

August 2017

# The Trumpet

“The trumpet shall sound...and we shall be changed”  
(I Corinthians 15:52)



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## Pastor's Pen

Have you ever noticed when someone is riding high, enjoying success, gaining national prominence, that there are many who want to hitch their wagon to that train? It's easy to associate with and claim connection with a person who is a rising star, or leading the pack in their chosen field. Within the Christian community, we call it rejoicing with those who rejoice. Paul reminded the Romans to both rejoice and weep with fellow-believers.

*“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”* **Romans 12:15**

It should not surprise me, but I continue to be amazed at how fickle people can be. It is mindboggling to watch someone who has taken a strong stand on something or with someone, suddenly change their opinions, mind, attitude, and loyalty based upon which way the court of public opinion is leaning. I have a dear friend who experienced this first-hand. Having earned three masters' degrees and a doctorate degree, he is one of the most formally educated individuals I know. His academic specialty is in the arena of church history and Christian apologetics. Being a former Sunni Muslim, he speaks with authority to the heresies of the Islamic religion. Following the 9/11 attacks he was contacted for interviews, and spoke extensively on Islamic extremism. He was in great demand around the country and became nationally known. It wasn't long before he became the target of many of the anti-Christian groups.

I watched as he sustained one assault after another on his character, integrity, message, and ministry. Satan, working through folks within the Muslim community, and others who identified themselves as Christians, sought to destroy him. While there is much to say here, it's his story to tell. I will say, I watched in shocked dismay as those “brothers in Christ”

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who gravitated to him when his star was rising, bailed out on him when the hits started coming. Their loyalty was nonexistent. They believed lies rather than seek the truth. They allowed second-hand information to change their mind and shape their opinion. As I observed all this taking place; as I saw him labor under the heavy burden of abandonment by many who said they loved him; as his once jovial smile was replaced with the grimacing pain of a crushed spirit and a broken heart, I realized that he was experiencing in real time the pain of disloyalty. Many wanted to rejoice with him, very few were willing to cry with him.

I write this article to let all the readers know, my friend and Christian brother, Dr. Ergun Caner, along with his son Drake, will be the honored guest of FSBC – Mountain Home, August 2-6. I encourage you to make plans to attend every meeting. Believe me, God has a blessing in store for us. Not only will we be blessed, we will have the opportunity to show our love, support and appreciation to a brother who has stood faithfully over the years, fighting the good fight of spreading the gospel.

*This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. John 15:12*

In Christian Love,  
Pastor Jim

### Here is Dr. Caner's meeting schedule:

August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lecture on *Mormonism versus Christianity* followed by a Meet and Greet reception

August 6<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 am – Lecture on the *Top Ten Things Every Christian Needs to Know about Islam*.

August 6<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am – Guest speaker. Sermon title and text to be announced

August 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm – Q & A and finger food fellowship

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

In July, the Nominating Committee distributed the Ministry Opportunity Survey and hopefully you have had a chance to indicate where you would like to serve in the church. The committee will be using the completed surveys to help fill the various positions in the church ministries and committees. It's an awesome task but we know God promised to send forth the workers. Matt 9:37: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few". But the chapter doesn't end there. Verse 38 reads, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into His harvest." (continued on page 5)

### Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry formed by Franklin Graham that takes Christmas gifts and the Gospel to underprivileged children all over the world. We are collecting items to fill shoeboxes in November. Each month we will highlight a different item to bring in. But, please remember we will take all types of donations at any time! For August please bring in school supplies.



# Putting on the Full Armor of God

## Apologetics - From Bob Neubauer

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### Pray Without Ceasing

As we read the scriptures we find there are just a few things that all believers do – gathering for worship, singing praises, studying scripture, witnessing to unbelievers and praying. God’s word has much to say about prayer. Two of the important questions to answer are who prays and how often do they pray. First, all Christians pray. There is something very wrong with anyone who claims to belong to the Lord yet doesn’t pray. Even the Lord Jesus prayed – and He did so often. Scripture enjoins us to pray without ceasing. Of course, that does not mean we are to pray sixty seconds of every minute, sixty minutes of every hour and twenty-four hours a day. It does mean that prayer should be an integral part of our lives as Christians and we don’t go for periods of time without praying.

While it is certainly true that God has the power to accomplish all that He will do apart from our involvement, our Lord has decreed that He will work in and through us and our prayers. In evangelism, for example, the Word says, “... *As soon as Zion travailed she also brought forth her sons.* (Isaiah 66:80)” God has on occasion dealt directly with men as with Moses in the burning bush. The one who created the world ex-nihilo (out of nothing) could bring sinners to faith without our help, but that is not what He has chosen to do. Evangelism involves not only the proclamation of the Gospel but prayer – prayer for the unbeliever and for the one witnessing.

Second, to whom do we pray? Mostly we pray to the Father as Jesus instructed us in the Lord’s prayer. But, Jesus also said, “*If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it*” (John 14:4). We pray to the Spirit when we invoke His presence at the beginning of worship services. And sometimes our prayers are addressed to almighty God. But we never pray to anyone but God! We do not pray to Mary or other “saints.” Prayer is an act of worship and we are commanded to worship only God. Neither Mary or anyone else in heaven can hear our prayers.

We conclude our prayers with words like “in Jesus name” because there is only one mediator between us and God. “*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*” (I Timothy 2:5).

Another question is, why do we pray? After all hasn’t God determined from all eternity everything He will do? First, we pray because we are commanded to pray – the title of this article, *pray without ceasing*, is a command coming from scripture (I Thessalonians 5:17). Second, we are communicating with God almighty, a great privilege indeed. Third, we pray because it is in and through our prayers

that the things God has ordained from eternity come to pass. While it is true that God has determined all that He will do from all eternity, He acts in concert with our prayers. For example, God has promised to give us everything we need, yet Jesus in the Lord's prayer said we should pray for our daily bread. And one reason we don't have things we need is, as James tells us, because we fail to ask (James 4:2).

A third question is – do we pray in private only or in public as well? While we are not to make a public display of praying, corporate prayer is important and has been practiced in the church from the beginning. The most important thing is the attitude we bring to our prayers. For the Christian, it must be one of humility. While it is true that we may boldly approach the throne of grace, we may do so because of what Christ did for us because in and of ourselves we are only worthy of eternity in the lake of fire. The classic example was pointed out by Jesus in Luke 18. *“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I tithe of all I get.’ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God be merciful to me the sinner!’ I tell you this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

What are we doing when we pray for people? Are we interceding for them? Normally we are not. If, for example, someone is sick and I intercede for them then I will ask God to take their illness and put it on me. When Jesus went to the cross He interceded for us because He stood in our place and took the punishment for our sin. Now it is fine to ask people to pray for us and for others to ask us to pray for them. If someone is sick I will pray and ask God to heal them. But, when I do that I am not interceding unless I ask God to give me their disease. True intercession is an extremely difficult thing to do. The ability to truly intercede for someone is something that must be given us by the Lord. Remember, if you do intercede for someone who is ill it is likely that God will give you what you ask for – you will get their disease. Now, of course, when most say they are interceding for someone they are just praying for them. And we should pray for others all the time.

How effective are our prayers? According to the apostle James, the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. And if you are a Christian, you are righteous. Your prayers are just as effective as those of any other believer – including your pastor, because your righteousness and his righteousness is the righteousness of Jesus Christ. And that is why we should pray without ceasing.

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 2      Dr. Ergun Caner Meet & Greet (6:30 p.m.)
- 3      Nominating Committee Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 4-5    Sonfest
- 5      Ladies Bible Study (9:30 a.m.)
- 6      Dr. Ergun Caner (9:00 & 11:00 a.m.)
- 7      Church Council (6:30 p.m.)
- 12     Ladies Bible Study (9:30 a.m.)
- 14     Deacon's Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 14     Nominating Committee Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- 17     MDO Open House (10:00 a.m. – 12 Noon)
- 20     **60th Anniversary Celebration & Pot Luck (11:00 a.m.)**
- 21     MDO Starts
- 22     Sunday School Teachers' Training (6:30 p.m.)
- 25-26 Ladies in House Retreat

(continued from page 2) So, please join us in praying that every ministry and committee in our church will be filled with volunteers who will be blessed by their faithful service. Questions can be directed to the Nominating Committee members who are: Patrick Holt (chairman); Margaret Berry; Martha Hazelbaker; Sharon Siebenberg; Pam Anderson.

Thank you and God bless, Brother Patrick

### *Ladies In-House Weekend Retreat*

The Women's Ministry of First Southern is inviting you to our **first** ever **Weekend Retreat**, right here at home, August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. This is especially designed for 3 sessions by Beth Moore on the topic of *Loving Well*. "*We will never love one another as well as we can until we deepen our understanding of God's love for us.*"

Beginning Friday night at 6:30 pm. Each session includes worship, games, a video by Beth, and small group discussion. Sleep at home in your own comfy bed and return Saturday morning for a Continental Breakfast at 8:00 am. There are 2 sessions on Saturday with a light lunch in between. If you would like to help with skits, games, food organization, decoration, worship or promotion, please contact Sarah Gregory. Cell # 208-602-7241.

INVITE A FRIEND!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPETS

Here is a brief synopsis of what the learning opportunities are for our kids, children and youth as well as adults who attend Sunday School this summer.

The Kids classes are studying a Bible series entitled Bible Studies for Life which is a chronological study of the Bible. They began last fall with creation, and are in this summer with “Telling Others about Jesus” and being on mission with Paul, Barnabas and Silas. They will finish the summer with studying the teachings of Paul and Peter.

The Children’s classes are also studying the Bible chronologically and are beginning the Babylonian captivity with an in-depth study of Daniel. The students are also tying in the Cross, as we see that the whole Bible is the telling of events demonstrating God’s redemptive love.

The Youth classes are studying the statements and verses in the Baptist Faith and Messages and also studying about God the Holy Spirit.

Adult Classes to choose from:

**Men’s Class:** A study book by book through Scripture, framing every passage in its appropriate biblical, cultural and archaeological context.

**Pairs and Spares:** Takes students on a chronological, Christ centered journey through the events of the Scriptures. The summer quarter’s study is “Stories and Signs”.

**Answers in Genesis class:** An apologetics ministry, dedicated to helping Christians defend their faith and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ effectively and lovingly.

**ALIVE class:** Entitled “Distorted Images of God” (Restoring our Vision). This study shines light on our distorted thinking and points us to the truth.

**Women’s Class:** A chronological study of Scripture. Students will encounter God’s plan of redemption in the Bible through study of the biblical narrative the essential doctrines of the faith, and the call to join in God’s mission locally and around the world.

So take advantage of these opportunities. Whether you’re a scholar or just starting out in your study of God’s Word, you are welcome to join a Bible study class of your choosing.

God bless,

Brother Patrick

## Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. Two aerials meet on a roof and get married. The reception was brilliant.
2. I tried to catch some fog. I mist.
3. I used to be a banker. But then I lost interest.
4. He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
5. I know a guy who is addicted to brake fluid. He says he can

## August Birthdays and Anniversaries

5 Rose Purcell  
 5 Heather Eddy  
 17 Jessica Carty  
 19 Gloria Murray  
 23 Sarah Sanchez  
 25 Mary Grohs



*Happy Birthday*

26 Roy Lundberg  
 26 Rebecca McCall  
 27 Travis Wise  
 30 Seven Sanders  
 30 Linda Hayes

3 Clifford & Rose Hare  
 3 Daryl & Cookie Lyerla  
 4 Don & Flo Scheffler  
 5 Wes & Kristin Sheppard  
 7 Fernando & Violet Solis



19 John & Michelle Ring  
 24 Patrick & Tina Holt  
 28 Don & Gail Hancock  
 31 Jim & Nicole Clark

*If you do not see your name here and would like to:  
 please contact the church office at 587-3828 and let us know your birthday  
 and/or anniversary.*