

The Pine Torch



Volume 14 Issue 4
April 2011



Please pray each week for one of our Neches River Association Pastors/Churches. Following is the list for April.

FBC Kennard	Pastor	Jim Durham	Apr 3 - Apr 9
FBC Lovelady	Pastor	Pastorless	Apr 10 - Apr 16
Grapeland Baptist	Pastor	Charles Pyle	Apr 17 - Apr 23
Georgia Camp	Pastor	Pastorless	Apr 24 - Apr 30

DIRECTORS THOUGHTS

TOGETHER WE CAN...

For my article this month I would 1st like to remind everyone that "Resurrection Sunday" is a great time to invite not-yet-believers to church. More unsaved people come to church during this time of year than any other. Why not develop a strategy now to impact your kingdom. For example:

Lifeway has a great idea called the **ESV Good News of Easter Kit**. Each kit comes with 50 door hanging bags plus many other items to invite people to church on Resurrection Day. The Tyler Lifeway has some in stock or you can order them by pasting the following in your internet browser: <http://www.lifewaystores.com/lwstore/product.asp?isbn=L11717478X>

2nd, one of the buzzwords that is being tossed around today is "Church Revitalization." The reason for this emphasis, I believe has to do with the fact that so many of our churches today are not fulfilling the Great Commission. Jesus said, "**The fields are white unto harvest**", but since we are no longer winning souls a great majority of our churches (including Neches River) are declining.

Director's of Mission's are constantly dialoging and looking for ways to assist you, our churches to reach your local mission field for Christ. I plan to spend a great deal of time in the days ahead meeting one-on-one and with groups of pastors to strategize as to what we can do in Neches River to begin to impact the darkness of sin where we live.

Because I desire to see our churches impact the kingdom, I am going to share for several newsletters articles that Dr. Jim Gatliff, DOM at Hunt Association wrote. I believe they are timely:

"The statistics are alarming: Eight out of ten Southern Baptist churches are not growing. Among the churches that are increasing in attendance, only one out of twenty is growing through conversions. In Texas, 52 percent of Southern Baptist churches are now declining in attendance. And the real kicker: Of the churches that stop growing, less than one percent ever start growing again.

The vast majority of our churches must revitalize in order to survive in the long term, and most of our pastors must be church revitalization pastors. Otherwise, former SBC President Frank Page's prediction that 20,000 Southern Baptist churches will close over the next couple of decades could become a reality.

My personal ministry in revitalizing churches, my experiences of working with high-growth new church starts, and the time I spent developing the Ezekiel Project for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and consulting with declining churches across Texas have all left me with some definite convictions about church revitalization:

1. There are no miracle formulas or magic bullets when it comes to church revitalization.

What produces new growth in some churches, will be totally disastrous in other contexts. For example, a second worship service or a new blend of worship in some cases may enable a church to remain a multi-generational church or even reach new generations, but both of these have resulted in serious church conflict in other situations. Church relocation plans have enabled land-locked congregations and churches in transitional communities to enter new chapters of growth, but in other situations they have hamstrung congregations with almost unbearable debt. New missional ministries and programs have opened new vistas of outreach and growth for many churches, while other congregations have seen such programs deplete their limited worker bases and cause neglect and attrition in other core ministries. Reorganization plans have helped some churches overcome structural issues, people barriers, and leadership deficiencies and have enabled them to make wise decisions that lead to new growth. For other churches, reorganization has amounted to nothing more than rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. In some cases, the ship started sinking even faster.

In order to revitalize and grow, a church must discover God's plan for the church and obediently follow God's instructions to the letter (yes, I believe that God desires and has a plan for every church to thrive). For this reason, prayer and spiritual discernment are absolutely essential to all aspects of church revitalization. If a congregation wants to grow again, it should begin by intensively seeking the Lord together through prayer. It is actually rare to find declining churches that are fervently praying together for God's visionary plan for the church.

2. Lasting church revitalization requires personal change and new spiritual growth among key leaders and highly involved members.

After all, the church is people, not buildings or programs. When we talk about revitalization, we are talking about revitalization of people! Church revitalization ALWAYS involves repentance and spiritual renewal. This begins with the pastor. Ed Stetzer and Mike Dodson wrote in their book Comeback Churches that revitalizing churches must have "new or renewed" pastors. A downcast, depressed, and defeated pastor will probably only lead others to be frustrated and faithless, but a Spirit-filled, enthusiastic, joyous pastor will inevitably influence others in the church gladly to embrace God's plans.

Other key leaders and highly involved members also need a fresh encounter with God before (and as) a church experiences a new day. In many churches we have falsely substituted moral integrity and faithfulness in attendance, service, and giving for genuine spiritual vitality. Often in struggling churches, however, one finds broken relationships among members, apathetic disobedience to God's word, and an atmosphere of legalistic spiritual deadness. For the dry bones to rise up as an army, they must hear the word of the Lord, come together as a body, and experience the breath of God. Church revitalization IS church member revival."

There will be 7 of these convictions. Don't miss them!

Awaiting the Shout,
Brother Bill

NO MEETING IN APRIL

NEXT MEETING

MAY 10, 2011

DORCAS WILLS MEMORIAL, TRINITY

VBS Clinic Planned for April 30



The 2011 NRBA Vacation Bible School Clinic will be at 8:30 a.m. at Dorcas Wills Memorial Baptist Church in Trinity.

"Big Apple Adventure" is the theme for this year. Join us for a worship rally and break-out sessions for all VBS workers.

UPCOMING EVENT FOR PASTORS

PRAYING AND LISTENING SESSION

JIM RICHARDS SBTC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND OTHERS

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, CROCKETT

APRIL 18, 2011
11:30—1:00

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

Please call the church office @ 936-544-3677
to register.

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..... Keeney Dickenson
Vice Moderator..... Carl Standley
Treasurer..... Arnold Winkler
Administrative Assistant..... Linda Schaeffer
Home phone 936-544-1280
Cell phone 936-546-8005
OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Afternoons (Contact Brother Bill by cell)
Closed Friday afternoon

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Crockett TX
Permit No. 79

CALENDAR OF EVENTS APRIL 2011

NO MEETING IN APRIL

- 22 Good Friday - Office closed**
- 24 Resurrection Sunday**

ATTENTION!

IF YOU OR YOUR CHURCH IS INTERESTED IN A MISSION TRIP TO ROMANIA IN 2012 PLEASE CONTACT JARED BURT AT 903-649-2036



FRIDAY, April 8, 2011

9:00-4:00PM Pre-conference Intensives
 People Group Missionary
 Disaster Relief
 Mission Service Corps
 Multihousing

1:00 – 2:00PM Whiteboard Session 1: Hindu, Buddhist & Muslim
 People Groups

PART 1: - Roy McClung, Brent Sorrels, & Chad Vandiver

2:10 – 3:10PM Whiteboard Session 2: Hindu, Buddhist & Muslim
 People Groups

PART 2: - Roy McClung, Brent Sorrels, & Chad Vandiver

4:30- 7:30PM Registration for SENT Conference
 7:00-7:50 PM Workshop 1 (50 min)

8:00-9:15 PM Opening Gathering w/ Matt Boswell & Landon Reesor
 9:15-10:30PM Intentional Café Networking & booths

SATURDAY, April 9, 2011

8:00-8:50 AM Early Bird Special! Workshop 2 (50 min)
 8:00-8:50 AM Café Networking & Booths

9:00-9:50 AM Workshop 3 (50 min)
 10:00-10:50 AM Workshop 4 (50 min)

11:00-12:15 PM Afternoon Gathering w/ Proscuneo & 5 X 7
 (5 speakers/7minutes)

12:30-1:30PM Special Lunch Panel w Speakers on-site
 (Must pre-register)

1:40-2:30 PM Workshop 5 (50 min)
 2:40-3:30PM Booths

3:30PM Exhibits Close

For more information contact: sbtexas.com/sent
 or call Tiffany Smith at 1-877-7282

GIFTS FROM CHURCHES

CHURCHES	PASTORS	Feb	Yr to Date 3/24/11
1001 · Antioch	Jared Burt	119.29	325.96
1002 · Apple Springs	J. Lindsey Nimmons	187.63	427.33
1003 · Austonio	Pastorless	125.46	320.90
1004 · Bible Believers	Tracy Henderson IP	100.00	100.00
1005 · Calvary Nogalus	James Whittlesey	1,204.88	1,462.14
1006 · Calvary Trinity	Dr. Randy Lowe	427.72	1,207.57
1007 · Carlisle	Pastorless	176.68	462.29
1008 · Central	John Goss	399.14	754.37
1009 · Dorcas Will Memorial	Jason Burden	384.76	708.39
1010 · Faith	Kyle Coston	75.00	150.00
1011 · Family of God	Slim Evans	0.00	87.00
1012 · FBC Crockett	Keeney Dickenson	1,668.18	5,715.48
1013 · FBC Friday	Albert Harris	0.00	0.00
1014 · FBC Glendale	John Valenta	75.00	225.00
1015 · FBC Grapeland	Pastorless	541.61	1,961.33
1016 · FBC Groveton	Lewis Jones	656.21	1,201.34
1017 · FBC Kennard	Jim Durham	100.00	300.00
1018 · FBC Lovelady	Pastorless	288.87	866.61
1019 · Georgia Camp	Pastorless	0.00	75.00
1020 · Lake	Bill Martin	14.58	79.81
1021 · Lakeway, Carlisle	Marvin Martin	0.00	88.77
1022 · Latexo	Dr. Jeff Taylor	230.92	503.24
1023 · Mt. Vernon	Pastorless	0.00	0.00
1024 · Oak Grove	Dennis Morgan	92.08	215.15
1025 · Oaklawn	Lester McAdams	300.00	900.00
1026 · Open Door Mission	Davis Thornton	82.96	157.80
1027 · Pearson Chapel	James Gunnels	26.49	80.43
1028 · Pleasant Grove	Kenneth Myers	167.50	496.25
1029 · Porter Springs	Carl Standley	199.78	734.74
1030 · Primera Iglesia Bautista	Pablo Palma	70.00	70.00
1031 · Ratcliff	Dr. Bob Lacey IP	151.33	439.58
1032 · St. Lukes	Larry Mouton	25.00	75.00
1033 · San Pedro	Tommy Hutto	0.00	503.99
1034 · New Scrub Creek	Dudley Austin	0.00	230.00
1035 · Shady Grove	Terry Gibson IP	72.13	141.32
1036 · Shady Grove 1st	Dr. Charles Lowery	38.94	154.20
1037 · Trinity Pines	Mark Gray	115.35	323.74
1038 · Weldon	Pastorless	0.00	408.00
1039 · West Side	Steve Meadows	0.00	719.70
1040 · Zion Hill	Dee Queen	169.00	336.60
1041 · Groveton Hispanic Mission	Oscar Campos	11.32	19.12
1042 · New Pleasant Grove	Winston Spencer	100.00	300.00
1043 · Iglesia Bautista Jesucristo	Oscar Campos	0.00	0.00
1044 · Truly God's Country Coboy	Gene Kellum	25.00	50.00
1045 · Ho. County Cowboy Church	Will Yates	0.00	200.00
1046 · Grapeland Baptist	Charles Pyle	25.00	75.00
1047 · 21 Fellowship	Simon Goncharenko	90.00	126.00
1048 · Calvary, Crockett	Pastorless	16.84	49.75
1099 · Association Meeting Offeing		0.00	0.00
Total		8,554.65	23,828.90

* Church numbers are for bookkeeping purposes only !

Pulpit Supply	Phone #	Pulpit Supply	Phone #
Dee Black	(936) 594-9574	Don Burkhalter	(936) 594-7515
Jim Turner	(903) 729-1529	Fred Lintelman	(936) 687-4177
Leroy Brown	(936) 594-6469	Thomas Potter	(903) 729-2387
Don Mize	(936) 544-8298/544-9832	Charles Goodson	(281)252-0347
Paul Knight	(936) 222-5250	Willie Reagan	(903)-764-5986
Roye Blackmon	936-544-3540		

Music Supply	Phone #	Music Supply	Phone #
Jeff & Carolyn Cuellar	(936) 594-2463	Delbert Salisbury	(936) 687-2163
Randy & Betty Welborn	(936) 436-0046	Mark Hester	(936) 638-2001
Billy & Judy Seamans	(936) 594-6539/594-7331	Roye Blackmon	(936) 544-3540
Tom Dixon	(936) 642-2186		

Happy Birthday
 5 Gene Kellum 14 Helen Harris
 11 Jason Burden 18 Sara Burt
 13 Eva Martin 19 Amber Pyle

Reminder!

May is Music Month

Meeting at Dorcas Wills Church in Trinity

If you or your church group wants to sing at our meeting May 10 please contact Rodney McCaleb at the church, 936-594-3822 so the program can be planned.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCHES WITHOUT A PASTOR:

- Austonio
- Mt Vernon
- Weldon
- Shady Grove
- Georgia Camp
- FBC Lovelady
- FBC Grapeland
- Carlisle
- Calvary, Crockett

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**APRIL 3
 10:00 AM**

WELDON BAPTIST CHURCH

A catered lunch will be served

ANNOUNCEMENT

Brother John Valenta will be retiring from First Baptist Church Glendale in June. Brother John has served as the pastor for 27 years and will be greatly missed. Please pray for this church as they begin the process of finding new leadership.