

# River of Love



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Pastor Ray Gurney

## GOOD NEWS BAD NEWS by Pastor Ray

**Pizza Hut**-You may not enjoy your next slice of Pizza Hut pizza after reading this news piece. Pizza Hut is encouraging children to read pro-LGBTQ+ books, according to a June 16th article on Breaking Point.org. Through its "Book It" Kids' reading program, Pizza Hut is promoting books like *BIG WIG*, a book about cross-dressing aimed at a **Pre-K through 3rd grade audience!** Commending the book, Pizza Hut's "Book It" website says, "Sometimes dressing differently from what might be expected is how we become our truest and best selves." (According to "The Pathway", Missouri Baptist newspaper.) Mom, Dad and Grandparents beware.

Now a report on the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) latest sorrows. If you recall, the Executive Committee, hired the company, Guidepost Solutions, to investigate sexual abuse allegations in the SBC. They investigated, printed a 400 plus page report and posted for all to see. They were promoted as a solid company, only 10 years old and doing business worldwide. To the surprise of all SBC members, after their report was presented May 22,2022 (and I assume they were paid in full) Guidepost Solutions posted an LGBTQ+pride message on June 6.

The Guidepost LGBTQ+ pride message-written on Twitter above a rainbow image-reads, "Guidepost is committed to strengthening diversity, equity and inclusion and strives to be an organization where our team can bring their authentic selves to work. We celebrate our collective progress toward equality for all and are proud to be an ally to our LGBTQ+ community." You've got to be joking Executive Committee! Everything the SBC stands for Guidepost Solutions is against. Now I wonder just how reliable their report can be. When the EC was asked why they chose a company who supported LGBTQ+ their response was not exactly what you'd expect to hear from a Southern Baptist Executive Committee member. "The SBC Sex Abuse Task Force contracted Guidepost Solutions to do the EC investigation because of their reputation as a world-class investigative firm. We did not choose them because of *theological or political agreement*. We do not agree with their recent tweet affirming Pride Month". It gets

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### Special points of interest:

- Unspoken Rules of Etiquette That Every Southerner Follows
- Higginsville Trip

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, August 20th,  
2022 at 8:00 AM at  
IHOP in Blue Springs.**  
Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us.

**Unspoken Rules of Etiquette That Every Southerner Follows How to Behave in Church**

Parents should teach their children how to handle themselves in "big church." Fortunately, there aren't that many rules to remember: eyes forward, no running, no talking, no loud whispering, no looking like you want to say something, eyes closed and head bowed during prayer, no bellowing during the song service, no turning to see who's behind you, no kicking the pew in front of you, no fidgeting, no taking off your Sunday shoes, no pointing, no rummaging in Memaw's purse, and no pushing at the fellowship table. That's not everything but it's enough for Junior and Sissy to qualify as raised right.

**GOOD NEWS BAD NEWS...continued from page #1**

worse but we don't have the space to tell it all.

Then another alarming report in The Pathway from the floor of the Convention. In a nutshell, someone complained about secular businesses being hired by SBC and the spending of CP money (mission offerings) to these firms. Remember the Bradley Law Firm I spoke of who spent big money on LGBTQ+ pride parade in Nashville? One of their attorneys, Scarlett Nokes, a member of a SBC church in Nashville area-emphasized the importance of Christians striving to impact the culture for Christ by working at secular law firms and other secular businesses. Her statement received wide applause from SBC messengers. That's a problem in my book. I don't trust her.

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When God ran to you did you stand still or run from Him? If you ran, how far did you get before surrendering? Or, what if God is running to you right now because He has an incredible plan and it includes you? Will you stop for Him or will you continue to run as Jonah? Don't run too long; time is short.

**ONE AT A TIME by Kyle Idleman on Wednesday night's!**

Nobody grows up dreaming of waking up, going to work, heading home, watching Netflix, scrolling through social media, and then doing it all over again the next day until their last breath. We all want to be used to change the world. We don't want to spend our lives being time-wasters, or space-takers, or binge-watchers, or game-players, or even book-readers. We want to be difference-makers. But it's easy to get caught up in the everyday stuff of life until the years slowly go by, and with each passing year, the question seems to get louder: *Am I making any difference in this world?* We want to make a difference, but there are so many opinions on the way to do that. Maybe there's a different way to make a difference, and we're just missing it. Without a doubt, Jesus is the person who has made the biggest difference in all of history. So, how did Jesus make such a difference in this world? If we study the story of his life as recorded in the Gospels, there are a number of answers we could highlight, but there's one particular phrase that captures how Jesus had such an impact, and this phrase is how he wants to use us to make a difference: *one at a time*. Making a difference isn't measured by a viral post or a name on a building. It isn't determined by a following or a fan base. Making a difference isn't dependent on what's in your bank account or who's in your contacts. Want to make a difference? Focus on the one. That's it. That's the secret of the way of Jesus. *One at a time.*

## STRESS MANAGEMENT STARTS IN THE MIND by Rick Warren

The battle with stress in your life begins between your ears. It's in your thought life. What you fill your mind with determines your level of stress. If you want peace of mind, you have to control what you allow into your mind.

For most people, the mind is like a freeway. They let anything drive through it. They watch shows that are full of junk and nonsense, scroll through social media sites that are polarizing, and listen to gossip that makes them envious. Then they're surprised when their mind's freeway becomes polluted with all of these things. And they wonder why their stress is so high.

The Bible offers another way. Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." (NIV). To lower your stress, change what you think about! In this verse, the Bible gives you eight tests for deciding if you should allow something in your mind. Ask yourself:

- Is it good?
- Is it worthy of praise?
- Is it true?
- Is it honorable?
- Is it right?
- Is it pure?
- Is it beautiful?
- Is it respected?

Think about the course of your week—the conversations you have, the books you read, the songs you listen to, the websites you scroll, the TV and movies you watch, and the things you do with your free time. How do all of these things hold up to that eight-question test? Are the things you're putting into your mind all week good, worthy of praise, true, honorable, right, pure, beautiful, and respected?

If not, it's time to start filling your mind with different things.

Each one of those eight attributes actually describes God. So when you think about things that are good, worthy of praise, true, honorable, right, pure, beautiful, and respected, you're really picturing God.

Whatever is going on around you, and the things you choose to think about, determine how much stress you feel. If you fix your thoughts on God, he will keep you in perfect peace.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS FAMILY NIGHT!

### **Wednesday night dinners begin at 6:00 PM.**

The cost is \$5.00 a person for ages 7 years through adult. 6 years and under are \$3.00. The menu for the month is listed on the right.

**Please sign-up on the list on the information table each week.** If you are running late that night, please call the church so we can set aside the proper number of meals for you.

**Aug. 3, Smoked Ham,** baked potatoes, broccoli, rolls, salad & dessert

**Aug. 10, Sloppy Joes,** Mac' & cheese, corn, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.

**Aug. 17, Grilled Pork Chops,** mashed potatoes, , cottage cheese, corn, salad & dessert

**Aug. 24, Brisket,** mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cottage cheese, salad & dessert

**Aug. 31, Grilled Ham-burgers & Hot dogs,** Chips, Baked beans, Potato Salad & dessert

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## GOD LIVES IN HIM AND HE IN GOD. 1 John 4:15

### LADIES DAY TRIP

**August 18, 2022** is our LADIES DAY OUT event. We will leave the church at **10:00 AM** to go to Higginsville. We will spend the day visiting different places and will be eating at Arcadian Moon - Winery, Brewery & Restaurant featuring wood-fired pizzas (yum) and other favorites. There is the Confederate Memorial Site for history buffs; Kleinschmidts Western Store, Augusta Jane - speciality shop and Running Rabbit Antiques and General Store. Hopefully, the day will not be too hot.

Come join us for a day out with "the girls". Bring a friend. Please sign up on the sheet on the front table. Hope to see you there.

Dixie

### OVERCOMING WHEN YOU FEEL OVERWHELMED

Overcoming When You Feel Overwhelmed is the book we are going through by Jentezen Franklin. Tackle the things trying to overrun your life! Franklin pulls back the curtain on the chaos that's attempting to hinder your spiritual growth, distract your attention, and curtail your fullest potential. Discover five life-giving steps to help you get up, get out, and get free so you can walk into God's intended destiny for you! Starting **Monday July 25 at 10 AM** also it is live streamed. Go to our web site [crosscreek.com](http://crosscreek.com) for more information on how to get on line.

Vickie