



SBAOC Weekly Update

NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- The SBAOC Semi-annual Meeting will be held at Rockport Baptist Church on Saturday, April 20, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be a combined in-person and livestream through Teams. Those participating via Teams should contact Terry Coker to register.
- First Baptist Church of Saint Francis, Kansas, is seeking a Preaching Elder. See page 3 for more details.

PRAYERLESS PASTORS

By Andrew Murray (1828-1917)

In a meeting of ministers, there is probably no single sin that each one of us ought to acknowledge with deeper shame—guilty, verily guilty—than the sin of prayerlessness.

What is it, then, that makes prayerlessness such a great sin? At first, it is looked upon merely as a weakness. There is so much talk about lack of time and all sorts of distractions that the deep guilt of the situation is not recognized. Let it be our honest desire that, for the future, the sin of prayerlessness may be to us truly sinful. Consider—

1. What a reproach it is to God. There is the holy and most glorious God Who invites us to come to Him, to hold converse with Him, to ask from Him such things as we need, and to experience what a blessing there is in fellowship with Him. He has created us in His own image and has redeemed us by His own Son, so that in converse with Him we might find our highest glory and salvation.

What use do we make of this heavenly privilege? How many there are who take only five minutes for prayer! They say that they have no time and that the heart desire for prayer is lacking; they do not know how to spend half an hour with God! It is not that they absolutely do not pray; they pray every day—but they have no joy in prayer, as a token of communion with God that shows that God is everything to them.

If a friend comes to visit them, they have time, they make time, even at the cost of sacrifice, for the sake of enjoying converse with him. Yes, they have time for everything that really interests them, but no time to practice fellowship with God and delight themselves in Him! They find time for a creature who can be of service to them; but day after day, month after month passes, and there is no time to spend one hour with God.

Do not our hearts begin to acknowledge what a dishonor, what a despite of God

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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.

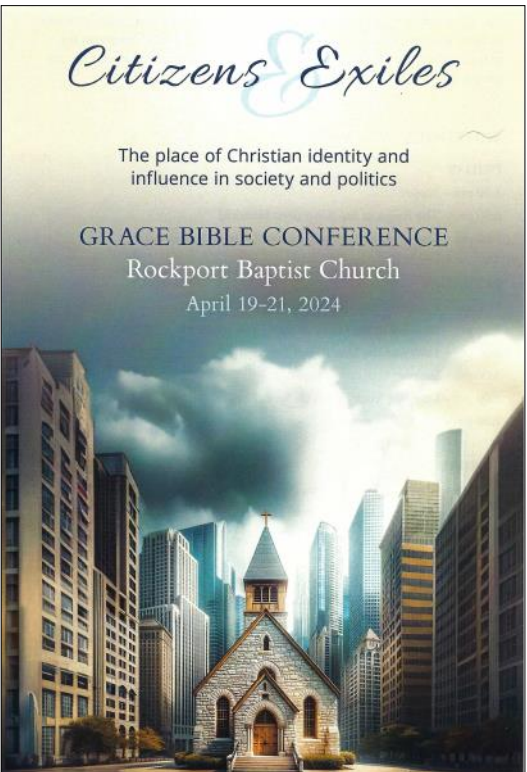
“If there is no church... should you not commence one?” C. H. Spurgeon

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this is, that I dare to say I cannot find time for fellowship with Him? If this sin begins to appear plain to us, shall we not with deep shame cry out, "Woe is me, for I am undone, O God; be merciful to me, and forgive this awful sin of prayerlessness." Consider further—

2. It is the cause of a deficient spiritual life. It is a proof that, for the most part, our life is still under the power of "the flesh." Prayer is the pulse of life; by it, the doctor can tell what is the condition of the heart. The sin of prayerlessness is a proof for the ordinary Christian or minister that the life of God in the soul is in deadly sickness and weakness.

Much is said and many complaints are made about the feebleness of the Church to fulfill her calling, to exercise an influence over her members, to deliver them from the power of the world, and to bring them to a life of holy consecration to God. Much is also spoken about her indifference to the millions of heathen whom Christ entrusted to her that she might make known to them His love and salvation. What is the reason that many thousands of Christian workers in the world have not a greater influence? Nothing save this: the prayerlessness of their service. In the midst of all their zeal in the study and in the work of the Church, of all their faithfulness in preaching and conversation with the people, they lack that ceaseless prayer that has attached to it the sure promise of the Spirit and the power from on high. It is nothing but the sin of prayerlessness that is the cause of the lack of a powerful spiritual life! Consider further—



3. The dreadful loss that the church suffers as a result of prayerlessness of the minister. It is the business of a minister to train believers up to a life of prayer; but how can a leader do this if he himself understands little the art of conversing with God and of receiving

from the Holy Spirit, every day, out of heaven, abundant grace for himself and for his work? A minister cannot lead a congregation higher than he is himself. He cannot with enthusiasm point out a way, or explain a work, in which he is not himself walking or living.

How many thousands of Christians there are who know next to nothing of the blessedness of prayer fellowship with God! How many there are who know something of it and long for a further increase of this knowledge, but in the preaching of the Word they are not persistently urged to keep on until they obtain the blessing! The reason is simply and only that the minister understands so little about the secret of powerful prayer and does not give prayer the place in his service that, in the nature of the case and in the will of God, is indispensably necessary. Oh, what a difference we should notice in our congregations if ministers could be brought to see in its right light the sin of prayerlessness and were delivered from it! Once more, consider—

4. The impossibility of preaching the gospel to all men—as we are commanded by Christ to do—so long as this sin is not overcome and cast out.

Many feel that the great need of missions is the obtaining of men and women who will give themselves to the Lord to strive in prayer for the salvation of souls. It has also been said that God is eager and able to deliver and bless the world if His people were but willing, if they were but ready, to cry to Him day and night. But how can congregations be brought to that unless there comes first an entire change in ministers and that they begin to see that the indispensable thing is not preaching, not pastoral visitation, not church work, but fellowship with God in prayer until they are clothed with power from on high?

Oh, that all thought and work and expectation concerning the kingdom might drive us to the acknowledgment of the sin of prayerlessness! God help us to root it out! God deliver us from it through the blood and power of Christ Jesus! God teach every minister of the Word to see what a glorious place he may occupy if he first of all is delivered from this root of evils; so that with courage and joy, in faith and perseverance, he can go on with his God!

The sin of prayerlessness! The Lord lay the burden of it so heavy on our hearts that we may not rest till it is taken far from us through the name and power of Jesus. He will make this possible for us.

1. despite—action that shows utter lack of respect.

From *The Prayer Life*, Morgan & Scott Limited.

Andrew Murray (1828-1917): South African Dutch Reformed pastor, educator, and author; born in Graaff Reinet, South Africa. Chapel Library, 2603 W Wright St., Pensacola, FL 32505 * chapel@mountzion.org * www.mountzion.org * 850-438-6666.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SBAOC Semi-annual Meeting
—Saturday, April 20, at 9:00 a.m. at Rockport Baptist Church. The meeting will be a combined in-person and livestream through Teams. Those participating via Teams should contact Terry Coker to register.

Grace Bible Conference—April 19-21. Rockport Baptist Church, Arnold, MO.

Missions & Evangelism Conference — May 3-4. 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. Webster Conference Center, Salina, KS. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. Theme: Philippians: Pressing On. Registration is closed for this camp.

Theology Camp—July 8-12. 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.

