men that had understanding of the times, to know what [they] ought to do... I Chr.12:32

THE NATIONAL GIBF FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING SET TO CONVENE AT EASTLAND BAPTIST CHURCH IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA

September 21-23, 2009 (see details on Page 9)

The writer of Psalm 85 must have known some glory days in Zion. He knew the joy of God’s favor and God’s blessings due to the establishment of righteousness. “Truly God is good to Israel” might have been the Psalmist’s past testimony.

But things have changed. The writer is now distraught. Having moved away from the place of blessing, the current generation in Israel has brought suffering and sorrow upon themselves. (And it should be said, they are suffering and bringing grief to future generations.)

Psalmist now yearns for things to be as once they were.

Notice what he says beginning in verse three:

“Turn us, O God of our salvation, and cause thine anger toward us to cease. Wilt thou be angry with us for ever? Wilt thou draw out thine anger to all generations? Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee? Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.”

The word “revival” is not found in the Bible. A message by TOM MALONE (1915-2007)

It is not my habit to do church cleanup, but one day I was completing such a job in the driveway of the Mendoza church when something toward the sidewalk caught my eye. The sun was behind a rather large person who wore a full-length white robe. The head and shoulders area resembled a black triangle. A Catholic nun wearing a habit had arrived on Baptist territory.

I stood beside a wheelbarrow with one hand propped on the end of a long-handled shovel. She presented herself as “Sister Elva.” Her mission was to see if we would rent our church bus so she could take a group of graduating elementary students on an excursion up to the mountains on a given Thursday.

With shovel in hand I pointed to the back where the bus was parked and began walking in that direction. Sister Elva, with her clean habit, picked up the wheelbarrow and accompanied me. Of course I protested as I do not have the habit of allowing ladies to carry a trash-filled wheelbarrow, especially ladies with clean habits. I felt badly when she came away from the trash pile with a dirty habit, but she said she would clean up her habit when she returned to the convent.

Creating the Heritage Pulpit

“The Prospects for a Genuine Heaven-Sent Revival”

By Missionary Don Nevels

It seems slow, but if we are faithful God will surely bless – and He will bless abundantly. The September GIBM Offering goal is $20,000. This money will be used to help with the operating expenses of the Service Office. It is a very reachable goal if a good number of churches will see the need and sacrificially give to the offering. The work done by the Service Office is a great blessing to the missionaries and to their sending churches (at no cost to the missionaries).

I hope to see you at the September Meeting in Tulsa. I know Brother Troy Dorrell and the Eastland Baptist Church will be great hosts and that they have invested much prayer and planning into the meeting. Brother Bruce Turner and West Gate Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida, are also making plans for a great meeting next February 15-17, 2010. These meetings are well worth the time and money you will invest to attend them.

I am confident that you will be challenged and blessed by the Global Independent Baptist Fellowship. I hope to see you at the September Meeting in Tulsa. I know Brother Troy Dorrell and the Eastland Baptist Church will be great hosts and that they have invested much prayer and planning into the meeting. Brother Bruce Turner and West Gate Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida, are also making plans for a great meeting next February 15-17, 2010. These meetings are well worth the time and money you will invest to attend them.

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Sunday, September 13th was a not-so-well-known holiday, the date that marks the thirty-first anniversary of the event's official recognition. The holiday is National Grandparents Day. As you might expect, establishment is credited to the impetus of a grandmother.

It wasn't too long ago that I had little interest in such things. No longer. These days I find myself possessing a new appreciation for anything that happens to impart some benefit to age. Frankly, there aren't many tangible things.

"Grandparenting" is an intangible (though it involves some pretty special tangibles); my spellcheckler tells me it isn't even a word (but I know better). As I contemplate the matter my mind reels some, trying to get a grip, when realizing the title can actually be used in reference to me. Somehow it seems even worse when I hear it used in reference to my wife!

I recognize grandparents when I see them. Such folks make the world go round, and the older brother, Orville, moved up near Roundup, Montana, and homesteaded. World War I broke out and they were both drafted, forcing them to give up their homesteads. Grandpa Songer served in France in 1917-18, and he never had a good word to say about the place; he absolutely dismissed Frenchmen as ingrateful ("I'm thinking this ranch has changed in the last century?"). After the war he returned to Kansas, and he and Fern Chase (Grandma) of Howard, Kansas, were married in 1921. He worked in the lumber business until the Great Depression put him out of a job. It was then he began selling eggs door-to-door, a means of survival that in time developed into a large business which would eventually stock nearly every grocery store in Wichita and south-central Kansas with his "Cub Egg".

He was, like the grandpa that Walter Brennan portrayed, gruff on the outside, but soft-hearted. He never said hello or goodbye. Who would have called you on the phone he went right to talking about the things for which he had called; when he was done (whether you were or not) he hung up. Grandma said that for him "hello" was a waste of time (gruff), and "goodbye" was too final (soft-hearted). Though he never once said it verbally (that I can recall), I knew he loved me. And I loved him. He made a mark on me.

There were countless incidents in which Grandpa Songer evidenced a great pride in his grandchildren. There were four of us – two female cousins, me and my little brother. I read "How to do over any year of achievement or talent on our part. But you would have to watch for it; he never gave accolades to you directly. I could go on, but all you need do is watch Amos McCoy play.

I believe my grandpa's subtle determination to see his grandchildren succeed was because he saw us as an extension of, and responsibility for, the renewal of persistence, hard work, right-doing and a good family. He wanted that for us, but he wanted that for him – for his legacy, for his achievement. And I think he died at least somethings that pleased him.

Now some thirty years later, the same concerns have come to me. I have two grandsons and will most likely have three by the time you read this. It is pretty sobering.

As far as the grandparent is concerned, the interest of a grandparent should be no different than that of a parent. In fact, you would think the passion might be greater for parents. But the difference is not in substance. It's in consciousness.

It's like the Norman Rockwell painting of an old man and his grandson on an autumn day preparing to burn a raked-up pile of leaves. As the boy's interest is entirely on the job at hand, the grandfather is looking skyward where a flock of geese are winging their way south. His expression is reflective, noticeably conscious of the season, as it applies to the season of his life. It is a poignant image.

As I have come to realize, grandparents are more conscious of time and place. When children are still in the home, it seems we don't have time (or maybe don't take time) to recognize the special period in life it is. But as they begin leaving the "nest," consciousness starts to set in. Vocations, possessions and temporal pursuits pale in value. Eternal matters start emerging as real priorities. The "heritage of the Lord," one's foremost legacy, takes a place of focus. Rightly so!

I mentioned at the beginning of this column that National Grandparents Day was the result of the efforts of a grandmother. About it. It makes sense.

As the planned trip for the 2009 National Grandparents Day approaches, the GIBMissions Service Office is in a clearance phase. It is not a legal obligation, but the Service Office could not exist without the help and support of the Baptist churches. Support is needed to defray the many of the related expenses of the Service Office. This year's efforts will permit the mailing of 150,000 pins, weeked three days in the mountains. I felt a bit strange when people

...continued on page 9
What Does A Missionary Look Like?

“I Samuel 9:2– And he (Kish) had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.”

You probably know the story. After the period of the Judges, the children of Israel wanted a king to rule over them (like all the other Canaanite kingdoms). Israel rejected Jehovah’s Lordship and insisted on a mortal ruler; therefore the Lord had told the prophet Samuel (1 Sam 8:22). “Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king.” The young man Saul was chosen. Saul “looked” the part of a leader. His physical appearance was “goodly” (beautiful, best, better, pleasant, well-favored.)

Many times I have wondered about the vocation of spiritual leaders. What do we make concerning spiritual leaders? They might be law enforcement officers, clergy, to be desired, but movie stars and athletes have health and vigor – most of them would not qualify as pastors or preacher and we are not told to emphasize one physical quality over another. Certainly good health and vigor are not one to live in the past, but each year at this time, since September, work was going on in the cafeteria building, not one to live in the past, but each year at this time, since September, work was going on in the cafeteria building, not one to live in the past, but each year at this time, since September, work was going on in the cafeteria building, not one to live in the past, but each year at this time, since September, work was going on in the cafeteria building. It is my hope that all whom the Lord has called into the gospel ministry will step past the barrier of commitment. They will help him, commission him, send him and support him. With their help no one will be able to diminish the treasure in his heart or stifle his enthusiasm for Christ. The Lord is “internally prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (I Samuel 1:28). “A good man never goes in the presence of the Lord empty” (1 Samuel 1:13). Such attention will give us an expectation of a fruitful harvest. It is my hope that all whom the Lord has called into the gospel ministry will step past the barrier of commitment. They will help him, commission him, send him and support him. With their help no one will be able to diminish the treasure in his heart or stifle his enthusiasm for Christ. The Lord is “internally prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (I Samuel 1:28). “A good man never goes in the presence of the Lord empty” (1 Samuel 1:13). Such attention will give us an expectation of a fruitful harvest. It is my hope that all whom the Lord has called into the gospel ministry will step past the barrier of commitment. They will help him, commission him, send him and support him. With their help no one will be able to diminish the treasure in his heart or stifle his enthusiasm for Christ. The Lord is “internally prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (I Samuel 1:28).

What Does A Missionary Look Like? (I Samuel 16:7)

In Proverbs 4:23 the Bible concludes that the issues of life proceed from the heart. (Unfortunately we cannot look on or know the heart.) Jesus gave us one way to distinguish a good man from an evil man: “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.” (Matthew 12:35) Perhaps it is not at all “looking” that gives us the proper evaluation of a good man. I think it must be “listening” to what comes out of his heart.

Nearly anyone can fill out some questionnaire with acceptable answers. Notorious are the stories of those who have filled out forms and even passed some “committee test” for a position in the ministry, while later failing the “Treasure Test.” Such folk know the right answers but their heart is not in ministry; they may only be looking for a position with benefits. Their interest helps them to see a position, but their love is not in service. They know nothing of sacrifice and little of commitment. They are about climbing the ladder of worldly success, seeking worldly standards. Like a Supreme Court justice they seek perpetual empowerment; all they must do is get past the “committee test.” But unfailing just as accountable for their conduct after their appointment.

Missionaries come in all shapes, sizes and colors. The Lord is seeking men and women who are not “cookie cutters” but representatives of the various persons of personal hero. They would most likely make bad copies of somebody else anyway. The Lord is “internally interested” – looking for men and women whose conversation and character is like that of Jesus is the heart. “Kith.” They are of the sort which have a proven testimony of godly service, though they may never have been known by many.

There are basic needs that characterize missionaries: they need good training; they need to know they are God-called; and they need to know what they believe from The Rule of Faith and Practice – the Word of God. But they also need a conscious understanding about matters of the heart: that regardless of their physical service for Christ, God is now listening to and looking upon their hearts. And while their outward appearance may be important to those around them, it is not near as important as consciously revealing their heart through conversation and conduct.

Only God truly knows the heart. Men can only listen to what comes out of the heart, but such attention will help our judgments to agree with God’s. Such attention will help ensure that the money we spend on missions is spent on missionaries whose treasure is Jesus Christ. Such attention will give us an expectation of a given missionary having good success for the Lord – as He defines it. “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

What Does A Missionary Look Like? (I Samuel 16:7)

To begin with questions. Written questionnaires have a place, and in some cases so do committees. But most important is an attention to the outpouring of the heart. When the Lord reveals to us a soul whose treasure is Jesus and His Word, we must encourage them. We should fan the flame of love they have for the Lord and help them to follow His will for their life. Though all godly missionaries do not look alike, what they do have in common is the treasure in their heart. That treasure is Jesus. “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the Excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” (2 Corinthians 4:7) All the authority any missionary needs is the authority of his local, independent Baptist church. It does not matter what some action “looks like” or “seems to be” to others. A missionary may be not popular, or look the part, nor fit the mould. But when his church and his pastor are convinced that he is in love with Christ Jesus and the treasure in his heart, he will be his authority. They will help him, commission him, send him and support him. With their help no one will be able to diminish the treasure in his heart or stifle his enthusiasm for Christ.

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might consider it. What about an examination of the Word of God on “revival,” we must ask the Holy Spirit to help us lay aside all preconceived opinions and all traditional practices. In the next generation, we must determine from God’s inspired Word what a true, scriptural revival really is. An example of knowledge of true revival is the usual advertising we attach to such a meeting. We say, “Revival will start on Sunday, April 3rd and end on Sunday, April 10th.” Now who but God Himself knows if real revival will “start on Sunday, April 3rd”? And if, by His grace, it did start that day, who would want such a wonderful thing to “end on Sunday, April 10th”?

A heaven-sent, a God-sent revival is not just a special service, “crusade” or evangelistic campaign. A true revival is a refreshing from God, a rejuvenation of an existing spiritual life, a fire from heaven, a moving of God’s Holy Ghost in and upon the lives of born-again people.

Modern-day revival efforts are often directed toward the unsaved, when in reality only the saved can be revived. However, it should be understood that when revival comes, the unsaved, when in reality only the saved can be people. God’s Holy Ghost in and upon the lives of born-again people.

First, let us see from the Bible the answers to such important and relevant questions as: Were there genuine revivals in Bible times? Have there been biblical revivals in the history of the New Testament church? Can we have a scriptural, heaven-sent revival today? Are great campaigns today, involving thousands of people, a manifestation of God’s power? Is there such a thing as a counterfeit revival?

To all these questions and more, God has the answer! James confidently declared, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

Let us use the Bible to seek the answers to these important and relevant questions as: Were there genuine revivals in Bible times? Have there been biblical revivals in the history of the New Testament church? Can we have a scriptural, heaven-sent revival today? Are great campaigns today, involving thousands of people, a manifestation of God’s power? Is there such a thing as a counterfeit revival?

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In Genesis 32:24-30, concerning Jacob, God records the words of God: “And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob’s thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said, What thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men; and hast prevailed.”

Israel was being overcome by their enemies (as is too often true in the churches of Jesus Christ today)! When they would not accept the truth, God gave them their “Almighty God” and spiritual adultery, giving the Lord the preeminence due Him, a great revival took place.

The prophet Habakkuk, in 2:3, wrote of God in behalf of his people and, as is almost always the case in God’s Word, one dedicated child of God was responsible for the revival being sent from heaven. Oh, that God would burden the hearts of the men of God today – burden them to pay the price, to expose sin as it is, to weep before God until revival comes to every Bible-believing church in America.

Revival came, too, in Elijah’s day, as recorded in 1 Kings 18. Elijah saw fire fall from heaven – literally! (The need in the crucial hour of our day is the same – to, and full of glory,” even “rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.” And their joy was an attraction to the lost. A despondent, defeated, demoralized and distasteful Christianity is evidence of the need of revival! Modern day is a circle of friends who are either members or pastors in great soul-winning churches, and we forget that scattered across America (and around the world) are literally thousands of churches that call themselves fundamental, Bible-believing churches, but they are churches which are not winning souls to Christ. If these churches baptize half a dozen converts a year, they are not fulfilling the Great Commission, much less hold active meetings, but no fire from heaven.

I say this is not Bible Christianity. This is not the kind of Christianity that fills a city with its doctrine. This is
not the kind of Christianity at which people "marvel, take breath, and say, Is this not wonderful?" Powerlessness is Christ to our common generation — a Christianity in desperate need of revival.

The good news is that REVIVALS ARE DEFINITELY POSSIBLE IN EVERY GENERATION!

The Psalmist wondered about that when he said, "Wilt thou not review our times to all generations?" But God's Word is plain: revival can happen anytime, anywhere and to any people. It can happen in our generation. It is the key meeting God's requirements and claiming His promises.

One of the greatest promises in the Bible regarding revival is in II Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Some of this particular verse in need to be remembered today.

First, "If my people..." A revival is reviving the life that already exists. For a child of God, there is spiritual life within him. An unsaved man can be redeemed, but only a Christian can be revived.

Second, "If my people...shall..." There are four things God's people must do. These four things are not easy, but they are the criteria God has set. Jesus gave the example (Phil. 2:5-8): "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." In this instance, humility is a matter of forgetting one's reputation. It is being willing to take the low place if necessary. It is becoming obedient to God no matter what the cost. It is to die to self and to be "crucified with Christ." Humility is no light thing; it is a character trait not to be overlooked.

Number 2: God says for "my people" to "experience" revival, they must "pray." There has never been neither will there ever be a true, heaven-sent, biblical revival without prayer. In I Peter 5:5-6, God exhorts us to "be clothed with humility, for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." Humility is a prerequisite for revival. If we will not start where the Lord Jesus started, we will not have what He wants to give.

Number 3: God says for "my people" to "experience" revival, they must "turn." Too many of us boast of our accomplishments as if God would be impoverished were it not for our efforts. But Jesus said, "Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be ashamed, and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." In I Peter 5:5-6, God exhorts us to "be clothed with humility, for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

"Humility is a prerequisite for revival. If we will not start where the Lord Jesus started, we will not have what He wants to give." — Benjamin B. Clendenin

Number 4: God says for "my people" to "experience" revival, they must "concede". Too many of us boast of our accomplishments as if God would be impoverished were it not for our efforts. But Jesus said, "Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be ashamed, and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." In I Peter 5:5-6, God exhorts us to "be clothed with humility, for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

Humility is a prerequisite for revival. If we will not start where the Lord Jesus started, we will not have what He wants to give.

When I was a young preacher, I held a meeting in a little country school in northern Alabama where many of my family members lived. Hundreds of folk attended the meeting. After I had been preaching for a few days (morning and evening), a relative of mine stood with a white, ashed face and said, "There will be a great revival here, because I prayed all night last night." As tears streamed down her face, she added, "The promise came that a revival would take place and our loved ones would be saved." Scores of my own loved ones had not been saved. Let me tell you, it was the hardest time I had to pray in my life. Where I labor, there is a harvest. Where one family member lives, a hundred of folk attend the meeting.

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As the Psalmist said, "Oh God, wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" May He give us a real spiritual refreshing, a stirring, a moving from Heaven. May there be a shaking in the mulberry trees. May there be a moving upon the waters, and a trembling beneath our feet. On that a genuine heaven-sent revival would come in our generation; and dear Lord, let it begin in me.
Brother Baldwin was led to Christ by two men from Fairfax Baptist Temple doing seemingly routine visitation work on a Tuesday night in 1978. Little did they know the impact that night would have on the clergyman’s business.” Five years later, Lou Baldwin started the Northwest Baptist Temple, later relocated and renamed Crossroads Baptist Church in Bailey’s Crossroads, Virginia – just outside Washington D.C. Fifteen churches have been started across the country by men sent out from Crossroads, and those churches are now reproducing themselves by sending out even more missionaries to start churches around the world.

The Conference on Evangelizing Black America (COEBA) which Bro. Baldwin founded is a ministry of Crossroads and is an effort to plant fundamental Baptist churches that will effectively minister to the needs of Black America.

Crossroads Baptist Church recently voted in Dr. Baldwin’s son, Kenny, a nationally-known preacher in his own right, to succeed him as pastor when he retires from that place of service in 2011.

Thanks to Bro. Doug Robertson, Pastor of West Omaha Baptist Church in Omaha, Nebraska – another church planted out of Crossroads Baptist Church – for doing the interview work for the Baptist Times while attending the 15th annual COEBA Conference in July.

BAPTIST TIMES: Thank you for this honor, Bro. Baldwin; it’s good to have some time during the COEBA conference to interview you for the Baptist Times. Please tell us about yourself, where you were born, about your parents and your life growing up.

LOU BALDWIN: I was born in Tallahassee, Florida, and spent most of my life growing up on a dairy farm. I moved into the city my third year of high school. I left the Tallahassee area after getting married in April of 1966 and moved to the northern Virginia area. There I worked for the government for a little while, then in a construction business for a time, and then eventually started my own business. I walked into an independent Baptist Church in 1976 and received Christ as my Saviour three months later. Shortly thereafter I surrendered to preach. I was two years after that we started Crossroads Baptist Church.

My dad will be 99 years old on August 10th; my mom is 89. I am very close to my parents. I moved them up here to Virginia in 1973 and got them an apartment. Dad is in church every Sunday and mom is battling with Alzheimer’s right now. They are still and are good parents.

Dad never went to church until I started Crossroads in 1981. All the years we grew up, Mom went to church all the time and took us to Sunday school at a traditional church. But when I started Crossroads Baptist Church, Dad came with us – as a matter of fact, he is a charter member. All through my childhood, he spent a lot of time on church business, but Michael is our first child. He is really the only one that we planned to have. You know, I was in business; Jeanette had her idea of retiring at 35, being wealthy and all that [LAUGHING], so the one kid was enough for us.

From the time he was five years old, five, six, Michael went to a Catholic daycare. Then he went to kindergarten at this Catholic school. I was lost, but he would come home and talk about the church. Of course I wanted to find the Lord, and I knew Catholicism was not right, so I took him out in first grade and put him in a public school. He was always far ahead of the other kids. I remember going to the public school a mile or so from where we lived. The teacher came and had all of his paperwork in her hands and she just dumped them in my hands. She said, “I have 30 kids in my class and I don’t have time for this little student…” you know, kid [LAUGHING]. So she dumped all his paperwork in my hands, and I said, “I’ve got to do something about my son.” The summer I got saved Fairfax Baptist started a Christian School. Michael was one of the first students.

Right after I got saved, I had a desire to have a daughter. So we prayed and I asked God specifically to give me a daughter and Dee Dee was born. We now had a boy and a girl that were eight years apart and we are done. When God gave us Kenny, I just couldn’t believe it. We were down in Williamsburg one day and my wife was on a swing set or something and she felt kind of sick. She went to the doctor the next day and the doctor said “it is possible.”

She said “What does that mean?” He said “You are pregnant.” [LAUGHING] She started crying – she really did. She started crying because that was not in our plans at all. Kenny was born on my birthday.

Mike took over our church choir when he was 15, and he has been the associate pastor here since 1994. Of course Kenny is our right-hand man, he is the one that managed the one in Patterson, New Jersey, and I went up to see his business. We became friends and he came down and visited us. He was in D.C. one Easter Sunday and we decided to go to church. We lived two miles from Fairfax Baptist Temple. Jeanette and I had Michael had already gone there and had become members, along with my mother. Mom went away there on a bus and told Jeanette about it.

Jeanette went there, fell in love with it, and they joined the church; so my friend and I went there that particular Sunday, stood in the vestibule at church and heard the gospel for the first time. It was the first time I had been in a church in twelve years and I heard the preacher say, “Let me take a Bible and show you how to go to Heaven.”

And of course, you know, the invitation was given where you have your last hope; you lose, and then you are saved; and I would not do either. My wife was nudging me [SMILING]; and three months later a deacon and another man from the church called me on the phone one Tuesday night.

We were sitting at the kitchen table and they said, “We want to come over.” I gave the phone to Jeanette and she gave it back to me and said, “No, they want to see you!” I know the Holy Spirit led me to let them come in that night. It was 8:45, and we went downstairs to my rec room where they took a Bible and led me to Christ. I went the next Sunday, made a profession of faith and got baptized the following Sunday. I think I missed one Sunday morning church service in 28 years.

TIMES: Tell us about your children right now, how they are serving the Lord.

BALDWIN: I have three children. Michael just turned 40 last week! It is hard to believe it has been that long, but Michael is our first child. He is really the only one that we planned to have. You know, I was in business; Jeanette had her idea of retiring at 35, being wealthy and all that [LAUGHING], so the one kid was enough for us.

From the time he was five years old, five, six, Michael went to a Catholic daycare. Then he went to kindergarten at this Catholic school. I was lost, but he would come home and talk about the church. Of course I wanted to find the Lord, and I knew Catholicism was not right, so I took him out in first grade and put him in a public school. He was always far ahead of the other kids. I remember going to the public school a mile or so from where we lived. The teacher came and had all of his paperwork in her hands and she just dumped them in my hands. She said, “I have 30 kids in my class and I don’t have time for this little student…” you know, kid [LAUGHING]. So she dumped all his paperwork in my hands, and I said, “I’ve got to do something about my son.” The summer I got saved Fairfax Baptist started a Christian School. Michael was one of the first students.

Right after I got saved, I had a desire to have a daughter. So we prayed and I asked God specifically to give me a daughter and Dee Dee was born. We now had a boy and a girl that were eight years apart and we are done. When God gave us Kenny, I just couldn’t believe it. We were down in Williamsburg one day and my wife was on a swing set or something and she felt kind of sick. She went to the doctor the next day and the doctor said “it is possible.”

She said “What does that mean?” He said “You are pregnant.” [LAUGHING] She started crying – she really did. She started crying because that was not in our plans at all. Kenny was born on my birthday.

Mike took over our church choir when he was 15, and he has been the associate pastor here since 1994. Of course Kenny is our right-hand man, he is the one that managed the one in Patterson, New Jersey, and I
talked about; and I was gone! I was gone. I was under my feet, and I remember going forward to the altar and I got there and looked him square in the face and I knew he knew what he said. He said, "You are not doing this for me." And I said, "I am doing this. I am doing this for God." Honestly, I have more peace about that decision than I did when I got saved. I have never been more peaceful! By the way, it is now 28 years later, and I have had 10 more children in that church.

TIMES: Do you believe there is anything different about reaching Black Americans with the Gospel?

BALDWIN: It's no different reaching Black America! The gospel works with any special black board and it is not a fellowship. Of Crossroads Baptist Church to plant churches that will fellowship? We have a passion to reach black people, but we also have a passion to reach the world. We would not be comfortable if white people could not come to our church. If we had such a culture, music, philosophy, or manner which made a majority of white people in the country very uncomfortable because they felt it to be unscriptural, then we would not be a New Testament church. A lot of fellows will go out and start these fellowships they call a “Black Fellowship.” We are not “Black fundamentalists”; we are Biblical fundamentalists who just happen to be black. I have preached at this Bob Jones, Tennessee Temple, Crown College and Heartland, so there is no secret to the philosophy of COEBA.

TIMES: Why do you think some white pastors — independent, fundamental Baptists — do not support a collective effort to reach Black America?

BALDWIN: I really do not know. Honestly, I could tell you I have known a lot of men of God sit down with me like you and I are sitting here, and they have said, "My white brethren do not support what you are doing because they are not running it, they are not controlling it." I have heard people say they think it is divisive; you know, "You can have something black; why can’t we have a white organization?" And yet if you look around the country, you cannot find a movement in America that is any more mission-minded than COEBA. I mean, we give a million dollars a year, collectively, to missions and have done that for years. And for the first several years of COEBA, we had more white people come here for the annual meeting than we did blacks. Some pastors of white churches did not want their black members to attend because they thought those members would leave and go to a COEBA church. But we would never try to go around pastors and recruit their members. That is not the purpose of COEBA (and it’s wrong to do!) We just want black church members to come so they can be strengthened, edified, to make their churches reach more black people to bring into their churches.

TIMES: Related, why do you think some independent, fundamental black pastors would not support COEBA?

BALDWIN: Again, they often disagree with how we do things, or we are labeled as thinking we are better than everybody else. I was part of a Black fellowship for five years. I was the secretary. I had problems with the music. I had problems with the program. I had no mission-mindedness of church planting efforts. It is basically those blacks who do not support us because of a difference in philosophy.

TIMES: What has been the response of traditional black religious establishments towards you and other black pastors like yourself who are independent and fundamental — the AME churches for example?

BALDWIN: There is very little response. Most of them do not come. They would feel uncomfortable at our meeting because we are “local church,” independent Baptists, and we are different from everything else they stand for. And, as far as being criticized in this area where we are, that is not the case. We use Warner Baptist Church’s parking lot: they are a very traditional “Black church,” and their people come to our church. We are very respected by the “traditional” community. We don’t spend time running them down, preaching against them or anything like that. In fact, they will tell their people, “Go to that church, and please, please respect what we stand for and they know where we stand. It is hard to get traditional people to support independent Baptists. Many of them are not saved. Most of all the traditional, traditional people who joined our church are people who have come here and gotten saved, or they have been real “spiritual babes” and have come here to grow spiritually. TIMES: How was Crossroads Baptist Church, its church plants and COEBA helped worldwide missions?

BALDWIN: First of all, collectively, the COEBA church people who have planted churches around the world – to the tune of a million dollars a year; and most of that is foreign missions. So it has helped financially.

It has also allowed missionaries who may not have understood anything about black people to be able to present their ministries in these black churches. That has broken down barriers. And COEBA has motivated and stirred more white churches to be started than it has black churches. It has caused individual churches and pastors’ fellowships to get back to church planting. One example would be Pastor Paul Henry in New York City. He planted a Church in Liverpool, New York; they have started 7, 8, or 10 churches as a result of coming to COEBA.

TIMES: This was your COEBA meeting, I have been coming twelve years in a row, and this year I have noticed how many of these young kids have grown. The Gregory boys, in particular, tower over me; and it got me thinking about this generation being started right. A lot of kids at Crossroads were saved at a young age (4 or 5 years old) and now are growing up and are teenagers or getting married. I don’t even know what to ask about it; it’s just remarkable and wonderful to see, because I know children and young people are close to your heart. So, is there anything you have noticed about that?

BALDWIN: I have had a vision to see a generation of black children grow up in a Biblical church like Crossroads. You’ve heard me use the illustration of the new car and used car. The used car can be repaired and made to run, but it never runs like a brand new car where the steering is tight, the engine runs smooth, and you hit the gas it takes off. That’s the difference between someone who saved out of a traditional church and a young black child saved early in life and brought up in a sound, Biblical church. A black person saved in a traditional church will only save blacks and whites. Fortunately, I didn’t spend much time in traditional churches. I got saved in a very conservative, upper-middle class, fundamental church.

I do not expect men that come out of my church and my generation to accomplish what God is going to accomplish through future generations. There are going to be other Kennedy’s out of other churches. In my opinion, we have kids here that can preach as well as some of the guys we have who have been out pastoring for several years. I mean, these kids grew up in it. I hear them every Saturday morning stand up and preach good messages. I have always perceived COEBA and my generation as just cutting down the trees, and maybe Kennedy and Michael and guys of their generation will come along and pave the road. But one of these days, maybe in five or ten years (and I have told Don Sisk this), there will be more black kids and black missionaries and families going to the mission fields of the world. Unfortunately, I don’t think we have out of a lot of the other churches. God is raising up a generation to do that. I have seen it coming for a long time. And if I don’t live to see it come to fruition in my lifetime, I’m okay with that. I can wait until I get to heaven and see what God is doing, because I do not mind being a vessel. And that is all I am: a vessel.

The kids coming up are more talented than I am. I mean, I grew up on a farm; now, Kennedy and Michael, well, I think Kennedy is one of the unannointed preachers I have ever seen. He has done more with young people than I have. I do not know; but I have known that God has ever done what God has done through him. So, when

...continued on page 9
45th anniversary at Lakewak Baptist Temple in Washington

A report by Dennis Fountain

It was all great! But, no photos... no report... Just got way too busy. Just finished VBS with 43 saved this week. LoveYaDave!!

Editor’s Note: And this is one of my friends? (Oh, the joy of being an editor.)

GIBF of Texas Meets in Burleson

A report by Paul Cooper

Pastor Terry Williams and Boulevard Baptist Church of Burleson, Texas, hosted the GIBF of Texas Meeting on July 20-21, 2009. The featured preachers were: Pastor Dick Webster of Liberty Baptist Church, Lewisville (and GIBMissions Director); Pastor Paul Calaway, Fundamental Baptist Church, Alvandaro; Pastor Charles Trull, Twin Cities Baptist Temple, Wake Village; and Pastor Bruce Turner, West Gate Baptist Church of Tampa, Florida. Music was supplied by the church choir, their men’s and ladies’ quartets, Bro. Tim Knuston of Springfield, Missouri, and by the Florida Baptist College Ensemble. There were 36 pastors, missionaries, and ministry workers present, plus many others joining the Monday night crowd of over 300 folks.

The GIBF of Texas officers are: Chairman Dennis Webster of Bible Baptist Church, Ennis; Vice-chairman Chad Spence of Landmark Baptist Church, Red Oak; Treasurer Charles Trull of Twin Cities Baptist Temple, Wake Village; and Secretary Don Smith of Garrett Baptist Church, Garret. The GIBF of Texas now has seven home missions projects supported monthly. Meetings are held b-monthly. Host pastor Terry Williams is the GIBF National Vice-Moderator.

Great Week at Youth Camp in the Northwest

A report by Dan Edick

The Northwest Baptist Senior Youth Camp, June 29th – July 9th, held each year in a camp facility near Spokane, Washington, saw the Lord do great things in the summer of 2009. The power of God was clearly upon the camp. This year Pastor Sam Davison of Southwest Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He preached with fire in every service. The Monday night message on “High-handedness” set the stage, breaking down the pride that so often keeps God from doing the work He desires to do in hearts. By Friday night 114 of the over 320 in attendance had responded to God in some way; 25 of those were teenagers who trusted Christ as Savior.

Also, preaching and teaching during the week were Bro. Garry Matheny, missionary to Romania; Bro. Tyrone Jackson, missionary to Trinidad; Bro. Tom Wallace, missionary to England; and Bro. Joel Reasoner, missionary going to Russia. Each day hearts became increasingly tender as the Word of God “broke up the fallow ground” in the hearts of teenagers as well as adult counselors. It was a great week!

COEBA Conference convenes in Virginia

A report by Larry Clanton

The Conference On Evangelizing Black America (COEBA) convened July 6-9, 2009 at the Crossroads Baptist Church in Bailey’s Crossroads, Virginia, where Bro. Lou Baldwin is pastor.

The COEBA national gathering takes place the first of July every year, and this year was a special “Homecoming Meeting” as it was held in the home church of the movement. Pastor Baldwin and the Crossroads Baptist Church founded COEBA in 1993 for the purpose of starting New Testament Baptist churches in areas of America that had predominantly black populations – not just for black people but for all people in unreached areas of needy cities.

With the understanding that “social and political inclinations of our day should have no impact on God’s ability to accomplish His will” and that “religion, racism, multiculturalism and traditionalism have failed black people in America.” Bro. Baldwin along with his family and church followed the Bible system of church planting and established a mission which endeavors to reach the world through starting churches in needy cities across the USA. Bro. Sam Davison once said, “Praise God for Lou Baldwin and COEBA – a gift from God to Black America.”

The COEBA national conference features preaching – great preaching! There is also great music and sweet Christian fellowship. Revival broke out in the services this year; there were great invitations along with shouting and praising to God. The meeting is not political, it is Biblical. It is not denominational, it is independent Baptist. All are welcome. My wife, Lois, and I have been going for many years and we have always been fed and blessed. A special treat this year was that the conference gathered in the nation’s capital. Lois and I were able to visit some of the greatest places in our wonderful history; among them was the church where George Washington attended, and we saw the very pew he sat in. On the church wall was written the Ten Commandments and the Apostle’s Creed.

Praise God, through the efforts of COEBA more than 25 churches have been planted. And those churches are now supporting missionaries all over the world to the tune of millions of dollars. The Bible plan works in whatever country, culture or condition. You can get information by calling (703) 845-0286, or by referencing [www.coeba.org]. Next year’s conference is scheduled for July 5-8, 2010.

W.L. Smith Ministers in Fiji

A report by the editor

During the month of July, 2009, Bro. W.L. “Bill” Smith traveled to the islands of Fiji in the South Pacific. His ministry included several opportunities to serve the Lord together with six missionaries and three national pastors.

He was hosted in the home of missionaries Bro. and Mrs. Duane Onley, and had the privilege to preach in six different churches on the islands (two of which were new church plants). A total of seventeen were saved.

One feature of Bro. Smith’s G.L.O.B.E. ministry (Global League of Baptist Missions) is his special series of courses, ‘The Biblical Bible’ – a practical Bible he has conducted in scores of foreign countries at churches, youth and family camps, staff worker retreats and Bible colleges.

Two of those courses, “Distinctive Marks of a Baptist Church” and “Churches in the Ministry” were taught in Fiji at the Lighthouse Baptist Church where Bro. Navi Bola is the pastor, and at South Pacific Baptist College. A total of 80 folks took the courses and 14 Bible college students received credits for their work.
The only items needed are bedding, towels, and toiletries.

Bible College by the Kansas City, Missouri. Special music will be provided by the GloryBound Quartet from Heartland Baptist Church in Kansas City. Pastors Dwight Scott of South Valley Baptist Church in Kuna, Idaho; and Pastor Dean Herring of Bannister Road Baptist Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Scheduled speakers are Pastor Donald Duck of Crown College, because Clarence Sexton wants him to preach the final message of his national youth conference.

Times: Last question: any comment on the current U.S. president?

Baldwin: I am totally, TOTALLY against his philosophy and principles. He does not stand for anything that I stand for. But in other ways, I am supportive of him.

I am disappointed in fundamental Christianity because of the negative comments said from the pulpit about the President personally, and about his family. I am trying to disciple black people (and some white preachers that I identify with) who attack Barack Obama personally that such attacks make it difficult to reach someone who came out of traditionalism. I get calls from black people about that. Traditionalism holds any black politician in high esteem. I think we made a terrible mistake with Obama. I said he is selfish, he is a liberal, and I think we should clearly attack his policies instead of making it a fight against the man and his family. We must learn how to separate that in fundamentalism.

Some think they can get in the pulpit on Sunday morning and preach against Barack Obama just like they preached against Martin Luther King, rather than preaching the Bible. They don’t realize that it hurts those black people who are listening. They’ve been waiting all their lives to be able to sit in a church service with a black pastor and hear the Bible preached in the black community. Very few have had this experience. They don’t realize that it hurts those black people who are listening. They’ve been waiting all these years for a black president and even though he's not right, he’s still black. Policy-wise, he does not stand for anything I stand for; but I hope God will turn him around. But, that is a whole different subject; and besides, around here we do not preach politics, we preach the Bible. I tell people we are to be committed to the Bible, to pray for our country and, even though we do not agree with his policies, we still need to pray for the President. Also, a large percentage of fundamental white Christians think I am totally against his philosophy and principles. He does not stand for anything that I stand for. But in other ways, I am supportive of him.

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As I see it, habit changing (course changing) is what it’s all about.
For those who don’t know, we looked forward to national fellowship meetings. What a members. Many can’t get enough of it. I have always preachers and our wives love fellowship, as do our church want in our grandchildren apply to all of us, too. Grandma and Grandpa will buy the balloons and get into the fracas with the grandkids, but we will not let them do the same. Even though we may not use that term, we should want to be a godly influence in their favorites of ours has been to buy small balloons to great time when they are with us. However, we also teach them that we can leave a tract behind and the workers will be happy to distribute them. We believe that separation from the world begins with separation unto God. We don’t intend for our students to think they are the only ones living for Christ, but we do intend that they desire to live together. To what purpose? That they get to know one another in Christ can, by His grace, keep it up!

Finally, we are unashamedly committed to academic excellence. While we believe in an emphasis on Spirit-empowered preaching, we also believe such preaching is enabled by a systematic study and knowledge of truth (see II Tim. 2:15). Scriptural and practical training is important. Florida Baptist College and Bruce Turner have an unyielding commitment to all “truth” being judged in the light of God’s Truth. We are not going where the secular crowd is going; therefore we have no interest in using or adapting their vehicle (secular education). Our education majors will leave FBC with a firm conviction from scripture that God is the source of wisdom and understanding, and that the vehicle designed to impart those virtues has always been His institution (church).

Our country has raised a generation of secularists who haven’t a clue as to what we know: wisdom begins with God, comes from God, and belongs to God.

This fall, as Florida Baptist College pursues another new academic and spiritual year, we do so with a clear understanding and anticipation of the soon-coming of our Savior. Therefore, it is with a sense ofUYLS8h cravings, we begin year number five, knowing that what we do for Christ we must do NOW.

Notes from the Mailbag

Bro. Lydick,
How much is it for our church to put an ad in the Baptist Times in a business card size?

Pastor Fidel Hughes
Mesa, Arizona

Bro. Hughes,
As of right now, the Church Ad page proposal that was presented in GIBF Meeting in Phoenix has been put on hold, due to some serious illness in the staff. The proposal will have to wait until, probably at the earliest, the first of next year. When it once again becomes a real prospect, we will promote it and enlist for it. You can, however, currently place your church on the Church Listing page (Page 11 each issue) for $57 flat rate per year. (We also offer a Classified Ads section, expressly for staffing, equipment and such; the rate is $4.00 per line in a 3” column, no photos.)

Thank you for your interest in the matter; I know there may be others confused by the lack of action to this point and you have given me an opportunity to explain the delay. Best regards; and thanks again.

Bro. Lydick,
I sure would like to continue receiving the e-paper. Thank you for the good work. I pray you can, by His grace, keep it up.

Missionary John Spoelstra
The Netherlands

Thank you, Bro. Spoelstra, for your kind words, and especially for your interest in the paper and moral support. You will continue to receive a PDF copy. God bless you and your good work there in the “Old Country!”

Editor’s Note: For those who don’t know, we are currently unable to send a hard copy of the Baptist Times overseas (unless it is sent by way of a missionary’s sending church – we will do that). Instead, we email a PDF version of each issue, and missionaries usually receive that long before the printed issue. Instead, we email a PDF version of each issue, and missionaries usually receive that long before the printed issue. You can, however, currently place your church in the Classifieds section, expressly for staffing, equipment and such (the rate is $4.00 per line in a 3” column, no photos.)

Thank you for your interest in the matter; I know there may be others confused by the lack of action to this point and you have given me an opportunity to explain the delay. Best regards; and thanks again.

Editor,
I would like to notify you of my intent to cease subscription. I have received the Baptist Times for many years and have appreciated the information gleaned from the GBT. If you are interested in this material, you can subscribe to the Baptist Times for an excellent publication. The information gleaned from the GBT is well worth the $15 rate.

Pastor Dennis Ulehy
Manhattan, Kansas

Thank YOU, Bro. Ulehy, for both the kind words and the subscription. It is encouraging to know we are a blessing and a worthy ministry (as we certainly want to be).
## Church Listing

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## Evangelist Listing

- **Dr. Larry Clayton**  
  P.O. Box 29  
  Celina, OH 43722  
  (216) 533-8239  
  DrLarryClayton@AOL.com

- **Evangelist Haakon**  
  New Westminster Mission  
  2079 18th Ave.  
  Kamloops, BC V2C 1S9

- **Evangelist Hall Hightower**  
  21 years of Pastoral Experience  
  Ex-Mormon Bishop  
  Dr. Larry Clayton

- **W.L. “Bill” Smith**  
  Global League of Baptist  
  4320 E. 148th St.  
  Cleveland, OH 44110  
  (216) 533-8239  
  DrLarryClayton@AOL.com

- **Evangelist Steven H. Otten**  
  Call: (402) 305-1001  
  Website: www.stevenotten.com  
  Email: stevenotten@cox.net  
  Decision Ministry of the Southwestern Baptists  
  1011 S. 28th St.  
  Omaha, NE 68112

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**Quotable “Quotes”**

“Trials are not for God to learn about you – He knows everything; trials are for you to learn out about God.”  
— Jon Stoner

“Having now lived as long as I have, I like the two old women who were sitting in their rocking chairs on the porch of the rest home, and one says to the other, ‘I’m so old, all my friends who’ve gone to heaven think I didn’t make it.’”  
— R.O. Woodworth

“There is absolutely not one scintilla of evidence in the Bible or out of it that the church was founded or began on Pentecost. If those who claim Pentecost as the birthday of the church will search the records they will find that any church born on that day or afterwards is too late to receive any commission from our Lord...it follows, scripturally and logically, that any church born on Pentecost or any day thereafter has no commission from our Lord to do anything and must be a human institution and not a divine one.”  
— J.T. Moore

“My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.”  
— Thomas Jefferson

“Christians don’t tell lies; they go to church and sing them.”  
— W.A. Toper

“Christ alone can save the world, but Christ cannot save the world alone.”  
— David Livingstone

“When anyone in a society gets something for nothing it means that there are others who get nothing for something...A lot of us want something-for-nothing, or at least something-for-less, and so we create ‘The State’ in our own image. Only a moral transformation will change that image, and nothing short of it will topple ‘The State.’ A people with larceny in their souls will eventually write a form of theft into their statutes, as we have done. If people do covet their neighbor’s property they will surely find legal ways to get their hands on it, and a pliant ‘social conscience’ will bend around to approve. We will invent ‘The Welfare State’ – an oxymoronic term if ever there was one!”  
— Edmund A. Opitz

“Every other religion says ‘do.’ True Christianity says ‘done!’ The great transaction is done, and we are simply invited to believe it.”  
— J. Vernon McGee

“He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money.”  
— Benjamin Franklin

“If my preaching rubs your fur the wrong way, then turn the cat around.”  
— Curtis Hutson

“Soul-winning and separation are not in contradiction to each other, but in complimentary relationship to each other. The same Apostle who frequently appealed for believers to manifest compassion for the lost, thus ‘making a difference’ in the eternal destiny of souls, was the same apostle who exhorted and pleaded for saints to contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints.”  
— Don Jasmin

“It takes one woman twenty years to make a man of her son, and another woman twenty minutes to make a fool of him.”  
— Helen Rowland

“Outside a dog, a book is man’s best friend; but inside a dog, it’s too dark to read.”  
— Grocho Marx

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The Greatest Job in the World
By Mrs. Tresa Scholz
Florissant, Colorado

It was a bright, sunny Sunday morning. I woke up thankful that God allowed me to enjoy it. The air was crisp but the sun was warm on my face. I wasn’t exactly sure why, but it seemed I had a spring in my step.

My family and I made our way to our little country church, and as usual, we arrived there much earlier than anyone else. Our two little boys and their mile-wide smiles make wonderful greeters at the front door. We watched an unfamiliar car pull up and some visitors walked to the door. The lady greeted me with an enthusiastic handshake and even a hug. Her husband also greeted me with a firm handshake and a warm smile, but he asked me a question that left me stammering. He said, “So are you the pastor here?” I stumbled about trying to find some kind way to say, “NO WAY!” I finally answered him, “No sir, my husband is the pastor here; I am his wife.” Thankfully our gracious song leader rescued me and began to explain to him why we do not believe in him, “No sir, my husband is the pastor here; I am his wife.”

I am amazed that God allows me the opportunity to be my husband’s biggest cheerleader. “An encourager...has his place” (1 Thess 5:11). I want to be the man created for the woman; but the woman for the representative.” 1 Corinthians 11:9 states, “Neither was the man created for the woman, but the woman for the man.” I was created for my man, to be a helpmeet for God’s man. Although there are many women pastors. I think it was that very moment that I realized how thankful I was for MY job.

I am amazed that God allows me the opportunity to serve Him. I am even more thankful that God allows me to serve Him right alongside my husband, who is also my pastor. And I am thankful for all those in my life who have taught me and invested in my lives in mine. I can honestly say that I have the greatest job in the world—I ama helper for God’s man. Although there are many “helps” a wife can provide in her role as helpmeet, I will mention only four.

1. Encourage Your Husband
Satan and his host are always working very hard against anything godly or right. Satan revels in nothing greater than to see a preacher—a messenger of the gospel—hang his head in discouragement and defeat. It wasn’t until a few months after my husband became pastor of this little church in the mountains, that I began to realize the weight on his shoulders. There is a very real spiritual battle going on in the ministry, especially when the gospel is being preached and souls are responding. The word “encourage” means “to give courage to; to increase confidence or strength of mind.” I am learning that the preacher’s wife must strive to find every opportunity to build him up and encourage his heart. Many times he will feel as if he is standing for right all alone. I want to be my husband’s biggest cheerleader.

2. Minister to Your Husband and with Your Husband
The truth of the matter is that in our church I, too, am a pastor—not the pastor, mind you, but a helper to the pastor (my husband). Webster defines “minister” to be “a chief servant; one to whom a king or prince entrusts the direction of affairs of state (or home); a delegate, a representative.” 1 Corinthians 3:9 states, “Neither was the man created for the woman, but the woman for the man.” I was created for my man, to be a helpmeet expressly for him. I take God’s Word literally, especially when it speaks to my role as a wife. My goal is to help him in any way I possibly can. My purpose is to always look for needs that he might have and aim to fulfill those needs, even before he asks.

Since my husband is the pastor, then our whole family has the opportunity to minister and serve others together. There are countless times when my husband NEEDS me by his side for integrity’s sake. Being there for him is important, being an integral part of his ministry. My husband believes firmly that our entire family is in the ministry together. Even at times when our children and I cannot be with him, we are praying for him. What better way to teach children how to serve the Lord than to do it together as a family! Make your husband’s life your life.

3. Love Your Husband
Since I was raised in a pastor’s home, I am well aware that the pastor is not always liked. He sometimes takes the brunt of people’s anger and their verbal abuse. He is commanded by God to “speak the truth in love” (Eph 4:15), but it is not always received well. Therefore the pastor’s home needs to be a haven, a place full of love. Home is the place where he must know he will be loved unconditionally (Titus 2:4).

It is the wife who sets the tone of the home. Remember that he needs his wife to be his sweetheart and lover. It is very easy to get caught up in the busyness of the ministry and neglect the most important earthly relationship we have. Love is an expression that, for a woman, starts in her heart and mind. Plan ahead for ways to express your love to your husband.

4. Pray for Your Husband
Mrs. Terri Chappell, author of It’s a Wonderful Life, issued a challenge in her book to pastor’s wives. She said make a list of 31 different ways to pray for your husband. She suggested praying specifically for him each day of the month. Pray for his health, strength, and safety. Pray that God will give him wisdom in all his decisions that day. Pray that God will speak to his heart concerning the messages he preaches. Pray that God will protect him from Satan’s fiery darts and attacks. Pray that God will shield him from temptations. Pray that God will direct his every step that day. Pray that God will bless him. Pray, pray, pray for him every time God brings him to your mind.

God has given me the amazing job of encouraging, ministering, and praying for His man. I would not change it even if I could. I truly believe I have the greatest job in the world. This poem, which I found in Church Planting: a Sourcebook from Experience, Vol. I, edited by Tracey Jones and Dan Lydick, sums up the place of a pastor’s wife pretty well:

The Pastor’s Wife
By T.R. Buzzard
In the shadow of the parsonage stands a figure oft’obscure. Just behind the faithful preacher is his wife, devout and pure. She is with him every moment helping make his work progress. And you can’t discount her portion in his measure of success. Off behind the scene of action, often never seen or heard: Yet she stands forever ready just to give a helping word. It is not in active service that her worth is really shown, But in bearing heavy burdens that to others are unknown. With encouragement and vision she must urge God’s servant on – When the duties are the laptop and his courage about gone. With her home forever open, and her work quite never done, She sees her lieutenant in the battles fought and won.

LEAVE ROOM FOR GOD
By Oswald Chambers

As workers for God we have to learn to make room for God—to give God “elbow room.” We calculate and estimate and say that this and that will happen, and we forget to make room for God to come in as He chooses. Would we be surprised if God came into our meeting or into our preaching in a way we had never looked for Him to come? Do not look for God to come in any particular way, but look for Him. That is the way to “make room” for Him. Expect Him to come, but do not expect Him only in a certain way. However much we may know God, the great lesson to learn is that at any minute He may break in. We are apt to overlook this element of surprise, yet God never works in any other way. All of a sudden, God meets the life—an unexpected element of surprise breaks in. We are apt to overlook this element of surprise, yet God never works in any other way. All of a sudden, God meets the life—an unexpected element of surprise breaks in. Keep your life so constant in its contact with God that His surprising power may break out on the right hand and on the left. Always be in a state of expectancy, and see that you leave room for God to come in as He likes.