

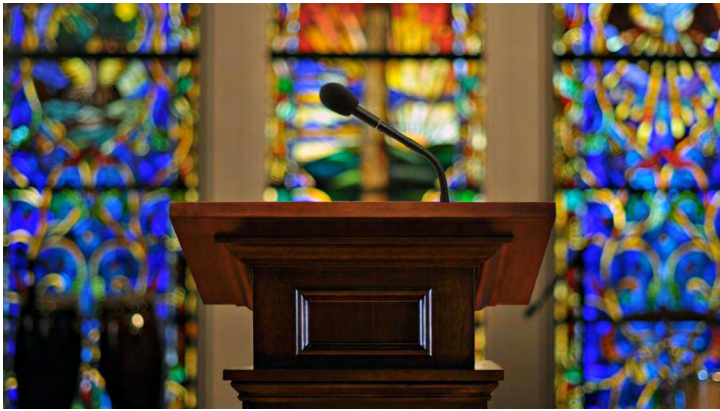


Summer 2016

BAYLOR TRUETT SEMINARY

The Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching

The Preacher's Briefing



Welcome to another issue of The Preacher's Briefing!

We aim to bring you interesting stories that might find a place in a sermon, sound advice about the preaching task, and useful information about a whole range of interesting and helpful topics. Here's just a preview of what you'll find in this issue.

- One article offers a quick review of some of the most common sermon mistakes that preachers are prone to make whether they've been preaching for two years or twenty. Another reviews preaching essentials. A good review for us all.

- Ever considered using case studies in your Bible teaching? Read about this proven pedagogical method and consider how its use might impact your teaching.

- Dreading a difficult conversation? Who doesn't? You'll find some helpful and practical advice here.

- In the midst of this political season, what are

you saying to your congregation? Read the advice that Pastor Andy Stanley has offered his congregation. Agree or disagree?

- Ever wondered about the nature of Facebook "friendship"? Read what an important Oxford University study concludes about the depth and significance of these "relationships."

- The "selfie" phenomena is an ever present reality but are there dangers in this rage? Last year "selfies" claimed more deaths than sharks! Read more.

- Concerned about building community? What person in ministry isn't? Read how cell phones can serve to undermine this important endeavor.

- Imagine a successful major league baseball player giving up his career to spend more time with his son. Read the Adam Laroche story.

- Can you name the only U.S. President who was an ordained minister?

These articles and more will serve to inspire and inform you as a preacher. Just click on the link at the end of our short blurb and it will take you to the full article. Enjoy and be enriched.

Until next time. Keep reading and keep preaching!

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Facebook Can't Keep Friendships Alive

A study from Oxford University found that "Facebook friends" are often loose acquaintances, not close friends. Only 10% of Facebook friends actually feel close enough to feel empathy for that person, while only 5 out of 150 friends can be considered "close" friends. Facebook can keep friendships from decaying, but it can't maintain a friendship on its own.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1Qs4uJk> | Pop Sci

Nurse Adopts and Cares for Terminally Ill Babies

Nurse Cori Salchert first took an interest in special needs children because her sister suffered brain damage and had to live in a children's home where she wandered out of her room and drowned in a nearby pond at the age of 11. Salchert worked as a nurse and was drawn to families whose babies were unlikely to survive--what she calls hospice babies. She provides a loving home for these babies along with her own biological children and comforts these children until they pass away.

Source: <http://on.today.com/1QsbDt6> | Today

Online Transparency Brings Accountability

Martha Payne, 9, started blogging about the low quality of her school lunches and posting pictures. The blog, called "NeverSeconds," soon gained a large following and was even featured by a celebrity chef. Martha raised over £2,000 for charity through the website, but pressure from the school and local government council forced her to shut it down. However, an Internet firestorm ensued that forced both parties to reverse their decision, allowing Martha to continue blogging and to raise additional funds for charity.

Source: <http://bit.ly/22ly7mg> | MIT Sloan Review

Selfies Are More Deadly Than Sharks

In the past year, selfies are responsible for more deaths than sharks, with selfies claiming 12 lives and sharks claiming 8 lives. Three men were run over by a train in India while posing on the tracks and five people have been gored to death by bison in Yellowstone National Park while posing for pictures.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1QRKZxt> | Matador Network

Attention Is Critical for Community

Today the best compliment you can give someone is to offer your undivided attention. In fact, cell phones have become a major problem in building community and relationships since our attention is assumed to be divided. If you want to show someone you value them, forget you have a phone in your pocket.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1YttwuT> | Adam McLane

A Positive Story about an Evangelical Childhood

Laura Ortberg Turner, daughter of pastor John Ortberg, writes that she has fond memories of her family growing up in Willow Creek Community Church. Her family provided love and safety at home, and she enjoyed her church community. Over the years she saw her parents serve in ministry and came away with a very positive picture of what the church could be.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1YttYcC> | Jezebel

Woman Shares How Shoppers Cared for Her in Tragedy

Deborah Greene learned that her father had committed suicide while shopping at a super market, and as she hung up the phone and began to cry, her fellow shoppers offered to pray for her, made calls for her, and drove her home in her car. She shares in an open letter that the help was immediate and needed as she tried to process her father's suicide.

Source: <http://wapo.st/24RaFyi> | Washington Post

Missionaries Left Marriage Behind to Share the Gospel

Missionary Lilius Trotter, born in 1853, had been a promising young painter in England, even challenging John Ruskin to take female artists seriously. However, Trotter joined two other young women on a journey to Algeria in order to preach the Gospel to Muslims. She never married and died there in 1928.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1Ue5S6z> | Christianity Today

Adam Laroche Shares Why He's Putting His Family Over His Career

Adam Laroche of the Chicago White Sox recently retired when club VP Ken Williams suggested that Laroche stop bringing his son to the clubhouse and practices. Prior to signing with the White Sox, Laroche claims that he made his plans to bring his son along very clear. Laroche shared that this was likely his last year as a professional baseball player, and he would never regret spending more time with his son, so he opted to retire.

Source: <http://es.pn/1SouQjO> | ESPN

Denver Business Owner Apprentices Those Needing New Starts

Karla Nugent of Weifield Group Contracting in Denver, CO has been recognized in 2014 as the Corporate Citizen of the year because of her philanthropy and service to the community. Weifield co-founded her electric company in 2002 and has been a leader in renewable energy, growing the business to 250 employees. While she started out donating generously to the community, she also began seeking out ways to train women, veterans, at-risk youth, and the urban poor in order to address income inequality in her community.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1WD1YSG> | Christianity Today

Upcoming Events at the Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching

September 20 –

Fall Preaching Convocation at Truett Seminary with Dr. Eugene Lowry on "Profiles in Preaching"

baylor.edu/truett/convocation

October 8 –

Truett Seminary hosts the annual Texas Young Preachers Festival

academyofpreachers.net/10239-2

SAVE THE DATE!

September 11-13, 2017

Preaching Symposium:
"God's Word and Our words:
The Significance of Preaching from the Prophets to the Present"

Samuel Colt Pioneered Marketing and Lobbying

Samuel Colt's famous revolver became the gun of choice for the U.S. Army and for many in the wild west. However, Colt's success rested in the capital provided by wealthy relatives, his relentless marketing, celebrity endorsements, mass production, lobbying politicians, and customizing products for specific markets. Colt was a legendary salesman who managed to romanticize gun ownership, even when owning a gun was expensive and impractical for many.

Source: <http://bit.ly/22FfZmq> | Ozy

Who Defines Culture Today?

Managers and executives in the past have thought that it's their domain to impact the culture of an organization, but today's latest trends show that this opinion is no longer shared by workers. Only 26% of managers believe executives define company culture today, while 29% look to employees for the culture, and among employees, 40% of millennials believe that.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1plASiS> | Fast Company

What Are the Essentials for Preaching Today?

Looking back at the preaching of Jesus, the two elements that stand out in particular are his authority and his passion. His authority came from his confidence that he was sharing a message from God, while his passion was an overflow of the Holy Spirit. We can't manufacture our own authority and passion. They must come from God and filter into our preaching.

Source: <http://bit.ly/25nldEv> | Christianity Today

Many Are Lost Intentionally and Unintentionally in Alaska

Alaska State Troopers are routinely called upon to search for missing persons, and when remains are found, they are either torn apart by wild animals or burned beyond recognition in forest fires. Most lack identifying documents. One family waited ten years before State Troopers notified them they had found their loved one, but there was a twist. They had found him ten years earlier and mistaken him for another man of similar age and build who had gone missing around the same time.

Source: <http://theatltn.tc/25nJbRk> | The Atlantic

Churches Reach Out to Teen Vandals

Two teenage boys, 15 and 16, were apprehended by police in Hillsboro, OR after they broke into three churches (two Presbyterian churches and a Mormon church) in order to destroy the church property. They emptied out closets and smashed computers and other tech equipment. The church leaders are hoping to help the boys learn from their mistakes and to take steps in addressing their anger.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1q6W4ib> | KATU

Life, On Demand.

When a company has a new idea they often use San Francisco as their proving grounds. The new idea being testing in San Fran these days? How to increase leisure time and convenience for the Millennial consumer using a myriad of outsourcing apps covering everything from take-out to dish duty. But what is the real price being paid for all this convenience?

Source: <http://usat.ly/1NnqrpN> | USA Today

Debt or Pizza?

Would you cut back on online food ordering in order to cut your student loan debt? More than half of recent college graduates said "no thanks I'll keep the sushi and pizza" when asked this very question in a recent pool by Citizens Bank. While many regret incurring the debt in the first place, they are unwilling to change their lifestyle of choice to alleviate it.

Source: <http://fandw.me/1NnqGkE> | Food and Wine

Pilot Turns Plane Around So Grandparents Can Rush To Dying Grandson

When two passengers aboard an Etihad plane learned that their grandson was deathly ill, the pilot of their Etihad plane turned the taxiing jet around to allow them to rush to the hospital. Their travel agent later posted a resounding review for the company, encouraging anyone with an option to book with Etihad.

Source: <http://on.mash.to/1Nnru9n> | Mashable

Judge Spends the Night in Jail with Veteran Struggling with PTSD

After three tours of duty and three Purple Hearts, Sgt. Joseph Serna returned home and has struggled with drinking and PTSD. After being charged with driving under the influence, Serna appeared before state District Court Judge Lou Olivera who felt he had no choice other than sentencing Serna to a day in jail. However, Olivera is a veteran who understands the stress of combat and just how damaging a night alone can be for a veteran suffering PTSD, so he joined the soldier in his cell for a conversation.

Source: <http://wapo.st/1TtmF2W> | Washington Post

Only One President Was Also an Ordained Minister

James A. Garfield was an ordained lay minister who never sought to become president. Rather, while giving a speech on behalf of someone else, the crowd responded by nominating him for the Republican party. Garfield was killed by an assassin's bullet only seven month's into his presidency, but his legacy of quiet humility and calming otherwise divisive factions remains.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1TtodtE> | Christianity Today

Financial Differences Between the Wealthy and the Poor

In an interview with four men of varying incomes and financial states, all reported being around the same level of happiness, but they differed in some key ways. The wealthiest had the clearest sense of their budgets and expenses, while those with the least money were just trying to get by each week and had a lot of stress to bear.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1rxSlpN> | Esquire

German Station Adds Red Lights for Texting Pedestrians

The number of accidents involving distracted pedestrians who are using their phones or texting while crossing the street are on the rise. This has prompted the public works provider of the German city of Stadtwerke Augsburg to experiment with placing lights on the ground near the curb of a busy intersection. The lights flash red to alert texting pedestrians to stop and turn green when the way is safe.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1rxTTfT> | City Lab

How Rafeael Palmeiro Went from Celebrity to Outcast

Former Major League Baseball player Rafael Palmeiro reached some of the most important milestones in the game and hoped to become a hall of fame member. However, Palmeiro tested positive for steroids and was booed off the field in his final game. Palmeiro has battled depression and has given himself to supporting his sons in their own baseball careers.

Source: <http://foxs.pt/21fjAqg> | Fox Sports

Republican Friendships End Over Trump Support and Opposition

Analysts and politicians who had once been united in the Republican party are now finding themselves deeply divided over the candidacy of Donald Trump. Trump's antics and policies have caused Republicans to go beyond policy discussions to questions about motivations and allegiances, leading to many friendships ending.

Source: <http://nyti.ms/21fjQWo> | NY Times

Do This Before Having a Difficult Conversation

Rather than anticipating conflict or the worst case scenario, posturing yourself for a fight, enter into a difficult conversation or conflict with empathy and understanding. Come prepared to understand the other party's perspective so that they will be less defensive or prone to fight. Don't avoid conflict. Seek ways to make sure the other party is heard and able to communicate with you.

Source: <http://bit.ly/21fmvPI> | Chris Huff

Cash Donations Are Ideal for Disaster Relief

A warehouse in Sandy Hook, CT held 67,000 donated teddy bears after the mass shooting of elementary school students. The beaches of Indonesia were littered with donated clothing after a tsunami. These are just a few examples of the ways that donated goods for disaster areas can cause more problems for responders and community members. Either cash donations or working with local groups can provide more effective relief.

Source: <http://cbsn.ws/1NDyJzi> | CBS

What Does the Type of Kippa Mean about Jewish Men?

Of Israeli men who do not wear a kippa, a small black head covering, 73% are Hiloni or secular Jews who have centrist political views. However, about 27% identify as traditional Jews. Traditional Jews are most likely to wear a crochet patterned kippa and to identify as conservatives or Zionists. The larger kippas worn by 58% of Orthodox Jews are sometimes worn by other religious Jews. However, the Orthodox are more likely to be ambivalent about the modern Jewish state.

Source: <http://pewrsr.ch/1NDzIQ2> | Pew Research



PREACHING RESOURCES

Want to Teach More? Try Using a Case Study

If you want to make sure your audience remembers what you're saying, invest time in developing a case study or communicating a scenario that your listeners can engage in. Mental storage is improved when the listener has to work at finding a solution, to make mistakes, and to think through a process that requires interpretation and evaluation. Oftentimes the best way to retain information is to have a debate about the merits of each side.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1QqrDgX> | HBR



PREACHING TIPS

Andy Stanley Says to Stop Trusting in Politics

As we enter the 2016 Presidential election, pastor Andy Stanley of North Point Church in Alpharetta, GA challenged his congregation to stop trusting in the political system. He was specifically concerned with adults who are 45 and older who are scaring their children with doomsday predictions based on politics. Stanley said to get involved in the political process but put your faith in Jesus.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1Qs3gxB> | Church Leaders

Older Adults Are Awesome At Sarcasm, Not.

A research team from the university of Aberdeen has shown that adults 65 and older are more likely to misinterpret a sarcastic exchange than their younger counterparts. This is likely to play a role in communication issues when interacting with their children and grandchildren.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1RPpmMn> | Telegraph

Preach Through Your Church's Values

As you look through the upcoming preaching calendar, one ready-made series could revolve around your church's values. Each value will require several different scripture verses in order to fully unpack them. For instance, a value of sacrificial generosity could lead to several sermons on the teachings of Jesus on money.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1TsbJDQ> | Generous Church

Exposition of Scripture Is Central to Sermons

Preaching manuals and guides for ministers over the years have consistently encouraged pastors to make exposition of scripture the centerpiece of every sermon. A sermon's main goal is to make a passage of scripture easier to understand for listeners and is the only mark of success for preachers.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1JVEg7j> | Ligonier

4 Common Sermon Mistakes

Pastors can fall into a number of common traps while teaching scripture. For instance, some are too quick to relate their own experiences and what's on their heart, letting that shape what they read in scripture, while others try to make a passage fit their systematic theology rather than letting tension remain. Similarly, some pastors rush right to the application and skip the exposition, while others are so heavy on exposition that they spend more time on Greek words and parsings than on relating the passage to listeners.

Source: <http://bit.ly/1QqrY36> | Ligonier

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