



One time while hunting I took the wrong fork of the trail. It was very gradual as it led me away from my home. In fact, by the end of the day I had hiked over 15 miles out of the way in very hard terrain. A year later I returned to the fork in the trail to make an assessment of my mistake. That assessment has helped me to look differently at my planning for the rest of my life. A purpose is like a trail in that the purpose of the church will lead the church to the desired end of that purpose. Many churches are following a purpose that is leading them away from what is useful in God's kingdom.

A purpose that is motivated in selfishness will always become destructive in the end. For example, the church that is in survival mode tends to focus on self-preservation. They tend to save up a large nest egg (money for a needy day), then have a protective spirit of the money all the while neglecting major needs in their community or missions around the world. The selfish church stops looking at the needs of others; there-

fore, the focus turns inward. All the while Jesus sends the message that the fields are white unto harvest.

A church that has the purpose to always send and go could neglect the needs of their own people and the training of new leaders. An example could be the Evangelistic church that wins people to Christ but never disciples or trains the new believers.

In the book "Can These Bones Live" Dr. Bill Henard uses a more balanced process to purpose. He teaches five points of focus: a Biblical Focus, an Inward Focus, an Upward Focus, a Church Focus and an Outward Focus. It also takes regular assessments to stay on the right trail.

As I had my experience of "wandering in the wilderness" on the wrong trail, it had snowed almost the entire day. The trail was lost completely. All I could see was God's beauty around me. I did look to heaven that day and asked for help. Maybe that is what a church on the wrong trail needs to do.

Keep Looking Up,
Dan



*Serving
Others in
Jesus Name*

Eastern Border Baptist Associations Newsletter



**THE CHURCH REVITALIZATION PROCESS
MOVES FORWARD!**

In recent weeks, ten churches have engaged in a change toward revitalization either as an assisting church or a church focused on something better. God is our source and this group is ready to move forward. Please pray for all those involved in the process.



**Those who bring
thanksgiving as their
sacrifice honor me.**

Psalm 50:23

Did You Know...

...There is a "pain-free" way to support Lottie Moon Offering?



By using the amazonsmile link to shop on amazon.com, 0.5% of your purchase can go to support our International Mission Board and, in turn, support thousands of missionaries around the globe! What a great way to supplement your Lottie Moon offerings especially at this time of the year! Just bookmark and use this link to shop on amazon: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-0213930>

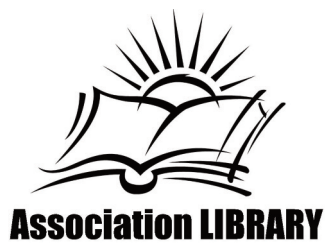
Holiday Schedule

Associational Offices Closed:
November 23-24 and
December 24- January 2

Welcome New Pastors!



Manuel Barrera,
New Testament
&
Tyler Hicks,
FBC Clovis



Bible study item available to you at the associations' library:

- **Secrets Jesus Shared**
DVD Leader Kit, by Jennifer Kennedy Dean
- **The Quest**
DVD Leader Kit, by Beth Moore

Eastern Border Associations

Tucumcari Baptist Association & Eastern Baptist Association

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Prayer Meeting:
Mondays 10:00 Sandia, Clovis

TBA website: www.yourtba.com
EBA website: www.easternbaptist.net



Prayer Needs

- Missionaries and families away from home for the Holiday season.
- Those grieving in Sutherland Springs, Texas in their time of loss.

Looking Ahead

- Nov 23-24:** Association office closed
- Nov 28:** Church Alive Revitalization meeting – Forrest Heights 6 pm
- Dec 3-10:** Week of Prayer for IMB/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- Dec 22 - Jan 2:** Association Office Closed
- Spring:** Security training

Budget At A Glance

<u>Tucumcari Baptist Association:</u>	<u>Eastern Baptist Association:</u>
Receipts\$1,079.64	Balance Forward
Disbursements\$1,800.00	October 1st.....\$974.27
Ending Balance ...\$16,351.18	Receipts\$9,298.58
	Disbursements.....\$9,492.81
	Ending Balance
	October 31st.....\$780.04