

# SBAOC Weekly Update

## NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- The SBAOC annual meeting will be held on Saturday, October 27th, at 8:00 am in conjunction with the Reformation Weekend Conference at Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas.
- See pages 4 & 5 for Reformation Weekend details.

*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](mailto:spurgeonassociation@gmail.com) or call us at 785-456-8513.*

## SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE

by Steven J. Lawson

Dwight L. Moody, a noted evangelist of the nineteenth century, was once approached by a woman who needed counseling. Two men, she claimed, were following her. Whenever she stepped onto the city trolley, they stepped onto it behind her. When she stepped off, they stepped off. With a nervous twitch in her neck, she insisted that she had even been followed to his office by these very two men.

Moody could easily detect that this precious woman was suffering from a mental delusion. There was no one following her. But to put her at ease, he told her: "Those two men following you are David's men. Their names are Goodness and Mercy." He turned in the Bible to Psalm 23:6 and showed her, "Surely goodness and mercy will

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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

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.

*“When we attempt to convince men of sin, we should be very careful not to do it in tones or terms indicative of want of tenderness. Some of the warm and worthy preachers of the last, as well as of the present century, indulged in such language as can in no case be justified. When we speak of the terrors of the Lord, and warn men of the dreadful doom awaiting them, we should do it in such a meek and tender manner as to convince them that we compassionate their miserable condition as they stand exposed to a fierce and fiery condemnation, the more terrible because it is just—wholly just. On this subject there ought to be no difference.”*

*William S. Plumer*

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follow you all the days of your life.” She was relieved and exclaimed: “That is wonderful. I have always wondered what their names are.” The woman left that day with peace of mind, comforted to know that it was goodness and mercy that were following her.

As believers in Jesus Christ, you and I need to be also trusting that the goodness and mercy of God are following our every step. We need to be similarly confident and comforted, believing that every day of our lives, these two friends of David are with us for every step of life’s journey.

In Psalm 23, we learn that there exists a close and inseparable relationship between the Good Shepherd and His sheep. An unbreakable bond unites them as one. Verse 6 reinforces this truth and makes it abundantly clear. David begins this verse by underscoring the certainty of this indissoluble union. This reality is seen in the first word, “surely.” There should be no doubt that what is stated here is to be believed with an unwavering assurance. No matter how dark the valley, regardless of how deep the canyon, surely this goodness and mercy belong to the sheep. The near presence of the Shepherd with His loving care is an indisputable truth. His concern must never be doubted, nor His care questioned. With the certainty of God’s irrevocable covenant love, His abundant goodness is firmly committed to His flock.

When David testifies that “goodness” will follow him, he uses a Hebrew word that, as an adjective, means “beautiful” or “pleasant.” It represents the attractive way with which God shows His love for His sheep. God is perfectly good in His character and flawlessly good in all His actions. Therefore, He can do only good to His beloved flock. This is demonstrated in His attentive care for their many needs.

David also states that “mercy” follows him. This is the unconditional love of the Good Shepherd toward those whom the Father has chosen and entrusted to Him. He loves them with His sovereign love that can never be extinguished. Even when we are faithless, He remains faithful to us.

The Hebrew verb translated “follow” pictures these two virtues—goodness and mercy—as actively pursuing David. It can be said

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## UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

**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. See pages 4 & 5 for more information.

**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>

**Encouraged to Endure Conference**—July 25-27, 2019. Second Baptist Church, West Frankfort, IL. Speakers: Joseph Mahlaola, Larry McCall, & John Snyder. Worship Leader: Tom Clay.

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that these twin components of divine love are like two sheepdogs that help the shepherd corral his flock. They shadow the flock in order to steer them in the right direction. When the sheep go astray, these sheepdogs bring them back. When we slow down, they spur us on. So it is with goodness and mercy that pull up the rear. They are constantly driving us closer to the Good Shepherd.

This pursuit may recall the days of David's flight from Absalom. David is testifying that whatever threats have chased him, there is always a greater pursuer afoot—goodness and mercy. Though he has been hounded by those who seek to harm him, he remains confident that this divine love will stalk his every step. He is convinced that divine love will be with him to the end.

Here is the steadfastness of the Shepherd in keeping after His sheep. Even when David found himself in life-threatening situations, God's goodness was close behind. Whatever the trial, His loving-kindness was constantly trailing him.

When David claims that these dual blessings follow "me," he is emphasizing how personal they are to him. The point is that this divine care is not directed toward an anonymous group of nameless sheep in a nonspecific, general way. To the contrary, David knows that God's focus is riveted upon him as an individual sheep called by name.

This steadfast love will pursue David "all the days of [his] life." There will not be a single day in which this faithful favor will not be close behind him. These two parts of God's love will be nipping at his heels all day, every day, for the rest of his life. There will never be a day in which the goodness and mercy of the Lord will not be immediately nearby. We can never escape the loyal love of this good Shepherd.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. Steven J. Lawson is president and founder of OnePassion Ministries, a Ligonier Ministries teaching fellow, and author of numerous books, including *Foundations of Grace* and *The Passionate Preaching of Martyn Lloyd-Jones*.

<https://tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2018/08/surely-goodness-and-mercy-shall-follow-me-all-the-days-of-my-life/>

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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# REFORMATION WEEKEND

16655 W HIGHWAY 24, WAMEGO KS  
TRINITYBAPTISTWAMEGO@GMAIL.COM



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## OCT 26-28, 2018

- The SBAOC Annual Business Meeting will be held on Saturday at 8:00 am.
- There is no registration fee to attend this conference.
- A book table will be available.
- Please see the second page of this flyer for more information.
- If you have questions please contact Tony Mattia at 785-456-3796.

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## SPEAKERS

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

[trinitybaptist-wamego.org](http://trinitybaptist-wamego.org)

# Reformation Weekend—October 26-28, 2018

## 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 about a 10 minute drive to Wamego.

## SPEAKERS:

GABRIEL HUGHES is the pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Junction City, KS. He's also the voice and creator of the online ministry When We Understand the Text (WWUTT), featuring hundreds of short videos covering a variety of biblical topics. These videos are just 90-seconds long and free for anyone to use at their church, youth group, Bible study, or for their family. Pastor Gabe also has a Bible teaching podcast five days a week. You can find out more about the ministry at [wwutt.com](http://wwutt.com).

JOSH EATON has been married to Sherri since 2000. They have 7 children, 3 of which were adopted. Josh and Sherri met at Southwest Baptist University and graduated in 2001. Josh received his MDIV from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in 2005. He has served as the pastor of Cross Point Baptist Church in Caney, KS since 2006. ([www.facebook.com/crosspointcaney](http://www.facebook.com/crosspointcaney))

KYLE STACHEWICZ serves as the preaching elder of FBC St. Francis. He has been there since June of 2018. Prior to that, he served as a Youth pastor in Kentucky for 5 years. Kyle graduated with a B.A. from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and is an MDIV student at Southern Seminary. He and his wife April have three boys and are expecting a baby girl in January. ([saintfrancisbaptist.org](http://saintfrancisbaptist.org))

STEPHEN ATKINSON moved from Northern Ireland in June 2012 to develop and promote the work of CWI in North America. He is also a PCA Pastor at Covenant Presbytery 'Ministering Out of Bounds'. Having served as a minister for 18 years, as CWI's Ireland Secretary since 2004, and as Director of Ministry in the USA, Stephen's labors include driving (often literally!) the nationwide operations of CWI (NA), teaching in churches, connecting with pastors, and developing resources that will enable churches and Christians to reach their Jewish neighbors. ([www.cwina.org](http://www.cwina.org))

LYN HANSEN is lead pastor at North Park Church in Columbus, NE. Lyn has been married to Sandy since 1980. Sandy is general manager of VVS, a food service business, and an active part of NPC- Columbus. Lyn and Sandy have 4 children. Lyn has been in pastoral ministry for 2 decades and was a professional in the transportation industry in his previous career. ([insidenp.com](http://insidenp.com))

**Questions? Contact Tony Mattia at 785-456-3796**

**Trinity Baptist Church, 16655 W Highway 24, Wamego, KS**

**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](http://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 Ottogy  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Email: bakeottogy@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