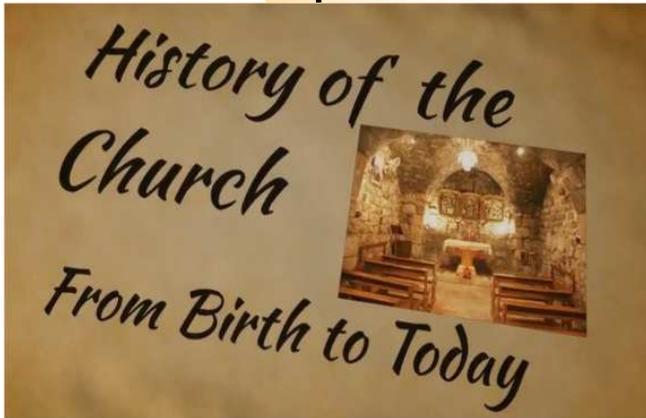


COOL CONNECTIONS

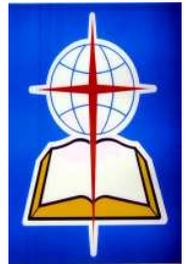
Volume 6 Issue 3

March 2016



History of the Church From Birth to Today

Class Finishes Survey of the first 1500 Years of church History



At the request of the Sunday Night Class attenders, Pastor Chuck prepared and has been presenting a special survey class of church history. Since January, the class has been engaged in the study of the church from Pentecost to the Reformation. The class has surveyed apostolic writings, early church father writings and the development of the church. The class has dealt with the Fall of the Church when Constantine aligned himself with the church. It has looked all the way from that time on to what has been good and what has been bad in the life and development of the early church.

March 6th, the class will finish this first section with a study of the Babylonian Captivity of the Roman Catholic Church, the Tri-Pope period when the Roman Catholic Church actually had 3 men competing and claiming to be the Vicar of Christ, and how the corruption in the Roman Catholic Church actually demanded that men and women of conscience and biblical faith lead out in the coming Reformation.

Beginning March 13th, the class will engage in the study of Church History from the Reformation, which began October 31, 1517 all the way into what the church is doing today. In this study we will look at the Magisterial Reformers of Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli and what great work they accomplished in starting the Reformation of the Church. Then we will look at the Radical Reformation in which leaders decided that the Magisterial Reformers had not reformed enough. We will look at the beginning and development of the Baptist church as well as other mainline Protestant Churches.

The last section of the Church History class will exclusively look at Southern Baptist Church History. It is the goal of this class to inform our church members of the very rich heritage we have inherited as Southern Baptist Christians and to encourage us to continue to live lives according to the Bible. Won't you join us? Sunday Nights 5:30 Snack Fellowship. Class 6-7PM.

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It's on my heart...

Each year I look forward to our Easter Celebration. I think about how we might in some way use the popularity of this season to invite and make someone feel welcome to come to church who normally does not attend. While there are many programs and tools out on the Christian Ministry Market Place, there is only one method that I have ever seen work on a consistent basis. A personal invitation from a friend is the only

thing I have seen work successfully to bring someone to church.

As a consequence, I cannot impact our attendance any more than any one of us in the church. But what we do try to do is to give you something which you can invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come and experience with you. This year we are having a special Good Friday Service with an evening meal and a special service for worship that will include Bryan

Beale leading. Then on Easter Sunday Morning we will at the end of our service observe the Lord's Supper.

I pray that God will open your eyes to see the field of the harvest that He has prepared for us. I pray you will invite someone to come and go church with you. I pray that these special opportunities will give you the chance to make an eternal difference in other people's lives. I am praying for you to come as well! In His Love,

Pastor Chuck

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

Jesus, however, invited them: "Let the little children come to Me, and don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."
Luke 18:16 (HCSB)

We have been having large crowds on Wednesday nights at Gospel Kids. We really appreciate all those who give a hand in this ministry to the Pre-K through fifth grade age children of Coolidge.

On Wednesday, February 17, we had an especially large and a bit lively group of kids. Three of our regular workers, Glen and Deborah Hullum and Ardie Shea, who faithfully serve every Wednesday, had to be

gone due to sickness and family emergencies, but God raised up three other willing adult leaders to fill in the gap that night. Thank you, Francis Carter, Betty Smith, and Roger

Anderson for making the sacrifice of your time to help out. You really blessed me, the children, and the Lord. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."



Plans are going forward for our first ever week of BACKYARD KIDS' CLUB which will take place this summer on June 20-24. We plan on having Bible

study, crafts, games, music, and snacks for the children at 4 different neighborhoods around Coolidge. The clubs will meet outside and last about one and one half hour. We will need

many volunteers, so please pray about what God would have you do to help in this great adventure.

Also pray that the weather will be good and that all the preparation, training, and loose ends will come together. Most of all pray that children and adults will come to Christ through

this ministry. Contact me or Deborah for more information.

Jo Lynn

Outreach Opportunities

(Keeping the "Main Thing"
the "Main Thing"!)

When I pray for my family, especially my boys and their families, I ask God to put someone in their paths to draw them closer to Him. As we begin making plans for Easter, let us not forget that reaching out to our neighbors, friends, and family and inviting them to come to all the activities that are being planned, might be the answer to someone's prayer. Let's not just invite them to church, let's invite them to "Come and See Jesus!"

For this month only, we have changed our 4x4x4 (remember that stands for 4th Sunday, at 4:00 p.m., we make contact with 4 families for Christ). Our 4x4x4 will be on the 3rd Sunday at 3:00, and I hope to hand out flyers to 30 people. So I guess you could call it 3x3x30!! We have some exciting events to invite people to attend. On March 25th, our Good Friday service will actually be a celebration with a meal and a concert by Bryan Beale and others. Then, who cannot be excited about our Easter morning worship service? Won't you come join us at 3:00 p.m. on March 20th to see who the Lord would have us encounter as we go out visiting.

Deborah

M.E.N.'s Prayer Breakfast

Saturday March 19th

at 8:30 am

The food is great!

**Come together as the
Christian Men of Coolidge
and Pray for God's Presence
in our city!**



**Annual
Spring
Cleanup**

We hope you will make plans to come and help with spring clean-up day on March 19th. Men's breakfast will be at 8:30 a.m. and if you come at 9:30 for the clean-up, there will be breakfast for those coming to clean! Help us get ready for our Easter celebration. It's not hard work and the fellowship is priceless!

If you see anything around the church that needs our attention, please let us know so that we can get it on our list.

Glen



MISSIONS

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8 (HCSB)

Dear Church Family,

As we approach Easter our hearts always turn to the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions**. The NAMB (formerly the Home Mission Board) has served our convention for 150 years to help us as sister churches to work cooperatively to reach North America for Christ. In the following paragraphs I have taken excerpts from the 2015 Annual Report of NAMB that was given last summer at our national convention, and copied them here to help you be informed of all that the money we give is going to accomplish. It reflects data from the 2013-2014 year. Read with me and see the wonderful work that is being done and prayerfully consider what you and your family will give towards the advancement of the Kingdom of God in North America in this coming year.

**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING®**

Establishment of New Congregations

Ministry Statement: Assisting churches in planting healthy, multiplying, evangelistic Southern Baptist churches in the United States and Canada.

In 2014, partners reported 985 church plants. Of the 985 plants reported, 579 (about 59%) are reported as non-Anglo. Church to population in 2013 was one SBC

congregation for every 6,282 people. In Canada the ratio was one Canadian National Baptist



Convention (CNBC) congregation for every 112,115 people. NAMB is working with its partners to see 15,000 churches added to the SBC during the period 2012-2022.

Survival rate: Of the 943 churches Southern Baptists planted in 2010, 80 percent—757—are still in the SBC database.

Membership: Those 2010 church plants that reported via ACP saw a membership gain of 7 percent in 2013 over 2012. This is while membership across all SBC churches declined 0.86 percent.

Evangelism

Ministry Statement: Assisting churches in the ministries of evangelism and making disciples.

NAMB presented a new tool for Southern Baptist churches called 3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide. This tool is designed to assist pastors in training their congregations in personal evangelism by beginning gospel conversations. Since its debut at the 2014 Southern Baptist

Convention, 1 million print copies were ordered by Southern Baptist pastors and have been approximately 28,000 downloads of the app to mobile devices. NAMB has received consistent positive feedback from pastors, congregations, and other individuals using this resource in tremendous ways to share the gospel across North America. In cooperation with LifeWay in November 2014, NAMB introduced a Life on Mission five-week Bible study for pastors to train small groups to practically and intentionally share the gospel. On January 1, 2015 NAMB will introduce the Spanish translation of 3 Circles (3 Círculos: Guía Para Conversar Sobre La Vida) available free to pastors for six months.

Appointment and Support of Missionaries

Ministry Assignment: Assisting churches by appointing, supporting and assuring accountability for missionaries serving in the United States and Canada.

NAMB supports 5,611 missionaries in multiple categories. More than 3,600 Southern Baptist chaplains serve in the U.S. military, in state and federal prisons, hospice, hospitals, disaster relief, volunteers and many other settings around the world. NAMB endorses chaplains on behalf of Southern Baptists and helps train and encourages them as they share Christ every day, and have the opportunity to disciple those that already know Him.

(Continued on page 5)

Missionary Categories

The list below shows the approved categories of missionaries.

- Church Planter
- Church Planter Apprentice
- Church Planting Intern
- Church Planting Team Member
- Church Planting Catalyst
- Student Missionary
- Evangelism Catalyst
- Collegiate—University Missionary
- Convention Director of Evangelism (non-South conventions only)
- Convention Director of Missions or Convention Church Planting Director (non-South conventions only)
- Convention/Local LoveLoud Missionary (non-South conventions only)
- Mission Support Specialist

Missions and Missions Education

Ministry Assignment: Assisting churches by providing missions education and coordinating volunteer missions opportunities for church members.

NAMB is actively working with more than 3,900 SBC churches to connect with missions opportunities in North America. This includes the launch of a comprehensive suite of evangelism/discipleship tools including the Life On Mission book and Bible study and the 3 Circles: life Conversation Guide.

Additionally NAMB is conducting Send North America Experience Tour stops that will reach approximately 40,000 people educating them on mission strategy.

NAMB provides missionary mobilizers on all six SBC seminary campuses and on Baptist college campuses, at LifeWay camps and works in cooperation with the International Mission Board, LifeWay, the Woman’s Missionary Union and other Baptist entities to provide mission education support.

Disaster Relief

Ministry Statement: Assisting churches in relief ministries to victims of disaster and other people in need.

During 2014 NAMB’s Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Team worked in partnership with 42 state conventions and multiple associations to meet the needs of disaster survivors in 43 different states; worked with both Texas convention partners to minister to the needs of unaccompanied minors crossing the US/Mexico border; worked with state convention partners to minister to families affected by school shootings in four different states and continued to provide leadership to long-term recovery/rebuilding projects such as Superstorm Sandy Rebuild.

Funding North American Missions

North American Mission Board 2014/2015 Revenue/Expenses Summary

REVENUE	
Amount	
Cooperative Program	43,200,000
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	59,000,000
Unrestricted Gifts	5,750,000
Investment and Interest Income	12,000,000
Conference Fees & Other	1,600,000
TOTAL	121,550,000
EXPENSES	
Missionary Support	19,601,000
Evangelism	11,743,000
*Church Planting	58,890,000

- Leadership Development 2,329,000
- Mission Education and Volunteer Opportunities 3,760,000
- Relief Ministries 6,121,000
- Fund Raising 1,672,000
- Administrative 17,434,000
- TOTAL** 121,550,000

There is so much more I could share. But I hope this accountability that our NAMB has given to our convention will help you to see not only the power of what we can do by giving together, but the trustworthiness of the people we have who lead the NAMB on our behalf.

Each year our church gives, for its size, significant funds to missions. We have been repeatedly recognized by the Southern Baptist Convention as a church for our giving to missions. It has often been said by many great leaders of our convention that missions giving in the lifeblood of who we are as a conservative and biblical convention of Baptist believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that we will rise to the challenge and give a mighty offering in 2016 for the work that will be happening in our own North America. Reaching people for Christ is the only true hope we have to see any positive change in the life of America today.

Laura

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, COOLIDGE

PO Box 189
Coolidge, TX 76635

Church Phone:
254-786-2232
Pastor's Email
chuck@fbccool.com

Web Address is:
www.fbccool.com

He Came, We Go

Worshipping God Together

Experiencing God

Reaching Out

Giving Generously



Student Ministry News

¹² Let no one despise your youth; instead, you should be an example to the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12 (HCSB)

Hello brothers and sisters,

Here we are in March. Spring fever is starting to settle in. I am so excited that Easter comes early this year. I love Easter! This Easter our church has some exciting plans. On Good Friday First Baptist Church of Coolidge along with Iglesia Bautista Le Fe will be doing something new to reach our community. We will host a meal with a puppet show, in the fellowship hall, as the first round of fellowship. After which everybody will then move to the sanctuary to participate in some wonderful praise music.

Now back to what I was saying about a puppet show. This is no ordinary puppet show. It will be a bilingual. Yes, bilingual! The youth will be putting on this show. It will be a lot of fun. We will be discussing about what Good Friday means, well as the reason we celebrate it and Easter. Again this will be done bilingually so that all may enjoy. Please pray for our youth as they prepare for this. This puppet show is our first, and we would love for you to come out and join us for a fun night of food and of course, praising our risen savior, Jesus Christ.

In His, hands,

Melanie



If the Wise Men had come from America

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