

REVIVAL ON AN ARMY BASE



U.S. Army Chaplain (Captain) Jose Rondon has seen close to 1,500 soldiers at Fort Leonard Wood Missouri make professions of faith trusting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior since March of 2018. Rondon believes there is nothing more exhilarating in life than seeing people come to Christ. This could be described as a "Spiritual Awakening" at his place of ministry on an Army base. He describes his part as "Intentionality." It is about being intentional with words and how he treats his fellow soldiers. He said, "To be intentional is to be faithful to Christ and obedient to His Great Commission." He further stated, "But we will not succeed in making disciples until the lost make the first step to follow Christ as their Savior. To be intentional not only means to preach Christ's Word in the chapel, but to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit to share His message of reconciliation if, and when, the time fits." Currently there are 1,348 military chaplains in the Southern Baptist Convention at work. Other reports are that more than 2,000 troops gathered in Doughboy Stadium at Fort Benning, Georgia this past Easter to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Army chaplains are currently baptizing an average of 70 soldiers every basic combat training cycle at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. The military has built more chapels since 9/11 than any other period of history, except for World War II. In the past two years, Southern Baptist military chaplains have reported there have been tens of thousands of professions of faith and thousands of baptisms. The U.S. Air Force Chaplaincy recently rolled over a new program called *FaithWorks*, which is a collection of evidence-based programs and materials promoting spiritual resilience for airmen and their families. Retired Major General Doug Carver, Executive Director of Chaplaincy for the North American Mission Board stated, "Historically, God has often used the military as a catalyst for Revival." "Many attribute the spread of Christianity in the first century to Roman soldiers deployed throughout the Roman Empire. The Lord is answering our prayers for revival within our military communities. I've prayed for over 40 years for our troops and their families to experience the reality of Jesus Christ in a new and fresh way."

WALK THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

First Southern Baptist Church of Chino Valley is hosting a "Walk Thru the Old Testament Live Event on Saturday, October 20, 2018. The event starts at 9:00 am and concludes at 4:00 pm. Lunch is included. During this event you will learn the history of the Old Testament and how your story fits into God's grand story and you will also gain a new understanding of how it all points to Jesus Christ! The cost is \$ 10.00 and pre-registration and payment are required in advance to secure a seat. A Family Day Event is planned for Sunday, October 21st for those unable to attend on Saturday. Children must be third grade and up as childcare will not be available on Sunday. Lunch will not be provided on Sunday but a break is built into the schedule. The time on Sunday is 10:15 am until 3:00 pm. Again, this requires pre-registration and a payment of \$ 10.00 in advance. "Walk Thru the Old Testament Live Events" have proven to be one of the most successful ways to teach the big picture of the Bible in a new and exciting way in just a few hours. It is unlike any other Bible teaching you have experienced. Pastor Mark Reeder says, "This is not another boring lecture, but an interactive adventure and it's a great event for the entire family! It is so much fun and so non-threatening that you can confidently invite even your unchurched friends." Contact Pastor Dana for additional information or for information on how to pre-register for this event.

BELARUS PASTOR

Pastor Dana has a friend who lives in Belarus and ministers there. He is a native of the country and at one time pastored a church that Pastor Dana partnered with through three churches that he pastored who provided the money to build a 500 seat sanctuary. Pastor Dana preached in the church and traveled to Belarus in 1996. Pastor Gladkiy was pastor then. He eventually moved to America. Pastor Andrei Grushin became the pastor for a few years, but Pastor Dana has never met him although they communicate through Email. Pastor Andrei serves in a team of pastors in a church in Minsk, "The Light of Truth." He also does counseling and conducts a "Celebrate Recovery" program and an "English Bible Club." He also will be planting a church in the coming months. He lives in a small town outside of Minsk. His wife Katerina teaches English in school and is scheduled to have surgery in September for varicose veins and is being treated for neuralgia. They have two children. Lyuba is in the third year of the Linguistic University. (We recently prayed for her Thyroid surgery.) Their son Lyosha is in the fifth grade. Andrei appreciates our prayers as he needs wisdom, understanding of God's Leadership, sensitivity to people, and balance in different spheres. He said, "For me it's a serious challenge to go to the beginning of a new church. And frankly, I'm in awe and worried...Pray that God will lead me and our team." Their daughter Lyuba had Grave's Disease, an auto-immune disease. This is a result of the lack of Iodine in the area from the Chernobyl disaster. Her Thyroid gland grew very large and very visible and she had trouble swallowing. Without surgery she could have developed severe heart problems as well. Andrei still has a good relationship with the church in Soligorsk. Andrei is able to visit our website, read our newsletter and see how our church is ministering. Please pray for Andrei and his family and their ministry, especially the new church he is planting.



Fred Luter “Don’t Ditch Your Denomination”

Fred Luter was elected the first African-American President of the Southern Baptist Convention in June 2012. In August of this year he wrote an article printed in “Baptist Press” entitled “Don’t ditch your denomination. I will highlight the very interesting article here. He said his life was forever changed in 1986 when he was elected pastor of a dying Southern Baptist Mission called Franklin Avenue Baptist Church. He had grown up in a National Baptist Church and was the middle of three kids raised by a single mom who required everyone in her house to attend church on Sunday morning. At age 21 he was lying in a bed in Charity Hospital in New Orleans with a serious head wound and not knowing if he would live the next 24 hours. A deacon of the church he grew up in came to visit and put his finger inches from his face and without apology said, “Boy, obedience is better than sacrifice. If you were obedient to your mom, you would not be sacrificing your life here in this hospital.” That night Fred asked Jesus to come into his heart and the next morning woke up with a commitment to live the rest of his life as a born-again Christian. Upon leaving the hospital he started a street ministry in the neighborhood where he grew up because he wanted everyone to know about this Jesus who turned his life around. One Sunday he was preaching at a National Baptist Church and someone mentioned that Franklin Avenue was looking for a pastor and wanted to know if he was interested. He told them “Franklin Avenue is a white church, blacks do not go there.” He was then told it was a transitioning neighborhood and it is now an African-American congregation. He submitted his resume and was eventually called as their pastor. He was excited and scared as he had never pastored a church before. Once he became pastor, he was committed to ask for help in all areas he thought could assist the church and him as pastor. That is when he was introduced to the many benefits of the Southern Baptist Convention. He met biweekly with the leaders from the local Baptist association and then was introduced to pastors, staff and facilities at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The association trained their Sunday School leaders and ministry leaders while the seminary provided the space needed for outreach events. Because of their rapid growth, they became an autonomous church within three years. Later Fred had a brainstorming session with the church leaders and one of the older members asked a question he did not expect. “Since we are an autonomous church, why don’t we get out of the Southern Baptist Convention?” Fred was floored with the question and asked, “Why?” He was again floored when he was told the history of the Southern Baptist Convention and how it started as a result of slavery. After his brief history lesson and an intense discussion, he said he made a statement that he knew came from God. He said he looked each of those members in the eye and said, “All of us have a past. All of us have done something in our past that we regret. However, there is nothing we can do about our past, but we can do a whole lot about our future.” Then he stated a number of reasons why they should not get out of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Southern Baptists allowed them to worship in the building they were in at no cost.

The SBC, through our local association provided training for our ministry leaders without cost.

The SBC, through the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, allowed us to use the gym and other buildings for outreach events.

The SBC stands on the infallibility of the Word of God.

The SBC does missions, both local and international, better than any other group in the nation.

The SBC is a key leader in disaster relief nationwide.

The SBC believes in the importance of evangelism, discipleship and planting churches.

The SBC is the most racially diverse convention in the nation.

Fred then told his church leaders, “The SBC is not a perfect convention by any means, but I truly believe that the SBC exists to do the will of God on this earth. So, let’s stay with the convention and help carry out the Great Commission and the Great Commandment of our Lord Jesus Christ.” He then called for a vote and the vote was unanimous to stay in the Southern Baptist Convention. He said, “Looking back on that night, without a doubt, deciding not to ditch our denomination was one of the best decisions we have ever made as a church.”