

Lake Ivie Baptist Association

Keith Simpson
Ministry Director
P.O. Box 639 Ballinger, TX 76821
Physical Address: 106 S. 8th St.



Linda Maynard
Ministry Assistant
Office Phone: 325-365-2585
Email: lakeiviebaptist@yahoo.com
Facebook Page: Lake Ivie Baptist Association

March, 2024

Upcoming Events!

MARCH 2024

March 4th – Brady Breakfast,
8:30am, at Sandy's Kitchen
March 10th – Daylight Savings Time
March 11th – Coleman breakfast,
8:30am Hidalgo's
March 18th – Cowboy Coffee at Don
Sessoms – 7:30am
March 31st – EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 2024

April 1st – Brady Breakfast,
8:30am, at Sandy's Kitchen
April 8th – Coleman breakfast,
8:30am Hidalgo's
April 15th – Cowboy Coffee at Don
Sessoms – 7:30am
April 21-24 – REVIVAL at FBC Santa
Anna (more info to come)

To Meet LIBA Budget, \$9,000 is needed
Per month.
January, 2023 giving was \$13,215
"Praise The Lord"

"If I cannot do great things, I can do
small things in a Great way."
By: Martin Luther King, Jr.



Association News



For event reminders, follow us on
Facebook: Lake Ivie Baptist Association



**Please continue to pray for
our pastorless churches:**

First Baptist Church, Brady
Lohn Baptist Church
Rochelle Baptist Church

Thoughts For The Day:

"The Gospel is like water. No man invented
it, yet no man can live without it."

*"Be the reason someone smiles today by
showing them the joy of knowing the Lord!"*

"Having God in your boat doesn't mean
that you won't face any storms, it just
means that no storm will sink your boat.
Trust God and DON'T jump ship."

Lake Ivie Baptist Association 2024

Administrative Team Leaders MISSIONS TEAM

Bryan Cawley
405-312-1911

wbcawley@gmail.com

EVANGELISM TEAM

Gary Ball
(325)665-4354
garyandsueball@gmail.com

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Dennis McBeth
325-338-0018
dennis.mcbeth@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP TEAM

D. L. Fulbright
325-636-8484
denver@web-access.net

PRAYER TEAM

Harold Fahrlander
harfah@aol.com
325-348-3511

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Quincy Ellis
Qaellis3@gmail.com
325-647-8441

Keith's Konnections...

I have been thinking quite a bit lately about “The State of the American Church,” at which time I found this information from Thom Rainer, now in partnership with BGCT (Autopsy of a Deceased Church, Scrappy Church et. Al.) that I would like us to consider:

“In the past, I’ve been able to lead churches to growth. I can’t do it anymore. I don’t know what’s wrong with me.” A pastor shared those sentences with me just three days ago. He was frustrated. He was confused. He was exhausted. And he is not alone. With some exceptions, it is indeed more difficult to lead churches to growth. Such is a reality that is about 15 years in the making. The obvious question is: Why?” Allow me to articulate five of those reasons:

1. **Cultural Christianity is declining rapidly.** It is really a misnomer to call it “cultural Christianity,” since it is not true faith in Christ. In the past, many people felt it was culturally, economically, or politically advantageous to be a part of a congregation, even if they weren’t true believers in Christ. These attending non-believers padded our numbers. Or to say it another way, the poll of willing attenders has diminished greatly.
2. **The exit of the Builder generation.** The Builder generation has kept many churches alive, even if the congregations are on life support. This generation, born before 1946, is fiercely loyal to institutions, including local churches. They stuck with congregations in good and bad times. But, in 2015, there were only 28 million Builders left. Another 13,000 Builders dies every week. The loyal generation is few in number and will soon be no more.
3. **Migration from rural areas and small towns to the cities.** In 1790, only 5% of Americans lived in cities. By the 1960s, the percentage of Americans in cities skyrocketed to 65%. Today over 80% of Americans are city dwellers. Rural and small-town churches held on tenaciously to their members for over two centuries. But the population base for those tenacious churches has dwindled dramatically.
4. **Faster church transfers.** Those who are transferring from one church to another are concentrating in fewer churches. Simply stated, a few churches are getting bigger at the expense of smaller churches. While that phenomenon has been in play for quite a while it is now accelerating. The old barrier that held people in specific churches—family connections, denominational loyalty, and loyalty to a specific congregation—are no longer barriers today. People move with great freedom from church to church.
5. **Slow response to change as change accelerates all around us.** Many churches are incredibly slow to change. For most of our American history, the pace of cultural and technological change was sufficiently paced for churches to lag behind only five to ten years. Now churches are lagging behind 20 to 30 years as the pace of change increases dramatically. To many attendees and members, the church thus seems increasingly irrelevant. To be clear, I am speaking about issues of style, methodology, and awareness, not changing doctrine or biblical truths. A church guest I recently interviewed said it clearly, “I stuck with my parents’ church as long as I could. But when we had a big blow up over projection screens in the worship center, I had enough. I wanted to go a church where matters of minutia were not issues to fight over.”

Rainer also says, “If you think it is more difficult to lead a church to growth, you are right. If you have noticed the decline in your church is greater, you are probably right as well. And if you are to the point of realization that your church may die in the next few years, it may come sooner than that.”

So, **what is the answer, you may ask?** This is from me, not Rainer. Continue to preach the Word. Continue to reach out and witness. Continue to invite folks to church, Continue to make disciples. Continue to do the work to which God has called your church. And remember as Jude says, “earnestly contend for the faith.” And NEVER be unwilling to try something new and different. God bless each person and each church as we strive together to present the Gospel through words and deeds.