



HIGH DESERT Baptist Association

The Desert Scroll

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The Newsletter of the High Desert Baptist Association

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Your Prayers

Pray for Israel

Pray for Angela Lewis, daughter of Pastor Bob and Ruth Lewis, as she leaves for Rwanda.

Pray for Cassondra, daughter of Pastor Rocky and Kay Vermillion, as she leaves for the mission field.

Our Burma Team is heading back in October. Pray that God use them powerfully.

Out of Balance

Paul McCartney's first guitar sells for \$614,000 ([Full Story](#)) and churches in the High Desert struggle to make ends meet. Out of Balance!

Family at McDonalds: \$23.00/Sunday
Offering Plate: \$5.00/Sunday
Out of Balance!

God's Blessing and our commitment to Him.
Out of Balance!

Annual Meeting

Mark you Calendars now! The annual meeting of the High Desert Baptist Association will be October 21st. We are changing the format to include two blocks of seminars/instructional information.

The association is changing to become a greater Resource to our members. Help us change! Your participation in associational events is an important part of changing the future of the High Desert.

FREE STUFF

Please check our free stuff link regularly. The items on the list are all quality items, and they are free to all participating churches. To see the current list of free items, please click [here](#).

Help Out

Know Who You Are

by: Rick Curtis

It seems that yesterday, in Ohio, a waitress was checking to see if a patron was old enough to drink. Much to her surprise, the patron used, as her identity, the ID of the waitress which had been reported missing weeks earlier. Imagine the feeling of violation when the waitress was confronted with an individual pretending to be her! [Read the actual news story here.](#)

As this true story illustrates, at times we take on an identity and use it to our advantage. Imagine what the source of that identity feels when we do. This patron sought the ability to be someone else through deceit and was confronted with the very source of that identity. An attempt to take advantage of another's status was met with exposure of falsity and humiliation.

How many church-goers do you think run this risk? They attend church with a false identity, one that does not represent who they portray in life. Their Sunday identification card says "Son of God" yet it is a counterfeit ID. How long before they confront the source of that identity and face His judgment?

The reason for conflict in churches is often false identity. Many have tried to portray themselves as something other than who they are. They cover their own agenda by identifying with Christ, and truth be told, their agenda is wholly their own. I hope that we will all remember that we are sinners, saved by grace, and that this is our identity. It is found in being extended mercy, grace and sonship by our Savior. In Romans, the Apostle Paul admonishes us to think of ourselves rightly.

Romans 12:3-5 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, [being] many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

We will never be who God intended until we learn to represent ourselves by our true identity, both in and away from church.

Pray For Your Pastor

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done

Team Building

I would ask you to consider becoming part of a team, but only if you have a passion for the purpose of that team. We need people who are willing to give one meeting a month, plus personal tasks to the future of the High Desert.

Teams are as follows:

Expansion Team: Charged with planting churches in the High Desert. Includes Church Community Ministry strategies,

Church Health Team: Charged with the health of our existing churches. Includes but not limited to Special Training (Annual Mtg.), VBS Clinic, Conflict Resolution, Legal and Real Estate Issues. Leadership development is also included.

Pastoral Care Team: Charged with the refreshing and health of our pastor's and family. Includes but not limited to Yearly Retreats, Bi-Voc pastoral health and activities, and the Annual Christmas Banquet planning.

Technology Team: Charged with periodic responding to the technology needs of our churches. Includes but not limited to Computer Advise, Multimedia Training, Web Development and Online Strategies.

Please contact me with any questions or if you would like to serve on an associational team.

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Did you know that men of God still walk the earth. Just like in Bible times, there are men who have been called by God to be His special messenger for your area of the world. That man is you pastor.

We live in a culture that downplays the importance of anything spiritual, and unfortunately we have bought into that pattern of behavior. That philosophy will say; "He's not a man chosen by God, he is simply doing a job!" Beware of such thoughts, they originate from only one place, hell. If the enemy can convince us that spirituality plays a secondary role in life he has been victorious in a monumental battle.

Your pastor stands on the front line of that battle! If you have not prayed for him recently, please do so now... really... I meant NOW...

I'll wait!

There... That wasn't so tough...

You just took the first step toward a healthier church, a healthier pastor, and a healthier future for you as an important member of the Christian body that God has called you to. Now, take the next step and tell the pastor how much you appreciate him. While your at it, remember to honor and uplift his wife, her road can be long, lonely and difficult.

Drop a note, give a hug, say you're sorry. Do what it takes to establish an environment of appreciation in your church. You will be amazed at what God will do!

High Desert Baptist Association Newsletter

Please encourage others to sign up for the High Desert Baptist Association Newsletter.

The newsletter is sent on the first of each month and updates our member churches on the "happenings" in our Association. [Sign Up here.](#)

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