



NATHAN COTHEN

Cothen keynotes evangelism rally

Nathan Cothen, senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Beaumont for the past 15 years, is keynote speaker for Trinity River Baptist Association's evangelism rally, 6 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 11, at First Baptist Dayton.

Music will be led by Michael McIlwain, minister of music and education for Keneffick Southern.

Growing up in a family of preachers (both grandfathers, his father, and two uncles), Cothen remembers wanting to be a Christian but not wanting to be a preacher. When, as a teenager, he began to sense God's call, Cothen ran from it.

It was at the beginning of his junior year in college that "God made it absolutely clear that the call was from heaven and not heritage." Cothen was finally convinced he was born to preach Jesus and would not be happy doing anything else.

According to the church website, Cothen is known as a gifted communicator: "He can communicate the depth and the meaning of the Word in a way that everybody can understand, because his goal is to bring everyone who listens face to face with Jesus."

He and his wife Vicki have two children.

Tony Hines, evangelism director, encourages all TRBA churches to make this special once-a-year evangelism conference their Sunday evening service that week and come hear an encouraging and challenging word from this man of God.

Pastor Essentials starts Jan. 12

Monday, Jan. 12, Trinity River Baptist Association will begin a year-long course designed to train men called by God to serve as church planters or pastors.

The class will meet 6-9 p.m. each Monday. A snack supper will be served, followed by two teaching sessions. There is no cost to the students, except the cost of commitment, study and application.

"This is not a Bible institute," said David Williams, TRBA director of missions. "This is a training center. Our focus will be to train men to plant a church, although some who go through the training may be led to become pastor of an existing church or to serve on a church staff."

In December, letters from the association were mailed to about three dozen men, inviting them to enroll in the class. Those receiving the letters were men "nominated" by people who know them



Local leaders plan together the Pastor Essentials curriculum. Clockwise around the table, beginning at left, are Scott Tidwell of Wild Country Mission, Gary Hillyard of First Anahuac, David Williams of TRBA, Steve Bean of First Liberty, and Byron Sanford of Grayburg in Sour Lake.

and have been impressed that God might be calling them.

"Each man must decide for himself whether the Lord is calling him to be a pastor," Williams said, "but we hope the letter will be used by God as a tool to 'call out the called.'"

Any man exploring God's call to the pastorate is invited to enroll in the class.

"You don't need to wait for a letter," Williams said. "If God has been dealing with you, if He has given you an interest in the ministry, if there is in your heart a desire to serve in that way, then join us for this study and we will help you explore God's call on your life."

The class is designed to provide local, excellent and culturally relevant training that will adequately equip men to pastor in the TRBA area.

Most of the teaching will be done by TRBA pastors who will also mentor the students.



Christmas Under the Stars — Preschoolers Gracie and Silas Williams visit Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus in the stable during their tour of Bethlehem at North Main Baptist Church's Christmas Under the Stars. The annual extravaganza also featured a children's musical, a puppet show, continuous live Christmas music in the outdoor amphitheater, a hayride with stops to hear monologues that presented the gospel, and a fireworks display. Joseph and Mary were portrayed by Drew and Sarah Muldrow.



Mission Journey

Galatians 4:4 tells us that “when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman” (NIV). For hundreds and even thousands of years, people had waited for the Messiah. God did not send His Son until the time was right.

And right now, it seems, is the right time for God to lead our association into a bold new church planting effort.

He has given us the Church Planting Pipeline, which challenges us to prepare men called by God, equip churches led by God, and discover people loved by God.

He has led us to establish a year-long course called Pastor Essentials through which we will be training men.

He has given us a list of three dozen men “nominated” by people in our association as candidates for that class..

He has given us a group of pastors and others who have committed to serve on the faculty of the Pastor Essentials class.

It looks to me like the Lord is bringing everything together to accomplish His purposes here in this association.

Pastor Essentials will cover a broad range of topics including the call to ministry, making disciples, personal character, hermeneutics (how to interpret the Bible), homiletics (how to write sermons and preach), survey of the entire Bible, major Bible doctrines, apologetics, and various practical matters such as how to perform weddings and funerals, keep records, and handle church finances.



Christmas Fellowship — Tony Hines, pastor of Hardin Baptist, delivers a Christmas message during the TRBA Christmas fellowship and executive board meeting at Calvary Dayton. David Williams, TRBA director of missions, told a Christmas story and his wife Donna Kay Williams led in Christmas music.

Teachers include Scott Tidwell of Wild Country; Ken Davis of Calvary Dayton; Tim Gruver of Heights; Mike Chadwick of First Dayton; Byron Sanford of Grayburg; Gary Hillyard, Kyle Dobbs and Lee Weaver all of First Anahuac; and Steve Bean and myself of First Liberty.

Other pastors and leaders will be included in the faculty. Both state conventions have told me they will gladly send someone to cover specific topics.

Same secretary, new name

In case you haven't heard, our administrative assistant whom you have known for years as Theresa Mitschke got married on Nov. 22. We have enjoyed getting to know her new husband Chuck Adair. The best news is that the marriage did not change her work situation. She's still on the job, but now she answers to her new name, Theresa Adair.



CHUCK AND THERESA

Kevin Ladd

On a personal note, we were all saddened by the passing of Kevin Ladd, TRBA historian and husband of our women's missions and ministry director, Christi Ladd. He was quite a man and will be greatly missed.



KEVIN LADD

A final word

January 27 will mark my one-year anniversary of serving as your director of missions. Thank you for your love, support and encouragement. May the Lord bless you greatly. May He use us all for His glory.

Happy to be here,
David Williams

Pray for our pastorless churches

West End Saratoga, since August 2014

Bill Fabriguze, interim

First Hull, since February 2014

John Guedry, interim

First Concord, since January 2014

Richard Stidham, interim

Oak Island, since December 2012

Hot Hearts, Passion conferences coming

January brings to southeast Texas two high energy Christian conferences featuring contemporary music and best-selling Christian authors and speakers.

Hot Hearts, premiere student conference for our area for more than 25 years, will be Jan. 23-24 at Ford Park in Beaumont. Headlining the event will be Lecrae, Dove and Grammy winning Christian hip hop artist, and Tenth Avenue North, best known for “By Your Side” which spent 48 weeks on the Billboard Christian Songs Chart.

The event will also feature Ed Newton, speaker; Phil Wickham, worship leader; Jonnie W, comedian; and Kacy Benson, emcee. Tickets (available at Ford Park or through Ticketmaster.com) are \$30 through Dec. 31 and \$35 starting Jan. 1.

Passion 2015, an annual conference billed as “a gathering of 18-25 year olds and their leaders,” will be Jan. 30-Feb. 1 at Toyota Center in Houston.

The three-day event will feature appearances by Chris Tomlin, David Crowder, Matt Redman, Christy Nockels, Kristian Stanfill, and Brett Younker.

Speakers include Louie Giglio, Francis Chan, Matt Chandler, and Christine Caine.

The cost is \$189 through Dec. 30, after which the price goes up to \$199. Register online at 286generation.com.



Validating messengers — Steve Bean, pastor of First Liberty, mans his post as a credentials committee member at the Nov. 16-19 BGCT annual meeting in Waco.

TRBA receives and gives blessings

TRBA's food pantry got a tremendous boost when Hardin ISD passed on thousands of cans of food received in a recent food drive. The district collected 11,774 cans and divided them among TRBA, Wild Country Mission and the Hardin Lions Club. In the photo below, members of the Hardin student council and Morgan

Tidwell (center), daughter of Wild Country pastor Scott Tidwell, load the cans onto a truck for delivery.

The food pantry got another surprise when two ladies dropped off a food donation from Brookshire Brothers. Shown in the photo with the food they delivered are, left to right, Bethel Clanton and Bonnie Steed of First Liberty.

Special donations like these are always appreciated, and so are the faithful regular donations from our TRBA churches, many of which commit to fill the food pantry for one month. Churches that participated during 2014 were Berean Tabernacle, Calvary Liberty, First Devers, Central Liberty, Central Daisetta, Old River, First Liberty, South Dayton, Batson Prairie, North Main, Hardin, First Dayton, Heights, and First Saratoga.

To participate during 2015, call Theresa Adair at the TRBA office and sign up for the month of your choice.

Churches also contributed cookies to be distributed to county inmates through the jail ministry. Those giving cookies were First Saratoga, Central Liberty, Central Da-

isetta, First Dayton, First Liberty, North Main, and Heights.

The cookies were bagged up by a team of volunteers including Iris Whittington, Sue Smart, Jennifer Boswell, Reagan Boswell, Riley Boswell, Olivia Merrell and Celia Merrell. Shown bagging the cookies in the photo, left to right, are Olivia, Celia and Riley. The cookies were distributed at the jail by R.N. Smart, Bob Lawrence, George Baldridge, Shirley Thomas, Brenda Rakestraw, and David and Donna Kay Williams. They also prayed for the inmates and led them in singing Christmas carols.

VBS overviews and training offered

LifeWay and our Baptist state conventions have scheduled meetings that will help TRBA churches prepare for Vacation Bible School in 2015.

On Friday and Saturday, Jan. 16-17, LifeWay offers a preview of their "Journey Off the Map" VBS at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Ft. Worth. The cost is \$75 per person or \$65 each for a group of three or more. The two-day event begins at 11:30 a.m. Friday and ends at noon Saturday. Go to LifeWay.com to register.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, BGCT offers an overview of LifeWay's and seven other publishers' 2015 VBS curriculum. The event will be 9-11:30 a.m., at Dell Dale Avenue Baptist Church in Channelview. The event is free.

For churches using LifeWay's study, SBTC offers a VBS convention which gives in-depth training specific to that curriculum. This is the kind of event that you can take all your workers to so they can get help in preparing to lead in their particular areas of responsibility. The convention closest to TRBA will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Mar. 7, at Spring Baptist Church in Spring, Texas. The cost for this event is \$10 at the door, \$7 if you pre-register.



Happy Thanksgiving! On Wednesday Nov. 26, Wild Country Mission — along with the help of numerous other friends and family — were able to serve a full Thanksgiving meal to more than 200 people. "It was a true blessing to see God's people serving God's people" said Scott Tidwell, pastor. There were nearly 45 volunteers who worked tirelessly to serve the community and each other. "It was a great example of the early church, in the book of Acts, people working together and sharing life with each other, even if it was only for a brief moment," Tidwell said. "We were able to bless others and, in turn, be blessed by those we served."

Family Visitors' Center Schedule

Sat, **January 3**

AM Mendoza, Longoira
PM Dosier, Skinner

Sun, **January 4**

AM Hinch, Gault
PM Snell, Catchings

Sat, **January 10**

AM Thomas, Clark
PM Garvins

Sun, **January 11**

AM Presnulls
PM McGuires

Sat, **January 17**

AM Davis, Goff
PM Hortmans

Sun, **January 18**

AM Radley, Downey
PM Baldrigges

Sat, **January 24**

AM C. & G. Theis
PM K. & L. Yielding

Sun, **January 25**

AM Smarts
PM Herring, Morales

Sat, **January 31**

AM Kinney & D. Shaw
PM King & Nichols



Merry Christmas!

from your Trinity River Baptist
Association staff and families:

David and Donna Kay Williams

Theresa and Chuck Adair

Receipts November 2014

	Nov 14	Jan - Nov 14
Batson Prairie	341.00	3,933.00
Berean Tabernacle	0.00	1,200.00
Calvary, Dayton	500.00	4,700.00
Calvary, Liberty	234.65	3,017.71
Center, Thicket	67.00	798.00
Central Daisetta	0.00	1,926.60
Central, Liberty	91.77	1,448.85
Covenant	0.00	455.86
Eminence	0.00	924.00
First Anahuac	833.33	9,166.63
First Batson	0.00	2,400.00
First Concord	93.63	386.22
First Daisetta	295.00	3,616.00
First Dayton	621.23	7,766.77
First Devers	377.46	4,767.97
First High Island	0.00	1,614.74
First Hull	0.00	2,064.21
First Liberty	1,139.69	14,183.29
First Saratoga	414.32	4,932.55
First Sour Lake	683.85	7,396.50
Grace Community	1,550.00	8,500.00
Grayburg	0.00	798.99
Gum Grove	0.00	353.07
Hardin Baptist	2,211.66	14,416.71
Heights	1,561.07	7,881.22
House of Living Waters	0.00	437.06
Kenefick Southern	758.69	8,597.14
Mt Calvary	360.95	4,930.89
North Main	1,200.00	13,200.00
Nuevo Amanacer	0.00	0.00
Oak Island	0.00	327.67
Old River	0.00	11,666.70
Pathways	67.00	1,225.00
Primera Dayton	75.00	825.00
Smith Point	56.46	604.25
South Dayton	50.00	691.84
Sweet Home	55.20	714.63
Trinity	100.00	1,100.00
West End	0.00	4,594.00
Whispering Meadows	205.50	2,471.04
Wild Country Mission	275.00	1,103.80
Interest	6.96	108.25
Total	14,226.42	161,246.16

*Trinity River Baptist Association
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Trinity River Baptist Association

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day TRBA Office Closed	2	3
4	5	6 6:30 pm Gideons Meeting	7	8 9 am Senior Pastor Prayer Time	9	10
11 6 pm Evangelism Rally <i>First Dayton</i>	12 6-9 pm Pastor Essentials	13	14	15 9 am Senior Pastor Prayer Time	16	17 <div>LifeWay VBS Preview Travis Ave BC, Ft. Worth</div>
18	19 6-9 pm Pastor Essentials	20	21	22 9 am Senior Pastor Prayer Time	23	24 <div>Hot Hearts Youth Event, Ford Park, Beaumont</div>
25	26 6-9 pm Pastor Essentials	27 12 noon Mission Lone Star Evaluation <i>First Galveston</i>	28	29 9 am Senior Pastor Prayer Time	30	31 <div>Passion 2015 Toyota Center, Houston</div>