



SBAOC Weekly Update

NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- The Reformation Weekend conference will be hosted by Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas, on October 26-28. The annual SBAOC business meeting will be on Saturday morning (October 27) at 8:00 am. See page 3 for more information.

If you have any news, prayer requests, or events that you would like to have included in this update, please email the information to spurgeonassociation@gmail.com or call us at 785-456-8513.

EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL, FOR YOU ARE WITH ME.

by Bryan D. Estelle

One of the earliest routes to be scaled on the snowy and icy flanks of Denali, the highest peak in North America, is called the West Rib route. The first ascent was covered in *The American Alpine Journal 1960* and the Sports section of the July 13, 1959, issue of *Time* magazine. The route is relatively safe except for the approach, which passes through a narrow and deep glacial valley between Denali on the left and the Kahiltna peaks on the right. These slopes constantly avalanche snow and ice into the valley, so it has earned the title “the valley of death.” Climbers usually ascend this section during the night since the colder temperatures make it safer to do so.

Although the ancient Israelite didn’t face these cold dangers, they (like all of us) faced many trials, temptations, sorrows, and afflictions during this life, and, ultimately, that last enemy to be conquered: death itself. The journey toward the heavenly Promised Land is fraught with dangers and perils, and we need a shepherd to help us arrive there safely.

Pastoralism refers to the activities of people who derive their
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PURPOSE STATEMENT:

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

“If there is no church... should you not commence one?” C. H. Spurgeon

COMMENTS ON OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

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“Is it, then, best to study our prayers, and even at times to write them? The answer to this question may easily be abused. Perhaps all serious persons will agree that the mind of him who leads the devotions of others should have a deep and awful sense of the presence of God, and of the glory and importance of the business in hand. Surely, then, he ought not to be hasty to utter any thing before God. His words should be few and well ordered. This requires thought and care. And as some men know not how loose and disconnected their thoughts are till they see them in writing or in print, so the rambling character of many an address to the Almighty would be cured if it had been written with any care. Dr. Chalmers wrote many of his prayers even for his classroom.”

William S. Plumer

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primary subsistence from flocks or herds of sheep, goats, cattle, camels, pigs, or donkeys. When Israel conquered and settled the land of Canaan, they became farmers but they did not leave shepherding behind. They developed an economy that was both agricultural and pastoral. Especially in the semi-arid hillsides to the east and south of the mountains of Judah, the Israelites were devoted to pastoralism.

What were the shepherd’s duties to protect his flock in this important role in ancient Israel? Most immediately, he had to provide food and water, making sure that the flock didn’t overgraze an area. He had to provide rest. He had to protect his flock from predators, both wild animals (wolves, bears, leopards, and lions) and even humans (see Job 1:14–15). He had to protect his flock against other dangers as well, including the very destructive and strong hot east winds, as well as diseases and even the harsh nature of the desert itself.

This concept of shepherding was extended metaphorically and applied to kings in the ancient Near East. The tradition of a shepherd-ruler goes as far back as written history. Consider, for example, Hammurabi, the famous king of the Amorites whose law code is found in the Louvre museum in Paris. His code is a good example of shepherding language applied to rulers. In the prologue, it declares:

Anum [the supreme god in their pantheon] and Enlil, to make good the flesh of the people, they named me. I am Hammurabi, the shepherd, called by Enlil who heaps up together abundance and plenty, provider of everything, bond of heaven and earth.

The law communicates a tremendous concern for justice. It is obvious that Hammurabi considered himself the ideal king who shepherds the people and executes justice on their behalf.

Shepherding imagery was also extended to Israel’s kings and rulers. Israel’s leaders were continually called shepherds as well. However, Israel’s rulers fell far short of their duties time and time again (e.g., Jer. 23). Even so, the imagery of a shepherd was also applied to God Himself (e.g., Hos. 4:16). Throughout redemptive history, it became increasingly evident that God would raise up a shepherd who would faithfully mete out justice, protect His sheep, guard and care for them, bind up their wounds, and lead them into peaceful places.

That is the great comfort that Psalm 23 brings. Although the psalmist did not face a potential deadly blow from snow and ice avalanches above from his right side and his left as he went through the valley of the shadow of death, he faced plenty of dangers just as we do: chronic physical and mental anguish and disease, economic hardship, worry and anxiety about loved ones, enemies without and within, betrayal and loss

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

KNCSB Annual

Meeting—October 8-9 at First Southern Baptist Church in Pratt, KS. Messengers must preregister by Sept. 7. Website: kncsb.org/annual-meeting/

2018 Springfield Bible Conference

—October 19-21. Faith Bible Church, Springfield, IL. Theme: Thy Word is Truth (John 17:17). Speakers: Ian Hamilton, Iaian Wright, Curt Daniel. There is no charge for this conference. For more information visit the website: <http://www.faithbibleonline.net/event-items/2018-springfield-bible-conference/>.

Reformation Weekend

—October 26-28. Trinity Baptist Church, Wamego, Kansas. The SBAOC annual meeting will be held on Saturday, October 27, in conjunction with this conference. Speakers for this conference will be announced soon. For more information email Tony Mattia at spurgeonassociation@gmail.com.

Southern Baptist Founders Conference

Midwest—February 26 & 27, 2019. First Baptist Church of Fenton in Fenton, MO. Theme: *Reformation in Today's Churches*. Speakers include Dr. Thomas Nettles & Dr. Owen Strachan. <https://sbfcmw.wordpress.com>

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in numerous ways. Yet, the psalmist affirmed and knew that the Lord, his divine Shepherd, was with him through it all. He was trusting in a kingly Shepherd who was with him and a greater One to come, who would act as our Shepherd “in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies” (WSC 26). Therefore, he could be brave and have courage for life’s difficulties and afflictions, because the Lord was with him.

Dr. Bryan D. Estelle is professor of Old Testament at Westminster Seminary California. He is author of several books, including *Echoes of Exodus*.

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2018/08/even-though-i-walk-through-the-valley-of-the-shadow-of-death-i-will-fear-no-evil-for-you-are-with-me/>

REFORMATION WEEKEND

October 26-28, 2018

Trinity Baptist Church, 16655 W Hwy 24, Wamego, KS

Speakers:

Gabriel Hughes (First Southern Baptist Church, Junction City KS)
Josh Eaton (Cross Point Baptist Church, Caney KS)
Kyle Stachewicz (First Baptist Church, St. Francis KS)
Lyn Hansen (North Park Church, Columbus NE)
Stephen Atkinson (Christian Witness to Israel USA)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Friday	7:00 pm—Session 1 (Pastor Gabriel Hughes)
Saturday	8:00 am—SBAOC Annual Meeting
	10:30 am—Session 2 (Pastor Kyle Stachewicz)
	12:00 pm—Lunch (provided)
	1:30 pm—Session 3 (Pastor Josh Eaton)
	3:00 pm—Break
	7:00 pm—Session 4 (Rev. Stephen Atkinson)
Sunday	10:30 am—Session 5 (Pastor Lyn Hansen)

RECOMMENDED LODGING:

COMFORT SUITES, 1020 Hostetler Drive, Manhattan, KS, 66502
Phone: (785) 539-9449
East Manhattan is an easy 10 minute drive to Wamego.

There is no registration fee to attend this conference. A book table will be available.

Questions? Contact Tony Mattia at 785-456-3796

**SPURGEON
BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION
OF CHURCHES**

**PO Box 155
Wamego KS 66547**

Phone: (785) 456-8513

Email:
spurgeonassociation@gmail.com

Contact Us:

Administrative Council:

J.W. Glidewell,
Moderator
Phone: (785) 772-1176
jwglidewell@gmail.com

Tony Mattia
Corresponding Secretary
Trinity Baptist Church
Wamego, Kansas
Phone: (785) 456-3796
spurgeonassociation@gmail.com

Ken Jorgenson, At Large
kjorg@hotmail.com

Robin Jackson, At Large
jacksonrobin@gmail.com

Bill Ascol, At Large
bascol@sbcglobal.net

Paul Walker, At Large
pastorpaul@elmavenuebaptist.org



WWW.SBAOC.ORG

MEN AVAILABLE FOR PULPIT SUPPLY

Kevin Berens
Colby, Kansas
Email: berens.kevin@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 785-332-7184

Nathaniel Penland
Lawrenceville, Georgia
Email: n8penland@gmail.com
Phone: 678-925-7024

Tim Lambert
Lindsborg, Kansas
Email: tlambert@smokyvalley.org
Phone: 785-614-3651

Bake Ottofy
St. Louis, Missouri
Email: bakeottofy@gmail.com
Phone: 636-467-7446

Brad Richardson
Lawrence, Kansas
Email: richbud@hotmail.com
Phone: 785-766-7268

John Grove
Ocala, FL
Email: trsjwg@gmail.com
Phone: 352-286-5494

PRAYER MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church in Onaga, Kansas—5:00 pm on Sundays
- Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas—8:00 pm on Saturdays

The Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches is an association of Southern Baptist Churches that are united to manifest the glory of God above all. We set out to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. As an association of churches we are bound in mutual covenant to strengthen and support one another - motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture - by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

We are a non-geographic association seeking to include any like-minded body of believers so that together we might better fulfill the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our intent is to lean on His instruction and not our imaginations so that He is honored in all that we do. We welcome churches who adhere to the confessions of faith accepted by Southern Baptists throughout their history, including, but not limited to, the Second London Confession (1689) and the Baptist Faith and Message.



Baptist Association of Churches