ARE WE AS CHRISTIANS MAKING OTHER PEOPLE GRATEFUL?

Seven snares in relating to the persecuted church pages 3-6
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SEVEN SNARES IN RELATING TO THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

The following article is adapted from an editorial appearing on the SAT7 website, WAZALA\(^1\). The original article was written by a contributor from the Middle East, and adapted for INcontext Ministries by Mike Burnard who has served persecuted believers across the globe for more than 25 years.

“Last year alone, ninety three members of my congregation were killed. The threat is particularly great for those who convert to Christianity. I baptized thirteen adults secretly last year. Eleven of them were dead within a week.”

Canon Andrew White, speaking about his church in Baghdad, Iraq

The Body of Christ is so much more than a local church that meets on Sundays – it is a global body built up of all those who call Him Lord and Saviour. We are called to be one, and it is only together that we make sense and that we function effectively. This, however, is easier said than done. Even when we sincerely want to be there for our brothers and sisters elsewhere in the world, the manner in which we help and the kind of help we should offer requires careful reflection.

It is clear that religious persecution is increasing in the world. A new study by the Pew Research Center\(^2\) (January 2014) indicates that the number of countries with a high or very high level of social hostilities involving religion reached a six-year peak in 2012. One third of the 198 states included in the study experienced high levels of hostility on religious grounds. According to their previous report, 74% of the world’s population (nearly 5.1 billion people) live in countries where there are high levels of restrictions on religious freedom\(^3\).

During the last two months, developments in Iraq and Syria have affected the situation of Christians in heartbreaking ways. We hear reports of extreme suffering almost every day, and the natural response is a desire to do our best to support, reach and encourage those affected. But responding to the suffering of the Persecuted Church brings a host of challenges and risks that, if not addressed, will continue to undermine our good intentions and bring more harm than blessing.

Below are some of the areas where we may be challenged to reflect on current practises and to develop more ethical positions:

1. DEMONISING PERSECUTION

A major obstacle to a full Biblical understanding of the divine function of persecution is a western theology that ‘demonsises’, avoids and misinterprets hardship, risk, suffering and sacrifice. This attitude nullifies God’s design for the advance of His Kingdom and the making of disciples through the suffering of His saints. We really need to understand this. Salvation came through the cross and therefore has to be displayed through the cross. Persecution is not a curse.

Colossians 1:24 captures a key principle in understanding persecution: “And now I am happy about my sufferings for you, for by means of my physical sufferings I am helping to complete what is still lacking of Christ’s sufferings on behalf of his body, the church.”

Of this scripture, John Piper says the following: “Paul’s self understanding of his mission is this: that he is called by his suffering to complete the afflictions of Christ on the cross. That’s a design. This does not mean he atones for anybody’s sin or that Christ’s atoning death was in any way deficient. It means this. That the afflictions of Christ, acted out by Him in FULLY atoning worth are meant to be displayed and portrayed by His suffering Church for the ingathering of the nations. The one thing lacking in the sufferings of Christ Jesus is that His fully atoning love offering needs to be presented in person through missionaries to the peoples for whom He died. And Paul says, “I do this in my sufferings. In my sufferings I complete what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ.” This means that Christ intends for the Great Commission to be a presentation to the nations of the sufferings of His cross through the sufferings of His people. That is the way it will be finished. If you sign up for the Great Commission, that is what you sign up for. To put it more plainly and specifically, God designs that the suffering of His ministers and missionaries is

\(^2\) http://www.pewforum.org/2014/01/14/religious-hostilities-reach-six-year-high/
\(^3\) http://www.pewforum.org/2013/06/20/arab-spring-restrictions-on-religion-findings/
one essential means in the joyful triumphant spread of the Gospel among all the peoples of the world. It is the means and the design for the Persecuted Church within the Kingdom of God, to reflect the cross to those who are longing for forgiveness and salvation.”

2. SENSATIONALISING PERSECUTION

There is always a subtle danger that compassion and anguish could be replaced by sensationalism – the sharing of stories in a way that provokes public interest, excitement or outrage at the expense of other factors like accuracy and integrity. While this mainly refers to the way in which media reports stories, it also relates the reason why – and manner in which – we share information within our own personal networks. It also impacts the way in which we personally pray and personally respond to the needs of the persecuted Church.

When Meriam Ibrahim⁴ was recently sentenced to death for apostasy in Sudan, there was a global outcry that spanned cultures and nations. On one hand, this response was wonderful, but on the other, there was something sad about it. It was encouraging to see how awareness of Meriam’s situation grew, and how the global body of Christ expressed their solidarity with her and her family. Her case brought about a new wave of awareness of the persecution that many Christians face, and the global outcry helped towards securing her release on 25 June 2014. Sadly, however, the dust seemed to settle immediately after her release. The response to Meriam’s situation did not result in further action against the wider issue of Christian persecution, and few voices have been heard since in support of other prisoners like Asia Bibi⁵ (who has spent the past four years of her life in a prison in Pakistan) and Behnam Irani⁶ and Saeed Abedini⁷ (who are both suffering severe torture in Iranian prisons). What made Meriam’s case different? Much had to do with the fact that she was pregnant and gave birth in prison, which played in perfectly to the global media’s sensationalist tendencies.

Was the response of the body of Christ rooted in anguish or in concern? The two emotions may seem similar, but there is a subtle yet marked difference. Christians in the ‘free world’ are increasingly immersed in a culture that constantly draws our attentions and emotions from one thing to another, and anguish will be the difference that allows Christians to respond in a godly manner, rather than a worldly one. The media can be accused of pursuing sensationalist stories that play on human emotions in order to generate a temporary public response, but the reality is that our human nature is drawn to the ‘big stories’ until something else claims our attention and emotion and concern. Only when we actively ask God to move us from a place of concern to a place of anguish will we be able to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) for people like Meriam Ibrahim, Asia Bibi, Behnam Irani, Saeed Abedini and the countless, nameless other members of the body of Christ who are suffering and in need of support.

3. “CLICKTIVATING” PERSECUTION

“Clicktivism” – the act of engaging with a cause via online petitions or social media – is closely related to human leaning towards sensationalism and has become a conscience-soothing alternative for “activism”. Clicktivism offers the appearance of ‘doing something’, and is a very common modern day danger when it comes to responding to Christian persecution.

When the 200-plus schoolgirls were kidnapped from Chibok in April 2014, it drew international outrage in the early days after the news hit the global media. In a short space of time, the social media Twitter hashtag #BringBackOurGirls became a top trend among international leaders like Michelle Obama as well as numerous celebrities – by 11 May it had attracted 2.3 million tweets, and it has been described as one of the world’s biggest social media campaigns. But Boko Haram did not bring back the girls, and the unresolved kidnapping saw a massive decline on social media platforms as well as mainstream news media reports.

Dan Hodges, in an opinion piece for The Telegraph, comments on the problem of social media when it comes to the global response to things like the Nigerian schoolgirl kidnapping: “[Facebook and Twitter can] bring to people’s attention vital issues that would previously have been ignored, or if communicated via traditional media outlets, [would have] resulted in a giant global shrug. “That’s terrible. But what can we do?” But as we’ve seen, what Twitter and Facebook give with one hand, they take with the other. As soon as their focus shifts, so does ours. And the very nature of the medium – fast, transient, superficial – means that focus never stays in the same place for long.”

Awareness is good, and the signing of online petitions is not a bad thing. If, however, that is where the engagement of the global body of Christ stops – then it is a problem.
4. CONSUMING PERSECUTION

A concerning trend in the publications, conferences and media reports on persecution is that very often there is a self-centred approach that ultimately benefits the readers/listeners more than the persecuted. A significant proportion of ‘persecuted news’ tends to focus on personal testimonies, which is understandable since abstract numbers and analysis are rarely as engaging as human stories.

However, this brings a serious ethical challenge. The most popular stories are often ones that include supernatural accounts and heroic resolutions, and not all stories do. Publications often present these events to the reader as an encouragement or challenge to greater faith. This reduces reports of persecution to objects of consumption by the Western Church for our own encouragement or spiritual journey, whereas our encouragement should only be an by-product, not the main focus. We report stories of persecution because the body of Christ is suffering and asking for us to be with them, to help them, to pray, to lobby and to share their suffering.

This consumer attitude has also resulted in a trade that can simply be described as a “Persecuted-Route” travel industry. Countless Christians going on ‘short term outreaches’ to the Persecuted Church that result in little action but much ‘personal growth’. Personal testimonies become more important than post-visit involvement and the strengthening of those who are at the point of death.

5. ROMANTICISING PERSECUTION

The same consumer-based approach to reporting stories of persecution often ‘romanticises’ suffering. The storyline follows like this: there is suffering but in the thick of it Christians are happy and full of faith – even though it is bad, the Church grows under persecution. Sadly, this is only true sometimes and in some places. Many Christians lose their faith or suffer to such a level that they carry the scars and pain for a lifetime. There are more incidents of churches being wiped out through persecution than those that see church growth. There is nothing romantic about Christians being jailed, tortured and raped. And those that suffer such horrendous persecution may also feel the pressure to fit their experiences into our storyline and what we expect of them. Their psychological suffering, doubts, questions and walking away from the faith are hardly mentioned in our reporting. This raises serious questions about how genuine our care for the people actually is, beyond their ‘story’.

6. EMPLOYING PERSECUTION

Sadly, raising funds for the Persecuted Church has also become a lucrative ‘business’, with some organisations and individuals enriching themselves through the needs of those who suffer extreme hardships and suffering.

A Jewish Rabbi was once asked to comment after watching a video showing how a TV evangelist visited Nigeria to pray for the sick. Before and after praying, the evangelist took up an offering from the poor to “secure their healing”. He arrived at the meeting in a helicopter, dressed in a fancy suit, and returned to his 5-star hotel after the meeting in the same fashion, just a little richer. The sick left in the same way that they arrived – destitute, poor and desperate. The only words the Rabbi said after watching the video were the following: “I pray to God in heaven that there will be a special place in hell for those who enrich themselves through the needs of others.”

This should be a caution for all who dare to speak on behalf of those who carry the cross of Christ. May our actions always be in service of those of whom we speak or write, and may our sharing of their suffering always be to their benefit, not ours.

7. ‘RELATIVISING’ PERSECUTION

Another problematic trend is the growing belief that while Christians are persecuted elsewhere in the world, believers suffer equally in the West too. Some suggest that it can be more difficult to be a ‘faithful Christian’ in the developed world with all its freedoms and wealth and social opposition than in a poor country with active persecution. Yes, it is true that Christianity is losing its privileged position in countries like the US and UK, but while Western Christians in some contexts may feel under
pressure to compromise or deny their faith, we cannot say we are persecuted or are facing the levels of hostility experienced by millions of Christians around the world.

To argue that materialism and wealth somehow make it more difficult to follow Christ than when living in circumstances of daily fear or desperate poverty is deeply problematic, both theologically and ethically. It dismisses or diminishes the actual sufferings of our fellow believers and turns us into victims. This results in apathy towards the suffering of the global Church and encourages us to be insular and self-obsessed. It is empirically wrong (following Christ is not normally difficult in the West) and ethically corrupt (they, not we, are being victimised and we are the ones in a position to help).

CONCLUSION

These seven ‘danger areas’ challenge us to consider honestly how we relate to the Persecuted Church, what motivates us to share about their suffering, and the manner in which we go about speaking or writing on their behalf. They are important questions to ask, too, of the speakers, publishers and charities that bring us reports on persecution, so that we can truly stand alongside our suffering brothers and sisters with genuine anguish, prayer and action (1 Corinthians 12:26, Hebrews 13:3).

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Walmart to hire more than 1,300 seasonal associates in LA for upcoming holidays

NEW ORLEANS – October 26, 2015 – Walmart announced today it will hire more than 1,300 seasonal associates in Louisiana for the upcoming holidays, with starting salaries of at least $9 an hour.

Employees initially hired as seasonal sales associates, cashiers and stockers often continue as full-time employees and progress within the company.

Anyone interested in seasonal work opportunities with Walmart may apply online at jobs.walmart.com.

About Walmart: Each week, we serve nearly 260 million customers who visit our 11,495 stores under 65 banners in 28 countries and e-commerce websites in 11 countries. With fiscal year 2015 revenue of $486 billion, Walmart employs more than 2 million associates worldwide. http://corporate.walmart.com

CHRISTMAS IN ROSELAND SEEKING PERFORMERS

American Rose Society
8877 Jefferson-Paige Road
Shreveport, LA 71119

The American Rose Center’s annual Christmas in Roseland celebration is seeking performers to share their talents at this year’s celebration scheduled through Dec. 23. A Shreveport-Bossier City tradition since its inception in 1982, the Christmas in Roseland nightly entertainment provided by local groups and individuals is an important part of this yearly celebration.

Thirty-minute and one hour evening performance periods are available for musical groups, church choirs, bell choirs, clowns and/or puppet performers, storytellers and dance groups. To book your group or for more information, visit www.christmasinroseland.com and sign up for an open time or call Beth Smiley at 318-938-5402 ext. 231.

Located just off I-20, Exit 8, the Gardens of the American Rose Center is easily accessible for local residents and tourists. Admission for this family-oriented celebration is just $5 per person or $20 per carload, whichever is less. Mini-bus and charter bus rates are also available, making Christmas in Roseland a convenient and affordable holiday outing. For more information, call 318-938-5402.

With more than a million twinkling lights, Christmas in Roseland transforms the American Rose Center’s 65+ acres of sleeping roses into a glistening wonderland.
Let’s share Christmas!

1. **SHOE BOX**
   Use an empty standard size shoe box or similar sized plastic container with a lid. If wrapping, wrap top and bottom separately, but wrapping is not required. **Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift.**

2. **BOY OR GIRL**
   Decide if your gift is for a boy or a girl, and the child’s age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Print appropriate labels at [www.samaritanspurse.org/OCC](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/OCC). Mark the age category on the label, and tape to the box top.

3. **FILL WITH GIFTS**
   Fill the box with a variety of gifts such as: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, writing pads, pens, coloring books and colors, yo-yos, jump ropes, toothbrush and toothpaste, mild bar soap and washcloth, caps, t-shirts, socks, sunglasses, hair clips, hard candy, mints, gum. **Do not include: damaged or breakable (glass) items, out-dated food, or any medications, vitamins, liquids or lotions. Also any war related items such as military figures, toy guns or knives.**

   In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note and a picture of yourself and your family. If you send your address, the child may write back.

4. **INCLUDE $7 DONATION**
   Donating $7 or more for each shoe box helps cover shipping and other project costs. To give online go to [www.samaritanspurse.org/OCC](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/OCC) and use our “Follow Your Box Donation” option, or place a check to Samaritan’s Purse (noting “OCC”) in an envelope on top of the items inside your box. Please write one check for multiple boxes. Secure each box with a rubber band.

5. **DROP OFF**
   Collecting Nov.16-23. Drop-off locations: FBC Bossier (9-6:00 M-F, 10-2:00 Sat, 2-5:00 Sun, 8:00-6:00 Mon) Woodridge Baptist in S’port (10-3:00 M-F, 11-2:00 Sat, 2-4:00 Sun, 10 – 3:00 Mon), FBC Vivian, FBC Minden, New Hebron BC in Waskom, and GC Baptist in Grand Cane.

Present can also be mailed to:
Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child
801 Bamboo Road
Boone, NC 28607

If after the deadline, you’d like to make a contribution, go to [www.samaritanspurse.org/OCC](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/OCC) and inquire about “Build a Box.”
Debate abounds concerning the topic of evolution. Previous articles in this column have addressed aspects of this subject such as the fossil record, by presenting scientific findings favoring miraculous creation while heavily disfavoring evolution. Another area of debate involves the subject of origins, the beginning of first life. A book-length treatment on this subject has been written in understandable terms by Fuzle Rana, PhD, and Hugh Ross, PhD, titled Origins of Life. These authors work through the science-faith think tank, Reasons to Believe, which advances the premise that the record of nature (science) and the Bible cannot be in conflict because they were both written by the same Author.

Evolution assumes that one animal species gave rise to more complex species through mutation of existing DNA. But how and when did the very first DNA molecule and other building blocks of life first come into existence? That’s the subject of origins. Evolutionists say DNA developed by random process from inert chemicals present on the early earth. After that, somehow (always somehow), these enormously complex molecules turned into simple cells over time. But exactly what were these chemical steps? What follows are just a few of the problematic areas in science which make an evolutionary explanation of origins extremely unlikely and a special creation explanation far more plausible.

Experiments in the 1950’s were done where mixtures of gasses believed to be present in the ancient earth’s atmosphere were subjected to electrical currents simulating lightening. Supposedly, amino acids and other building blocks of life were formed in this manner creating a “soup” from which life “emerged”. Subsequent knowledge of the early earth’s actual atmospheric composition, however, has rendered such experiments irrelevant. Also, analysis of the earth’s oldest rocks simply bears no chemical evidence that such a soup ever existed.

Another problem for the evolutionists is that the earth’s oldest fossils of stromatolites, sheets of blue-green algae, date to about 3.5 billion years ago. These fossil remains are clearly seen in the earth’s oldest rocks as fully-formed, complex cellular organisms much like they are today.

Even before then, there is chemical evidence now that life existed as long as 3.8 billion years ago. How so? Well, living organisms prefer carbon 12 to carbon 13 and when they die their biodeposits reflect this preference. Measurement now of the most ancient carbon deposits of 3.8 billion years old reflect this same preference. This helps show that life only came from life and not some lifeless “primordial soup”.

Before 3.8 billion years ago, the earth was simply too hot to permit any life. So if life suddenly appeared as soon as conditions allowed, when was there time for it to emerge from inert chemicals? Well, there wasn’t any time. So scientific discovery has demonstrated there wasn’t any time and there wasn’t any soup to explain origins from an evolutionary viewpoint. Creation is the better explanation. Science, therefore, harmonizes with the Bible as scripture says about the fifth day of creation: “Then God said, Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth...”(Gen 1: 20 NASB)

Continued on page 15
Based on the true story of Angola Prison, at one point one of the most violent prisons in the United States. This film will follow the story of warden Burl Cain who initiated true change in the lives of his prisoners through the Experiencing God teachings and the installation of a Bible College. Murderers, armed-robbers, the “worst of the worst” turned their lives around through the grace of God. But the story doesn’t end there, these reformed men, most of whom will never know physical freedom again, become inmate missionaries to spread God’s word and His peace to other prisons around the state. Prison violence is down 75%, hundreds of men have finished the program, and countless others are Experiencing God through these changed lives. This film will have one resounding theme: There is no limit to what God can do through an ordinary person who opens their heart to Him.

_The Bible study Experiencing God has sold over 7 million copies around the world and has been translated into 47 languages. With the massive cultural impact of film on the world - today movies are the #1 cultural influencer - we know that this film can spread the message of Experiencing God to every corner of the globe!_
### Benton Area:
- **Believer’s Worship Center**
  - 6068 Hwy 3
  - 965-2750
- **First Baptist**
  - 201 Bellevue Rd
  - 965-2351
- **Benton Presbyterian**
  - Church Corner of Airline & Linton Rd.
  - 9:10am & 11:00am
  - 747-2802
- **Benton United Methodist**
  - 4615 Palmetto Rd
  - 965-2273
- **Cypress Baptist**
  - 4701 Palmetto Rd
  - 965-2296
- **Elizabeth Baptist**
  - 301 Old Bellevue Rd
  - 965-2592
- **Fellowship Tabernacle**
  - 4709 Palmetto Rd
  - (Sun) 11am
  - 965-9324

### Blanchard Area:
- **Church of the Nazarene**
  - 251 N. Main St.
  - 929-2831
- **Cross Brand Cowboy Church**
  - 7:00 p.m. Weds.
  - 929-4312
- **North Point United Methodist Church**
  - 6675 Hwy. 1
  - (Sun) 9:30-10:30am youth 6:30 Wed
  - 742-9200
- **Northwood Baptist Church**
  - 5924 N. Market St.
  - (Sun) 10:30am
  - 925-3592
- **Westlake Baptist**
  - 8379 N. Lakeshore Rd
  - 929-2223

### Bossier Area:
- **Airline Baptist**
  - 4007 Airline Dr.
  - (Sun) 8:15 & 10:45am
  - 746-3495
- **Airline Dr. Church of Christ**
  - 2125 Airline Dr.
  - (Sun) 10:10am
  - 746-2645
- **Barksdale Baptist Church**
  - 1714 Jimmy Davis Hwy
  - 746-2645
- **Belleaire Baptist**
  - 1210 Bellaire Blvd.
  - 1465 Patricia Dr.
  - 742-9431
- **Barksdale United Methodist Church**
  - 1650 Barbara Street
  - 742-2951
- **Boswell Baptist Church**
  - 3018 Creswell
  - 742-8220
- **Central Assembly of God**
  - 700 Hwy 80
  - 949-0010
- **Central Baptist**
  - 2225 Airline Dr.
  - 742-6153
- **Christview Christian**
  - 5503 Airline Dr.
  - (Sun) 10:40am
  - 746-1531
- **City Church**
  - 176 Scopena Circle
  - 742-1097
- **Elm Grove Baptist**
  - 8180 Barksdale Blvd.
  - (Sun) 10:45am
  - 746-0800
- **Fellowship Church of God**
  - 4601 Airline Rd.
  - 742-3382
- **First Baptist Church**
  - 201 John Wesley Blvd.
  - (Sun) 8:45 am, 10:45 am

### THE BRIDGE - Building Community in Shreveport Bossier
- **Love Chapel United Methodist**
  - 2001 Forest Hills
  - 9 & 11am
  - 949-0430
- **New Beginnings Community Church**
  - 225 Mahaffey
  - (Sun) 11:00am
  - 943-2489
- **Open Road Fellowship Church**
  - 780 Bocdao Station Rd.
  - 742-9800
  - http://www.openroadfellowship.com/

### Shreveport Area:
- **Baptist Tabernacle**
  - 3384 Bellevue Road
  - 949-4794

### Sunderland:
- **Christ Lutheran**
  - 290 Idema St.
  - 742-3823
- **Christ Center**
  - 6808 Jefferson Paige
  - 686-3060
- **Christian Center of Shreveport**
  - 207 Idema St.
  - 518-8767

### Shreveport Area:
- **Baptist Tabernacle / Shreveport Christian Academy**
  - 8501 E. Kingston Road.
  - 686-7551
- **Bethel Assembly of God**
  - 5801 Bert Kouns Loop
  - (Sun) 8:30am (Wed) 6:30pm
  - 678-4200
- **Baptist Church of the Nazarene**
  - 4355 Greenwood Rd
  - (Sun) 9:00, 10:30 am, Wed 7 pm
  - 635-9242
- **Boswell Christian Center**
  - 9529 E. Kingston Road.
  - 8501 E. Kingston Road.
  - 393-2489
- **Boswell Community Church**
  - 805 Eatman Rd.
  - 742-7616
- **Brethren Church of the Nazarene**
  - 3101 Fisher Street
  - 425-3390
- **Catholic Center-Diocese of Shreveport**
  - 225 Mahaffey
  - 221-8404
- **Calvary Baptist Church**
  - 9333 Linwood Ave.
  - 861-0586
- **Christ Lutheran Church**
  - 290 Idema St.
  - 742-3823
- **Christ Tabernacle**
  - 6808 Jefferson Paige
  - 686-3060
- **Christian Center of Shreveport**
  - 3500 Fairfield Avenue
  - 866-4441
- **Central Christian Church**
  - 102 Bert Kouns
  - 686-3060
- **Church of Christ North**
  - 3401 N. Market St.
  - (Sun) 9:30am, 11:00am, 6pm
  - 226-1305
- **Church of Christ/First**
  - 3401 N. Market St.
  - (Sun) 9:30am, 11:00am, 6pm
  - 226-1305
- **Church on the Rock**
  - 5035 North Market
  - 227-2902
- **Christian Center of Shreveport**
  - 3030 Fannin
  - 686-9250
- **Church at Red River**
  - 3030 Fannin
  - 686-9250
- **Church of the Nazarene**
  - 535 Modica St.
  - 742-2144
- **Central Assembly of God**
  - 700 Hwy 80
  - 949-0010
- **Central Baptist**
  - 2225 Airline Dr.
  - 742-6153
- **Christview Christian**
  - 5503 Airline Dr.
  - (Sun) 9:30 am
  - 746-1531
- **City Church**
  - 176 Scopena Circle
  - 742-1097
- **Elm Grove Baptist**
  - 8180 Barksdale Blvd.
  - (Sun) 10:45am
  - 746-0800
- **Fellowship Church of God**
  - 4601 Airline Rd.
  - 742-3382
- **First Baptist Church**
  - 201 John Wesley Blvd.
  - (Sun) 8:45 am, 10:45 am
- **Contemporary Ser-
Abortion Recovery – Unplanned Pregnancy: Help is available, free of charge. All calls are confidential. Ark-La-Tex Crisis Pregnancy Center in Shreveport. 861-4600 or hotline # 1-800-395-HELP. Parenting Education combined with emotional support and practical assistance also available at the Ark-La-Tex Learning Center. 861-3232.

Alzheimer Support – Noon, 2nd Wednesday each month. Hunter Bldg. room 104. Lunch provided for $7.00. FMI email Pam Crews at pcrews1@gmail.com or call 424-7771. First Methodist Church, downtown Shreveport

Celebrate Recovery
Church at Red River, Faith-based 12 Step Program. Fridays, 6:00 p.m. meal, 6:30 program. 230 Flournoy Lucas Road in Shreveport. Free childcare. 213-3600
First Baptist Bossier – Faith-based 12 Step Program. Mondays, meal at 5:30 prior to meeting at 6:00 p.m. 2810 E. Texas in Bossier. Free childcare. 746-7940
Airline Church of Christ – Faith-based 12 Step Program – Thursdays. Dinner at 5:30 prior to 6:00 meeting. 2125 Airline in Bossier. 746-2645

Clothing Closet: Each Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Airline Church of Christ, 2125 Airline in Bossier 746-2645

Clothing Room: New Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church, 2332 Jewella in Shreveport. For more information call 631-8070.

Couples/Marital Counseling - Individual Counseling for Children and Adults - Family Therapy
Bellaire Baptist Church in Bossier. FMI call 698-1604 or email karen@bellairebaptist.org

Deaf Ministry - dDeaf Community (that’s correct) exists to support the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Ark-La-Tex through Friday evening socials, leadership opportunities, serving in the community, worship, Bible study and more. While dDeaf Community is a ministry of First United Methodist Church, one need not be a member to participate. All are welcome! Contact Lisa Turnbull at luturnbull@fumeshreveport.org for more info.

DivorceCare begins Aug. 9 at 4:30 p.m. Room 2S, Summer Grove Baptist Church, 8924 Jewella in Shreveport (South Park Mall) 686-1470

Free Grocery Registration and Distribution
New Vision Community Church-Shreveport is now an emergency food pantry for the Food Bank of NWLA. Our coverage areas are zip codes 71118, 71108 and 71109. Proof of government assistance, income and a valid ID are required to participate. The food distribution days are on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 12-2:00pm. Contact 671-4258 FMI.

GEM’S Ministry for children with special needs: We consider it a privilege and a direct call from God to reach out to the families of these children. Contact Mrs. Billie at btate@fumeshreveport.org or call 424-7771.

GriefShare begins Sept. 2 at 6:00 p.m. Room 2S, Summer Grove Baptist Church, 8924 Jewella in Shreveport (South Park Mall) 686-1470

Harvest Kitchen
Free Soup Kitchen for those in need Monday - Thursday from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Contact:(318)746-2645
Airline Drive Church of Christ 2125 Airline Drive in Bossier

Heart for Heroes Program: Counseling for military - individuals, couples, and families. Samaritan Counseling Center, 1525 Stephens, in Shreveport. For more information call 221-6121

Ministry of St. Vincent DePaul:
Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.
Groceries, clothing, shoes, and household items given to those who need them. Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 4736 Lyba St. in Shreveport, near the airport. Apply for assistance at 865-7807.

Mustard Seed
Free medical care for those who can’t afford it. First Saturday of each month from 9am-12 and also on Thursday from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Contact: (318)746-2645.
Airline Drive Church of Christ 2125 Airline Drive in Bossier

Overeaters Anonymous
Local Hotline # 318-677-4002

Shreveport Meetings:
Sunday - Broadmoor Library, 3:00 869-0120
Monday – First United Methodist Church 7:00 p.m. 424-7771
Wed - Broadmoor Baptist, 5:30 p.m. 868-6552
Thurs - St James Episcopal Church 6:30 p.m. 686-1261

Bossier Meeting:
Tuesday - Asbury United Methodist Church, 5:30 p.m. 746-5349

Overcomers Recovery Support-12 Step Program
Word of Life Center, 687-4777, 4425
Merriwether Road, Shreveport, Mondays 7:00-9:00 p.m. Building at back of church property. Cowboy Outreach and Arena of Life Church 1130 Stewart Rd. in Haughton, 949-1539.

Pink Circle of Hope Cancer Ministry for Women- First Monday each month. Meeting: FMI contact Lisa Craft – prayingthrough@bellsouth.net or Sandra Timmons at 453-0669

St. Luke’s Episcopal Mobile Medical Ministry (stlukesmedicalministry.org) offers free health screenings for blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, and diabetes, and also clinical breast exams to uninsured and low-income individuals in Shreveport/Bossier. No appointment necessary. FMI see St. Luke’s Episcopal Mobile Medical Ministry on Facebook. (318) 674-9747

Mary’s House - A Pregnancy Care Center coming to Shreveport

Training for those interested in volunteering with Mary’s House is as follows:

Orientation - a one-time class of two hours offered on the following dates in November - required for all volunteers

   November 4th and 5th from 10 a.m. - 12 noon
   November 9th and 10th from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
   November 11th from 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Peer Counseling Training - for those interested in talking with clients in person or on the phone. Four classes are required for Peer Counselors in addition to the Orientation class.

October 26, November 2, 9, 16 from 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon
October 28, November 4, 11, 18 from 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
All classes will be held at 906 Margaret Place in Shreveport.

RSVP to: maryshouse.sport@gmail.com
Community Calendar

State Fair of Louisiana: October 22 – November 8. For everything you need to know about tickets, entertainment, etc. visit www.statefairoflouisiana.com. Fairgrounds are located between Hearne and Jewella exits off I-20 in Shreveport.

Daylight Savings Time Ends: Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 a.m. Set your clocks back an hour when you go to bed that Saturday night.

Motivational Speaker Terry Holland: Thursday, Nov 5 at 7:00 p.m. As a bull rider and member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, Terry’s travels have taken him across the U.S. and Canada. Join us for an interesting evening as Holland expounds on some of his experiences and through that shares his testimony and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Cross Brand Cowboy Church across from First Baptist, 201 Attaway in Blanchard. For more information call 929-2346.

The Arts & Eats Craft and Food Fair: Saturday, November 7th from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 36 artists, crafters and bakers will be selling a wide variety of beautiful, gift-worthy handmade treasures. Metal work, embroidery, quilts, soap, skincare, baby items, wreaths, desserts, fried pies, handmade stationary - and so much more! Entree fee is $1 per person with proceeds benefiting Common Ground Shreveport. http://commongroundshreveport.com/about.html

The Louisiana Veterans Honor Parade: November 8 - the last day of the State Fair. Floats, marching bands, ROTC drill teams and veterans organizations parading down the midway. Led by Brigadier General Joanne Sheridan, the parade will begin at Hirsch Memorial Coliseum and end at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Free admission and free parking will be provided for all veterans and their families. Veterans are encouraged to wear their organizational veterans’ caps and t-shirts.

Veterans Day: November 11 – Our heart-felt gratitude goes to all those who have served and are currently serving in our United States military.

The Annual Fall Retreat at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church: November 13-14. This year’s speaker is Fr. Gregory Horton, from Bonner’s Ferry, Idaho. He will be speaking on the topic, “Laying Aside All Earthly Cares.” Presentations will be on Friday at 6:15 p.m. and Saturday at 10:45 a.m. and 12 noon, with prayer times and meals preceding and/or following the presentations. No charge to attend. For more information, visit www.stnicholasorthodox.org or call 318-797-2226. Located at 9100 Youree Drive.

Free Computer Classes: Third Thursday of each month (Nov. 19th) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Instructors: Bernie Conradi and J C Barnett. Free and open to the public. Learn how to get around in Microsoft Windows, and get an introduction to Windows 10. Other classes include Excel and Microsoft Word. Christ Lutheran Church, 290 Idema Street in Shreveport. FMI contact glenda@conradi.com.

Thanksgiving: November 26.

To fellow believers, a Thanksgiving toast:

It is true that joy is found in gratitude. That said... may our focus be on be on our Lord Jesus Christ, the author of all creation, the giver of every good and perfect gift, who declares, ‘I and the Father are One.’ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Happy Thanksgiving!

Anniversary Celebration of New Visions Community Church - Shreveport: Sunday, November 29 at 2:00 p.m. Congregation and Pastor Ron Hampton welcome special guest, Rev. Richard Jefferson of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Doyline, LA. Dinner immediately following service. 727 Flournoy Lucas Rd. FMI call 671-4258.

Continued from page 10

The fossil record (previously discussed) disfavors evolution by documenting sudden appearance (creation), then extinction, followed by sudden appearance of more advanced creatures. It doesn’t document slow, progressive change. In the same way, the scientific record disfavors the gradual development of the very first life by the absence of time and chemicals needed to bring it about by natural, means. So don’t be fooled about statements like, “evolution is a proven fact.” It’s all bluster, just chest pounding. Scientific discoveries best explain life as a miracle.

For more information please visit http://www.facebook.com/pages/RTB-Shreveport-La-Chapters/458206870872208?ref=hl or email Shreveport@reasons.org Dr. Patton is a Christian apologist, practicing physician in Shreveport and member of Broadmoor Baptist Church.

You just got the call.

Within the hour, you will become responsible for every need of a frightened child. All he has are the clothes on his back. And you.

Ready? Now...GEAUX.

Geaux Bags
www.geauxbags.com
(318) 550-8785

Helping children in crisis get through that first difficult day and night of foster care with basic necessities and comfort items.
PROGRAM GUIDE

Monday - Friday

In the Morning...
6:00 Renewing Your Mind - R.C. Sproul
6:30 Precepts for Life - Kay Arthur
6:55 Mission Network News
7:00 Focus on the Family - Jim Daly
7:30 In Touch - Charles Stanley
8:00 Grace to You - John MacArthur
8:30 Love Worth Finding - Adrian Rogers
9:00 Just Thinking - Ravi Zacharias
9:15 Key Life - Steve Brown
9:30 Family Life Today - Dennis Rainey
10:00 Family Talk - James and Ryan Dobson
10:30 Revive Our Hearts - Nancy Leigh DeMoss
11:00 Walk in the Word - James MacDonald
11:30 Wall Builders Live - David Barton

In the Afternoon...
12:00 Insight for Living - Charles Swindoll
12:30 Turning Point - David Jeremiah
1:00 Point of View - Kerby Anderson
2:05 The Dave Ramsey Show
4:00 Just Thinking - Ravi Zacharias
4:15 Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission - Jim Brackman
4:30 Focus on the Family - Jim Daly
5:00 Urban Alternative - Tony Evans
5:30 Sign Off

Saturday

In the Morning...
6:00 The Car Show
7:00 Spirit of the Outdoors - Jim Newcomb
8:00 Christian Worldview - David Wheaton
9:00 Point of View - Kerby Anderson
11:00 Eagle Forum Live - Phyllis Schlafly

In the Afternoon...
12:00 Sports Spectrum - nowSports.org
12:30 Walk in the Word - James MacDonald
1:00 Washington Watch Weekly - Tony Perkins
1:30 Precepts for Life - Kay Arthur
2:00 Jonathan Park
2:30 Ranger Bill
3:00 Adventures in Odyssey
3:30 Road to Reality - Gospel for Asia
4:00 Let My People Think - Ravi Zacharias
4:30 The Dave Ramsey Show
5:30 Sign Off

Streaming at kbclthebridge.org from 6:00 A.M. till midnight

Sunday

In the Morning...
6:00 Grace To You - John MacArthur
6:30 BreakPoint This Week - Eric Metaxas
7:00 Love Worth Finding - Adrian Rogers
7:30 Family Life Today - Dennis Rainey
8:00 Let My People Think - Ravi Zacharias
8:30 In Touch - Charles Stanley
9:00 Focus on the Family Weekend
10:00 The First Word - First Baptist Bossier
11:00 Turning Point Weekend
11:30 Precepts for Life - Kay Arthur

In the Afternoon...
12:00 Washington Watch Weekly - Tony Perkins
12:30 Christian Worldview - David Wheaton
1:30 Unshackled - Pacific Garden Missions
2:00 Ranger Bill
2:30 Adventures in Odyssey
3:00 Focus on the Family Weekend
4:02210 Road to Reality - Gospel for Asia
4:30 In Touch - Charles Stanley
5:00 Peace with God - Billy Graham
5:30 Sign Off

Weekday PM Streaming Schedule

5:30 Renewing Your Mind
6:00 Grace to You
6:30 Family Life Today
7:00 Revive our Hearts
7:30 In Touch
8:00 Precepts for Life
7:00 In Touch
7:30 Precepts for Life
8:00 Revive our Hearts
8:30 Family Talk
9:00 Wall Builders Live
9:30 Love Worth Finding
10:00 Walk in the Word
10:30 Turning Point
11:00 Just Thinking
11:15 Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission
11:30 Urban Alternative
12:00 Sign Off

Saturday PM Streaming Schedule

5:30 The Dave Ramsey Show (cont)
7:30 Sports.org
8:00 Adventures in Odyssey
8:30 Road to Reality - GFA
9:00 Crescent Project Radio
9:30 Let My People Think
10:00 Point of View
12:00 Sign Off

Sunday PM Streaming Schedule

5:30 Grace to You
6:00 Love Worth Finding
6:30 BreakPoint
7:00 Let My People Think
7:00 Breakpoint This Week
7:30 Washington Watch Weekly
8:00 Family Life Today
8:30 First Word
9:30 Christian Worldview
10:30 Precepts for Life
11:00 Adventures in Odyssey
11:30 Unshackled
12:00 Sign Off

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