



SBAOC Weekly Update

NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- First Baptist Church of Saint Francis, Kansas, is seeking a Preaching Elder. See page 3 for more details.

If you have any news, prayer requests, articles, or events that you would like to have included in this update, please email the information to Tony Mattia at spurgeonassociation@gmail.com.

THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT

J.C. Ryle (1816-1900)

“Men ought always to pray.”—Luke 18:1

PRAYER is the most important subject in practical religion. All other subjects are second to it. Reading the Bible, keeping the Sabbath, hearing sermons, attending public worship, going to the Lord’s Table—all these are very weighty matters. But none of them are so important as private prayer...

1. Prayer is absolutely needful to a man’s salvation. I say absolutely needful, and I say so advisedly. I am not speaking now of infants and idiots. I am not settling the state of the heathen. I remember that where little is given, there little will be required. I speak especially of those who call themselves Christians in a land like our own. Of such I say no man or woman can expect to be saved who does not pray.

I hold salvation by grace as strongly as any one. I would gladly offer a free and full pardon to the greatest sinner that ever lived. I would not hesitate to stand by his dying bed and say, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Act 16:31). But that a man can have salvation without asking for it, I cannot see in the Bible. That a man will receive pardon of his sins, who will not so much as lift up his heart inwardly and say, “Lord Jesus, give it to me,” this I cannot find. I can find that nobody will be saved by his prayers, but I cannot find that without prayer anybody will be saved.

There will be many at Christ’s right hand in the last day. The saints gathered from North and South, and East and West, will be “a great multitude, which no man could number” (Rev 7:9). The song of victory that will burst from their mouths, when their redemption is at length complete, will be a glorious song indeed. It will be far above the noise of many waters and of mighty thunders.

(Continued on page 2)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Most Important Subject.. 2-3

Upcoming Events 3

Contact Us 4

Pulpit Supply 4

Prayer Meetings..... 4

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

“If there is no church... should you not commence one?” C. H. Spurgeon

(Continued from page 1)

But there will be no discord in that song. They that sing will sing with one heart as well as one voice. Their experience will be one and the same. All will have believed. All will have been washed in the blood of Christ. All will have been born again. All will have prayed. Yes, we must pray on earth, or we shall never praise in heaven. We must go through the school of prayer, or we shall never be fit for the holiday of praise. In short, to be prayerless is to be without God—without Christ—without grace—without hope—and without heaven. It is to be in the road to hell.

2. A habit of prayer is one of the surest marks of a true Christian. All the children of God on earth are alike in this respect. From the moment there is any life and reality about their religion, they pray. Just as the first sign of life in an infant when born into the world is the act of breathing, so the first act of men and women when they are born again is praying.

This is one of the common marks of all the elect of God: “[They] cry day and night unto him” (Luk 18:7). The Holy Spirit, Who makes them new creatures, works in them the feeling of adoption and makes them cry, “Abba, Father” (Rom 8:15). The Lord Jesus, when He quickens them, gives them a voice and a tongue and says to them, “Be dumb no more.” God has no dumb children. It is as much a part of their new nature to pray, as it is of a child to cry. They see their need of mercy and grace. They feel their emptiness and weakness. They cannot do otherwise than they do. They must pray.

I have looked carefully over the lives of God’s saints in the Bible. I cannot find one of whose history much is told us, from Genesis to Revelation, who was not a man of prayer. I find it mentioned as a characteristic of the godly that they “call on the Father,” that they “call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.” I find it recorded as a characteristic of the wicked that they “call not upon the LORD” (1Pe 1:17; 1Co 1:2; Psa 14:4).

I have read the lives of many eminent Christians who have been on earth since the Bible days. Some of them, I see, were rich, and some poor. Some were learned and some unlearned. Some of them were Episcopalians, some Presbyterians, some Baptists, some Independents. Some were Calvinists and some Arminians. Some have loved to use a liturgy, and some to use

none. But one thing, I see, they all had in common. They have all been men of prayer...

I do not deny that a man may pray without heart and without sincerity. I do not for a moment pretend to say that the mere fact of a person praying proves everything about his soul. As in every other part of religion, so also in this: there is plenty of deception and hypocrisy.

But this I do say—that not praying is a clear proof that a man is not yet a true Christian. He cannot really feel his sins. He cannot love God. He cannot feel himself a debtor to Christ. He cannot long after holiness. He cannot desire heaven. He has yet to be born again. He has yet to be made a new creature. He may boast confidently of election, grace, faith, hope, and knowledge, and deceive ignorant people. But you may rest assured, it is all vain talk if he does not pray.

I say furthermore that of all the evidences of real work of the Spirit, a habit of hearty private prayer is one of the most satisfactory that can be named. A man may preach from false motives. A man may write books, make fine speeches, seem diligent in good works, and yet be a Judas Iscariot. But a man seldom goes into his closet and pours out his soul before God in secret unless he is in earnest. The Lord Himself has set His stamp on prayer as the best proof of a true conversion. When He sent Ananias to Saul in Damascus, He gave him no other evidence of [Saul’s] change of heart than this: “Behold, he prayeth” (Act 9:11)...

I know that the elect of God are chosen to salvation from all eternity. I do not forget that the Holy Spirit, Who calls them in due time, in many instances leads them by very slow degrees to acquaintance with Christ...I cannot call any one justified until he believes. I dare not say that any one believes until he prays...The first act of faith will be to speak to God. Faith is to the soul what life is to the body. Prayer is to faith what breath is to life. How a man can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a man can believe and not pray is past my comprehension too.

From *Practical Religion*, The Banner of Truth Trust, www.banneroftruth.org.

J. C. Ryle (1816-1900): Anglican bishop and author; born at Macclesfield, Cheshire County, England.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Founders Midwest Conference — February 27-28, 2024. First Baptist Church, Fenton, Missouri. Theme: *Learning from the Puritans Today*. Sbfcmw.com.

Covenant Conference—March 14-16, 2024. LaGrange, KY. *Conquering and to Conquer*. Speakers: Voddie Baucham, Joel Beeke, Sam Waldron, John Miller. Covcon.org

Missions & Evangelism Conference — May 3-4, 2024. Trinity Baptist Church, Wamego, KS. This conference is free to attend, but please register for planning purposes at trinitybaptist-wamego.org.

Saved By Faith Youth Camp—June 17-21, 2024. Webster Conference Center, Salina, KS. For youth entering grade 7 through grade 12. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. Theme: Philippians: Pressing On. Cost: \$225 per person. **Pre-registration deadline: March 1.** Sbfyckansas.com

Theology Camp—July 8-12, 2024. Logan Valley Christian Retreat, Ellington, MO. For youth grades 7-12. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. Theme: Philippians: Pressing On. Contact Terry Coker for more information at Terry.Coker@fbcfenton.com.

Leadership & Laity Conference—July 25-27. Hosted by Mount Zion Community Church, Arkansas City, KS.

If you have a conference or event that you would like listed here, please contact us by email: spurgeonassociation@gmail.com.

FBC ST. FRANCIS, KS, SEEKING PREACHING ELDER

The First Baptist Church of St. Francis, Kansas is a reformed SBC congregation. We are passionate about God's Glory, God's Word, Christ's Church, and the spread of the Gospel to all peoples. Our desire is that our church would help people grow in God's grace and the knowledge of Christ.

We are seeking a man to serve as the Preaching Elder of our church. The Pastor Search Committee prayerfully searches for the man God has chosen to be our serve as our pastor. The Preaching Elder will serve with the other elder in leading the Church. In addition to the normal duties of an elder in pastoral care, the primary duties of the Preaching Elder are to prepare and deliver expository sermons on Sunday Mornings and teach at the Sunday evening service. As a member of the church, he should participate in Church activities including AWANAS.

Our church willingly cooperates with the Southern Baptist Convention through our local association, the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, and The Spurgeon Association of Churches. In addition to holding to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, the officers of the church practice good-faith subscription to the 2nd London Baptist Confession of Faith. All officers are to submit to and defend the doctrinal standards of the church.

We prefer a candidate with a seminary degree from a reputable, conservative seminary. However, we will consider all applicants. The successful candidate must be a man with a servant's heart that meets the qualifications set forth in 1 Tim 3:1-17, Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-3, be able to rightly divide the Word of God and minister to the needs of the Church.

If you are interested, please submit each of the following:

- Cover letter- Introducing yourself and your interest in this position.
- Narrative of your salvation testimony- Outline how you came to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Resume - Your ministry experience, educational background, and at least three work related references and three personal references.
- Two sermons- including a sermon outline and a video or audio recording (a link to a host site if the files are too large).

Compensation package includes salary, an 1800 sq. ft. 4 bedroom parsonage with finished basement, a housing allowance, and other benefits. Health insurance, however, is not provided. The total compensation package equals approximately \$56,000 per year.

We desire to have the position filled as soon as God wills it. **All submissions should be sent to our Elder/Chairman of the search committee: Mr. Kelly Gienger at kpgienger@gmail.com.**

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PRAYER MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church in Onaga, Kansas—5:00 pm on Sundays
- Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas—8:00 pm on Saturdays

The Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches is an association of Southern Baptist Churches that are united to manifest the glory of God above all. We set out to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. As an association of churches we are bound in mutual covenant to strengthen and support one another - motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture - by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

We are a non-geographic association seeking to include any like-minded body of believers so that together we might better fulfill the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our intent is to lean on His instruction and not our imaginations so that He is honored in all that we do. We welcome churches who adhere to the confessions of faith accepted by Southern Baptists throughout their history, including, but not limited to, the Second London Confession (1689) and the Baptist Faith and Message.

