



SBAOC Weekly Update

NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for missionary Trevor Johnson and his wife Teresa. They are both having some health issues.

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.

YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME.

by Aaron L. Garriott

There was much to fear in the dry, craggy wadis and ravines of Judah, presenting sheep flocks with the most perilous elements of their migration. Yet, the fears of the sheep are dispelled upon recognition of two implements carried by the shepherd, a rod and a staff, by which he would govern his flock. The rod and staff can be broadly categorized as tools of protection and guidance, respectively. The rod warded off predators; the staff was a guiding tool with a hook on one end to secure a sheep around its chest. Only the two tools together provided comfort to the sheep.

As the shepherd-made-king David places himself in the role of a sheep, his fears of every evil are quelled by a glimpse of Israel's true Shepherd-King. David compares God's governing care of His flock—His providence—to a rod and a staff, a sight that ought to quiet all fears and assure the flock of the care of their faithful and able Shepherd.

The members of the Westminster Assembly deliberately discussed God's works of creation and providence after covering God's decree, for in these two ways—creation and providence—God exercises His eternal decree. God's holy and wise providence is universal in one sense, yet, in another sense, "after a most special manner, it taketh care of His Church, and disposeth all things to the good thereof" (WCF 5.7). A special providence—we

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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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“If we can speak of the dreadful doom of the wicked in a harsh manner, we ought to be alarmed. We ought to make Christ our pattern. Isa. lxi., 1-3; Luke iv., 20-22; Matt. xi., 28-30. The tender affection we should manifest relates first to Christ. We should seek the things that are Christ’s. His love should constrain us. Then we should be very tender toward our fellow men. Our love should be not only to the saints as the excellent of the earth; but our pity should go forth to the most wicked of our race. Their case is dreadful. If they die in their sins, they will be forever undone. In that case it would be good for them if they had never been born.”

William S. Plumer

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could call it a shepherding providence—is exercised toward the flock of God, whom He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Heidelberg Catechism question 1 helps us see what this “special manner” looks like: “He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.” Christ’s blood not only assures us of our ransom from sin and the devil, it also assures us that we have been counted among the Good Shepherd’s flock, such that no calamity can befall us without it being willed by God, and even these unpleasant providences work together for our salvation (see Rom. 8:31–39).

The sheep need protection, but they also need guidance. The guidance that Christians need is an eschatological (final, ultimate) guidance. There are green pastures and still waters on the other side of the valley of this life. David’s assurance that he would end up at the right place at the right time, having come through the valley, rested on the Shepherd’s directional grace.

The prophet Zechariah depicts God’s covenant curses as that of the shepherd breaking his staff, signifying the termination of a previously ratified covenant (Zech. 11:10). The flock is left without a staffed shepherd. This is the state of Israel when Jesus begins His ministry: “[Jesus] saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd” (Mark 6:34). They were void of guidance in the truth of God, so they wandered about aimlessly, susceptible to various threats that would lead them astray.

Nonetheless, the Good Shepherd has come, and He has His staff. That staff means He providentially leads us through the valley by His Word, by His Spirit, and by His undershepherds. First, we have the Word. We’re not left wandering in the dark, but we have the law as “a lamp to [our] feet and a light to [our] path” (Ps. 119:105). Second, we have the Spirit. The Westminster Confession attributes this guidance unto perseverance to “the abiding of the Spirit” and “the seed of God within [us]” (17.2). Third, we have God’s undershepherds—leaders who are bishops of our souls (Heb. 13:17; 1 Peter 2:25). Jesus fulfills the Davidic covenant as the shepherd-king in David’s line (Ezek. 34:23–24), and one of the ways He does so is through church elders—qualified men appointed to function as His undershepherds.

We Christians are pilgrim sheep who haven’t yet reached our eternal rest. Until then, when danger lurks, when temptation prowls, when hardships and adversities are frequent, what will bring us comfort other than the rod and staff of our Shepherd? When hardship befalls us and fear is paralyzing, we rest wholly upon the providence of our Good Shepherd who will protect us and direct us throughout our migration

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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. 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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toward the eternal quiet waters and green pastures (Rev. 22:1-2). Of course, the shepherding equipment is effective only insofar as the shepherd is competent and strong. Consider, then, if David's notice of his Shepherd's rod and staff assuages his fears, the Shepherd wielding them must be one of sublime strength. Such strength characterizes the Good Shepherd—both David's Shepherd and ours—whose perfect, holy providence will let not one sheep be snatched from His fold (John 10:28).

Aaron L. Garriott (@AaronGarriott) is production manager of Tabletalk magazine, a graduate of Wheaton College, and a student at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Fla.

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2018/08/your-rod-and-your-staff-they-comfort-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

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OF CHURCHES**

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**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