



# Newsletter

## STAYING WHERE YOU ARE TILL GOD MOVES YOU - Galatians 6:9-10

A week ago Thursday, I had the privilege of speaking to a group of pastors at the Estrella Associational meeting in Phoenix. The topic assigned me is the title of this message. With a small amount of editing, this is the message I presented at that meeting:

Sometimes it seems as if we pastors live in turmoil, especially, if you are in a church where you are the only full-time staff, which was the case at Sandario for many years. You wear every hat. You can delegate responsibilities, but it often comes down to you performing the task. But when God has placed His call upon you, you do what is required and try to pretend that it's okay, it just comes with the job.

When it comes to staying where you are till God leads you elsewhere, I could make this very short by saying: It's not hard when no one else wants you. But there have been other opportunities, but committing yourself to God and a gathering of people for a length of time is like being home every week. It's about becoming involved in individuals lives to the point that all you seek is to know them better and join them in knowing Jesus more and more.

Many of you would be a better pastor than I at Sandario Baptist Church. You could preach more inspiring sermons than me. You could administrate the affairs of the church better than me. You might be more handsome and a snappier dresser than me. But I don't believe you could love the people of that community more than me. I don't feel qualified to stand before you today. I don't have a lot of letters behind my name. I haven't grown Sandario into a mega-church. And most of the new methods I learned in countless church growth conferences through the years haven't produced the results I would have hoped for. But I stand before you today to tell you that Sandario is a healthy church, not because of their pastor, but because they are a loving group of people committed to the Lord Jesus Christ and when we gather to worship and study the Word, we experience the presence of our Lord God.

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### NEWSLETTER

Editor: Mark Wren

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Throughout my life, God has been so good as to give me affirmations about my calling. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior at the age of 11. Teen years were filled with typical teenage rebellion. But at 19 years of age, God got hold of my life and began to show me that He had more in store for me than I could ever imagine. It was a Sunday night at the First Baptist Church of Bethany, Oklahoma, that I gave my life to the ministry. My pastor growing up was Ernest Cox, his wife was Lillian Cox. At the end of the service, she came to me and took my hand in both of hers and said, I've been waiting 8 years to tell you this. The day you were baptized, Ernest and I were having dinner, and he said, I baptized a preacher today. On many other occasions, God reaffirmed to me his call. I am grateful that God has made His will so clear to me that not even I could botch it up. And I have found that during those times of defeat and discouragement, God often reminded me of His call upon my life.

One year at Oklahoma Baptist University, I was in Dr. Holcomb's Pastoral Ministry class. He asked a room of about 35 students, "Why are you entering the ministry?" And then he asked, "How many of you experienced a divine call by God?" I was amazed! Only 5 of us raised our hands...out of a class of 35. The others said, it was out of a sense of ought. They felt as if it was something they ought to do. Friends, I wouldn't be standing here before you today if I served in the ministry just because I felt as if ministry was something I ought to do. A wise person once told me that ministry is not something you do, it's what you are. God doesn't call us to a job, He calls us to a life. And I may not have attained that high calling, but I keep pressing toward that high calling.

Allow me to share with you how I believe you can stay in a church for 31, nearly 32 years.

First, trust in the energy of God's Holy Spirit to keep you going.

Ministry can be exhausting. If you don't keep up with your daily walk in the Spirit, you will fail in the ministry. I'm not talking about just having a quiet time, I'm talking about throughout the day, staying in friendship and fellowship with the Lord. He offers it to us throughout the scripture. If you don't walk in the Spirit, you will miss opportunities to love someone with the love of Jesus. And never view an opportunity to love someone as an interruption.

***Galatians 6:9-10 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. 10 Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.***

Secondly, celebrate what God is doing in your life and in the life of those to whom you minister.

I have dreamed of those days where the church would explode in revival. Each week, people would walk the aisle and come forward to accept Christ. That hasn't happened often at Sandario. But there have been those times when God's work was so evident that you could cut it with a knife.

There's a third thing to share, I would prefer to tell of all the victories, but there have been times that I hurt so badly that I thought I would die. You have to be able to deal with criticism. Nobody likes it. But everyone has to deal with it, especially in today's society. I loathe the politics of destruction. And sadly, we see too much of that attitude in the church today.

When I was only a teenager, about my junior year, we had a guest preacher at my church by the name of A.L. Louther. He was speaking on the subject of dealing with criticism. I really wasn't paying attention. I was more concerned with the girls sitting in the row behind me. But God grabbed me by the ears and said, listen to this! You're going to need this. I didn't write down any notes, but God burned his words into my brain. What you do with criticism:

- 1) You listen to it.
- 2) You analyze it.
- 3) You apply it.
- 4) You forget it.

If I took all the criticism seriously that I have received over the past 50 years of ministry, I wouldn't be able to get out of bed in the morning. We've all heard the story about the little boy who told his pastor at the door as he was greeting people. When I get big and make a lot of money, I'm going to give you all of it. The pastor said that was awfully nice of him but why would he do that? The little boy said because his daddy said he was the poorest preacher we ever had.

There is a passage of scripture I turn to whenever I feel as if the church facility was on fire, I wouldn't be able to inspire them to put out the fire.

***1 John 3: 18-20 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts and He knows everything.***

Those words have comforted me through the years as I have beaten myself up over things that are going badly. I know that my own heart is going to harder on me than God is. So I can rest in Him. And by the way, resting in Him is not doing nothing. It is exercising, exercising my belief, my full confidence in Him that He will work all things together for good as long as I am loving Him and fulfilling His purposes.

We used to have an old pastor in our church years ago. I loved the old guy. He played football at Baylor and then went into the ministry. But that was interrupted because George Halaas, owner of the Chicago Bears called him up and ask him to come play for the Bears. And he did for a few years before returning to the ministry. But he used to always tell me not to forget to keep the main thing the main thing. That main thing is to lead people to Jesus. I love it. I would do it if I weren't a pastor but I just love to see people come to know the Lord.

In the movie, Bull Durham, Kevin Costner's character walks into the locker room to get suited up for the game. He announces to the team, "Boys, we get to play baseball today." You can sense his youthful exuberance as he expresses the privilege and honor as an adult to play a game that belongs to children.

Would that we would have that exuberance that comes with fulfilling why we were saved; we get to tell people about Jesus.

Folks, we get to tell people about Jesus today....Let's keep it the main thing.

*In His Service*  
*Pastor Bob*

## COMING IN NOVEMBER SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, November 26th  
at 5:00 pm**



**Sunday November  
19th**



# IN CONCERT BRANDED



**FREE Concert & Lunch**

**OCTOBER 22 at 10:30am**

*Sandario Baptist Church  
6971 N. Sandario Road  
sandariobaptistchurch.com*

Sandario Baptist Church  
**WELCOME**

# MINISTRY

Mark is looking for a few people who would be interested in a new ministry opportunity, a "Welcome Ministry".

There would be several facets to this ministry as we grow forward.

If this might interest you, please reach out to Mark at church or be email at [sandario.mark@gmail.com](mailto:sandario.mark@gmail.com)

# The J.O.Y. Club

Our J.O.Y. Club will meet on Tuesday, October 10th at noon  
Everyone is invited to attend!!



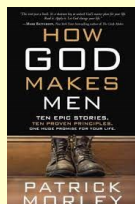
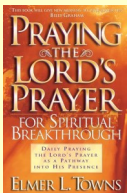
## Worship Technicians Needed

We are in need of some help with our technical operations here at the church on Sunday's and Wednesday's. We need workers in both video and audio areas. If you have experience, that would be wonderful. If not, we can train you. If you would have any interest in this area, please see Mark on Sunday's or email at [sandario.mark@gmail.com](mailto:sandario.mark@gmail.com)

## Men's & Women's Bible Study

Our Men's and Women's Bible Studies meet every Sunday Evening from 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Our women will be continuing their study in "Praying The Lord's Prayer" by Elmer Towne, and our men will be studying "How God Makes Men" by Patrick Morley



## Sandario Church night at Marana Football

We are going to gather in the parking lot before the game, Homecoming against Desert View. We will have Eegees for all who stop by, and then sit together for the game.

Come and support out Sandario Student ministry and our local High School

Please check our website for gathering time.





Our CORE group classes for the fall are in full swing. We meet every Sunday morning at 9:15 am

We have classes for all ages from babies through age 100

Please make it a priority to be a part of our small group Bible studies this year.

Let's do life together!!



Christine Stoner	10/4
Mindy Flynn	10/5
Justin Brar	10/5
Kathy James	10/5
Chris Gonzales	10/12
Mike Warren	10/14
Cadee Rants	10/17
John Staley	10/17
Loretta Rodriguez	10/19
Zachary Zache	10/27
Suzanne Guilbeault	10/29

# Women's Breakfast

Saturday October 28th  
@ 9:30 a.m. Sky Rider Cafe

All Women Are Welcome!

Please R.S.V.P. to Christy



Philip & Barbara Mann	10/19
Phil & Betty Morris	10/19
Arnold & Wada Belasco	10/31



Our Sandario Baptist AWANA club meets every Wednesday evening from 5:45 to 7:00 pm

Please check back on our website for updates and special events all year long.

**More Listener's are needed!!!**

Sandario Baptist Church

MIDWEEK  
BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER

Wednesday Nights from 5:00-6:00 pm

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS



**ONLINE GIVING**  
now available

Online Giving is available for all your tithe and giving needs. You may access this by visiting our website [sandariobaptistchurch.com](http://sandariobaptistchurch.com) and clicking on the Give Online Tab.

**We also now have a tab for you to give online to our building fund.**

**Just click on the "Building Fund" tab.**

### 2023 September REPORT

September Financial Need	\$11,128.00
September Financial Given	\$10,125.00
September Average Attendance	99



# MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday October 21 @ 8:00 a.m.  
@ The Church

All Men Welcome

Do you have an idea or a passion for a new ministry here at Sandario? Such as prayer ministry, food box ministry, basic car work for seniors, outreach ministry, or something else entirely. If you would like to be a part of something new and exciting this fall, please contact Mark at church or by email at [sandario.mark@gmail.com](mailto:sandario.mark@gmail.com)