



## SOUTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

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### PURPOSE in PAIN

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NASB)*

Personal suffering is not something we like to discuss. In fact, it seems that much of popular ‘Americanized Christianity,’ would have us believe that if we follow Christ and we suffer, it is due to a lack of faith on our part. I would love to see them try to convince the Apostle Paul of this. Suffering is a part of the warp and woof of Christian experience in the world. It was part of Paul’s experience and it is part of the Biblical expression of Christian experience.

In the book of Romans Paul declares some exciting realities the believer would do well to embrace. In speaking of our spiritual adoption, he says, *“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”* Believers are fellow heirs with Jesus and will be glorified with Him should we suffer with Him. Now this does not make salvation contingent upon human suffering, but it does emphasize the reality that suffering for Christ and with Him bestows a glory upon us. Jesus suffered for the sake of others. Jesus suffered in obedience to His Father. Jesus suffered for being who He was—holy and righteous. If our intent is to be molded into His blessed image, in order that we may bear His glory, suffering will become an element of the transformation.

Our passage from 2 Corinthians chapter one is telling and encouraging. It is also TRUE. Our God is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. That comfort comes to us from His heart of compassion when it seems the whole world has cratered around us. He gives us mercy in abundance. He comforts our heart by holding us close to His own. There is a positive result in this that goes beyond the mere healing of our hurts.

Our bouts with the affliction of suffering *Prepares* us to be His ministers of mercy and comfort to those round about us who suffer the same affliction as do we. The Christian who has battled with horrendous disease, knows best how to comfort a peer who is going through the fire. The parent who has lost a child knows best how to show mercy to that acquaintance who has just lost one of theirs. The person who has lost a business and experienced the pain of being bankrupt is far better prepared to speak to another who is experiencing the same thing in their lives.

God has designed a purpose for every instance of suffering. It can be dealt with as an enemy or it can be embraced as God’s tool for shaping us. Please do not misunderstand. I do not like suffering any better than anyone else. It is normal and natural to ask God why you are experiencing suffering. Don’t count on an answer. What you can count upon is His Comfort and His mercy and a lesson intertwined

therein. You can also count on an opportunity to apply that experience of His comfort and mercy to an instance of pain in the life of another who has felt the shock of affliction like being hit by a meteor.

Chances are you are either headed into a storm of distress and suffering; in the middle of such a storm; or coming out of such a storm. as once told me, “calm seas do not make great sailors.” When you are in the storm, seek comfort in the shelter of the Most High. Be calmed and fed by His abundant mercies. Then help those about you who are going through what you have come through. Be His hands and His feet. Give the mercy and comfort you have been given.

Loving Him, Serving You,  
*Tom*



**SENDING HOPE**

**100%**  
of your gifts to the  
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®  
supports North American missionaries.

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EASTER OFFERING  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS**

**North American  
Mission Board**

**Annie Armstrong Easter  
Offering and Week  
of Prayer for  
North American Missions  
March 3-10, 2019**

**National Goal: \$70 Million**

**Sending Hope** is the 2019 theme for the AAEO and Week of Prayer for North American Missions.

**How Your Gifts Fund NAMB:**

- 49% AAEO receipts
- 36% Cooperative Program
- 15% Other Revenue Services

**How Your Gifts Equip North American Missionaries:**

- 52% Missionary Mobilization
- 37% Church Planting
- 11% Evangelism

Remember, 100% of your AAEO gifts support more than 5,000 missionaries in church planting and compassion ministry.

Offerings to the AAEO should be over and above your tithe to the local church.

**Purpose of South Central Association of Southern Baptists.** The South Central Association of Southern Baptists (SCASB) exists to resource its member congregations in ways that will enable them to fulfill their unique, God-given vision for reaching the lost, developing disciples and leaders, and being involved in mission-partnerships.



Plan now to attend KNCSB  
PowerUp  
VBS Training Clinic  
Saturday, April 6, 2019  
9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Webster Conference Center  
Salina, KS

Register on line at  
<https://kncsbevents.org/>

**Core conferences will focus on:** VBS directors/pastors; preschool; music; missions; crafts/ children's Bible study and Spanish preschool and children. To learn more about the 2019 VBS theme "In the Wild" go to <https://vbs.lifeway.com/>.

### Kid's Camp 2019 - June 10-14 at WCC, Salina

The camp is for those who have completed grades 3-6 at the end of the current (2018-2019) school year.

Cost will be \$170.



**MAN UP CONFERENCE • March 8-9, 2019**  
Webster Conference Center, Salina  
Cost: On Campus \$75; Off Campus \$65



The retreat is aimed at adult men and teen guys in grades 7-12. It will start at 3 p.m. Friday, March 8 and end at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 9. All KNCSB church, other churches and men/teen guy groups are invited to attend. Online registration is now underway and ends Feb. 14 at <http://kncsbevents.org/>. After Feb. 14 you will need to call KNCSB to register. Call Jessica at 800-984-9092 ext. 828 or email to [kncsbmen@gmail.com](mailto:kncsbmen@gmail.com).

Featured speaker will be Bryan Carter. He is a co-presenter/ developer for "33 The Series," a curriculum on authentic manhood published by LifeWay Christian Resources. Carter has served as senior pastor of Concord Church, Dallas, since 2003. Visit his website at <http://www.bryancarter.org/>.

Learn more about "33 The Series" at <https://www.lifeway.com/en/product-family/33-the-series>.

Jason Waller will be the featured musician. He grew up in Burlington, KS and now serves as worship arts minister at The Mount Church, Keller, TX. He will soon be returning to CrossPoint Church, Salina, where he served before going to Texas.

**South East and South Central Associations Regional Leadership Conference**  
Saturday, May 4, 2019  
at  
FSBC, Coffeyville, KS

Pastors/Churches this will be an opportunity for training for your church leaders. A few of the sessions to be included are:

Financial up-dates for church treasurers; deacon and deacon wife training; using technology in the small church; church safety; and others. More information in the March SCASB newsletter.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

South Central Association of Southern Baptists  
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please contact the association office.



**February**

- 11-17 Focus on WMU
- 16 Children’s Ministry Day, SBC
- 18 **Office Closed**, Federal Holiday  
President’s Day
- 21 Pastors Fellowship, 6:30 PM
- 22-23 Small Church Leadership Conference, WCC

**March**

- 3-10 **Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**
- 6-7 Missionary/Staff Leadership Team Mtg. at Baptist Building, Topeka
- 7 Executive Committee Mtg., Baptist Bldg.
- 8 Mission Board Mtg., TBA
- 8-9 **Man Up Conference, WCC**
- 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 14 Pastors Fellowship, Noon
- 17 SBC Church Planting Emphasis Sunday
- 29-31 Eagle Retreat, WCC

**April**

- 4 WCC New Board Member Orientation, WCC
- 5 WCC Board Meeting, WCC
- 6 **KNCSB PowerUp VBS, WCC**
- 7 SBC Cooperative Program Sunday
- 8 **Administrative Team Meeting, 7:00 PM** at FBC, Douglass,

(April Continued)

- 11 Pastors Fellowship, 6:30 PM
- 12-13 GLOW for Girls Grade 1-6 & Mothers, WCC
- 15 **Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 PM at SCASB Office Building**
- 21 **Easter Sunday**

**May**

- 04 **South East & South Central Associations Regional Leadership Conference. At First Southern, Coffeyville, KS**

**FEBRUARY**



- 09 Von Phakonekham
- 14 Ron Rogers
- 16 Beth Marker
- 16 Cheryl Tenbrook
- 16 Bert & Kathy Neff
- 19 Ron Long
- 28 Brenda Awtrey