



Hero of the Faith

As I write I've only just read of Dr. Billy Graham's passing. Since his first Los Angeles crusade back in 1949, Mr. Graham (as he preferred to be called) preached the gospel to as many as 215 people across 185 countries. His testimony is known by Christians and un-believers alike.

I had the opportunity to personally hear him back in 1979, when the Southern Baptist Convention met in Houston. There, in a meeting marked by division as the SBC began a years' long debate over how we should interpret scripture, Mr. Graham shared a message from Acts 4

calling Southern Baptists to "Go where He wants you to go, and be what He wants you to be." He certainly did so.

Hebrews 13:7 is a scripture I often share with you. It says, "*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.*" If there ever was a leader worth imitating, it would be Mr. Graham. He would never say as much of himself. But scripture calls us to look at those who preach the word, considering carefully how they live. And when they measure up, the text says to follow their example, to imitate their faith, knowing that in doing so we grow in godliness ourselves.

So what in Billy Graham's faith might we imitate?

First, I believe we can imitate the sincerity of his faith. No one would deny that Billy Graham loved Jesus. He held to the gospel and its prescribed lifestyle through the most turbulent years in American history. Read his *Ask Billy Graham* columns, printed in newspapers across the country, and you'll see that as America shifted from predominately Christian to post-Christian, he maintained a firm commitment that God's word was true and His ways best.

Second, we can imitate the integrity of his faith. When I was in preacher school, prominent media evangelists were dropping like flies as sin, financial and sexual, brought shame on their ministries. And yet, Mr. Graham maintained his with clear ethical boundaries *and* the transparency to show they were genuine. His organization remains a model of non-profit ethical excellence, lauded even by those who oppose the gospel he proclaimed.

We can also imitate the openness of his faith. When I say openness, I mean the amazing way he held the respect not only of those who love His Lord, but equally so those who didn't. While Baptists were becoming known more for opposition to all things liberal, Mr. Graham, who shared our core convictions, nevertheless demonstrated love and gentleness with those who didn't. Consider the open door given him by US presidents across the political spectrum. He loved those who disagreed with him, even those who rejected his message, because Christ loved them more.

Finally, we can imitate the steadfastness of his faith. Ordained in 1939 and continuing throughout his life, though his public ministry in later years was mostly limited to writing, Billy Graham "fought the good fight, kept the faith, and finished the race." That's 79 years of faithful ministry.

Thank you Jesus, for the life and ministry of Billy Graham. May we learn and follow his example.

Bro. Jim

In this month's FOCUS

- NIFLA Supreme Court Case
- Administrative Team Meeting
- BBA Pastor's Monthly Meeting
- 2018 Ignite Children's Camp
- 2018 Navajo Nation Mission Trip
- Churches Seeking Staff
- Bi-vocational & Smaller Membership Conference
- Daylight Saving Time
- 1st Choice PRC Walk/Run for Life
- 2018 NetXtreme
- Brazil Mission Trip
- VBS Training
- 2018 Week of Prayer & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Bowie Baptist
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association news & prayer

NIFLA Supreme Court Case



1st Choice Pregnancy Resource Center in Texarkana has recently made us aware of a very important Supreme Court case that needs our prayers and awareness. The case is *NIFLA v. Becerra*, and oral arguments before the Court are March 20th. The plaintiff, the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) is asking for prayer support from churches and has a number of ways to ensure that as many people as possible join in that cause.

The case stems from a California law that also exists in other states that requires pro-life pregnancy centers to have information available notifying clients where they can get a government funded abortion. The information has to be posted in large letters in multiple languages. This applies even to those centers that are housed in churches. The vast majority (if not all) of centers have bylaws, statements of faith, and other founding documents that prevent them from ever referring a client for abortion. Violation of the California statute leads to fines, which could potentially lead to seizure of land and property. This is clearly a violation of the 1st Amendment and could have far-reaching ramifications if not struck down.

NIFLA has set up a [website](#) that has information about a webcast that is scheduled for March 1 at 8:00 p.m. our time. One of the things that they are hoping to accomplish with this webcast is to inform pastors and churches of this case and how they can specifically pray in the days and weeks leading up to the oral arguments. Please visit that website and see how your church can get involved. If you would like additional information about this matter, Bro. Jim Turnbo has a detailed synopsis from one of the 1st Choice Board members that he can provide.

Administrative Team Meeting

The next Administrative Committee Meeting will be **March 13th**, 10:00 AM, at the BBA Office. Meetings are open to participation from interested persons within the association.

BBA Pastor's Monthly Fellowship

March 5th will be the next monthly fellowship for the BBA pastors. This is a time for pastors of the Bowie Baptist Association to gather for coffee and fellowship. The schedule is the 1st Monday of every month, **10 am, at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.**

2018 BBA Children's Camp



Cost: **\$150** - All churches!

For more information or to receive a registration pack, please call or email Valerie at 903-831-0194 receptionist@bowiebaptist.org or visit the BBA webpage at www.bowiebaptist.org.

2018 Navajo Nation Mission Trip

June 2-8, 2018

Window Rock, Arizona

Interested persons should contact Dr. Jim Turnbo by email at: jimturnbo@bowiebaptist.org

FOCUS on the ministry

Churches Seeking Staff

Please continue to pray for the numerous churches in the Association that are seeking staff members.

Pastor:

Victory City Midway FBC
Old Salem

Worship Leader:

Hooks FBC

Pianist:

Pleasant Grove (903-838-5558)

Youth Leader:

- Flower Acres (903-824-8412)
- Korean Mission
- Cross View

(Send resume to 3268 North FM 2148, Texarkana, TX 75503, ATTN: Youth Search Committee)

- Midway FBC

(Send resume to 1415 FM 2148, Texarkana, TX 75501, ATTN: Youth Minister Search Committee)

For more information, you may contact the respective congregations with the information provided, or contact the BBA Office.

Bi-vocational & Smaller Membership Conference

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for our Smaller Membership Church & Bi-vocational Conference! There will be activities for the Entire Family! * Conference for Pastors/Staff including: Sermon Preparation for the Busy Pastor & Getting the Work Done. *Minister's Wives Conference & * Children's Activities

Saturday, April 7, 2018
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Trinity Baptist Church
Texarkana, Arkansas

Cost is \$10 per person
\$25 max per family

Registration details and conference speakers to be announced!

Daylight Saving Time

begins March 11

1st Choice Pregnancy Center Walk/Run for Life



Save the Date for First Choice Pregnancy Center's Walk/Run for Life, which will take place Saturday, May 5th, 2018. Registration is open if you would like to enter. You may do so on the website, www.firstchoiceprc.com. (under the donate button), or you may register through the Walk/Run Facebook page. If you would like more information on sponsorships, pledge forms, posters, you can contact Kristie or Laura at the Center. (903) 792-5735

2018 NetXtreme

"Above All Else" - Proverbs 4:23

Camp 1: June 4-8, 2018

Camp 2: June 8-12, 2018

Cost: \$190 per camper

Camp Pastor: Todd Reed,
FBC Redwater

Worship Leader: Abandon

Registration for camp is now open! Reserve your spots by paying the \$50 deposit per camper. Final payments are due May 14, 2018.

The registration packet and more information can be found at www.netxtreme.org or by emailing info@netxtreme.org.

Brazil Mission Trip 2018

The annual Brazil Mission trip, coordinated by Dr. Dwight Lowrie of Liberty-Eylau Baptist Church, will be July 6-19. This year's team will conduct a crusade in Belo Horizonte. Registration is open now, with all costs due by April 15th. For information or to register, please contact Bro. Lowrie at 903-244-4108.

VBS Training

March 3, 2018

Friendly Baptist Church
1903 East Front Street
Tyler, TX
903-593-1572

For more information visit the SBTC website [here](#).

2018 Week of Prayer For North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

March 4-11, 2018



100% of your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering supports North American missionaries.

NATIONAL GOAL: \$70 Million

100% of this offering is used to support North American Mission Board missionaries and church planters as they push back lostness in the United States and Canada.

For more information or promotional material for your church, click [here](#).

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MARCH 2018

- 3** SBTC VBS Training
Tyler, TX
- 4-11** Week of Prayer & Annie Armstrong Offering
- 5** Pastor's Monthly Fellowship
Pleasant Grove, 10 am
- 13** Administrative Team Meeting
BBA Office, 10 am

APRIL 2018

- 1** Easter Sunday
- 2** Pastor's Monthly Fellowship
Pleasant Grove, 10 am
- 10** Administrative Team Meeting
BBA Office, 10 am
- 17** Executive Board Meeting
Hooks FBC, 6 pm

FRIENDSHIP CENTER

620 W. Fourth
Texarkana, TX 75505
903-792-1301

MARCH

- Downtown FBC
- Myrtle Springs
- Redwater FBC
- Faith Community
- Oak Street
- Cross View
- Fellowship
- Old Salem
- New Baptist Bible Fellowship

RUNNIN' WJ RANCH

4802 S. Kings Hwy
Texarkana, TX 75501
903-838-3223

These churches have been asked by the Friendship Center to get involved in the food drive for this month. The Center needs all kinds of canned goods, flour, corn meal, dried beans, macaroni and cheese, powdered milk, baby foods and formulas, and diapers. Any effort made for the Friendship Center will be appreciated. Some churches have chosen to include the Friendship Center in their annual budget and send a monthly check for support. Runnin' WJ Ranch needs financial support, volunteers, and supplies as well.