



*"In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for you alone, LORD,
make me dwell in safety."
Psalm 4:8*



ENGAGED IN THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION De Soto Baptist Church

Pastor, Richard Copeland — Minister of Visitation, Jeff Hodges — 913.585.1026 — www.desotobaptistchurch.org — 8655 Copeland Way, De Soto, KS 66018



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

It may well be that this is the most challenging *Pastor's Pen* I've ever written! Many resources have come to me via email from several Christian organizations, and they are almost always based on the greatest source of all . . . the Holy scriptures! Very meaningful and helpful source came from our Executive Minister of our American Baptist Churches of our Central Region. Dr. Greg Hemmen opened our Bethel Neighborhood Board meeting on Monday evening (March 23rd) with some helpful questions as we seek orientation for ourselves in a time of disorientation.

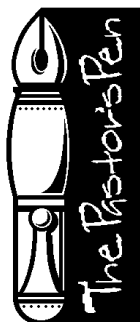
This was definitely a new experience for me as the meeting took place through the technical media referred to as ZOOM; and Mary Etta and I sat at home in front of the computer . . . after Jon in Raytown helped us reinstate "sound"!!! The meeting then began with Dr. Hemmen sharing a devotional, starting with the reading of Psalm 146. And I encourage each of you to also read this Psalm. Dr. Hemmen then referred to four questions which can appropriately be asked of each of us as we search for ways to help ground ourselves during this time of disorientation. And I am using these very questions for our message at this time.

Where am I? This can fittingly be asked out loud, with sharing and discussion with those who are with you. How are you feeling? Calm or maybe scared? Are you worried or deeply concerned about what is going on? Sharing Scriptures or other sources which speak to you at this time can be of significant importance.

Where are you God? This is a simple question that we have probably asked ourselves at one time or another. It is also a very profound question. Regardless of where you are in your Faith journey, meditation on this question can be a significant journey! Occasionally in each of our lives it may seem that God is not with us. This is also revealed again and again in the Scriptures as we observe the children in the Old Testament, as well as other biblical characters. Another question for each of us personally . . . do you have eyes open for the presence of God in and throughout all that's happening? **Reminder . . . God is often at work behind the scenes!!!**

What is mine to do? A reminder . . . most *probably* you are *not* called to save the world . . . or the USA . . . or Kansas . . . or even your own neighborhood!!! That is God's job!! However, we ARE called to live our faith in God, focusing on our relationship to Him and His will as to what He may call us to do.

Continued on next page...



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN... continued

This leads to our final and most significant question . . .

What does LOVE require me to do?

This is the only TRUE mark of your **ACTIONS**, your **LIFE**, of **WHO** you truly are. Jesus did give a priority requirement when He answered the Scribes who asked, *"What is the greatest commandment of all?"* His answer . . . *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And the second is to love your neighbor as yourself.* Jesus then gave the parable of the Good Samaritan to illustrate that your neighbor is *"anyone in need of your ministry!"* Certainly, now is a time to be aware of the needs of our neighbors. Even if we are mandated to stay in our homes, we can reach out via phone or letters to others who just may need to know that someone cares. So, for each of us, the critical question is *What does love require of me at this time and in the place where I am.*

The story is told of a small dog that was struck by a car and tossed to the edge of the road. A doctor, who just happened to be driving by noticed that the dog was still alive, so he stopped his car, picked up the dog and took it home with him. He discovered the dog had suffered only a few minor cuts and abrasions. Reviving the dog, the doctor cleaned its wounds, then carried it to the garage, where he intended to provide a temporary bed.

However, the dog wriggled free from his arms, jumped to the ground, and scampered off. "What an ungrateful dog," the doctor said to himself. He was glad that the animal had recovered so quickly, but he was a little miffed that it had shown so little appreciation for his expert, gentle care. The doctor thought no more about the incident until the next evening. When he answered the "scratch" at the door, he found the little dog he had treated, with an injured doggie friend at its side.

Be encouraged! You may never see the difference you make in someone's life or the difference that person will make in the lives of others; nevertheless, those with whom you share your love and encouragement will never be the same.

Prayers and Blessings during this unusual time in our history, and may God's message to each of us be met with understanding and acceptance . . .

Serving with you in humility and love –

Pastor Richard



TITHES & OFFERINGS . . .

Thank you for the questions and reminders sent relevant to Tithes & Offerings . . . and to those who've already been sending. You may send via mail to:

DE SOTO BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX E, DE SOTO, KS 66018



WORSHIP ONLINE WITH US

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all church activities have been canceled until further notice. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any prayer requests, concerns or needs during this time. Though we cannot physically meet at the church building, we are together in prayer and seek to support each of you during this uncertain time.

You may listen to announcements, prayer requests and Pastor Copeland's Sunday message each week on the church website. New video posted each Saturday at 4 pm.

DE SOTO BAPTIST CHURCH WEBSITE — www.desotobaptistchurch.org



You can find up to date information, the church calendar, newsletters and more on our church website.

MEMBERS - You can view our current Church Directory with member names and contact information as well as church Business Meeting Minutes, just click on the Members tab. *(To request the password email – desotobaptistkschurch@gmail.com)*



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL... *On Hold For Now*

Due to the uncertainty of the progression or control of the CoVid10 outbreak, the dates for our Vacation Bible School for this summer are on hold. We love our VBS program and the opportunity we have to reach so many children with the message of God's love and power. However, until the dangers of this outbreak are under control, we do not believe it is possible or appropriate for us to proceed with specific plans at this time. Until then, please know that we continue to hold all of you in our prayers; may the Lord hold you closely in His loving arms, keep us safe, and fill us all with His peace and hope.

—From your De Soto Baptist Family



POWER OF PRAYER

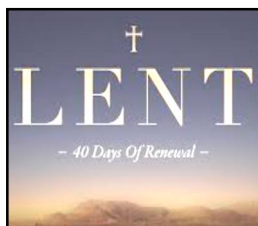
We invite all Christians to join together to pray at 8:00 p.m. every evening, as described in the article, not only for safety & protection, but for the elimination of this expansive issue we are currently facing.



Someone has said that if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. Did you know that during World War II there was an advisor to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every day at the prescribed hour for **one minute** to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace?

There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America. If you would like to participate:

Every evening at **8PM Central**, stop what you are doing and spend **one minute** praying for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens, and for a return to a Godly nation. If you have a smart phone - set an alarm to pray from **8-8:01 PM**. Please pass this along to your prayerful family and friends. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have.



~ SCRIPTURES and PRAYERS ~

Our Journey Through Lent

Weeks 6 – 8 . . . March 26 . . . April 1



I Peter 1:3 . . .

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Prayer . . .

Heavenly Father of all time and all creation, we come before you in acknowledgement of who You are, in gratitude for what You've done throughout all history, and for the *living hope* which is possible only through You, especially in this time of great challenge in the history of all living today. We thank you for the *new birth* which is ours as we claim belief in and allegiance to You and Your will for us. And as challenges are faced, perhaps as never before experienced, we pray for Your presence that we will bear witness of being YOUR people wherever we are. And may Your resurrection after death be acknowledged throughout the world as never before experienced. We praise You for the reality of new life through You, which can be the shining light of love in a world of great need. In love and obedience to Your call on our lives we pray – Amen.

~ MEC



A MOMENT WITH JO

2020 - A New Beginning

"And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice, because the thing is established by God and God will shortly bring it to pass." Genesis 41:32

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:18-19

On March 8th, I preached at our church here in Florida. I shared that anytime we see in the Bible something repeated twice to take note of it, it is important. The number twenty has different meanings—one of them is redemption and another is expectancy. There are probably more, but I would like to explore these two. When I think about redemption, I think of Jesus coming to earth, clothing Himself in flesh, dying on the cross for our sins, so we may share eternity with Him, Father, and Holy Spirit. Redemption means the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment or clearing a debt. Expectancy—the state of thinking or hoping for something especially pleasant is going to happen.

In the early 1980's, a Kansas City pastor prophesied that when the Kansas City Chiefs won the next Super Bowl, revival would begin. It was 50 years in coming, which made it a Jubilee year. The game was played on 02/02/2020, it was the 33rd day of the year, and 333 days left in the year due to Leap Year. It was Coach Reid's 222nd victory. and their double-digit comeback in the 4th quarter set an NFL record.

The Lord gave me the word **BELIEVE** for the year with a Bible Verse to go along with it.

"Whoever says to this mountain, be removed and be cast into the sea and does not doubt in his heart but believes in those things he says will be done. Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." Mark 11:23-24

Let us ask in His name, by His blood, and the Word of God to pray for a move of God, protection for our people, strength and protection for first responders, and wisdom for those in authority over America. Let us seek the Lord and ask how He wants us to pray and believe that He has a plan, plans for good and not evil, to give us a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

— Jo Sweatt



For I know the plans for you,
declares the LORD, plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you

Hope and a Future

Jeremiah 29:11



A 7-DAY CORONAVIRUS PRAYER GUIDE



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pray for those who are sick, and their families, that the Lord would heal and comfort them.

PRAY FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Pray for those on the frontlines treating those who are sick, that the Lord would protect and strengthen them.



PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE

Pray for those who are especially vulnerable to disease, that the sickness would pass over them and that they would rely on others for help.

PRAY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Pray for those who have lost work, that God would provide through their families and communities.



PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

Pray for national and local government leaders, that they would have wisdom to do what is best for all.

PRAY FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Pray for students who are out of school, and their families, that the Lord would give them patience and discipline.



PRAY FOR CHURCHES


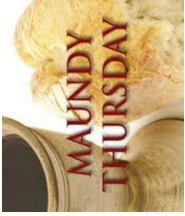
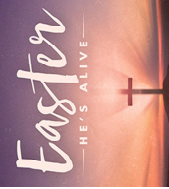
Pray for churches and ministry leaders, that they would know how to best show the love of Christ in this time.

“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives.
Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful.”

JOHN 14:27

April 2020

De Soto Baptist Church Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 	6	7	8	9 	10	11
12 	13 Pray for Central Region Churches	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

April 2020

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Rick & Patricia McAninch</i>	2 Joanna Bushnell <i>Jeff & Sharon Coatney</i>	3 Bentley Serigny Harry Shultz	4 Rodger Brackett
5	6	7	8 Walt McDaniel	9	10	11
12	13 Isabella Saiz	14	15 Jack McDaniel	16 Jim Berola	17	18
19 Karl Beesley Ben Woolery	20 Sally Beck <i>Leland & Frankie Lister</i>	21	22	23 Jake Beggs <i>Hank & Mary Gale Kramer</i>	24 Betty Hughey Gretchyn Reeves	25
26 Kristi Hinkle	27	28	29 Karen Hufford	30 Rachel Coatney		

Engaged in the Ministry of Reconciliation

De Soto Baptist Church
Richard G. Copeland, Pastor
P.O. Box E
De Soto, Kansas 66018

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PERMIT #3
DE SOTO, KANSAS 66018

APRIL 2020

