, and God’s grace alone has the power to draw people to himself.
- 3. Sola Fide** – “Faith alone.” Only total righteousness is acceptable to God, and that is found in Christ, not us. Man can only accept Christ’s work by placing his trust in him. Man is justified by faith alone in the finished work of Christ, not by any works of his own.
- 4. Sola Christus** – “Christ alone.” Salvation is accomplished by Christ alone, and mediated by Christ alone—not by angels, saints, relics, sacraments, priests, teachers, churches, or anyone or anything else. Christ alone was the perfect Savior, and he alone is the perfect prophet, priest and king.
- 5. Soli Deo Gloria** – “To God alone be glory.” God should be thanked, praised and given full credit for his sovereign grace and spiritual and physical provision. Theology should be God-centered, not man-centered. God should be put in his place and humans in theirs. Our efforts should not elevate and celebrate men but God. We should bring him glory in our work, in our homes and at play. He, not we, should be the center of all things.

Barry’s thoughts We should never be ashamed to be called “ Christians” or a “ Bible believing people ”. I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, nor am I ashamed of my Savior , who lovingly and willingly sacrificed himself for me and my sins upon the altar of that cross in order to bring me and you, including every sinner, back to our loving and gracious God. Be proud to be called by the name of “ Christ “ and to be counted among the faithful few referred to as “ Bible-believing ” PTL ! It is not bad to be “ Baptist ” as we follow in Jesus Christ’s footsteps and as we put into practice his love and obey His word.

.... from the desk of Barry Barnet to you
... July's Message of Hope from God's Word

During this past week of getting away and visiting with family, re-connecting after so much time apart due to Covid 19, I was walking with my dad and he was showing me his cactus plant. This cactus plant caught my attention as it had been strong and spreading, but was now basically a pile of decaying dead leaves. The leaves were brown, rotten, and dead, BUT contrary to what you and I would think, it was not dead. The plant's roots were still alive and seeking to grow anew. There were new leaves growing out of the dead ones. These new cactus leaves were small, but alive. They were green and growing with vibrant life contrary to my human logic and thinking. The power of life that God had created within it was radiating anew and fresh again. WOW ! It was like a slap in the face of my faith. You think a plant or a church is dead, but nothing is impossible for God. God can revitalize and awaken what seems to be dead and past any hope of living or producing fruit. God promised Israel that he would save a faithful remnant to preserve His people. God would resurrect His faithful few, the faithful remnant who did not give up on their faith, who continued to trust in His Word, and His Promises. I thought of Jesus Christ's resurrection, His enemies, sin, death, and the devil thought they had killed him on that cross, yet God proved them wrong, resurrecting Jesus from the grave to live forever. I also thought of us as believers in Jesus Christ, His disciples, and His church, many times the world has done its best to kill off our faith, and destroy His church, only to find that God resurrects us and His church to continue extending His kingdom and bearing fruit for Him. WOW ! What a Word of Hope for me , the church, and God's Kingdom. It may look dead and done at times, but it lives !

Kings 19:30-31

³⁰ And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward;

³¹ For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, And out of mount Zion they that escape: The zeal of Jehovah [of hosts] shall do this. ”

Isaiah 11:16 (ASV)

¹⁶ And there shall be a highway for the remnant of his people, that shall remain, from Assyria; like as there was for Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

Jeremiah 23:3-6 (ASV)

³ And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

⁴ And I will set up shepherds over them, who shall feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be lacking, saith Jehovah.

⁵ Behold, the days come, saith Jehovah, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.



(Continued from left-side) More than ever before, we need to be reminded that the Rainbow was created by God to remind His creation that He would not destroy the earth again by flooding. Sadly, political groups with their own agenda and definition are using the rainbow to represent their ideas and platform.

When you see a rainbow, you ought to be refreshed in your spirit that God is always faithful and keeps His promises to His faithful ones in Christ Jesus.

Do NOT let this world steal away your joy or the promises of God. Remember no matter how sad or bad things appear around you or in your momentary affliction that God promises to preserve your life for eternity. Your appendages may not look healthy and you may appear to be lifeless and dried up, but God is fully capable of resurrecting you, His church, and His Kingdom at any moment in any situation. God is the one who has created you and His church, giving it eternal supernatural powers to overcome death and corruption. Thank you God for planting within my heart and within your church the gift of eternal life ! P72 !

...from my heart to your's ... Barry Barnet. DOM





June 2021's Message of Hope

...from the desk of Barry Barnet to you

Do you ever feel like this pony standing alone in his green field without a friend or company to encourage him, so alone ?

To be honest with you, we all have passed through sad and lonely times in life, when we felt like this poor pony alone in his field. Sometimes our churches, as body of believers can feel the same way: sad, separated, and lacking the needed fellowship of other like minded churches to stand with us. Many time the believers and churches in Spain felt like they were living on

*an island, alone, abandoned by friends and family, and cut-off from other believers. It can be really devastating, and depressing. One of the remarkable truths that we discovered in Spain is that believers and church bodies need each other, and they need the fellowship of other believers to encourage them. If they were cut-off from other believers and churches they usually fell into a spiritual depression and withered on the vine as they had no fellowship with outside believers. Volunteers often asked us as missionaries what could they bring to the national Spanish churches to help them. We would reply that they really craved fellowship and encouragement from believers outside their local area, in order to be reminded that they belong to the body of Christ around the world and they are not stranded on a spiritual island with no way off or on. The volunteers would be amazed because that was something that they took for granted in the USA. in their church associations, and Christian fellowship between like-minded believers and churches. Fellowship is something so simple yet we often overlook its importance in our lives and churches. As your Director of Missions for Colorado Baptist Association, I want to emphasize that we as individual Christians and churches need spiritual Christian fellowship like humans need air to survive. I want to encourage you and your local church to make a new commitment to fellowship with other churches. One of the key reasons that Baptist Associations came into being was for the purpose of fellowship, and building up each other in our Christian walk, faith, & practice. **WE NEED EACH OTHER !!!** As the Covid 19 infection rate falls, and we are either vaccinated against it, or we have had the virus, please commit anew to fellowshiping again with your fellow church members and with our sister churches within our association, as well as with like-minded churches in your area for the purpose of building up each other spiritually and giving encouragement to each other to move forward in our faith, in our ministries, and in missions like we never have before. I think we will all admit that we have missed the personal touch, and conversations that we once enjoyed together before Covid 19 hit and sent us scurrying to our safe zones locked away from that personal fellowship that we once enjoyed. Good News !!! It is time to come out of our spiritual hibernation and exit our caves to rejoin our churches in live and personal worship and fellowship again. Together we can do so much better than separated from each other. Plus it is fun. I miss the food, fun, and fellowship that we experienced as we gathered together for worship, prayer, and ministry. Now is the time to come back together ! Praise the Lord ! Amen ! Some thoughts for you to reflect upon. Barry Barnet, DCM*

*....May's Message of Hope...
From the desk of Barry Barnet, DCM*

In this month of May, I want to stress getting off our Lazy-boy recliners and out from in front of the computer or TV screens and getting back to corporate worship and fellowship in your local church body of believers. Spring is a time of new birth with flowers blooming everywhere, and trees putting out new leaves. Every plant seems to be budding and blooming, putting forth new life. Why not us? Why not you? It is time to get back to your local church and actively participate in corporate worship. Remind them that you are alive and hungry for God's Word, and personal fellowship with fellow believers. Forget the ZOOM, and reconnect with real humans and real conversations.



I had a man that I was visiting tell me that he was a believer. He said that he just worshipped from home, in his lazy-boy recliner, no inconvenience, no money involved, and no hypocrites to put up with. I asked him, "Does your wife and children know that you are a believer? They come to church and pray for you, and you stay at home to do your thing on Sunday, do they really know that you are a believer, since it is your personal secret just between you and God?" Well he was surprised and astonished needless to say.

If you are a believer do NOT be a secret undercover believer. The Bible and Jesus Christ himself calls for public obedience and testimony. No hidden believers in the Bible unless they were being persecuted, but none of us are being persecuted for our faith, especially if you never show it to others in public. The day is coming when we will want Jesus Christ to stand up for us before His Father and declare that we belong to Him, but what have we done to identify with Jesus Christ or God publicly recently? Hmmm..... Will we hear," Well done my servant, enter into the joy of my presence." Or will we hear, "Depart from me you evil-doers, I never knew you!" Ouch that hurts for eternity. Who are we afraid of offending? If we are ashamed of Jesus now, then one day in the future Jesus will be ashamed of us, and it will be too late to do anything about it. Going to church and bringing your family with you is a public testimony of who you belong to, who you serve as master.

Recliner or Redemption? Worry or Worship? Excuses or Fellowship with God's children?

Hebrews 10:23-25 (HCSB)

²³ Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works,

²⁵ not staying away from our [worship] meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near. "

I am NOT trying to pass judgment on anybody. We all have been hypocrites at times, and we all know people who act like hypocrites at times, but I refuse to let a hypocrite have power over me and that he would stand in the way of me going to church and bringing my family with me. Do NOT let a hypocrite or any excuse stand between you and the fellowship that we enjoy when we are all in God's house with God's people. Remember the church is made up of human beings, sinners, redeemed sinners identifying with Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Believers are forgiven and perfect in God's eyes, but here on earth none of us are perfect or have reached perfection to the point of be passing judgment on anybody. We are saved by God's undeserved mercy and grace by faith in Jesus Christ. We were created with a need and a desire to worship God and a need for fellowship with God and His children, no matter how imperfect they may be at times.

I am encouraging every one of you to commit to live personal fellowship in God's House with God's children anew and fresh in this month of May. Isn't your body ready to get out of that lazy-boy and enjoy real people and conversation again? NO more excuses! Reconnect with your local church this month, surprise them! We need each other! Church is so much more fun when you are there!

Words from God's Word to reflect on, and live by, Barry Barnet, DCM of CBA

April's Message of Hope:



April is the month that usually heralds the arrival of Spring with all the flowers and trees budding out, flowers blooming, and plant life coming back to life. It is a hopeful and beautiful time of the year.

For many of us, including me, we have struggled with Covid 19, and its effects in our bodies and lives. It has been encouraging to me to hear your testimonies of how God has answered your prayers, and provided healing and recovery from Covid 19. I thank God for all the great medicine and technological treatments and research that we have been blessed with by God. However, for me, God is the Great Physician, who lovingly cares for His patients and provides healing in this life and in His presence, making us whole and giving us peace. I am so thankful for God's healing power and presence in our lives, and in the life of our churches.

Easter is the perfect reminder that in Jesus Christ, God has overcome our sins, guilt, our fears of the unknown, fear of death, and illness, even overcoming and crushing the Evil one. I am reminded that we are more than overcomers in Christ Jesus. It is not us who are so powerful, but our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ crushed the head of the serpent, of death, of sin, of fear, and glory be, He shares it with those who put their faith in Him as their only Lord and Savior, surrendering their life to His control. Jesus' resurrection is the seal of victory for all eternity that death, sin, Satan could not overcome Jesus Christ. His resurrection sets those of us free from sin, fear of death, guilt, and gives His followers hope of eternal life. God's Word reminds us of His eternal promise.

Romans 8:31-39 (HCSB)

- ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
³² He did not even spare His own Son but offered Him up for us all; how will He not also with Him grant us everything?
³³ Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the One who justifies.
³⁴ Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the One who died, but even more, has been raised; He also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.
³⁵ Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?
³⁶ As it is written: Because of You we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.
³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through Him who loved us.
³⁸ For I am persuaded that not even death or life, angels or rulers, things present or things to come, [hostile] powers,
³⁹ height or depth, or any other created thing will have the power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!

We need to feed our souls with these Words of promise. Fear not, comfort your hearts and be at peace.

From the desk of Barry Barnet, DOM



... March's Message of Hope

.... for you and your church

.... From the desk of Barry Barnet , DOM to you

Learning contentment in the midst of life's struggles:

Philippians 4:10-14 (HCSB)

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that once again you renewed your care for me. You were, in fact, concerned about me but lacked the opportunity [to show it].

¹¹ I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

¹² I know both how to have a little, and I know how to have a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret [of being content]—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need.

¹³ I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.

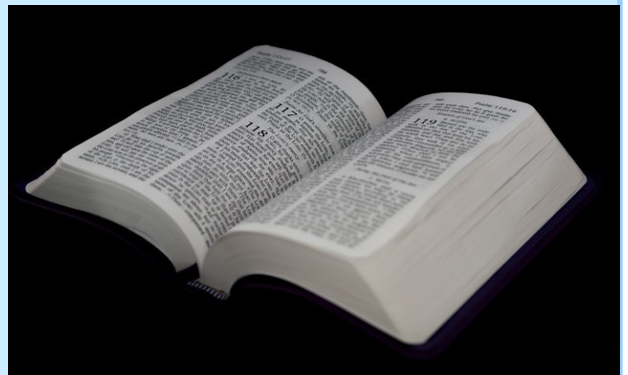
¹⁴ Still, you did well by sharing with me in my hardship.

We too were affected by the week or more of freezing temperatures and rolling black-outs of electricity in our region and throughout Texas during this historic freeze. We too wore about 4 layers of clothes and our jackets, coats, knit hats, and gloves in our house as we awaited for the electricity to come back on. We had water, but no electricity, no wifi, no cell phone coverage on Linda's cell phone, ...etc.... We did learn some things from the winter storms, like our next house will have a fireplace, and a gas stove to cook on.. We also learned a lot spiritually as the TV was off, radio was off, cell phone use limited, and computer usage was limited to battery life. We did the " car warm up " as we drove around El Campo trying to absorb as much heat as possible in as brief a time as possible, while recharging our cell phones in the car. We went to the stores just to get warm and to see empty shelves. It was worse than after Hurricane Harvey ! Through the cold, God spoke as we opened up our Bibles and began reading just for the fun of it, no sermon preparation, no Bible study prep, and no devotional preparation, but just to spend time with God in His Word, with no distractions, obligations, or responsibilities. It was great, although limited by my poor vision in dim light at times.

Paul had learned the secret of life: contentment in Jesus Christ. He learned to be thankful and content when he had an abundance and when he was in poverty, when he had a surplus of food, and when he was starving. I was humbled by God during this time when everything we take for granted was stripped away from us, reducing us back to living like cavemen fighting against the elements to survive. Linda asked me, " How did the Native Americans survive ? " I do not know, but they had to be tough and prepared. The positive thing for me that I learned was that I have way too many things and distractions in my life which I could do without. I would not enjoy it , but I could survive with God's help and resources. I was so happy to be able to cook on our BBQ gas grill and heat up water for coffee, and hot chocolate or broth. I was so happy and thankful !!!!

It was great to grill food on the BBQ and feel the warmth !!!

God teach us to be thankful and content with what you give us ! You never promised to give us everything we wish or desire, however, you have promised to provide for our needs. It was great to see and her reports of how people helped out others during the freezing temperatures. Crisis bring out the best or worst in us. Hopefully Jesus is seen in and through us in the midst of our crisis. Think about it. Barry Barnet



February Message of Hope from God's Living Word
.... From the desk of Barryto you..... A message of hope.

1 Peter 1:3-9 (HCSB)

³ Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to His great mercy, He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, uncorrupted, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

⁵ You are being protected by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ You rejoice in this, though now for a short time you have had to struggle in various trials

⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

⁸ You love Him, though you have not seen Him. And though not seeing Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy,

⁹ because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.



One of my favorite TV programs to watch is “Forged in Iron” where contestants who are “blade-smiths” compete against each other to produce the best hand fabricated metal weapons, which are judged by experts in the field. It is very interesting to me as we watch the cold metal pieces welded together and put into a forge to melt the metals together into one solid new piece of glowing hot metal ready to be forged and molded into a new weapon to be judged by the experts. On one night's program, all 4 of the contestants had a hard time getting their sections of metal to melt and forge into one solid block to then forge their weapons. All 4 blade-smiths failed the first test by the experts. All of the weapons in their crude form had cracks and deformations in their metal forms, after much heating and melting. The judges struck their weapons against a solid metal object and all four were found to be defective. Those deformations and cracks in the metal could not hold together when they were placed under stress and severe impacts. The metal weapons in their crude form all cracked or split under stress and were no good to be used or judged. They were deemed to be defective and unsafe to be judged any further. The contestants were disqualified and had to leave in shame.

While I watched this program, I could not help, but to think about the above verses which speak of our faith as being more valuable than gold. God says through the writer, Peter, that the believers' faith was being tried, tested by fire, or like metals being placed inside a fiery heated forge to melt and purify the metal to its purest form. I was reminded that all of us, believers, and not believers, are being stressed and put under so much pressure today due to Covid-19, finances, health issues, family crisis, politics, and the fear of the unknown... that our minds, bodies, and souls are being tested by fire and burdened by all these things weighing down on us that we just cannot bear any more stresses, before we snap like those weapons. I believe from reading God's Word and His promises to us that God does not intend for us to bear up under such pressure and burdens by ourselves, we are not strong enough. Our backs and bodies will break. Our minds and souls will become overwhelmed and shut down under such stresses and pressure. It is never God's intention to snap our faith or break our confidence in Him. It is not God's will to allow us to be overwhelmed by too much suffering. He knows our limitations as humans. Often times, we assume too many burdens and too much pressure through our own choices and decisions. We weigh ourselves down and then we feel bad, sad, and paralyzed by our own self-imposed burdens and stresses. Who can we blame for assuming too much, and losing our joy and freedom to serve our Lord as He wishes? Not God. The problem is, even as Christians, that we fall back into idolatry, the worship of material things, or we put employment positions above serving and loving God as He demands from us. He wants our full attention and whole-hearted love without any idolatry / idols coming between us and our love for Him. God wants to be our first love, and to be our one and only true love, unwavering in devotion. Do not be afraid to say “No, no more burdens, no more distractions, no more stress!”

1 Corinthians 10:12-14 (HCSB)

¹² So, whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall.

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity. God is faithful, and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape so that you are able to bear it.

¹⁴ Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

God does not want your car, house, bank accounts, or job. He just wants your complete and total love and attention focusing upon Him. He wants us to be uncompromisingly devoted to growing in our faith, understanding His will, and serving Him in unswerving obedience. God uses broken weapons to win the battle!



Something to think about! From my heart to yours Barry Barnet

1. I will re-establish my quiet time with my Lord through coming back to spending personal time in prayer and Bible study.
2. I will reconnect with my local church.
3. I will get involved with serving in a ministry within my church.
4. I will get involved with serving in a ministry through my local church reaching outside my church into my local community.
5. I will pray for one person with whom I can share my faith.
6. I will seek out opportunities to verbally share my faith and let others see Jesus in me.
7. I will seek out opportunities to actively share my Christian faith outside my home and family.
8. I will build up my church in every way.
9. I will do it !

CBA Pastorless Churches

- FBC, Palacios: FBC , Palacios is organizing and prayerfully beginning the pastoral search process.
- FBC, Sargent: FBC, Sargent is prayerfully seeking and has begun the pastoral search process.
- FBC, Eagle Lake : FBC, Eagle Lake is prayerfully pursuing the search process for their new pastor.

Ministerial Opportunities and areas of need for new work: (Volunteer positions)

- Lane City Baptist Church , **Rev. Bob Keptra and Rev. Luis Martinez, will be leading out in a church revitalization project, and encourage other CBA churches to join in on the project by adopting 1 week per month to practice outreach activities and prayer in Lane City. Goal: First Mid-week service on AUG. 11th at 6:45 pm. in the church building. As an Association we will be sharing our resources to see this church revitalized and once again ministering to the Lane City area for Jesus Christ. Contact Barry for how you can help out in this process. Pray for a spiritual awakening in Lane City!**
- Student and Outreach Work at Wharton Junior College in Wharton. Here is an excellent opportunity to begin an outreach ministry to the students on campus.

Church Planting Opportunities :

- Garwood, Tx. is largely Hispanic and full of blue collar working families, with no Baptist church or work presently.
- Blessing, Tx. is another town in our CBA area that has no Baptist Hispanic work, even though there is a large Hispanic population along with working class families living in the area. FBC Blessing is a CBA church presently ministering in this town.

CBA Mission Points needing your help and prayers:

- New Beginnings, Weimar, pastored by Danny Henderson. They have recently moved downtown to a store front site for their ministry base.
- Rock Island, between Altair and Sheridan, pastored by Albert Cuellar, is alive and growing under the leadership of Albert and Rosalinda Cuellar.

Ministry Projects:

- Rock Island Mission Point: Windows need to be caulked, plus some painting.
- **Lane City: Church Revival Strategy: We want to encourage at least 4 churches willing to adopt a week in each month to come and do Bible study outreach activities at Lane City. Missions begins at home ! Will you partner with us in this church project ?**