



Fall 2016

BAYLOR TRUETT SEMINARY

The Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching

The Preacher's Briefing



The Significance of Preaching

Greetings from the Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching and welcome to another edition of **The Preacher's Briefing**. As always you'll find links to helpful, informative, and sermon worthy links here.

Before you dive in, I want to alert you to what I believe will be one of the most significant preaching events in Truett and Baylor's history to be held Monday-Wednesday **September 11-13, 2017**. The Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching and the Baylor Institute for the Study of Religion will host **God's Word and Our words: A National Symposium on the Significance of Preaching from the Prophets to the Present and Beyond**. In the planning stages for more than a year now, this symposium will bring together a host of the most significant voices in the study and practice of Biblical preaching today to consider the role of preaching past, present and future. The list of speakers includes among others Walter Brueggemann, Thomas Long, Eugene Lowry, Paul Scott Wilson, Scott Gibson, Joel Gregory, Leonard Sweet, Philip Jenkins, and Ben Witherington. You will be receiving more de-

tails in the coming weeks, but I hope you will mark these dates on your calendar now and plan to join us for this historic gathering.

I also want to introduce the Center's new Office Manager, Shawn Boyd. A native of Amarillo, Texas, Shawn recently graduated from Truett Seminary with his Master of Divinity degree. He loves preaching and anything and everything about it and is creative, resourceful, and ready to be of help to you in any way. If you call or email the Center, his will be the first voice you hear (or read). Whatever your need or query might be, I can assure you that he will respond in a timely fashion. It is a special joy to welcome Shawn to our team!

Now it's time for the Brief. Read and enjoy!

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Pilot Sacrificed His Life to Save Apartment Complex

While flying a blue angel aircraft, pilot Marine Capt Jeff Kuss began to lose control of his plane which came dangerously close to an apartment complex. However, Kuss, the married father of two, remained in his plane to ensure that it would avoid the building. Kuss died in the crash and is being hailed as a hero.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1TSa2fU> | American Military News

A Tip for Finding Rest in a Busy Schedule

J.J. Peterson writes for the StoryLine blog that we can best save ourselves from our demanding, always on the go schedules by setting up starting and stopping point. If we don't have clear goals to work toward, we may never take real breaks.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1WESPMU> | StoryLine Blog

5 Essential Fathering Tips From Your Pediatrician

A new report from the American Academy of Pediatrics shows that fathers are more foundation to their children's development than previously believed. Using research that spanned a decade, this study showed that it's crucial for fathers to be role models, talk to their kids, be screened for depression, stay up on vaccinations and get out and play with their kids.

Source: <http://lat.ms/1YsulFU> | LA Times

Ancient Morality In Modern Game Theory

Steven Strogatz, Professor of Applied Mathematics at Cornell University, has been implementing game theory to illustrate the origins of Morality. Using a popular game from the 1980s known as the prisoners dilemma which shows that the players instantly devised a form of "eye for an eye" ancient morality. Generally players saw their way through by using a "tit for tat" strategy.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1Ysx2as> | Science Alert

Pro Football Player Blames Weight Gain On Pregnant Fiancee

Karlos Williams, running back for the Buffalo Bills showed up to the team's mandatory minicamp looking a little huskier than usual, causing him to be held out of practice. His reasoning behind packing on the extra pounds? His pregnant Fiancee's cravings. "I like to eat and then her being pregnant gave me an excuse to eat, so (I've been)eating anything and everything" said Williams.

Source: <http://wapo.st/2649dlE> | The Washington Post

Preaching After a National Tragedy

Preaching after a mass shooting or terrorist attack can be challenging and emotionally draining. Tiffany Thomas writes that the Psalms help us see how pastors can weep with the people, speak prophetically, and wait expectantly for God to act. There are no platitudes that can help in a time of tragedy, but trusting God to speak as we wait on him is our only hope.

Source: <http://bit.ly/28lo2Kv> | Leadership

NYC Subway Riders Save Man from Tracks

When a man collapsed onto the tracks of the NYC subway and remained unconscious, a group of subway riders jumped down to his rescue, pulling him off the tracks and lifting him to those waiting on the platform. The rescuers also stayed with the man until paramedics arrived.

Source: <http://nyti.ms/28JueEL> | NYT

West Baltimore Violence Leaves Teens without Hope

Teens growing up in West Baltimore are surrounded by violence and drugs, facing few if any guarantees about the future. The neighborhoods around their schools are dotted with memorials for shooting victims and every student has witnessed physical violence, while gun violence is common as well.

Source: <http://wapo.st/28Jwllly> | Washington Post

Evolution of Facebook Shows Major Changes

Facebook started out with a very simple profile page when it served students at Harvard University, but it gradually rolled out new changes every year. Tickers started to show current friend activity, videos added new ways to share updates, the timeline offered ways to track activity, and fan pages all added new ways to interact with fellow users.

Source: <http://bit.ly/28L34Zy> | Forbes

Backup Plans May Lead to More Failure

Creating a backup plan, even just casually in your mind, can have negative consequences for reaching high objectives. Researchers at the University of Wisconsin found that those who invested all of their thought and energy in reaching a single goal were more effective than those who had a backup plan. While you could delay developing a backup plan until your options are exhausted, you can also ask someone else to handle the backup plan process.

Source: <http://whr.tn/290PlcE> | Wharton



Upcoming Events

BGCT Convention in Waco-
Nov. 13-15, 2016

E.K. Bailey Preaching
Conference – January 30 –
31st, 2017

**God's Word
and our words**

The Significance
of Preaching
from the Prophets
to the Present

SEPT. 11-13, 2017
TRUETT SEMINARY • WACO, TEXAS

A symposium featuring prominent scholars in the field of homiletics, presented by the Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching at George W. Truett Theological Seminary and the Baylor University Institute of the Study of Religion

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For more information, visit
baylor.edu/truett/preachingsymposium

Stewardship in an Age of Consumerism

Buying the latest technology gadget is often about envy, jealousy, or the lure of convenience. However, good stewardship challenges us to think of how our finances and possessions honor God. It's not a matter of getting the best sales but a matter of making wise, Kingdom-centered investments.

Source: <http://bit.ly/291L3XV> | Church Mag

How to Renew Your Ministry Commitment

If you're feeling stuck and struggling to gain enthusiasm for your ministry role, Eric Geiger suggests making a mental restart. Think of yourself as a new hire in your position and reevaluate your role in the ministry. Also take time to train someone else in order to gain a new perspective into the way your ministry functions.

Source: <http://bit.ly/29c6Jo2> | Eric Geiger

Brother's Prison Sentence Became Black Cloud Over Family

Isaac Bailey writes that his older brother kept his family together, but after he murdered a man, the burden of a brother being in prison weighed on him for years. Bailey eventually overcame his stutter, graduated from college, and worked as a journalist, but he often struggled to write about his brother or to visit him in prison. His brother's parole opportunities were repeatedly denied.

Source: <http://bit.ly/29gqc6S> | The Marshall Project

Payday Lenders Spend Over \$15 Million on Lobbyists

Payday lenders who prey on the poor and cash-strapped who face unexpected expenses have been charging nearly 400% interest on their loans, charging \$15 on every \$100 borrowed. New federal laws have placed some restrictions on these terms, limiting the number of loans a lender can make, but additional laws are being delayed thanks to the \$15 million in lobbying that payday lenders pay for.

Source: <http://bit.ly/29iUvq5> | The Intercept

Simplify By Preventing Yourself from Buying Stuff

While it can be hard to stop yourself from making a purchase in the heat of the moment at a store, Carl Richards, a financial planner, suggests there's another option: set up a customs station in your garage. Whenever you make a new purchase, make sure it sits in the garage for a week, ask your spouse or a friend for feedback on the purchase, and don't open it until you're certain that you will regularly use this new purchase.

Source: <http://nyti.ms/29kXXUA> | NYT

Hospice Workers Provide Critical Care

Hospice Nurses provide both medical care and relationships with patients who are on the brink of leaving this world, providing comfort and understanding during a passing into the next world. Some hospice workers have said that their work is extremely close to the presence of God, being with families at their most vulnerable.

Source: <http://bit.ly/29loAWM> | New Yorker

What Does Social Science Say About Your Summer Vacation?

A recent episode of NPR's Stopwatch Science covered the Social Science behind taking a vacation. There are pros and cons, you may have trouble with re-entry or experience some weight gain. At the end of the day, however, you're likely to gain a greater sense of Awe and wonder, and who couldn't use a bit more of that?

Source: <http://n.pr/29NL4Tr> | NPR

Tend To Their Hearts: A Lesson From Joanna Gaines

HGTV Superstar Joanna Gaines is an Evangelical beacon to many. In an Facebook post this week she encouraged her followers to "keep pressing in and tending to their children's hearts" after sharing a heartwarming story about her daughter's daily hummingbird visitor. She likened planting the bush that drew the bird to the seeds parents plant in the hearts of their kids.

Source: <http://on.today.com/29O9Oec> | Today Show

A Fascinating Look At The Arizona Community That is "Allergic To Life"

A fascinating new article documents the lives of residents in the remote Snowflake Arizona, where roughly 20 residents call home. This community is designed for those who are "allergic to life" and believe the scents and trappings of modern convenience and electricity are making them sick. The writers, who didn't use chemicals or fragrances for weeks beforehand, were required to strip naked, shower and redress before the interviews.

Source: <http://bit.ly/29ObRPr> | The Guardian

Yahoo! Faltered by Playing It Safe

Now that Yahoo! has been bought out by Verizon and CEO Marissa Mayer plans her departure, critics have looked for someone to blame. While the founders of Yahoo!, Jerry Yang and David Filo, were innovative at the start of the company, they and their executives soon made a series of blunders, failing to pay up for risky but profitable companies, while also taking on failing companies. They ultimately tried to play it safe and then set the future CEO up for failure.

Source: <http://bloom.bg/2av2WTH> | Bloomberg

Are You Preaching to Everyone in Your Church?

Preachers can make the mistake of focusing on parents, working adults (who are usually married), and older adults. However, there are many other groups of people who have unique problems they need to deal with, such as single adults, students, senior citizens, and single parents.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2aKiPpM> | Rookie Preacher

English Vicar Uses Elvis Impersonation Act for Ministry

Rev. Ravi Holi, an Elvis-impersonating vicar in Wye, England has made headlines because he uses his Elvis act as a way to reach out to his community. The Rev. notes that people of all ages can relate to Elvis, and one family even requested that he integrate the act into a funeral for a family member.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2bkbVrw> | Anglican News

Goebbels' Former Secretary: People Today Would Have Believed Propaganda Too

Brunhilde Pomsel, 105, is sharing publicly about working for German Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels for the first time. She was one of five secretaries, chosen for the job because she could type particularly fast. Pomsel shares for the documentary, A German Life, that she and other secretaries were in the dark about Nazi atrocities since they believed the stories spun by their bosses and most of the German nation seemed to be under a spell, following the Nazi party without question.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2bkYKqf> | The Guardian

Colliding Runners Sacrifice Race to Encourage Each Other

During the qualifying round of the women's 5,000 meters at the Rio Olympics, Nikki Hamblin, of New Zealand, and Abbey D'Agostino, of the USA, collided and tumbled together. D'Agostino helped Hamblin up, but as the two continued together, D'Agostino fell again due to an injury. Hamblin helped her up and encouraged her to keep running. Both fell far behind the pack, but both finished the race.

Source: <http://nyti.ms/2b46nht> | NY Times

Where Did the Footprints in the Sand Poem Come From?

The Footprints in the Sand poem has been considered evangelical kitsch by some, but it comes out of a long tradition of meditations on walking with God in faith. One of the earliest sources related to the Footprints poem is a sermon by Charles Spurgeon from 1880 titled "The Education of the Sons of God."

Source: <http://bit.ly/2bwySYB> | The Gospel Coalition

Debt, Foreign Products, and Retirees Squeeze American Logging Industry

In a story about Vermont Logger Dave Goodhouse, the Boston Globe reports that small logging operations that foreign competition and new machinery that comes with a hefty price tag is threatening their future. Goodhouse is working with an unreliable crew and machinery that may not work much longer, but he hasn't turned enough profit in order to cover his expenses and existing debt, leaving him with an uncertain future. Adding to his struggles, wealthy retirees have bought homes in his area and sued him for making noise in the morning hours, which is a critical work time for his logging business.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2bxfESw> | Boston Globe

Detective Unit in London Can Remember Every Face

A detective unit in London's Metropolitan Police Service has a special gift: the officers can remember every face they see, making them useful in both walking the streets and observing CCTV videos. These detectives can track down suspects, even when the majority of their faces are covered, or the videos are grainy.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2bz3poE> | The New Yorker

Kindergarten Teacher Kept in Touch with Her Students Over the Years

Retired Kindergarten teacher Colleen Fitzgerald has written letters every year to her former students on their first day of school, for Christmas, and for graduation. Now her final class is entering their senior year of high school, ending the tradition of the letters this year. Fitzgerald notes that she wanted to help her students have a positive experience in school, to encourage them, and to let them know that she is praying for them.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2bh4EUK> | Waco Tribune

British Chef Goes Temporarily Deaf After Eating Spiciest Noodle Dish

A noodle dish with a Scoville rating of 2 million, which is 2,000 times stronger than Tabasco sauce, caused British Chef Ben Sumadiwiria, 22, to go temporarily deaf when he scoffed down a full dish that was loaded with 100 bird's eye chilies. After taking several drinks and sticking his head under a faucet, he eventually recovered his hearing.

Source: <http://bit.ly/2bRLRzF> | Mirror

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