



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 35 YEARS"
1982-2017



THE CORNERSTONE

April 2017

2017 SLBC Men's Expedition



at Frontier Camp, Grapeland, Texas
Friday April 21 – Sunday April 23

As in the past few years, the Annual SLBC Men's Expedition will be held at Frontier Camp in East Texas near the town of Crockett (<https://frontiercamp.org/map/>). The speaker this year is our own Dan Denham, Elder at SLBC. Dan serves as Elder over Media and the Men's ministries.

Dan will teach on the Book of Proverbs during the Saturday and Sunday morning meetings. Dan will extend the Proverbs study he began at the Men's Breakfast in February. Saturday afternoon will be reserved for different sporting/camping activities. At dark we'll assemble around a camp fire for a time of singing, sharing and prayer.

Frontier Camp (www.frontiercamp.org) is located on the shore of Houston County Lake in the piney woods of East Texas between Crockett and Grapeland. It is about 60 miles east from Huntsville, a two and a half hours drive from Sugar Land. It is a great time of the year to enjoy the camp with mild temperatures and new greenery in plants.

Frontier Camp has great recreational facilities including: Volleyball, Basketball, Skeet Shooting, Rifle Range, Tomahawk Throwing, Archery, Canoeing, Hiking, Giant Swing, Low, High Ropes, etc. While it may still be too cold for some of us for water sports such as wake boarding or swimming, fishing for bass and catfish is great on the lake any time of the year. The pictures show some of the activities enjoyed by our men at the camp.

Please mark your calendars for April 21 through 23 and pray for your participation in a great weekend in God's wonderful creation and in His excellent word. The cost is \$99 per person which includes lodging, meals and all recreational facilities. We want to extend a special invitation to our young men in High School. . . . As in the past, scholarships are available for those who would need some help on the financial side. Sign-up sheets and further information are available on the ministries table in the church foyer. You may also contact Dan Denham, Robert Hannan, or Hans Meinardus (see church directory) for any questions. <https://frontiercamp.org>





Missions for the Month



Kristi Robinson--Central Asia

Kristi Robinson

Kristi's works for an NGO, and the main purpose of her job in Central Asia is to organize those who come for short-term stays. She takes care of everyone who comes through there, including their visas and housing in other cities. Although she doesn't believe her gift is teaching, she will help a friend teach conversational English one day a week. Recently, she attended a story telling workshop. Additionally, she has a new coworker.

Please pray as Kristi is making a decision about moving to a country south of where she lives now. If she doesn't move, she will need to get a new red card, similar to our green cards, as hers is expiring soon.

This process will take several months; therefore, she won't be able to come to the United States in the fall while the paperwork is in process. Thank you for your prayers for Kristi!

Scripture for the Month: Daniel 4:34-35

And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion,

And His kingdom *is* from generation to generation.

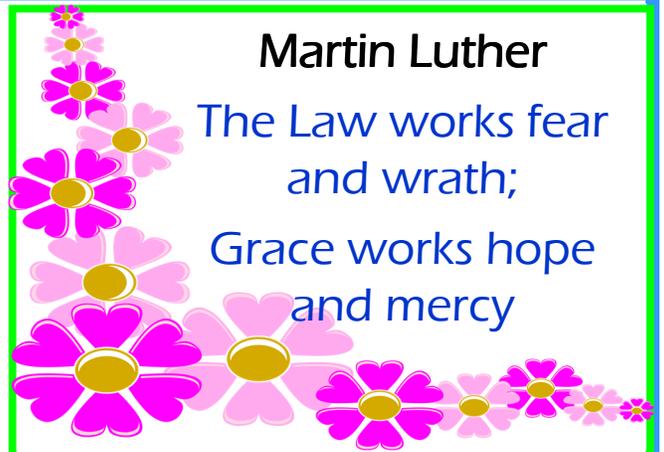
All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven

And *among* the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

Martin Luther

The Law works fear
and wrath;

Grace works hope
and mercy



The Cornerstone Newsletter deadline for News articles is the 19th of each month. You can e-mail Patricia Chandler at: earlbudc@att.net or send information to Carol Henry at Carol@SLBC.org



Andy Woods—Pastor

DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS, PART 6

In this series of articles, we are exploring a very important Bible prophecy, which is generally referred to as Daniel's Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks, found in Daniel 9:24-27. In the first installment, we explained the background of the giving of this prophecy. With this background information in mind, we then turned our attention to a textual analysis of Daniel 9:24-27. We began to break the prophecy down into ten manageable facts. As the reader tracks with me through the presentation of these ten facts, concepts, or ideas, he will develop a very clear understanding of the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. In turn, he will be rewarded by the Holy Spirit with greater confidence that the Bible is indeed God's Word, and he will also obtain a blueprint or timeline through which he can understand how all end time events predicted in the Bible will ultimately come to pass.

In our second installment, we noted our *first* fact, which is the idea that the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks concerns the nation of Israel in general and the City of Jerusalem in particular. As previously noted, this prophecy has nothing to do with the present age of the Church. In fact, the Church was a mystery, which is an unknown spiritual reality (Eph. 3:3-6), at the time the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks was given. In our third installment, we noted a *second* feature, which is the notion that the prophecy consists of a 490-year stop watch. In our fourth installment, we noted our *third* feature, which is the idea that each year of Daniel's 490-year stopwatch consists of 360 days. In our fifth installment, we noted our *fourth* feature, which is the idea that at the end of Daniel's 490-year period Israel will be politically and spiritually restored. With these facts in mind, we are now prepared to present our *fifth* fact.

Fact # 5: Daniel's 490-Year Stop Watch Began to Run on March 5, 444 B.C.

Fact number 5 deals with this issue: when does this stopwatch begin to run? When you call for a taxicab to come to pick you up at your home, a logical question is when does the meter start to run? When the meter begins to run determines how much you are eventually going to pay. Does the meter start to run when the car pulls up to the front of your curb, or your driveway, or does the meter start to run when you actually sit down inside the taxi, or does the meter start to run when the driver begins to actually drive you somewhere?

Under fact number 2, we noted that the Seventy Weeks Prophecy consists of a 490-year stopwatch. The question that arises is when did God put His hand on the start button? Daniel 9:25 provides the answer: "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem..." According to this verse. God will place his finger on the start button the moment there is decree of some sort to restore and rebuild the city of Jerusalem.

Many have sought to locate this specific decree in biblical history. They typically turn their attention to the Book of Ezra, which contains multiple decrees involving the nation's return to the land of Israel following the seventy-year captivity. For example, there is a decree by Cyrus in 538 B.C. (Ezra 1:1-4; 6:1-5), a decree by Darius in 520 B.C. (Ezra 6:6-12), and a decree by Artaxerxes I in 458 B.C. (Ezra 7:11-16). However, none of these decrees could represent the fulfillment of Daniel 9:25 because they all pertain to the Jewish temple that the Hebrews began to rebuild as they returned from the land of Israel after the completion of the seventy-year captivity. Locating the predicted decree of Daniel 9:25 in the Book of Ezra would therefore be out of harmony with a literal approach to this prophecy. Daniel 9:25 is clear when it says that the meter will start to run only when there is a decree, not to rebuild the temple, but rather to rebuild the city of Jerusalem.

The question is, "is there such a decree anywhere in biblical history?" The answer is a resounding "yes" and it is found in the Book of Nehemiah. Interestingly, the events of the Book of Nehemiah transpired roughly one hundred years after the time of Daniel. As noted earlier in this series, Daniel received his vision of the Seventy Weeks in 538 B.C. As will be noted, the decree recorded in Nehemiah transpired around 444 B.C.

According to the Book of Nehemiah, there was a man named Nehemiah, a Jew, and a cupbearer in the



court of King Artaxerxes I in Persia. This man Nehemiah was burdened because he knew that there were no walls around the city of Jerusalem. He well understood that the city of Jerusalem was vulnerable with no protective walls. Consequently, he petitioned his "boss," Artaxerxes I, the Persian king, for permission to journey to Jerusalem so that he could rebuild the walls around that city. As the following verses from Nehemiah 2 demonstrate, it was specifically the city of Jerusalem that was on Nehemiah's mind.

Nehemiah 2:3 says: "I said to the king, 'Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the *city*, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies desolate...?" Nehemiah 2:5 similarly says, "I said to the king, 'If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the *city* of my father's tombs, that I may rebuild it.'" Nehemiah 2:8 also says, "and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me the timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which is by the temple, for the wall of this *city* and for the house to which I will go" (*italics added*).

Nehemiah was burdened for the city of Jerusalem as is made clear from these verses. He made his petition to Artaxerxes I and the moment that Artaxerxes I issued the decree allowing Nehemiah to return to Israel is the moment the divine finger was placed on the start button of the stop watch and the 490 years of the Seventy Weeks Prophecy began to elapse. This of course was all according to the divine plan as can be seen in the rest of Daniel 9:25. There God revealed how the wall would be built again "with plaza and moat, even in times of distress." [Daniel 9:25, "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress."] This second clause of the verse is an accurate prediction and depiction of events found in the Book of Nehemiah, which records how the Hebrews, under great persecution, rebuilt that wall around the city of Jerusalem in record time.

It is also interesting that we can determine exactly when this decree was issued based upon Nehemiah 2:1, which says: "And it came about in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes." Regarding Artaxerxes' father Xerxes I, also known as Ahasuerus in the Book of Esther, we know from extra-biblical writings that he left the throne of Persia in December of 465 B.C. Consequently Artaxerxes, Nehemiah's "boss," came to the throne at the beginning of the year 464 B.C. Thus, we can safely conclude that 464 B.C. was the beginning of Artaxerxes' reign.

Furthermore, Nehemiah 2:1 indicates that this decree was issued in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes I. The twentieth year of Artaxerxes I would be 444 B.C. (464-444=20). Nehemiah 2:1 even more specifically indicates how this decree was issued in the month of Nisan. Nisan is a Jewish month and it correlates to our Gentile calendar year with the month of March. Tradition indicates that Persian kings typically issued their decrees on the first day of the month. Consequently, Artaxerxes' decree was issued the first of Nisan, 444 B.C.

When we correlate this date to our Gentile calendar year system we can document the exact moment in time when God's hand moved onto the stopwatch. The start button was pushed and the 490 years of Daniel 9:24-27 started to tick on March 5, 444 B.C. A decree was issued allowing Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem and that is the very moment the 490-year stopwatch began to run. This point of initiation transpired long after Daniel had died and left the scene. As indicated earlier, Daniel predicted these things in 538 B.C. and this prophecy was fulfilled as the decree was issued in 444 B.C. Consequently, although over one hundred years had passed since Daniel had received the Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks, God never forgot about His Word and His promises.

Based on our study of the Seventy Weeks prophecy, what have we learned thus far? *First*, the prophecy specifically concerns the nation of Israel. *Second*, the prophecy in Daniel 9:24-27 covers a 490-year time period. *Third*, each year of this prophecy consists of 360 days. *Fourth*, by the time the prophetic clock reaches its 490-year completion, Israel will be both politically and spiritually restored. *Fifth*, the 490-year prophetic clock began to run on March 5, 444 B.C.

(To Be Continued...)




TRI-CITY CHURCHES

RESALE SHOP • LA BOUTIQUE

Benefitting East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry

Open: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm
Wednesday from 10am until 6pm

*Your Weekly Specials
New Inventory Everyday!!*

Senior Day

Monday and Friday receive 25% off any original priced item

Wednesday Special Hours Open from 10am-6pm

Wacky Wednesday!!

Come in and check out our extra special deals!!

La Boutique

Visit our Boutique for all your designer wear and accessories at ROCK BOTTOM PRICES!!

Come in on Saturday and get 35% off your original priced Boutique item!!!

Thank you so much for supporting our ministry!!

With your donation you'll receive a 20% off coupon for any original priced item



East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry to Hold It's

8th Annual Empty Bowls April 21, 2017*

Time: 6:30 –9:30 PM

Location: Safari Texas Ranch

Our Church has been asked to provide:

*(2) Two Silent Auction Baskets: these baskets will go on the Silent Auction table to help raise funds for the East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry. **Themes are: Father's Day and Camping.** Donated Items for these baskets are needed! If you can help in any way your donations will be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in helping out with these please contact your Board Rep. Pat Chandler at 281-437-8919 or E-Mail at earlbudc@att.net Tickets for this event is \$40.00.

*Please note: Date Change due to scheduling conflict.



Help A Child In Need!

Submitted by Fabi Morris

“Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked.” Isaiah 82:3

Verses like this one in Isaiah show us our Heavenly Father’s heart concerning orphans and abused children. Earlier this year, Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott sent a letter to faith partners in our state requesting support for youth and families in the Texas child welfare system. The need in Texas is great. One line from Mrs. Abbott’s letter reads, “while not everyone feels called to foster or adopt a child in need, we are all called to do something for this vulnerable population.”

There are many ways to help a child in need. I believe the first step is to pray. When our family lived in Hawaii, we were indirectly connected to three infants who had been born to meth addicts. Perhaps you are aware of cases like these. If so, you can pray for those children and families by name.

Maybe you know someone who is a caseworker or foster parent. You can pray for and encourage them in their important work. Perhaps you could meet a need for one of the children in their care. It could be a pack of new socks, a free haircut, or a tube of their favorite hair gel. How will you know what they need? Reach out and ask.

If you are willing and able to take it a step further, here is one organization you might be interested in learning about: Texas CASA (www.texascasa.org)

CASA, which began in 1977, stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates and exists to safeguard children’s best interests and ensure they are placed in safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible. The organization’s goal is to have every child in the welfare system matched with a CASA volunteer.

As of January, 2017 there are 3,017 children in our Texas region that require substitute care, which can range from foster care placement to psychiatric care placement. Of that number, 532 are foster children in Fort Bend county.

Did you know that April is National Child Abuse Awareness month (an initiative started by President Ronald Reagan)? On the last Sunday in April, our church will be participating in Blue Sunday, with the goal of raising awareness about child abuse and lifting these children up in prayer as a congregation. What will you do to impact a vulnerable child during April? Here are some ways you can pray. Pray for children in harm’s way to be rescued; pray for healing for their minds and bodies; pray they are put with caring people; pray that they ultimately find their hope in Christ Jesus. Please share with me how the Lord is using you during Child Abuse Awareness Month. I’d love to encourage others with your testimony. You can e-mail me at phaee@hotmail.com.

Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked.” Isaiah 82:3





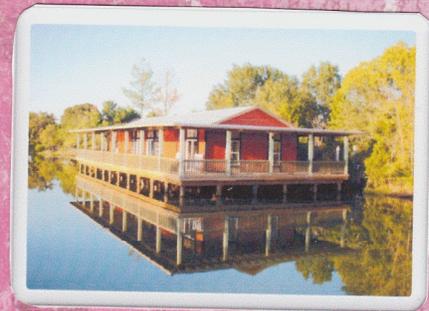
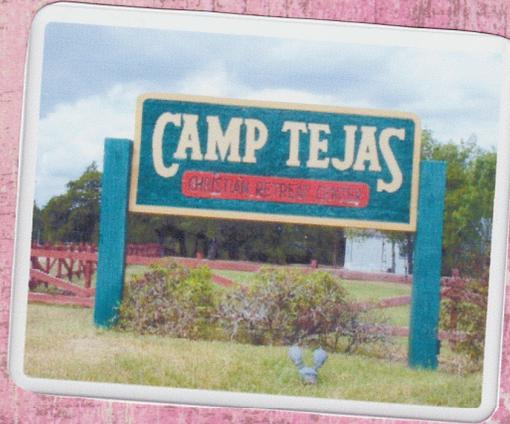
Join Us...

SLBC

Ladies' Retreat

Oct 13-15, 2017

@ Camp Tejas



"Set Your Mind on the Things Above" Col 3:2

--Speaker Betty Cooke

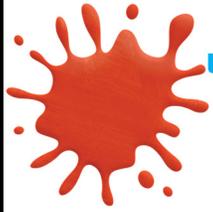
Registration Open!



See foyer table for details.

The GREATEST week of the Summer is coming!

Join us June 5th - June 9th



VBS for ages Kindergarten to 5th grade.

Sign up begins April 1, 2017.

Go to our website for more information.

www.slbc.org

