

## MSWSBA Messenger

### March 2017

As we move onward into the spring season, I have enjoyed spending time getting baseball players ready for the upcoming season. One of the most common errors that I work to address with pitchers is called “rushing” and I believe that the mindset behind this flaw relates to a flawed mentality that we often have in our churches. “Rushing” is essentially when the pitcher is attempting to throw the ball hard, so he allows his upper body to go forward too early in attempt to move forward toward the target quickly. This means that the throwing arm has no time to catch up and it then lags behind, causing loss of speed and injury. Essentially, he is trying to force the pitch rather than following the process that works with the way that God has designed the human body to function. Without going into too many details, human nature tells us to do it the wrong way, making this a very common problem for those who do not trust the right process. The same is often true in our churches and if we are not careful, it can lead to injury or even death for the church.

In Matthew 23, we see an example of this type of mentality in the seven woes that Jesus gives to the Scribes and Pharisees that directly contrast the blessings seen in the Sermon on the Mount. The issue at hand with these seven woes is that they had abandoned what God demands in order to serve Him on their own terms through traditions that give the appearance of holiness, but are self-serving at heart. What Jesus does next is a great warning for churches. He leaves the temple never to return. Verses 37-39: **37** *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 38 See, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”* Jesus was ready to gather the people together as a mother hen gathers her young under her wings, but the people of God were too set on their own traditions and ambitions to follow Gods process. So He left and the building was left desolate. The disciples, fearing excommunication pointed Jesus’ attention back to the grand building in the next verse: 24:1-2 *“Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. 2 But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”* The building was beautiful, but Jesus saw the spiritual condition of the people and called it desolate. The spiritual destruction had taken place, Jesus left the building, and the physical destruction happened not long after in A.D. 70 by Rome as a result of the Jews still “rushing”, attempting to bring in the kingdom by their own terms. This even led to the eventual destruction of their theology when they lost Messianic hope after the Bar Kochba Revolt in A.D. 132, meaning a thorough destruction.

This serves as a warning for our churches. Christ is standing ready to gather in people under His wings as a hen gathers in her young. Are you serving Him on His terms or your own? Are you willing to give up man-made traditions if necessary? Within what is biblically and morally acceptable, is there anything that you would not do even if it meant that your church would grow? With so many churches dying in the SBC, it’s time to pay attention to this warning before Christ walks out of more local churches, leaving more desolate, abandoned buildings, which are becoming an increasingly familiar sight across our country. Lets fall to our knees in submission and serve Him together on His terms.

Chris Kuenzle, DOM

## Upcoming Events

### March 5-12

Week of Prayer for North American Missions

### Tuesday, March 7

Camp Meeting @ 7pm  
Ten Mile Baptist Church

### Friday and Saturday, March 10-11

Disaster Relief Training  
Liberty, MO  
Contact Tamara Parry for more information at  
1-800-736-6227 x 317 or  
[tparry@mobaptist.org](mailto:tparry@mobaptist.org).

### Tuesday, March 14

Hymn Sing @ 7pm  
Ten Mile Baptist Church

### Thursday, March 16

WMU Trip to "Love Packages"  
We will leave the 18 Wheeler at Taylor at 7 am to take literature to Love Packages. If you would like to go, or have literature to send, contact Mary Ann Lillard by March 12 so arrangements can be made for transportation. Contact Mary Ann Lillard at 573-853-4507 or [jmalillard@marktwain.net](mailto:jmalillard@marktwain.net).

### Sunday, March 26

Insanity of God Movie Night @ 6pm  
Durham Baptist Church

### Tuesday, April 4

Missions Meeting @ 6pm  
Ten Mile Baptist Church  
Camp Meeting @ 7pm  
Ten Mile Baptist Church

### Thursday, April 7

Council Meeting @ 7pm  
FBC Ewing

### Friday and Saturday, April 8-9

MO WMU Annual Meeting  
@ FBC Lebanon

## Welcome!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Bro. James Leezer, the new pastor at Providence Baptist Church!

### Movie Night @ Durham Baptist

Dear Pastor and Sister Churches,

We will be showing The Insanity of God, a documentary movie about persecution and struggle, and the lessons we can learn from our brothers and sisters in Christ who face it daily. This will be an impactful movie. If you have never read the book, and even if you have, you will not walk away the same. The simulcast showing will be held Sunday, March 26 promptly at 6 pm in our Fellowship Hall. Popcorn will be provided so come early. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket to sit on. We would like to invite all associational churches and the community to join us for this movie event. There will be a nursery for little ones if parents feel that the movie is too intense.

Thanks,  
Josh Thrower

### Pray For Our Churches Seeking a Pastor

FBC LaGrange  
South Wyaconda Baptist Church  
Wyaconda Baptist Church  
Liberty Baptist Church

### Contacting Your DOM

As always, I seek to serve you as a pastor to pastors, a coach to churches, and a missionary to our community. Let me know how I can serve!

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