



FBC MERIDIAN

September 2017 MeridianLife Letter

by Josh King

FBC Meridian,

Often I hear of your good deeds, indirectly and unsolicited. A need isn't reported for HQ to deal with, it is simply taken care of. The ministry of the word is to equip the saints for the work of ministry. I see this happening and it brings me joy. Praise be to God. May we continue to abound in good works to the glory of His name.

Membership

The Raney's have been visiting our body for sometime now. They have long expressed their desire to join our body, but have been hindered by health. Their testimony is attached. Concerning them:

The elders recommend Rodney and Sherrie Raney be welcomed into full fellowship with this body.

Building and Grounds

One of my favorite things about our body is the kids. They're everywhere. Blessings abound. Yet, one of the most surprising things to guests are the kids—right there with us in the thick of it all. They're everywhere! Often, our guests haven't had an opportunity to invest time teaching their children how to sit through a worship gathering. Also, we realize that there are seasons when it is more difficult for us. For some time we've spoken of remodeling the classrooms on the north side of the assembly hall into one cry room and one training room. The cry room would be for nursing mothers and their babies only. It would have gliders and a changing table. Privacy glass would allow them to see out while no one could see in. Sound would be pumped in. The training room would be set up with chairs in rows and have a large glass window. Sound would also be piped into this room. The training room would be for families to use as they train their children to sit through the worship gathering. For security reasons, the rooms would not be connected to one another, and the entrance doors for both would be facing the seating area in the assembly hall. This way no access to the rooms could be gained unnoticed from the foyer. We estimate the cost to remodel the area to be approximately \$4200.00.



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The elders recommend that we remodel the classrooms on the north side of the assembly hall to be a cry room and a training room at a cost of approximately \$4200.00.

We would also like to put a water softener in at the parsonage. The water at the parsonage is very hard and takes its toll on appliances and fixtures. Also, Bethany suffers from eczema which the hard water intensifies. Softer water greatly reduces the effects. Along with this we would like to put in a kitchen water purifier. For these reasons:

The elders recommend that we put in a water softener and purifier at the parsonage for a cost of approximately \$2300.00.

Elder Confession of Faith and Name Change

The elders have finally completed the elder confession of faith. Well, almost. We still want to go back through it, clean her up, and add Scripture references, but the confession itself is nearly complete-ish. We will publish it separately for your review.

Also, be looking for another separate article elaborating on why we are recommending we change our name. We will present both of these items at our December meeting.

Lingle's Furlough

The Lingles are stateside on furlough. They will be with us September 20th–23rd. If you would like to treat them to lunch or dinner at some point during this stay please let Josh know what times would be convenient for you. On the evening of Friday the 23rd we will go out to eat with the Lingles at the Thai Bistro in Lawton. If you would like to come, a sign-up form is in the foyer so that we can arrange for seating and know how best to arrange payment.

Christ-Centered Churches Conference

The Christ-Centered Churches Conference will be October 6–7 in Lawton. This year being the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the theme will be the five solas (Scripture alone, grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone, and the glory of God alone). Additionally, church historian Dr. Tom Nettles, will be speaking at two sessions about the loss of reformation doctrine in Baptist life and its recovery.



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Early registration is \$10 up to October 5th. Regular admission is \$20. If you have an unbelieving friend, they may come for free. Saturday lunch is included with registration. You can register at www.christ-centered.church.

Along with the other churches involved with this conference, we want the Biblical truths of the Reformation to be propagated in Southwest Oklahoma and beyond. For this reason, we want to keep the registration fees low. Thus, this conference depends on the donations of individuals and churches. If you would like to give a donation, please let Josh know. As for our church body:

The elders recommend that we support the Christ-Centered Churches Conference with a donation in the amount of \$1000.00.

Baby Showers

Finally, back to the little blessing. Babies happen here and they appear to happen in waves. When it rains it pours. Currently, showers are put together randomly and freely by the membership. We don't want to prevent any of that if someone is wanting to put together a shower to include family and friends, however, it has been suggested to us that it might be more convenient if these gifts could be brought to one of our fellowships for the couple to open later. During the fellowship we would briefly take time to express our thanks to God for the child and pray for the family. At this point we just want to invite your feedback.

Grace and Peace,

On Behalf of the Elders,

Josh



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Rodney Raney's Testimony

I have been a born again Christian, since I was ten years old.

I Believed that JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF LIVING GOD! And without him we are nothing! In coming to this church body I have see this church following the teaching of the Bible. I would like to become a member of Meridian Baptist to follow the Bible teaching.

Sherrie Raney's Testimony

The **LORD** has taken me from spiritual death, quickened me, revealing my depravity unto repentance. Repenting of my sins by the power of the **HOLY SPIRIT** not me but **CHRIST** in me; that my righteousness is as filthy rags, asking **JESUS** to forgive me and cleanse me of all unrighteousness and by the Grace of **JESUS CHRIST**, HE has forgiven me; washing me clean by the life giving blood of **JESUS**.

My journey has been long as I will be 60 soon and I still have a long way to go with much to learn. Yet I know **JESUS** is faithful and will continue to do the good work HE has begun within me.