

Urban Legends of the New Testament

A Book Review

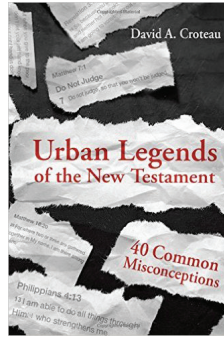
Urban legends are pieces of information passed throughout a society. Some scare. Some amuse. Most urban legends involve curious stories passed friend to friend.

While urban legends often provide amusement, what if the subject matter is mishandled Scripture? Diligent exegesis demands a much more careful handling of the subject matter. David A. Croteau put together 40 of his favorite New Testament stories, issues, and interpretations that are, well, maybe not quite what we have traditionally believed. He uses solid word studies, documented culture and archaeology, and careful examinations of passages to fact-check what we think we know. He also explores cultural issues, such as why there was no room at the inn, to theological and interpretational issues, such as more carefully defining unmerited favor.

Croteau deals with each legend in a technical manner, but in such a way as to be manageable by the average layperson. He also provides links with further data available through QR codes and online posts.

This book provides fascinating insights that are easily adaptable to short devotionals or that provide background for a message. Even if you are a seasoned handler of the Bible, you will find this book delightfully insightful.

John T. Murray serves as pastor of First Baptist, Hawthorne, Nev.



Bi-Vocational cont.

struggles. She joined us for church that week, and I rejoiced at the opportunity God had provided.

As I continued to pray for God's strength, wisdom, and leading, He threw me a giant curveball. I received an invitation to a full-time ministry position that paid more than all of my jobs combined. The offer overwhelmed me, and I felt as if I had just won the lottery. But when through fervent prayer and meditation I sought where God was leading, He seemed to tell me, "You're already there."

What pastor wouldn't love to have the freedom to dedicate himself fully to the ministry of God's Word, as the apostles did in Acts? Paul worked at times as a tentmaker, but even in those temporary arrangements, his heart was first for the gospel. When all is said and done, the most important place to be is within God's will, and for me that is working for the city, loving on my family, and shepherding the flock with the strength God provides. Oh yeah, and driving that truck full of chickens!

Messenger Update

While the CARBC intends to publish six editions a year, only two have been published this year. The editor sincerely apologizes for this.

Churches that have paid a subscription for six editions will not be billed for the four editions to be published in 2017. Instead, the 2016 subscriptions will cover the two editions of 2016 and the four editions of 2017.

Please address questions regarding the *CARBC Messenger* subscriptions and billing to Bruce McLain at carbc.mclain@gmail.com.

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Sunrise Valley Baptist Celebrates 50 Years

By John Murray

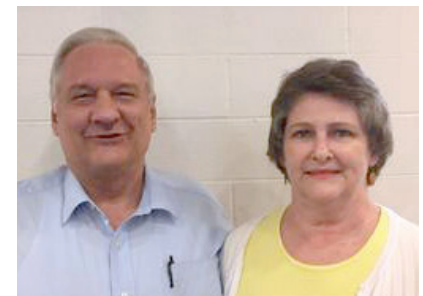
Sunrise Valley Baptist Church on the south side of San Jose recently remembered its beginning 50 years ago and celebrated God's working.

Pastor Al and Dodie (now Sweeney) Rutledge moved to an area in the Silicon Valley back in a time when the region still had orchards and open spaces. Al and Dodie rented a house and started a Bible study. The study progressed to become an organized church, which bought two parcels of orchard land and put up a building in 1966. God worked by drawing an atheist neighbor to salvation, baptism (the first in the church), and membership. Through the years, many more joined that neighbor, and the church grew.

Sunrise has seen the area explode to become one of the largest populations in the country. The church has worked closely with several other churches through the years, renting to a deaf church and a small independent Baptist church this past fall. The pastor of that group, John Eccles (now in his late 80s), became the interim pastor.

High points of the anniversary celebration included a number of displays featuring photos from each of the decades. The Getting Reacquainted Social on Saturday afternoon was one of the best activities. It had no format, but featured coffee and finger food, sharing memories, and storytelling. About 80 longtime members, former members, and very new members fellowshiped and shared stories of God's work in their lives. Services on Sunday, attended by 150, included former pastors, missionaries, and longtime members.

We rejoice with Sunrise Baptist Church for five decades of ministry and God's blessing. Pastor Gerald Ferrand (pictured at right with wife Nancy) was installed as pastor on Aug. 14, with Dr. Eccles becoming the associate pastor.



Churches Seeking a Pastor: First Baptist, San Dimas; First Baptist, Wilmington.

Pastoral Changes: Chris Warner to Calvary Baptist, Anaheim; Josh Lieurance to First Baptist, Cambria; Adam Espinoza to Grace Baptist, El Centro; Norman Walker to Forest Ranch Baptist, Forest Ranch; Mason Lockwood to Campton Heights Baptist, Fortuna; Michael Burger to Cornerstone Church, Hemet; Tom Jones to First Baptist, Petaluma; Gerald Ferrand to Sunrise Valley, San Jose; Ken Campbell to Faith Baptist, Stockton; Justin Reed to Bethel Baptist, Torrance.

Fairway Park Baptist Church, Hayward joins CARBC. Pastor Charlie Eldred.

