

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

5 Day Chronological Bible Reading Program

Week Twenty-Seven : July 4 - 10

- Day 1: 1 Kings 10-11; 2 Chr 9; 1 Tim 6
- Day 2: Ecclesiastes 1-3; Psalm 45; 2 Tim 1
- Day 3: Eccl 4-6; Psalm 125; 2 Tim 2
- Day 4: Eccl 7-9; Psalm 46; 2 Tim 3
- Day 5: Eccl 10-12; 2 Tim 4

Week Twenty-Eight: July 11 - 17

- Day 1: 1 Kings 12; 2 Chr 10-11; Titus 1
- Day 2: 1 Kings 13-14; 2 Chr 12; Ps 47; Titus 2
- Day 3: 1 Kings 15; 2 Chr 13-14; Titus 3
- Day 4: 2 Chr 15-16; 1 Kings 16; Philemon
- Day 5: 1 Kings 17-18; Psalm 119; Jude

Week Twenty-Nine: July 18 - 24

- Day 1: 1 Kin 19-21; 2 Chr 17; Ps 129; Matt 1
- Day 2: 1 Kings 22; 2 Chr 18; Matt 2
- Day 3: 2 Chr 19-20; 2 Kings 1; Psalm 20; Matt 3
- Day 4: 2 Kings 2-3; Psalm 48; Matt 4
- Day 5: 2 Kings 4-6; Matt 5

Week Thirty: July 25 - 31

- Day 1: 2 Kings 7-8; 2 Chr 21; Matt 6
- Day 2: 2 Kings 9-10; Psalm 49; Matt 7
- Day 3: 2 Chr 22-23; 2 Kings 11; Ps 131; Matt 8
- Day 4: 2 Chr 24; 2 Kings 12; Psalm 50; Matt 9
- Day 5: Joel; Matt 10

Continued from Members' Corner

I worked at JP Morgan/Chase Bank approving and disbursing funds on behalf of GNMA, FNMA, FHLB and FHLM

What areas have you served in ministry? *Ted* – I was a former Sunday School teacher, deacon and lay speaker. *Kay* - I've worked in ministry as a secretary at Salem Baptist Church and the Ouachita Baptist Association.

Do you have a favorite verse and song or hymn? *Ted* – Psalm 27 is my favorite hymn, *The Holy City* (Traditional Hymn), *It's No Secret* by Steward Hamblin, *I'll Fly Away* by Willie Nelson. *Kay* - My go to verses are in 1st and 2nd Peter. My favorite hymn is *Amazing Grace*.

What is your favorite treat? *Ted* - Sugar free Brownies (I'm a diabetic) *Kay* - Cheesecake is my favorite!

Do you have any hobbies or interesting facts or other things to share? *Ted* - I'm and avid writer with strong interests in Western History and fulfillment of a manifest destiny settling the West. Before problems with my vision, I enjoyed silversmithing and woodcarving, and I enjoyed playing secular music for many years (drums, clarinet and tenor sax, Jazz through gospel). Presently I'm working on memoirs for family and friends. It tells of once meeting Dr. Wernher von Braun and of making an arrested landing on CYT-16 (USS Lexington) before that ship became a floating museum. I helped start First Baptist Church of Brigham City Utah when employed there by Thiokol Chemical Company on Minuteman ICBM Program (1961). That church remains. *Kay* - I enjoy traveling and would like to see more of the National Parks. My grandmother is 1 of 16 children. My great-grandfather is buried between 2 wives. And my Great grandmother's oldest child is Adrian Blankenship a Southern Baptist Missionary to Africa.



**KIDS CAMP
WAS HELD ON
JUNE 7-9**



**ADVENTURE
CAMP WAS HELD
ON JUNE 14-19**



JULY 2021



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*We Preach Christ
and Him Crucified*

Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! - Psalm 43:3



VBS 2021
July 26th-30th
4:45 - 8:00 PM

*Pre-K (4 years old) through
5th Grade Completed*

Register online at
www.FirstBaptistMena.com

From the Pastor's Desk

Church Family, There has been plenty of things in so called "Baptist life" to lament recently. However, I want to use my column this month to let you know about something that is very positive concerning some cooperation with like minded churches. In recent years Baptist associational ministry has been anemic. There are exceptions to that statement, but not many. Even our own beloved Ouachita Baptist Association has struggled to motivate churches and people to engage in cooperative activity. Knowing this, in recent months, leaders from three associations began to meet to discuss growing concerns that the association ministry may have outlived its usefulness. These three associations (Buckner, Caddo, Ouachita) are all very similar.

They are composed of smaller membership churches, their churches are led predominately by bivocational pastors, and they have experienced a decline in church involvement in association life. Also, many of these churches have great concerns about the direction of our national and even some of our state agencies and institutions. We share a conviction that we need to be able to better resource our churches because there may be a time approaching when we will not be willing to engage with some of the bigger conventions or associations because they have drifted to far from biblical truth. We also know that there are just not many large Baptist organizations that are focused on rural and small town churches like ours.

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With those things in mind we have come together to form the Western Arkansas Baptist Network. This collaboration is focused on two things. First, we want to gather together for some major ministry events that no single association could do on their own. The first of these events will be in August. This event will be focused on equipping small churches and bivocational pastors. We believe that bivocational pastors are the unsung heroes of our denomination and we want to resource them so that they can better minister to their churches and communities as they carry multiple responsibilities. We are also going to focus on bringing our associations together for the youth conference that Bro. Kevin has been planning over the last year. Finally, we hope to bring together senior adults from these associations for some sort of event in 2022.

The second area of focus is really based on information sharing, particularly related to missions. We know that different churches and associations have different missions focuses. What we want to do is to communicate really well about missions opportunities

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Attendance & Giving June 2021	
Worship Services (SUN AM/PM & WED)	130/49/59
Sunday School	95
Month	
Tithes & Offerings	\$26,166.16
Expenses	\$39,859.60
Net Balance	- \$13,693.44
Year to Date	
Tithes & Offerings	\$191,395.04
Expenses	\$193,999.14
Net Balance	- \$2,568.91

Growing Deeper

Discipleship is pivotal to the Christian life. It is the training grounds for maturing our faith as we follow the steps of brothers and sisters who have gone before us. Though not stated by name, discipleship is also clearly commanded to the church in Scripture (Matt. 28:20, Titus 2:1-10, 2 Timothy 2:2). And yet, it is neglected all too often.

In our ever growing individualistic culture, discipleship can feel uncomfortable and invasive. If we're honest about it, discipleship is inconvenient to our already packed schedules. Who has one to two hours a week to just lay around?! Reasons abound for why not to do discipleship. But they aren't good enough. We are called and commanded to do this so we must.

If you're like many (most, I'm afraid) Christians, you're response is, "I don't even know where to start! I've never been discipled so how am I supposed to do it?" So let me take the rest of this article to answer that question.

The first thing I would encourage you to do is to pray. As with anything we do as believers, discipleship is a work of grace that is both born and empowered by the Holy Spirit. As we are convicted about our need to be obedient in discipleship, we need to call out to God to give us the desire to obey and the ability to do so. As you pray, ask the Lord to give you a burden for the person that He would have you disciple and that He would

begin to work in them to desire discipleship.

The next thing I would point you to is to read. Look deep at how Jesus discipled those around Him. Look at passages that teach us about what discipleship should look like (a good place to start is the passages referenced above). There are also good books that can help you to grow a biblical understanding of discipleship. Rediscovering Discipleship and Bearing Fruit by Robby Gallaty, Spiritual Mothering by Susan Hunt, Disciple Her by Kandi Gallaty and Discipling by Mark Dever are resources that can help prepare you for the task.

Lastly, I would encourage you by letting you know that you'll never feel ready so don't wait until you do to start. I am not confident in my discipleship. I have no set pattern that I use and still struggle to meet regularly with those I am discipling. But praise God it doesn't depend on my confidence or ability! So just remember to keep the essentials of Bible study, relationship and accountability and jump in! It's ok to figure some of the other things out as you go. Do the best you know how to and be humble enough to learn as you walk in obedience.

May God awaken a desire in His people to disciple those around us so that we may become mature believers for the glory of God!

In Him,

Bro. Kevin

for churches and individuals so that perhaps our people have more avenues to be involved in missions than ever before. Perhaps a church in the Buckner association is involved in a regular mission trip to a city in Texas. They will let us know when they plan to take those trips and we are going to make those opportunities of partnership available across the churches of all three associations. We believe that together we can do more mission work close to home and offer more opportunities for missions away from home as well. Please pray for this effort. We believe it can reignite some excitement for each of the three associations and their ministries, as well as have a greater impact for the kingdom of God in Western Arkansas and beyond.

In Christ, *Bro. Russell*

Music Notes

This coming Sunday is July 4th when we celebrate the birth of our nation. In our celebrating, we speak and hear much about "freedom" and "liberty". Speeches will be made and songs sung about the freedoms we enjoy. One such song comes to mind that includes the following lyrics:

"My country, 'tis of Thee, Sweet land of liberty."
"From every mountainside, Let freedom ring!"
"My native country, thee, Land of the noble free."
"Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees, Sweet freedom's song."
"Long may our land be bright With freedom's holy light!"

We are blessed, greatly, to be a free people!

However, we should be aware that people who enjoy the freedoms we have can be some of the most enslaved people on earth. They can be enslaved to fear, enslaved to doubt, enslaved in ignorance, enslaved to hardness of heart and bitterness, enslaved to sin and death. It is such people who need to hear the liberating, good news which Jesus came proclaiming:



Thank You to FBC

Dear Ones,

Heartfelt thanks for your loving support of the Philpot family at this time of loss. Thank you for the deeply appreciated meal, Bibles donated in Helen's memory and Brother Russell's gracious conduction of Helen's service.

— Shirley and Mike Philpot and Family

First Baptist Mena,

Thank you so much for allowing us to use your facility for our meetings this year.

- Mena Lioness Lions Club

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, ... to set free those who are downtrodden ... (Luke 4:18).

Jesus said to His disciples:

If, therefore, the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed (John 8:36).

True freedom is found only in Jesus. Sin deceives a person by promising freedom, but it only enslaves a person, controlling and corrupting him. Listen to Paul's words from Romans 6:16-18:

Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

In Christ, a person finds the true freedom to become all that God created the person to be.

Blessed to serve, *Bro. Vernon*

Members' Corner



Ted & Kay Brown

Joined FBC on February 27, 2011

Where were you born and where did you grow up? *Ted - Halighton, LA Kay - Jonesboro, AR*

Previous Church: *Ted - FBC Weatherford, TX Kay - Salem Baptist Church*

Who makes up your family? *Ted - Sons, Michael D. Brown and Patrick K. Brown*

Where did you meet? *Kay - We met while working as volunteers at the North Fort Worth Historical Museum in Ft Worth, TX.*

How did you come to faith in Christ?

Ted - I was saved while playing drums in a Pentecostal Church in Waskom, TX at the age of 12. I was led to Christ by their pastor with whom I had worked as a pipeliner in a local gas field. A year later, I was baptized at FBC Waskom. Kay - I was saved during a revival at Central Baptist Church in my early 20's while working in North Little Rock. The preachers words touched my heart.

Tell us about your education and occupation? *Ted - I am a retired mechanic structural engineer, corporate executive and consultant. I spent 8 years with Thiokol chemical in solid fuel rocketry, working under confidential, secret and top secret security clearances. Most of my working years were in heavy industry, design and construction but plant start-ups were my specialty. Kay - I attended school and graduated High School at Ole Main in North Little Rock. I attended Blue Mountain College and UALR.*

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