

Troup Baptist Association

The Failure of the Christian Family/Home

My friend, Pastor Steve Evans, made a post to Facebook that really resonated with me and got me to thinking! In his post, he was quoting the actor, Denzel Washington, regarding the events in the news today. He quoted Washington as saying, "The system is not the problem. The Home is the problem. Where are the fathers and mentors to teach our children morals and values before they enter the system? The system is not locking-up 7-year-olds; it's locking up adults, who are products of no daddy and no one to teach them to honor, respect, and love one another - no matter what color." Wow! Sounds to me like Washington nailed it! Pastor Evans continued, "The greatest calling a man has, after following Christ, is to be a husband and a father. Our first calling is to be the best us we can be. If we cannot get that right, neither will our children. They will become a product of the environment, or system, **and not a product of the home.**" Again, wow! (Reread that last quote and meditate on it.) In my lifetime, undoubtedly, the greatest failure in America has been the failure of the home. Its collapse started the cascade effect we are dealing with today!

In the Bible, John chapter one, we find the story of John the Baptist. I have lifted three verses from the narrative, John 1: 6,7, & 20: (KJV) *"6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ."* In these verses we discover first that John was sent from God. He had a specific purpose. We then discover that his purpose was to bear witness of the Christ. His role was to prepare the way for Another! And finally, it is revealed that he knew he was not the Christ.

Regarding the family unit today, or perhaps better stated, the decline and destruction of the family unit today, as men and women of God, it is critically important that we realize the same truths John the Baptist realized. First, we must realize that when we made our entrance into this life, we came as part of God's plan. Just as God told the Prophet Jeremiah, so is it true for all of us: Jeremiah 1:5, (KJV) *"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."* Each of us came into this world with a mission from God. It could

rightfully be said: And there was a man or a woman from God, whose name was (Insert your name.) Secondly, regardless of our mission in life, it contains an element of preparing others. As parents, from the day our children are born, our mission is to prepare them to succeed in life. Thirdly, fulfilling our mission means realizing who we are not. Yes, realizing who we are not is a critical element in realizing who we are! When I became a husband, a daddy, and a pawpaw, it required that I first realize who I no longer was! As 1 Corinthians 13:11 (KJV) states, *"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."* This meant I could no longer run the streets, party-hearty, and live a sinful, debased, wicked ungodly lifestyle. I had to grow up! I had to prioritize the correct things in my life! I had to start acting like a grown man!

Sadly, in my opinion, we have raised one, perhaps two, and maybe even three generations who have progressively become more and more a product of their environment and the system. They are not the product of a Godly home. I am convinced that the only recourse we have is to say, believe, and flesh-out what Joshua said to the Children

of Israel in Joshua 24:15, (KJV) *"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

The failure of the Christian home is at the root of the problems America faces today. Our only hope is for a revival of the Christian family. From this comes the restoration of everything we once had, but are so woefully lacking today. Things like: Godly husbands, wives, mommas, daddies, grandparents - who are raising their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. And things like manners, respect, courtesy, discipline, morals, decency, civic duty, a sense of right and wrong, and a thousand other things!

Again, listen to what Denzel Washington said, "They will become a product of the environment, or system, and not a product of the home." Lord, please send a revival of the Christian family and the Christian home.

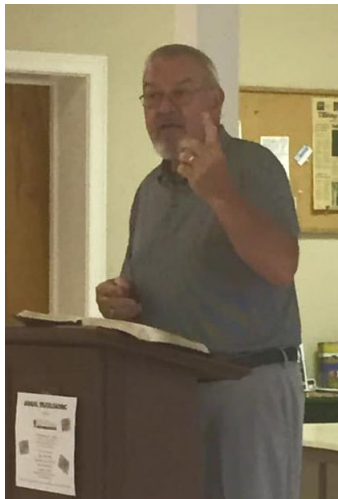
Brother Aaron

We encourage you to "like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/troubaptist

News

Association - The Monday morning Pastor's Prayer Fellowship resumed with in-person gatherings with the option to join the meeting via "Zoom". Rev. Dennis Farr of Freedom Baptist Church brought the message to the pastors on their first Monday back, June 15. He "shucked the corn" right down to the cob!

On June 22, Pastor Kenneth Cole brought an excellent sermon on "The Prejudiced Prophet" (Jonah). We had a wonderful response in this second week of combined in-person and Zoom meetings. There were 15 in-person attendees and six on Zoom. Of course, all safety protocols are in place.



Rev. Dennis Farr



Rev. Kenneth Cole (Dunson) bringing the message to the Pastors' Prayer Fellowship.

Association - The Troup Baptist Association's Video Library continues to grow with two ongoing series: "What's Your Story?" and the newest one, "Faith, Fun and a Touch of Foolishness with Dr. Paul Baxter."

- The series, "What's Your Story?" gives our pastors a chance to tell their stories of salvation and of their calls into the ministry. These are very inspirational, heartwarming and encouraging. To date, we have stories from Dr. Tom Tucker of First Baptist in West Point, Rev. Doug Bingham of Unity Baptist in LaGrange and Rev. Derek Williams of New Macedonia Baptist in LaGrange. And coming soon, Rev. Michael Stiggers of Eastside Baptist in LaGrange will tell his story. You may view this video series by going to the website www.troubaptist.org and click on the Instructional Videos tab.
- Faith, Fun and a Touch of Foolishness with Dr. Paul Baxter and Brother Aaron points out humor in the Bible, includes current news, all the while encouraging Christians in their faith with a little laughter thrown in. This series can also be found on the Troup Baptist Association website. This will be an ongoing series. If you have topics or humor in the Bible that you would like for them to discuss as a part of this series, or if you would like to nominate your pastor to share his story, please send an email with your request to:

- Dr. Baxter (prbaxter7@gmail.com)

or

- Bro. Aaron (aaron@troubaptist.com)

Troup Baptist Association

Mission Statement:

The Troup Baptist Association is a Spiritual, educational, and community resource that, through cooperative fellowship, equips pastors, staff, and churches as they seek to fulfill The Great Commission of Jesus Christ.



Dr. Baxter and Bro. Aaron on the set for the video series: Faith, Fun and a Touch of Foolishness



Rev. Derek Williams telling his Story to Bro. Aaron for the video series: What's Your Story?

Association - Church Prayer List

For July 2020, please pray for following churches:

Week of July 5, 2020 - Open Range Cowboy Church
 Week of July 12, 2020 - Praise & Prayer Ministry Baptist Church
 Week of July 19, 2020 - Reeds Chapel Baptist Church
 Week of July 26, 2020 - Roper Heights Baptist Church
 Week of August 2, 2020 - Rosemont Baptist Church
 Week of August 9, 2020 - Second Baptist Church
 Week of August 16, 2020 - Shoal Creek Baptist Church
 Week of August 23, 2020 - Stovall Baptist Church
 Week of August 30, 2020 - Teaver Road Baptist Church

Please pray for God to bless these churches and meet their needs.

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The Food Closet served 477 individuals and gave away 269 boxes of food and 406 meals during the month. On June 6, Feeding the Valley and BTC did a mobile food drive giving away 500 boxes of food plus oranges, apples and chicken. • BTC Prayer Warriors have been going to the square in LaGrange and praying for our country. • The Red Cross Blood Drive on July 6 from 2-7 pm. Social distancing was practiced. If you can give, please do. Your donation may save someone's life.

- There will be a mobile food drive on July 25 from 10 am-12.
- "July 4 is Independence Day and we all need to pray for our country and our leaders. May God bless America. Have a safe and happy 4th."

Grace - began in-person services in June with Sunday School in the George Harris Building behind the church at 10:00 am, morning worship service in the sanctuary at 10:45 am and Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. CDC guidelines are followed. All other activities are cancelled until further notice. All services will be streamed live on Grace's Facebook page and their YouTube page. Please visit our website for updates and links to the Facebook, YouTube and RU Recovery Chapter 1078. Website is <http://www.gbclagrange.com/>

Highland - continued to hold services on Facebook and by conference call. Highland had two members who graduated from Callaway High School: Blake Johnson and Zack Neighbors. "We congratulate them on this achievement."

- We lost a dear friend in June, as Mrs. Jean Crocker went home to be with the Lord. She was such a special member of Highland Church, serving as Sunday School Teacher, a member of the choir, and was active in the WMU for many years. "She will be greatly missed!"
- Highland will not hold services during July due to the increase of COVID-19 cases in Troup County. The Sunday Morning Facebook Live service begins at 10:15 am. Wednesday night Prayer and Bible Study teleconference starts at 6:00 pm. "Everyone stay safe!"

Lakeview - Wednesday night Bible study will continue at 6 pm. Sunday morning worship will continue at 10 am in the sanctuary and will also be broadcast outside for those who wish to remain in their cars. The nursery will be closed until further notice due to the pandemic.

Mountville (MBC) - MBC has enjoyed outside worship services for the last few weeks. The Lord has blessed us with beautiful weather each week and His Spirit has been among us! As Preacher Dwayne pointed out, we are having church in the exact location of our future building. The Lord continues to work in amazing ways through this unprecedented time! The services continue to be posted on Facebook Live as well.

- MBC is so proud of our 2020 Graduates: Callie Shelton and Katie Dupree! They both graduated from Callaway High School and will be attending Auburn University in the Fall.
- MBC was very honored to provide lunch for the staff at Pruitt Health Care in Greenville in May. "We are so thankful and pray for all the health care workers during these difficult times."

Georgia Baptist Children's Home Annual Truckloading Event

**July 20 - 23, 2020
9:00 am until 3:00 pm**

Due to virus restrictions this year, we are only collecting gift cards for the Children's Home. Preferred cards are Walmart / Sams, Kroger, VISA.

Cards may be dropped off at:

Troup Baptist Association office,
1301 Washington St, LaGrange GA

Cards may be mailed to:

Troup Baptist Association
P.O. Box 550
LaGrange, GA 30241

New Hope (LaGrange) - "The Ever Changing Seasons of Life" was the topic of Preacher Mike Hornsby's message on Sunday, June 28. He used Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 as his reference. This was an appropriate scripture for his church family as Preacher Mike read his personal letter announcing his retirement from the pulpit effective August 30. For over 25 years, he has used his gift of ministering, teaching, and preaching God's word to his New Hope congregation. He will be truly missed and our hearts of love, appreciation and thankfulness go to him and Susan as they enter this "changing season of their life." May God bless and guide you as you trust Him for your future. • During our time of no church services, we were saddened to lose two church members. Our love and condolences go to Betty Sue Parmer in the passing of her husband, J.W. Parmer on April 7, and to Mel Hilderbrand in the death of her son, Clint on April 25. Also, our sympathy to Lou Sanders in the death of her brother. Those in the hospital are now recovering at home.

- The Deacon Chairman, Clint DeMooney has called for "a season of prayer" as the deacons meet to establish procedures for the selection of a search committee. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance.
- The worship service may be seen on Facebook each Sunday morning at 11:00 am. There will be no Sunday School or Wednesday night service. "Let's not give up or be discouraged, stay positive, rejoice in the Lord each day and be thankful." Philippians 4:6-7.

Faith Bible Institute

Troup Baptist Association—Satellite Campus

Fall Semester Enrollment through July 1

Tuition & Fees:

Returning Students: \$97 / Spouse \$61

New Student \$139

Late Enrollment July 2 through August 18 (Late fee of \$28)

For more info: www.troubaptist.org or call 706-884-1975

JULY CALENDAR

6 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
 13 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
 20 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
 20-23 Truckloading Event for Children's Home
 27 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom

TBA refers to Troup Baptist Association
 Association Prayer Group is not currently meeting but accepting
 prayer requests by phone (706)884-1975 or www.troubaptist.org



Happy Birthday July



6 Rev. Michael Hornsby, New Hope LaGrange
 13 Rev. Bobby Bozeman, Baptist Tabernacle
 20 Rev. Billy McCollough
 20 Rev. Eddie Striblin, Roper Heights
 23 Rev. Max McCord
 24 Rev. Fred Buchanan
 24 Rev. Chris King
 27 Rev. Robert Bagley
 27 Rev. Brad Thompson, Callaway



Happy Independence Day!



The Fourth of July weekend was approaching, and Miss Pelham, the nursery school teacher, took the opportunity to tell her class about patriotism. 'We live in a great country,' she announced. 'One of the things we should be happy is that, in this country, we are all free.'

Trevor, who was a little boy in her class, came walking up to her from the back of the room. He stood with his hands on his hips and said loudly, 'I'm not free. I'm four.'

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Photos

Baptist Tabernacle Church



Above: BTC Prayer Warriors have been going to the square in LaGrange and praying for our country.

Mountville Baptist / Outdoor Church



MBC has enjoyed outside worship services for the last few weeks. The Lord has blessed us with beautiful weather each week and His Spirit has been among us! As Preacher Dwayne pointed out, we are having church in the exact location of our future building. The Lord continues to work in amazing ways through this unprecedented time! The services continue to be posted on Facebook Live.

Mountville Baptist Graduates



Above: Baptist Tabernacle holds weekly food and clothing closets and held a mobile food drive with Feeding the Valley on June 6. They will have another mobile food drive on July 25 from 10am until 12 noon.



L-R: Callie Shelton and Katie Dupree
Callaway High School 2020