

March 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions — All Month — | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:45am & 7:00pm 5:00pm Trustee's Meeting 6:00pm Children, Youth, Adults 7:00pm Benevolence | 4 | 5 | 6 10:30am Worship at SNH 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Youth & Children | 7 4:30pm Handbell Choir Practice | 8 | 9 |
| Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer for North American Missions—March 3rd thru 10th | | | | | | |
| 10 <u>Daylight Saving Time Begins</u> Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:45am & 7:00pm 6:00pm Children, Youth, Adults 8:00pm Business Meeting | 11 | 12 | 13 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Youth & Children | 14 4:30pm Handbell Choir Practice | 15 | 16 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast |
| <u>Week of Prayer</u> | | | | | | |
| 17 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:45am & 7:00pm 6:00pm Children, Youth, Adults | 18 | 19 | 20 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Youth & Children | 21 4:30pm Handbell Choir Practice | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Sunday School 9:30am Worship 10:45am & 7:00pm 6:00pm Children, Youth, Adults 8:00pm Deacon's Meeting | 25 | 26 | 27 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study 7:00pm Youth & Children | 28 4:30pm Handbell Choir Practice | 29 Good Friday Office Closed | 30 |
| Meals On Wheels—March 25th thru 29th | | | | | | |
| 31 Easter Sunday 6:30am Sunrise Service 8:30am Breakfast at Church 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Lord's Supper No Evening Activities | | | | | | |

MARCH

**Birthdays
of the
Month**

- 3. Jim Pelfry
- 4. Darlene Hime
Donna Pelfry
- 5. Gabby Johnson
- 8. Jeana Wilson
- 10. Melinda Gumm
Ryan Pate
- 11. Ernie Foote
Kaden Henderson
Billie Wilson
- 13. Kelly Creek
- 15. Beaux Brogdon
Carol Sanstra
- 20. Caleb Mantonya

**Anniversaries
of the
Month**

- 10. John & Carroll Carter
- 12. John & Pam Pate

Views
from the
Church
Pews



The Centrality of the Gospel

"Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as **of first importance**: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:1-7)

A Southern Baptist preacher named Voddie Baucham cited a study stating that the vast majority of high school graduates are "falling away" from the faith and dropping out of church within a year of leaving for college. Most adult men are absent physically and/or mentally from church in terms of teaching and leading the weaker members. Seniors, who should be mature in the faith and teaching the younger believers, are moving away to play shuffleboard and bingo in Florida wearing white pants and a tropical-theme shirt. American Christianity is in a funk.

The problem isn't that hard to figure out. The American church has lost the centrality of the Gospel and replaced it with other things that we, for some reason, find more compelling than the cross. A former pastor once told me that the only time he gets compliments about his sermons is when he preaches an "evangelistic" message. My soul shouted VIOLA! Hearing the message of

the Gospel isn't ONLY for evangelism! It is our hope today and forever. Everything in our faith centers around Christ and Him crucified. Everything. It is, as the verse says, **of first importance**.

First, we are saved through His Gospel. He gives us grace and we repent of our sins and place our faith in Him and are Born Again (John 3). The next stage of Christianity isn't "moving on"; it is, remembering the cross, continuing to live a life of repentance as He gradually makes us more like Himself. It is the kindness shown on the cross to forgive an ill-deserving creature like us that drives and fuels our spiritual growth and service for Him; not our pastor, personal fame or our desire to increase our church size. When we sin, we freely come to Him for forgiveness because of the cross (1 John 1:9; Romans 2:4). When someone sins against us, even in church, we apply the Gospel. We deserved worse, and God forgave us, so we forgive them. If we have a church member living in open sin, we apply the message of the cross. God hates sin but forgives the repentant. We lovingly follow Matthew 18's procedures and show them the Law and the cross again. Giving revolves around the cross. We should never give a penny out of guilt, an attempt to repay or any other motive other than because we are thankful for the cross and want others to see His saving provision too. We parent in light of the cross. We show our kids the Law (Exodus 20) and then explain that Christ died for repentant sinners who could not keep the law. We don't try to moralize them into trying to keep the Law....we show them the Law and offer Grace...offered to the repentant through Christ's cross. Nothing is a better picture of the Christian life than the cross. God hates sin. He saved a repentant people with His cross, for His Glory.

My goal for my family and yours today is that we would reconsider the cross and the importance and centrality of it. If we try to "do the Christian life" without the cross of Christ as center, we will fail. The time is now to refocus our eyes on our crucified Savior. Let it be said of us, like the Apostle Paul "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2)

Your Brother Because of the Cross,
Mark Applegate

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FSBC NEWSLETTER



2013

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
North American Missions
March 3-10, 2013

**WHATEVER
IT TAKES
REACHING THE ONE**

**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING®
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

National Goal: \$70 Million
AnnieArmstrong.com

 NORTH AMERICAN
MISSION BOARD

Please call Stacie Spurgeon (276-5047) or the church office if you or someone you know would like to ride the church van to services on Sunday mornings.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pastor Ken Roller | Interim Pastor |
| Steve Ewing | Youth/Children's Pastor |
| Judy Ford | Music |
| Susan Applegate | Secretary |
| Chad Pyle | Treasurer |
| Brad Belcher | Deacon Chairman |