

BEHIND THE SCENES

Volume 7, Issue 11

October 11, 2017

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR GREG SYKES

The Annual Meeting of the ABSC

In less than a month, we will have the privilege of hosting the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Annual Meeting.

It all kicks off with our annual Pastor's Conference on Monday, November 6. I will actually have the privilege, as President of the Pastor's Conference, of presiding over this portion of the annual meeting.

More importantly, that means I got to have a hand in all of the invitations for guest preachers for the event — and there's a great lineup coming for Monday.

But, please understand: this conference is not just for preachers and pastors and staff members. I believe any FBC church member who attends will be blessed.

Here's a quick list of the scheduled preachers, in order of their appearance:

9 AM Session:

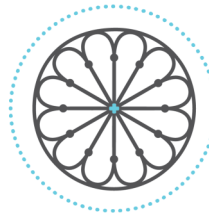
Archie Mason, Senior Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro.

Andy Addis, Lead Pastor, Crosspoint Church, Hutchinson, Kansas.

1:30 PM Session:

Junior Hill, Revivalist/Evangelist, Decatur, Alabama.

NAMB SEND CITY Panel discussion (featuring our own Jeremy Aylett from San Diego)



FIRST BAPTIST
RUSSELLVILLE

Leighton Flowers, Director of Apologetics and Youth Evangelism for Texas Baptists

6:30 PM Session:

Chris Simmons, Pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas

John Meador, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas.

Our very own Robert Ramsey will be leading worship for all of the Monday sessions!

Then, the actual Annual Meeting begins on Tuesday morning.

Back in the "old days," the annual meeting may have had more of a "business meeting" feel, but that format has been jettisoned over the last decade or so.

The reality is that the Annual Meeting feels more like a revival conference. There will be multiple messages preached — from our wonderful President, Sam Roberts (FBC Stuttgart), to Sonny Tucker (our Executive Director) — but interspersed with the

messages will be segments of worship, encouraging reports from each of our State Convention entities (such as the Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes, Camp Siloam, the Baptist Foundations, etc.) and any necessary business sessions.

But, more than anything, you'll get to hear the heart, the vision, and the impact that your giving to the Cooperative Program is resulting in from within Arkansas to around the world.

It is always an encouraging, inspiring time and, again, we have the privilege of hosting it. You won't want to miss it.

Of course, you may have already agreed to help serve at the meeting — maybe as a parking lot attendant, or a greeter, or in some other capacity. We still have many roles we need to fill as hosts, so don't hesitate to contact Cheri Cloud to help out.

And, mark your calendar for Tuesday night at 7:15 PM. Larry Grayson will lead us in worship with the Masters' Singers, a 150+ choir and full orchestra, that always highlights the meeting for me. See you there!

This Sunday:

"A Cautionary Tale

Acts 8:9-25

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR GREG SYKES

FBC Russellville
200 South Denver
P.O. Box 36
Russellville, AR 72801

Phone: 479-968-1316
E-mail: greg@fbcruss.org
Twitter: @sykes_light
Church website: www.fbcruss.org
Facebook: First Baptist Church
Russellville



FIRST BAPTIST
RUSSELLVILLE

Sunday, October 15

“A Cautionary Tale,” Acts 8:9-25

Week One, “The Church & the Gentiles,” sermon series

Sunday, October 22

“An Open Heart,” Acts 8:26-40

Week Two, “The Church & the Gentiles,” sermon series

Sunday, October 29

“A New Servant,” Acts 9:1-9

Week Three, “The Church & the Gentiles,” sermon series

Sunday, November 5

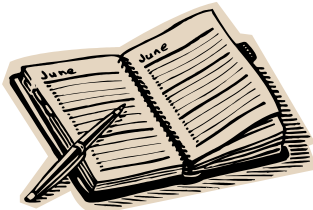
“An Old Servant,” Acts 9:10-19

Week Four, “The Church & the Gentiles,” sermon series

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Spotlight on San Diego Church Planting



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(for your pastor's account).

God continues to do great work in San Diego through NAMB church planters, and FBC Russellville is a crucial part of that puzzle.

You may not know this yet, but Jeremy Aylett is now the NAMB City Catalyst for San Diego — fancy church planting terminology for the man who helps strategize, identify, recruit, and launch

new church plants in the city.

We're still his partners via Mission Valley Church, the church he helped plant and still partners with, but we are also his partners for the entire city.

We're actively trying to identify (with Jeremy's assistance, of course) our next partner in the city, and we're working to help recruit other churches to partner in the city.

Out of all the 32 SEND cities, San Diego has the second fewest partner churches assisting its planting. It is just under-served and under-resourced, and yet it is a massive city with a population that identifies at a rate of almost 94% as unchurched.

The need is great but the laborers are indeed few.

So, please continue to pray for Jeremy Aylett and his wonderful family. And Brandon George, another former FBC member who lives in San Diego and assists Jeremy on a full-time basis. And for the city of San Diego.

And don't be surprised as you hear of FBC's footprint in the city continuing to grow. I believe God has uniquely positioned us, via our friendships with Jeremy and Brandon, to be a crucial part of what He intends to do in this city over the next 5, 10, or 20 years.

Maybe He'll call you to spend a little time serving Him in sunny San Diego!