



Who's Carrying the Donkey?

A salesman was telling his barber that he had an upcoming business trip to Rome. The spirited Italian barber told the salesman he would be a fool to go to Rome. He explained that Rome was overrated because the hotel service was horrible, restaurants were bad, and the airlines had all kinds of problems. The salesman argued that he was going to close a big deal, but the barber continued with his negative litany telling him that no one does business in Italy and that he would never get to see the Pope. The salesman went anyway.

Two months later when the barber inquired about his trip to Rome, the salesman replied that the flight was smooth, the hotel service was perfect, his business was successful, and he was able to see the Pope. The barber asked him about seeing the Pope. The salesman retorted, "I knelt down and kissed his ring, he patted my head and asked, 'My son, who gave you such a lousy haircut?'" That's how we handle criticism isn't it? We retaliate.

Winston Churchill enjoyed verbal battles. Lady Astor once said to him that she believed he was drunk, to which he replied that he believed she was ugly — but that **he** would sober up in the morning. Their battle continued. He once angered her so much that she told him that if she were married to him she would give him arsenic. He told her that if he were married to her, he would take it.

Harry Truman, one of our most criticized Presidents, once said, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." And "If your head is made of butter, don't stand close to the fire."

Jesus was criticized. He was called a winebibber and glutton. He hung around with the wrong people — the sinners. He was called a Samaritan which was an insult in the Jewish culture. Jesus, who came straight from heaven, was not even religious enough for the religious crowd. They had a standard that even Jesus didn't meet.

You too will be criticized. Opposition is inevitable. To avoid criticism: Be nothing. Do nothing. Say nothing. But then you will be criticized for doing nothing.

In most instances, you can ignore the criticism and continue following God's plan. Bulldogs can whip skunks, but it's not worth it. You can discuss, explain, plead, and argue with critics and maybe even whip them, but it isn't worth it. When a crow attacks a hawk, it will just fly higher and higher until the crow can't reach him. You can do the same. You can fly higher and higher away from the critics and do great things following God's standards rather than man's standards. Men's standards change. He never changes.

Trying to please everyone creates messes. A man and a small boy were leading a donkey through a village. People in the village laughed at him and told him he should be riding the donkey. In the next village, the villagers ridiculed him for riding the donkey without the boy. He put the boy on the donkey, and in the next village, the crowd couldn't believe the burden they were putting on the donkey. The last time he was seen, the man was carrying the donkey on his shoulders.

What is the bottom line? It's very hard to serve God carrying a donkey. Personally, I would rather be called a donkey than to carry one.

"In the Wild" - Vacation Bible School At New Energy Church!!!

June 3rd through June 7th; Hwy 21 E., Belott, Texas

10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

!!!Lunch Served Each Day To VBS Attendees!!!

ASSOCIATIONAL MINISTRY PARTNERS

Thank you for joining hands with us as we spread the Gospel together.

Church Contributions	Jan - Apr 8, 2019
1001 · Antioch	1,126.68
1002 · Apple Springs	468.20
1003 · Austonio	462.54
1005 · Calvary Nogalus	827.81
1006 · Calvary Trinity	999.99
1007 · Carlisle	0.00
1008 · Central	1,514.42
1009 · Dorcas Will Memorial	1,601.93
1010 · Faith	225.00
1011 · Tabernacle	619.00
1012 · FBC Crockett	8,322.46
1013 · FBC Friday	75.00
1014 · FBC Glendale	225.00
1015 · FBC Grapeland	1,756.88
1016 · FBC Groveton	437.49
1017 · FBC Kennard	200.00
1018 · FBC Lovelady	862.74
1019 · Georgia Camp	75.00
1020 · Lake	53.00
1021 · Lakeway, Carlisle	578.45
1022 · Latexo	648.21
1023 · Mt. Vernon	100.00
1024 · Oak Grove	831.96
1025 · Oaklawn	900.00
1027 · Pearson Chapel	165.84
1028 · Pleasant Grove	99.00
1029 · Porter Springs	1,620.95
1030 · Primera Iglesia Bautista	75.00
1031 · Ratcliff	300.30
1032 · St. Lukes	100.00
1033 · San Pedro	150.00
1035 · Shady Grove	137.49
1036 · Shady Grove 1st	0.00
1037 · Trinity Pines	392.61
1038 · Weldon	100.00
1039 · West Side	226.42
1040 · Zion Hill	479.00
1041 · Primera Iglesia Groveton	53.72
1042 · New Pleasant Grove	0.00
1043 · Iglesia Bautista Refugio	0.00
1044 · Truly God's Country Cowboy	100.00
1045 · Houston County Cowboy Church	1,214.00
1046 · Grapeland Baptist	1,178.01
1047 · Christ Chapel	0.00
1048 · Calvary, Crockett	150.00
Total 1000 · Church Income	29,454.10

PULPIT SUPPLY

Dee Black	936 594 9574	Willie Reagan	903 764 5986
Don Burkhalter	936 594 7515	Paul Carlin	936 544 2362
Jim Durham	936 546 4211	John Valenta	936 594 6934
Matt Henderson	936 204 3223	Matt Rains	936 546 1293
William Lee	936 661 5715	Randy Blanton	936 524 1061
Archie Smith	936 707 1148	Jason Attaway	936 546 4440
Dr. Bob Lacey	936 546 7735		

MUSIC SUPPLY

Jeff Cuellar	936 594 1110
Tom Dixon	936 642 2186
Delbert Salisbury	936 687 2163
Billy Seamans	936 594 6539
Randy Welborn	936 436 0046



Churches & Pastors To Pray For

Apr 28-May 4—Faith Baptist, Kyle Coston
 May 5-11—FBC Crockett, Dr. Keeney Dickenson
 May 12-18—FBC Friday, Wesley May
 May 19-25—FBC Glendale, INTERIM-Desmond Arnold
 May 26-June 1—FBC Grapeland, INTERIM—Jack Chelf
 Jun 2-8—FBC Groveton, Lewis Jones
 Jun 9-15—FBC Kennard, Lynn Stroud
 Jun 16-22—FBC Lovelady, Brandon Gray
 Jun 23-29—Georgia Camp, Dr. Charles Allen



Pastors' & Wives' Birthdays

· May 9—James Whittlesey
 · May 10—Lewis Jones
 · May 12—Darla Goss
 · May 16—Suzanne Kitts
 · May 25—Winston Spencer
 · May 28—Terrie McAdams
 · May 31—Darlene Jones
 · June 1—Brandon Gray
 · June 2—Maria Flores
 · June 4—Alice Goncharenko
 · June 6—Shelley Gray
 · June 17—Charles Pyle
 · June 19—D'Ann Dickenson
 · June 24—Wanda Myers
 · June 29—Terry Gibson
 · June 29—Betty Whittlesey



Pastors' & Wives' Anniversaries

May 3—Randy & Rhonda Lowe
 May 4—Kenneth & Wanda Myers
 May 18—Donnie & Vicki Lawrence
 June 1—Keeney & D'Ann Dickenson
 June 3—Delmar & Debra White
 June 7—Dennis & Patricia Morgan
 June 13—Charles & Amber Pyle
 June 15—Wayne & Christina Stewart
 June 21—Jerry & Monette Vincent
 June 26—Mike & Cindy Due
 June 28—Steve & Terri Meadows



The Pine Torch

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 May/June 2016



Calendar of Events

- May 2—National Day Of Prayer
- May 12—Mothers' Day
- May 14—NRBA Mtg. Music Emphasis
Calvary Crockett; (See Times Below)
- May 27—Memorial Day—OFFICE CLOSED.
- June 10-12—Southern Baptist Convention;
Birmingham, Alabama
- June 16—Father's Day
- July 4—Independence Day; OFFICE
CLOSED.
- July 9—NRBA Mtg.— Austonio (See Times Below)

*****May 2nd*****

- ⇒ **Pray for our nation.**
- ⇒ **Pray to end abortion.**



DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS...

On **March 26**, we had our associational Evangelism Conference hosted by FBC Groveton. It was a great evening of fellowship, food, music, and preaching. Some shared that they felt it was one of our best ever. We were indeed challenged to do evangelism and not just talk about it. Thanks to everyone who attended.

As I write this article on **April 8**, I am thankful for the great medical reports for my colon and kidney cancer. I have been deemed "cancer free". This is a praise to the Lord. Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, and calls as I battled through my cancer.

Also, as I write this article I want to share this with you: In just a couple of days, **April 10th** I will undergo back surgery to alleviate pain I have been having with a pinched sciatic nerve. The plan is to clean out an area where the nerve is pinched and then to do a fusion of my L4 and L5 vertebrae. The surgery should take about 3 hours and I will be in the hospital for 3 days. My recovery time will take 4 – 6 weeks. I appreciate your prayers.

Looking ahead, we have our next associational meeting on May 14. It will be held at Calvary Baptist Church in Crockett, Texas. This is our annual music emphasis and it is always a wonderful blessing for all who attend. Each church can have 2 specials. These can be solo's, choir specials, duets, trio's, etc. You can contact Reggie Gregory to let him know that your church plans to participate. His phone number is (936) 544-4713 or (936) 546-6139. Let's have an awesome time of praise and worship on this special evening!

In conclusion, for those of you who are facing or have faced problems in life, I want to share this thought entitled, "**Promises for Problems**". I hope it encourages your heart.

"God has a promise for every problem in your life. There is no problem in your life that can derail God's purpose for you if you will claim His promise. The Bible says, **"No matter how many promises God has made, they are 'YES' in Christ. And so through Him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God."** 2 Cor. 1:20 (NIV)

Notice the progression in that verse. All God's promises are YES in Christ! God gave us His promises in writing. But, only through Him can we speak the **AMEN** for those promises. **AMEN** is just another way of saying "let it be" or "so be it." The good news is that we can take all our problems to God and claim His promise that no problem can derail His purpose for us. Even when we have failed and feel irreparable, God says **"everything that happens fits into a pattern for good."** He didn't say that everything that happens is good, did He? He said all of it, the good and the bad, *fits into a pattern for good.* How? It's like needlepoint embroidery. If you look at the underside, it's full of knots and frayed ends that don't make sense or look good. But, when you flip it over and see it from the top, there is beauty and design and purpose!

You may be facing circumstances in your life like that today. You may feel that somehow you missed God's purpose for your life because of mistakes or failures in your life or others. You can live with shame and blame or you can choose to believe God's promise in Romans 8:28. I love the way Paul begins the promise, **"We KNOW..."** We know what? **"We know that to those who love God..."** Do you love God? To those **"...who are called according to His plan..."** Are you called according to HIS plan or still clinging to your own plan? **"... EVERYTHING that happens FITS INTO A PATTERN FOR GOOD."**

That's a YES promise for you! Speak the AMEN (let it be) over that promise. Then what? **"Now it is God who makes both us and you STAND FIRM IN CHRIST. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, GUARANTEEING what is to come."** 2 Cor. 1:21-22 (NIV) Take that promise to the bank, believer! It's a guarantee!

PRAYER: "You amaze me God – how You can take the problems and failures in my life and make them fit into a pattern for good. You never give up on me even when I've given up on myself. Through Christ today I say YES to Your promises! I don't know how or when You will do it, but I know that You will. Help me to stand firm in Christ and trust You for what is to come. I know it will be good because You are good!"

Awaiting the Shout,
 Bill Jones, DOM

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DATES TO SAVE!!

NRBA MUSIC EMPHASIS

Tuesday, May 14
Calvary Baptist, Crockett

NOTE: 2 Specials Per Church

NRBA Meeting, Tuesday, July 9
Austonio Baptist
16832 FM 1280, Crockett, Tx. 75835

Meeting Times On Both Dates:
Executive Board & Women 2 Women—5:30pm
Fellowship Meal—6:15pm
Worship and Program—7:00pm

NECHES RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
 P.O. Box 995 Crockett, TX 75835
 Phone: 936.544.3754
 Fax: : 936.546.9183
 email: nrbaoffice@valonnet.com
 website: nechesriverbaptist.org

DOM.....Dr. Bill Jones
 Home phone 936-544-0555
 Cell phone 936-222-1965
 Moderator.....Steve Meadows
 Vice Moderator.....Jonathan Davidson
 Treasurer.....Bobby Read
 Administrative Assistant.....Karen Jones
 Cell phone 936-222-2910

OFFICE HOURS
 MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30 A.M - 12:30 P.M.
 Afternoons (Contact Brother Bill by cell) 936-222-1965
 Closed Friday afternoon