

# Central Baptist Alcoa

Pastor Jim W. Haggard

## Pastors Do More Than Preach

Every church needs a pastor or shepherd who will provide leadership at all times. Their pastor may or may not be a great preacher, but if he loves them, leads them and feeds them, they are blessed indeed. To be absolutely honest, some pastors, especially bivocational pastors have a preaching station not a pastorate. They serve the church more as a chaplain than a pastor. They show up at the church to preach at each service but do nothing else to shepherd the church.

The Biblical model for church is for the pastor to shepherd the flock. In the Old Testament, God presented Himself as Shepherd for His flock, Israel.

Isaiah 48:10-11

In the New Testament Jesus is called "the good Shepherd" (John 10:11), "the great Shepherd" (Hebrews 13:20) and "the chief shepherd" (I Peter 5:4)

Peter challenges elders, whom most Bible students believe are pastors, to do their work as a faithful shepherd. (I Peter 5:1-4)

Being the shepherd here at Central is an awesome responsibility. I have learned that Jesus is the Chief Shepherd and to be a successful pastor I must follow His example and serve under His supervision. Although I must follow Jesus and serve under His supervision, every Sunday before I come here to serve, I receive a text or email from a pastor friend from Dayton TN. Not only my pastor friend gives me words of encouragement but, we agreed two years ago I would be honest, transparent, and he holds me accountable for my ministry.

After Brother Bailey completes the Book of Ruth (and there is no rush) we will examine some of the jobs assigned to the shepherd of God's flock.

Feed the Flock

Lead the Flock

Oversee the Flock

Carry the Flock

Restore the Lost Sheep

Fight off the Wolves

Keep the Sheep Together Until the Chief Shepherd Appears

Coffee & Snacks

Drop by the pastor's office before Sunday school for coffee & snacks.

Open Door

If you need prayer, please come by my study. My time is your time.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 all men are invited for a prayer breakfast at Shoney's on Alcoa hwy. Please feel free to invite a friend.

## Four Sundays

Without question the greatest, most significant week in history had to be the seven days leading to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. No other week has impacted the world the way that one week did. Over the course of four Sundays, beginning March 20<sup>th</sup> through a series of lessons using four instruments of pain and death, three individuals will take part in this powerful moment as we journey from the cross to the empty tomb.

March 20<sup>th</sup> – Purple Robe

March 27 – Crown of Thorns

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nails

April 10<sup>th</sup> – Spear

April 17<sup>th</sup> - Easter

## Candlelight Service

April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. We will observe The Lords Supper by candlelight.

## How Will You Live

No Christian should go around wringing their hands wondering what we are to do in the face of the present world situation. The scripture says that in the midst of persecution, confusion, wars, and rumors of wars, we are to comfort one another with the knowledge that our Lord Jesus Christ is coming back in triumph, glory, and majesty. He has told us Christians to be watching constantly and to be ready, “for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (Matthew 24:44)

## Ways to Connect

Seek a friend and a prayer partner. We all need that person who will pick up the phone, drop what he / she is doing and listen to you without being judgmental and weep or laugh with you through whatever you are facing. We need each other. “It is not good for man to be alone” applies to more than just marriage. I may be down today, and you picked me up. You may be down tomorrow, and I can pick you up. Look at these verses:

Proverbs 17:17

II Corinthians 1:3-7

Romans 15:32

I Corinthians 16:18

II Timothy 1:16

Philemon 1:7