

SJMBC OF LAWTON HERALD NEWSLETTER



The Church of Service, Discovering New Dimensions of Faith in God's Authoritative Word

01 April 2025
No.4 Volume 26
Published Monthly

Mission Statement: We of the SJMBC, exist for the purpose of bringing God's lost children to salvation, and exalting the Lord through our Worship and our works to edify and equip The saints in His Word.

Useful Contact Information:

Phone: (580) 357-3542

Fax: (580) 248-1001

Push Pay...pushpay.com/g/s/
sjmbclawton

YouTube...SJMBC1504LAWTON

Sunday School 9:30am-1030am

Worship Service 1045 am

Wed. Teen Bible Study 5:00-5:45pm

Wednesday Prayer 5:30pm

Wednesday Bible Study 6:00pm

W.O.W 3rd Wed. Monthly Mid-Week

Church Service 6:00 pm

E-mail Addresses:

Pastor:

pastor.sjmbclawton@gmail.com

Admin. Secretary:

secretary.sjmbclawton@gmail.com

Finance Secretary:

Finance.sjmbclawton@gmail.com

SJMBC Herald Newsletter:

sjmbcherald@gmail.com

USPS-Mail Address:

St. John's Missionary Baptist Church

1504 SW N.H. Jones Avenue

P.O. Box 2625

Pastors Pen

Pastors Pen

Building on Rock or Sand: Making Wise or Foolish Choices

Matthew 7: 24 & 26

24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: **26** "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

Every year on April 1st, people partake in pulling pranks and jokes on people and then yelling, "April Fool!" It conveys that someone was gullible in believing something that was not true or ridiculous. No one wants to be classified as being a fool. Yet, there are times when many of us have made foolish choices in life.

Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus shares a parable about two builders, one wise and one foolish. The wise builder constructs his house on a rock, while the foolish builder chooses to build on sand. The outcome is predictable: when the storms of life come, the house on the rock stands firm, while the house on the sand crashes down.

This parable serves as a powerful metaphor for the choices we make in life. Every day, we are faced with decisions that can either build a strong foundation for our lives or lead to instability and chaos.

So, how can we make wise choices like the builder on the rock? Here are a few principles to consider: **First**, listen to God's Word. The wise builder in Jesus' parable hears His words and puts them into practice. This means that we need to be familiar with God's teachings and apply them to our lives. **Second**, build on a solid foundation. The rock represents a solid foundation, while the sand symbolizes instability. When making decisions, consider whether they align with your values, principles and character. Do they reflect the virtues of the Fruit of the Spirit? **Next**, consider the consequences. The foolish builder may not have thought about the potential consequences of building on sand. When making choices, think about the potential outcomes and whether they will lead to stability or chaos. **Last**, and certainly not least, seek wisdom. Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

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Increasing Our Reach (Matthew 22:37-39 KJV)

**In This Issue of
SJMBC of Lawton Herald
Published Monthly
Editors:**

Brother LeBron Copeland (Editor)
Brother Ian Copeland (Asst. In Tng.)
Brother Thomas Hoggatt (Editing Mgr.)

Staff Members:

Sister Dorothy Hoggatt
Sister Wynetta Copeland
Sister Taikeria Copeland Bass
Sister Darlene Streeter

Featured Writers:

Pastor Davison Virgil
Sister Sherrill Wallace
Bro. Ian Copeland
Staff/Ministries/Members/Families

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Notice to Our Readers

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Monthly Featured Couple



Reverend Lynn & Sister Belinda Anderson
28 December 1979 - 2025
45 Years of Marriage



Blessings for the Marriage of Lynn & Belinda

Reverend Anderson states, "He arrived in Lawton in 1964, and I left in the middle of the 11th grade, 1971. He graduated from Killeen High School, TX, and completed his associate's degree at Central Texas Jr. College. Rev. Anderson says, "I enlisted in the US Army and returned to Lawton, OK, in 1977. In 1979, he worked at Lawton Goodyear as a production worker. During this employment, he graduated from Cameron



University with a BS in Business Administration and a Master of Behavioral Science. Later, he became a staffer in Human Resources, Training, and Industrial Engineering. During his tenure at Goodyear, he was blessed to travel to Atlanta, Ga., Memphis, TN., and Beaumont, TX.

Sister Anderson states, "She arrived in Lawton in 1962. Later, I moved to Ft. Hood Texas." While her dad was deployed to Vietnam, her family once again settled in Lawton. They were stationed in San Antonio, Tx, and Baumholder, Germany. Sister Belinda graduated from Baumholder High School and moved back to Lawton in 1975. She worked at Ft. Sill as a secretary and at

Goodyear for 16 years. She has been employed with the Lawton Mobile Meals Program Manager for 11 years. Rev. Anderson stated, "They were both Army brats and met at Goodyear in early 1979. It was not love at first sight. One of his co-workers introduced Belinda to him. They went on their first date on the 4th of July.



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**Betty King
LaFlora Pierce
Alexis Williams
Jayceon Reed
Jacob Warren Jr.
Taisha Williams**



“Teach us to number our days
that we may gain a heart of wis-
dom” (Psalm 90:12 KJV)

In Loving Memory



Brother LaMont Wilson

**Do you know this month’s
SJMBc mystery family?**



**March’s mystery ministry
was SJMBc Ministers 2010**

Easter... The Resurrection

Easter is a religious, Christian holiday celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his death. Jesus of Nazareth died from crucifixion under the orders of the Roman magistrate Pontius Pilate on Good Friday. As recorded in all four Gospel accounts, when some of the women who’d followed Jesus to Calvary arrived at the tomb on Sunday morning, now recognized as Easter Sunday, to prepare the body for proper burial, the rock had been rolled away and the tomb was empty.



The greatest festival of the Christian Church commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a movable feast. That is, it is not always held on the same date. In A.D. 325, the Church Council of Nicaea decided that it would be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox of 21 March. Therefore, Easter can come as early as 22 March or as late as 25 April. Palm Sunday, which is one week before Easter, celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Holy Week begins on this day. Holy Thursday, or Maundy Thursday, is in memory of the Last Supper of Christ with His disciples. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion.

Many Easter customs come from the Old World. The white lily, the symbol of the resurrection, is the Easter flower. Rabbits and colored eggs have come from pagan antiquity as symbols of new life. The Easter rabbit is a symbol of fertility; and colored Easter eggs originally painted with bright colors to represent the sunlight of spring are used in Easter egg rolling contests or given as gifts. Easter Monday egg rolling, a custom of European origin, has become a tradition on the lawn of the White House in Washington, D.C. During the Octave of Easter in early Christian times, the newly baptized wore white garments, white being the liturgical color of Easter and signifying light, purity, and joy.

The name Easter comes from Eostre, an ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess. In pagan times, an annual spring festival was held in her honor. Some Easter customs have come from this and other pre - Christian spring festivals. Others come from The Passover feast of the Jews, observed in memory of their deliverance from Egypt. The word “paschal” comes from a Latin word that means “Belonging to Passover or to Easter.” Formerly, Easter and The Passover were closely associated. The resurrection of Jesus took place during The Passover. Christians of the Eastern Church initially celebrated both holidays together. But The Passover can fall on any day of the week and Christians of the Western Church preferred to celebrate Easter on Sunday, the day of the resurrection. He is risen! The empty cross and the empty tomb speak of a full salvation. –SJMBc Herald L.C.



Please keep the following families in prayer:
 Thomas & Crumpton, Davenport, Sis. Bailey Harris, Sis. D. Acosta, Sis. E. Elliott, Sis. M. Thomas, Sis. D. Hill, Sis. S. Wallace, Bro. J. Brown, Sis. M. Bowen, L. Smith, Deacon R. Cole, Sis. B. King, Bro. V. & Sis. S. Campbell, Sis. L. Pierce, Sis. R. Rouse, Bro. J. Williams, Bro. C. Branch, Bro. H. Williams, Sis. D. Persinger, and Sis. V. Sawyer.

Inspirational Quotes

“Easter is a time when God turned the inevitability of death into the invincibility of life.” – Clarence W. Hall



“In the resurrection, we see the promise of eternity.” – William P. Young



“Easter brings new life, new hope, and new blessings.” – J. R. Ward



“Let this Easter be a time to reflect on the power of love.” – G. W. Hume



“Every time we look at the cross, we see the promise of hope.” – John Stott



Easter is a time of joy, renewal, and reflection. It’s a special holiday that reminds us of hope and new beginnings. Many people celebrate with family gatherings, festive meals, and fun traditions like egg hunts. However, Easter also has a deeper meaning that touches the heart and spirit. “Jesus is the Reason” for this season. The Resurrection of Christ gives us this renewal.

Compromising Biblical Truths



There is a time when setting forth the hard truth takes priority over everything else. As people of God, we know that there is a right way and a wrong way of presenting truth. We should be tactful, courteous, and of course, loving. More than that, it all depends upon the circumstances of whom we are dealing with and the conditions of the moment that must be taken into account.

In our own lives, do we sometimes keep quiet about things because we know that the subject might offend someone present? If you do, you are letting that other person control your witness. Do you sometimes hesitate to call sin exactly what it is because someone else might think you are being a Bible or a Jesus fanatic? If you do, you are letting that other person control your standards. Do you allow family or friends to share false religious beliefs in front of you without saying anything in defense of biblical truth? If you do, you are compromising the gospel.

There are times in our lives when a word spoken at the right moment can reap a harvest in the long run, even though, in the short run, we might be labeled troublemakers. Throughout the Scriptures, Jesus constantly uncovered the secret sins of the Pharisees. As a Christian, when you tell people the truth about themselves, they do not like it. In return, you will hear from interested third parties that you should not be negative; that it is always better to be positive and not critical, that when you talk or witness to others, it should always be in love. I know this has been said to you before.

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7 NKJV) -SJMBC Herald L.C.

Arrogance and Humility in Our Churches

Arrogance is often synonymous with pride; it is a recurring theme in the Bible, consistently portrayed as a vice that leads to downfall and separation from God. The Scriptures provide numerous warnings and examples illustrating the perils of arrogance, emphasizing the importance of humility and submission to God's will.

The Bible explicitly warns against arrogance, highlighting its destructive nature. Proverbs 16:18 NKJV states, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." This verse captures the inevitable downfall that follows arrogance, serving as a cautionary reminder of the consequences of elevating oneself above others and God.

In the New Testament, James 4:6 NKJV reinforces this warning: "But He gives us more grace. This is why it says: "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Here, the opposition of God to the proud is clear, indicating that arrogance not only leads to personal ruin but also to divine resistance. Arrogance not only leads to earthly consequences but also has profound spiritual implications. It creates a barrier between individuals and God, as it fosters self reliance and diminishes the recognition of God's authority and grace. Proverbs 8:13 NKJV declares, "To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate arrogant pride, evil conduct, and perverse speech." This verse underscores that arrogance is antithetical to the fear of the Lord, which is foundational to a righteous life.

In contrast to arrogance, the Bible consistently calls believers to humility. Philippians 2:3 KJV instructs, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves." This call to humility is not merely a moral directive but a reflection of Christ's own character, as demonstrated in His incarnation and sacrificial death. The apostle Peter also exhorts believers to humility in 1 Peter 5:5-6 NKJV: "Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, so that in due time He may exalt you." This passage highlights the promise of exaltation for those who humble themselves before God, contrasting the downfall that accompanies arrogance. The Bible presents arrogance as a grave danger with both temporal and eternal consequences. Through warnings, examples, and teachings, Scripture calls believers to reject pride and embrace humility, aligning ourselves with God's will and receiving His grace. –SJMB Herald L.C.

Knowing the Love of Christ

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Ephesians 4: 17–19 NKJV

As believers, we often strive to understand the magnitude of God's love for us. In Ephesians 3:17-19 NKJV, the Apostle Paul prays that we would have the power to grasp the vastness of Christ's love. This love is not just a feeling or an emotion, but a profound and unrelenting force that transforms our lives. For far too many the word "love" has almost become cliché, but the true meaning of love is a powerful one and transcends our limited comprehension of what it means to love. It is through Christ that we must come to know of the true expression of love and its power.

Paul describes this love as wide, long, high, and deep, a multidimensional expression of God's devotion to humanity. It's a love that surpasses knowledge, defying human comprehension. And yet, Paul prays that we would know this love intimately, that it would fill us to the measure of all the fullness of God. All true forms of love will always lead back to Jesus. If the "love" that you are experiencing leans towards any display of selfishness, debauchery, or has some conditional requirements, know that you are on a path moving away from the love of Jesus. The love of Jesus is the purest form of love for it surpasses mankind's understanding of what love truly is. –SJMB Herald L.C.

Please List Your Request

We are looking forward to praying with you.

Please Pray For: _____

Date _____



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

St. John's Missionary Baptist Church Of
Lawton

Rev. Davison A. Virgil, Pastor
1504 SW N.H. Jones Avenue
Lawton, OK 73501

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2625



Prayer Request Cards: Prayer is essential in the life of a Christian. There is great power in prayer and we endeavor as a church family to stay in prayer for one another. In both Matthew 6:5-15 (KJV), and Luke 11:1-13 (KJV), Jesus teaches His disciples to pray. Even today He is teaching us to pray, and James 5: 16 (KJV) teaches us to "...pray one for another." As a church family, it is important that we use prayer as a means to bless one another. Our prayer card helps to ensure that we know each other's prayer needs and afford us the opportunity to pray for each other for specific needs. Please complete the pledge card and mail it in or email your request to the church secretary at secretary.sjmbclawton@gmail.com.

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Reverend Lynn & Sister Belinda Anderson

Later he became ill and missed 10 days of work. Sister Anderson came to visit him which left him thinking that she was concerned and was also an answer to his prayer. While in the Army, he asked God to help him change his ways and send him a godly woman. Even though he was not a believer, he knew deep down inside that God had answered his prayer."

They were married on Dec. 28, 1979. During the last 45 years, they state, "We have had our ups and downs. There have been rough times, where it would have been easier to get a divorce. Marriage is like the Christian Walk. You must endure, forgive, and trust the Lord. Only the Lord healed their broken hearts and spirits. Yet, God has truly blessed their marriage. Sister Belinda says, "Lynn is her yin and she is his yang. We have suffered together and experienced the highs and lows together. Aside from our faith, we have learned to depend on and trust each other. Our love was forged in all the things that can destroy a marriage. We have been humbled and broken by our selfishness. God showed us that our marriage is based on love, forgiveness, respect, and trust. God first, family, and friends are our priorities. We learned that our relationships are the most important. "

The Andersons state, "The joy of the Lord is their strength. We have grown emotionally and spiritually. Their marriage is full of laughter and joy. They cherish the time that they spend together." Marriage is like being on the ocean, when it is sunny and calm, don't allow yourself to get too high. When it is rocky, don't allow yourself to get so low. Try to maintain an even keel. Their legacy is their three children, one blessed grandson, and one daughter-in-law. SJMBC Herald L.C.

RESURRECTION DAY

For many Christians, Easter/Resurrection Day is a time of deep joy and spiritual reflection marking the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection and the hope of eternal life. It is a time for rejoicing and expressing gratitude for the gift of salvation and the promise of a new life. Beyond the festive traditions, many Christians attend special Easter services or Sunrise Services to commemorate the resurrection and engage in personal reflection and prayer while focusing on the real meaning and its importance. So let us rejoice in Risen Christ bringing us renewed hope, faith, joy, and abundant blessings. As I write this report my thoughts and message to all is, "May the resurrection of Jesus Christ inspire our faith and renew our hope of our Lord and Savior!" -Sis. Sherrell Wallace

Christian Humility on Social Media

Social media often seems to reflect the opposite values of God’s kingdom. Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers” (Matt. 5:9 KJV). Social media often seems to bless the outraged. Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek” (Matt. 5:5 KJV). Social media often seems to bless the narcissistic. Many Christian leaders model an edifying use of social media. At the same time, we as the church are often shaped by the unhealthy dynamics of social media culture more than we are shaping it. Too often, we get pulled into the ungodly, the noise, and the sneering.

Humility is not just a virtue, but a mark of gospel integrity, casting a vision for gospel centered humility that is ultimately self forgetfulness leading to joy. Social media often steers us away from humility. There are plenty of people who could not kill a mouse without posting the event online. Samson killed a lion and said nothing about it: the Holy Spirit finds modesty so rare that He takes care to record it. Say much of what the Lord has done for you, but say little of what you have done for the Lord. Do not utter a single self glorifying sentence!

How many times have we drawn attention to ourselves? How many times have we risked offending the Holy Spirit by breaching modesty or courtesy? The answer is to not avoid social media altogether, though it may be for some, and all of us should consider our limitations. But in the current state of our culture, godliness in social media use requires extra intentionality and ballast. Some may drift into the edifying use of Twitter or Instagram. Things such as self promotion and meanness are too powerful a current. The scary thing is that people who engage in this kind of activity often get more attention as a result. It’s a sobering indication of human sin that in certain contexts we not only tolerate meanness and outrage, but we actually reward them.

Social media invites constant comparison, making envy a constant danger. There will always be someone with more followers and some new crisis you feel you must weigh in on (or a joke you want to be a part of). It’s easy for the fear of being overlooked to become a tyrant or the need to maintain your platform to become a burden. It’s also healthy and freeing to regularly offer our influence back to the Lord. Lay it down before Him and seek to be genuinely okay with Him taking it away, if only you can have more of Him. Due to the state of our cultural dialogue and the nature of the medium, we must work all the harder to display kindness on social media. Take extra steps to say something positive whenever you can. Avoid sarcasm more than you normally would. Be extra eager for opportunities to honor someone else. –SJMBC Herald L.C.



Please take notice of this change to SJMBC live streaming platform.

On 6 April 2025 live streaming will change from Facebook to YouTube.

Pastors Pen

***Building on Rock or Sand: Making Wise or Foolish**

Pastors Pen

Seeking wisdom from God and His Word can help us make wise decisions. The parable of the wise and foolish builders reminds us that our choices have consequences. By listening to God's Word, building on a solid foundation, considering the consequences, and seeking wisdom, we can make wise choices that will help us weather the storms of life.

As you face decisions today, remember the wise builder who constructed his house on the rock. May his example inspire you to build a strong foundation for your life, one that will stand firm against the challenges and uncertainties of life.

St. John's Missionary Baptist Church
1504 SW N.H. Jones Avenue
P.O. Box 2625



Knowledge is intended to be our friend, but it may also be made our enemy. -Dr. J. L. Davenport

How Can I Be Saved?

“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

(Matt. 16:26 KJV))

I. The Meaning: In the original language, the word “saved,” in its simplest form, means to be made whole; it also carries the connotation of being rescued. So then, when we at St. John’s speak of being saved, we speak of being rescued by God from the deprivation, the clutches, and the consequences of sin; we speak of being restored, made whole or complete again by coming to a right relationship with God.

II. The Price: Do not be dismayed. The price of being saved is neither costly nor complicated. But you must admit that you are a sinner. Romans 3:23 (KJV) state: **“All have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God.”** But what is sin? Sin is an act of disobedience to the will of God for your life. It could be a lie or lust, sin is sin.

You must realize that sin has a punishment. Romans 6:23 (KJV) state: **“The wages of sin is death.”** The word “wages” literally means the result or the product of sin is death. Death is separation from God, both in this world and in the world to come.

And you must be assured of God’s love. Romans 5:8 (KJV) state: **“While we were yet sinners, God demonstrated His love toward us, in that Christ died for us.”** The amazing message here is that while we were behaving as God’s enemy, sinning against Him, His love was so merciful and gracious that He sent His only begotten Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world, through Him, might be saved.

Finally, to be saved, you must confess and believe. Romans 10:9 (KJV) state: **“That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in your heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved.”** If you believe that God raised Jesus of Nazareth up from the grave and can confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, you shall, not maybe, be saved.

III. The Prayer: If you desire to be saved, would you pray the following prayer: **“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. And I know that Jesus died for my sins. I believe You raised Jesus from the dead, and I want Him to be my Lord and Savior. Jesus, come into my heart and save me. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.”**

The Bible says that when you pray that prayer, it immediately resulted in your salvation. Should you ever doubt whether or not you are saved, read I John 5:12 (KJV) that states emphatically: **“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”** If you have Jesus living within you, you have eternal life.

If you do not have a church home, then find a Bible believing church and get involved in the Bible Study program of that church. Talk to the pastor or one of the leaders about baptism and determine in your heart and mind to walk with Jesus all the days of your life. Should you need help in finding a church, call St. John’s at (AC-580) 357-3542; we will be glad to assist you. May God bless and keep you.