

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP | MUSIC | STUDENT LIFE | LADIES MINISTRY | MISSIONS | CHRISTIAN LIVING

the BaptistVoice

THEBAPTISTVOICE.COM

FROM LANCASTER BAPTIST CHURCH TO WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE

— LET YOUR —
LIGHT
— SO —
SHINE

Matthew 5:14–16

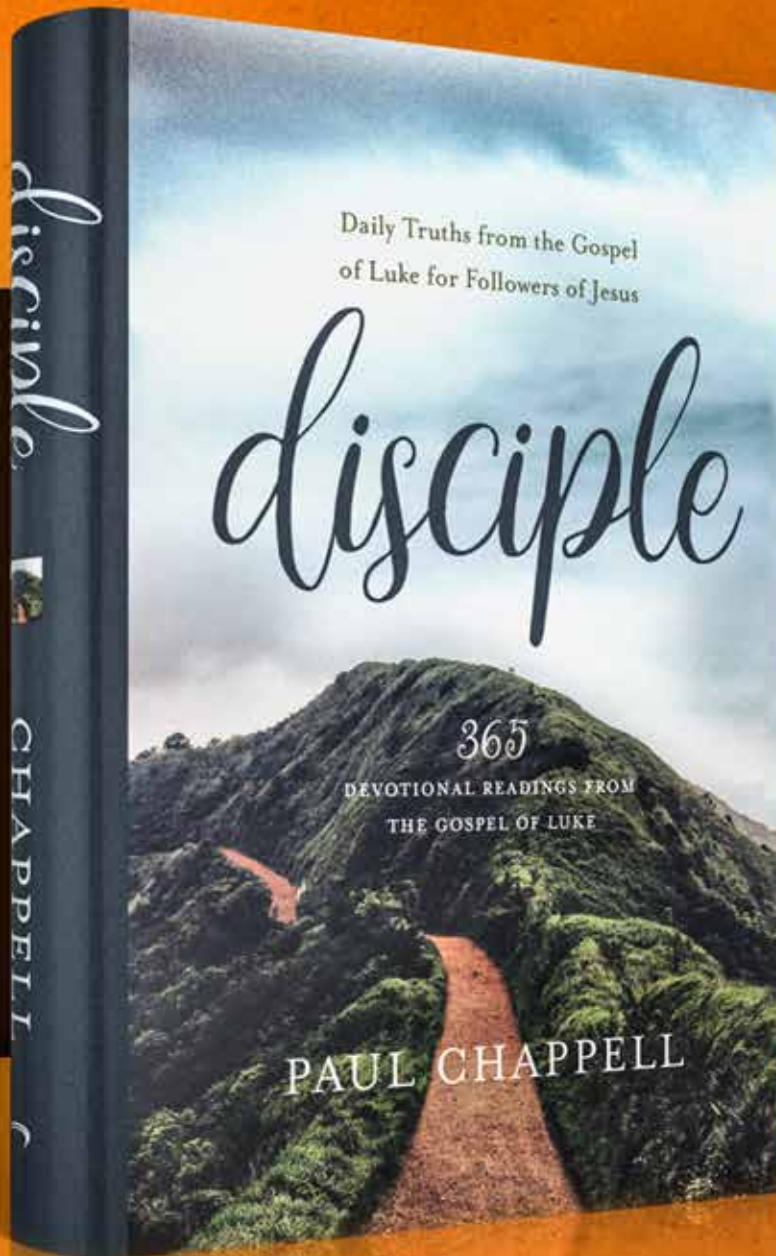
**“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed
thereto according to thy word.”**

—PSALM 119:9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Each daily reading in *Disciple* will take you on a journey through the Gospel of Luke and the chronological account of the life of Christ.

The readings conclude with a solid takeaway principle which you can apply to your life immediately. As these brief devotions draw you closer to the Lord, you'll be challenged and encouraged to follow Jesus more closely and to walk with Him in practical ways throughout each day.



Available at StrivingTogether.com


Striving Together
PUBLICATIONS

DR. PAUL CHAPPELL

CONSISTENT OUTREACH

When Terrie and I moved to Lancaster over thirty years ago, I began an eighteen-month season of intense personal outreach. Every week, I would knock on no less than five hundred doors personally.

But my goal was not to personally evangelize the Antelope Valley. My goal was to lead Lancaster Baptist Church in reaching our community with the gospel. As a pastor, I've endeavored to lead our church in consistent soulwinning and outreach in several ways:

PREACH ABOUT THE COMMAND AND NEED

I regularly preach on the priority of our obedience to the Great Commission as a church and highlight the need of the people of our community to hear the gospel from compassionate Christians.

HAVE TWO KICKOFFS PER YEAR

These are times when you invite the entire church family to sign up or re-sign up for weekly outreach and a new soulwinning partner.

PROVIDE TIMES AND PLACES TO MEET

At Lancaster Baptist, we have multiple weekly soulwinning opportunities and provide resources for outreach at each meeting. These resources include maps of our community with specific streets highlighted as well as visits for new move-ins, recent guests, prospects people in our church have given, and absentee visits.



Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell speaks during the funeral service for slain Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sgt. Steve Owen at Lancaster Baptist Church.

IRFAN KHAN / LOS ANGELES TIMES

ASK NEW MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE

Even though you will preach about evangelism and publically announce opportunities, many people need someone to ask them personally, "Will you come soulwinning with me this Thursday night?"

SET AN EXAMPLE

I don't go soulwinning full-time, five days a week like I could when our church was smaller, but I still go regularly. And I believe it is important for our church family to know that I do. Our deacons, staff, children's teachers, and adult Bible class leaders are also faithful in coming to regularly-scheduled times of outreach.

Because the Great Commission is the primary responsibility of the local church, this issue of *The Baptist Voice* is dedicated to helping you carry out the Great Commission—as a personal soulwinner. I trust that you will be encouraged to bring the light of the gospel to the lost through these practical articles and resources. 🍎



SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP PODCAST RELAUNCH

We are excited to announce a relaunch of the Spiritual Leadership Podcast! While past episodes were primarily audio, the new podcast will include video episodes. Each monthly episode will focus on practical ministry leadership. Episodes will dedicate time to answering questions and addressing topics submitted to qa@lancasterbaptist.org. (Feel free to email your questions!) You can subscribe to the podcast via iTunes, Stitcher, or YouTube.



the Baptist Voice

FROM LANCASTER BAPTIST CHURCH & WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE

WINTER 2017, ISSUE 29

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

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ABOUT THE BAPTIST VOICE

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A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of several palm trees against a clear, bright blue sky. The trees are silhouetted against the sky, with their fronds appearing dark and detailed. The perspective makes the trees appear to converge towards the top of the frame. A large, bright yellow diagonal shape is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

LANCASTER BAPTIST

AROUND OUR CAMPUS

THE PAST SEVEN MONTHS

GratITUDE is a word that best describes our response as we look back over the past seven months of ministry at Lancaster Baptist Church. We praise the Lord for the many victories we were able to experience.

Souls were saved, new believers were baptized, new converts were disciplined, graduates were commissioned, and the gospel of Christ was preached faithfully every week. As with any church, God's blessings have not been without the trials. Yet through every obstacle, our faith

has increased. We serve the Lord in uncertain days and in a culture that is becoming increasingly antagonistic to the gospel of Jesus Christ. But we still believe the best days of Lancaster Baptist Church are yet ahead! Why that confidence? Cultures shift, but God's Word never changes. Christ Himself promised, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). We believe that promise and look to the coming months with faith-filled anticipation. Here is a quick look at the past seven months:



1. WCBC GRADUATION

THE GRADUATING CLASS STOOD IN UNISON committing to the doctrines of the Scripture and a life separated unto God. They are now a part of the 2,226 West Coast Baptist College graduates who are pastors, assistant pastors, youth pastors, Christian school teachers, missionaries, and other full-time servants.

2. THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

On June 12, Lancaster Baptist Church celebrated thirty years of ministry and hosted the annual Spiritual Leadership Conference. Delegates from forty-nine states and twelve foreign countries attended services and sessions designed to encourage and equip them for the work of Christ. Dr. Chappell preached the opening message Monday evening then drove to Kaiser Sunset in Hollywood to be with his grandson who had surgery on his lung (which had collapsed). In the midst of this trial, it was clear God's anointing was on the remainder of the conference. We focused on the theme "Continue" from 2 Timothy 3:14, and the love and common heart of God's people to continue was amazingly refreshing.

Listen to services and sessions when you visit slconference.com.





4. SERGEANT STEVE OWEN FUNERAL SERVICE

HOSTED AT LANCASTER BAPTIST CHURCH

3. LADIES CONFERENCE

DURING THE WEST COAST BAPTIST LADIES CONFERENCE, ladies from across the country were challenged to live God's will for their lives and were encouraged to trust God on each step of life's journey. Mrs. Terrie Chappell and special speakers Trish McCoy and Kelly Rasmussen prepared sessions that helped ladies draw closer to the Lord.



THOUSANDS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS of the community gathered to pay their respects to slain Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sgt. Steve Owen at Lancaster Baptist Church. Sergeant Owen was fatally shot while responding to a burglary call on October 5. A few years prior, Steve and his wife Tania attended LBC to hear Pastor Chappell preach a series of prophetic messages. Steve's salvation testimony was clear to all who knew him. During the funeral service, Owen's daughter and two sons spoke of their father's devotion to God and to their family. The nearly three-hour service was nationally televised. People who would have otherwise never visited church heard a clear presentation of the gospel that day.



5. RANCHO VISTA

Lancaster Baptist Church is one church with multiple campuses. That is why in September we began the New Life Rancho Vista Campus located about twenty-five minutes west of our main campus. Peter Mordh serves as the campus pastor. Every Sunday Pastor Chappell's sermon is projected on a high definition screen in a state-of-the-art high school auditorium. Forty-four people have been saved and eleven baptized since this new campus started. An average of over 130 people attend.

6. OPEN HOUSE

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY REALLY BEGAN in September with our 4Outreach Program. Leading up to this very special event, we reached out to our valley in a variety of ways. Through strategic door-knocking, soulwinning, and a community-wide newsletter, we saturated nearly 100,000 homes in our valley with the gospel. On October 9, a record number of guests from around the community visited our church for the first time. Pastor Chappell preached from John 3 on the miracle of new life. People from both services responded to be saved. Afterwards, we hosted a meal for LBC members and their guests. Please pray for the follow up of these precious souls.



7. SOUTH CAMPUS

The Walther Center now provides the much needed space for the Lancaster Baptist Church Spanish congregation to conduct their weekly worship services. The new South Campus buildings, located directly across from the Walther Center, provide 16,560 square feet of space for this growing and important part of our Antelope Valley community. This new addition is used for Spanish Sunday school classrooms, children's ministry, and nurseries. It is also used during the week for additional educational space for Lancaster Baptist School. We thank the Lord for how He is developing this part of our campus.



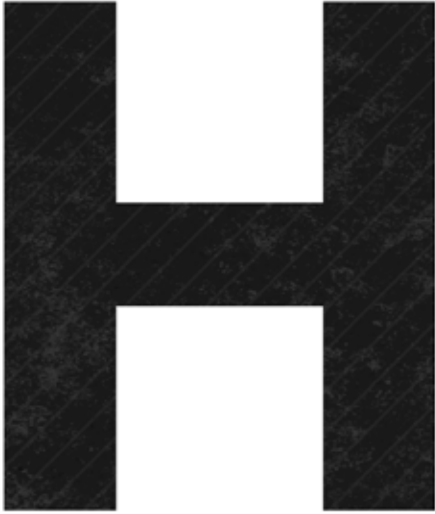
8. MISSIONS CONFERENCE



Missions Conference was a tremendous time to both learn about other nations and see how God's love works around the world. We had the privilege last October to meet twenty-two missionaries who have dedicated their lives to sharing God's love and reaching souls for eternity. Twelve of those missionary families were graduates of West Coast Baptist College. One of those graduates was Sam Hutchens, a missionary to New Zealand, who was ordained Monday evening of the conference. Our special speakers included Dr. Don Sisk, Dr. David Snyder, Dr. John Halsey, Dr. Bryan Stensaas, and Pastor Sogoro Ogawa. God blessed the conference in a very special way. He provided for us to support twelve new missionaries and church planters.



BY PAUL CHAPPELL



HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT IT'S SOMETIMES EASIER TO SHARE THE gospel with strangers than with unsaved family or friends? My wife, Terrie, was saved as a ten-year-old through the outreach efforts of a nearby Baptist church. Her mom was saved within a few years, but her dad refused the gospel for years.

When Terrie and I began dating, I began praying with her for her dad's salvation. I tried to witness to him. Although he gave me permission to marry his daughter (as he sat polishing his rifle—no joke), he wasn't interested in the gospel.

You had to meet my father-in-law to appreciate Terrie's and my courage to continue witnessing to him. His name was Como Cosmo Bianco, and he had a personality that matched his name. A large Italian man, he had been an alcoholic for as long as Terrie could remember, and evidences of his rough life showed in his tough exterior.

Over the years, I continued to witness to Como whenever I could—which was rare, since he usually cut me off when I started. Terrie and I continued to pray for him, and we looked for every opportunity to show love and build our relationship with him.

Finally, almost ten years after we had been married, I tried again. I still don't understand exactly why, other than the work of the Holy Spirit, but this time, Como listened and placed his faith in Christ. From that day forward, Como was a changed man. He loved the Lord, and he reflected that to his family.

A few years later, Como died during what was supposed to be a relatively basic heart surgery. Just before the surgery, he reminded all of us gathered in his hospital room for prayer that he knew where he was going because he knew the Saviour.

When we received the call that Como had gone to Heaven, I was so thankful that we had continued to pray for and witness to him even though at times we wondered if he would ever be saved.

Perhaps you too have a "Como" in your family or among your coworkers—

someone you have witnessed to, but who has rejected the gospel. Sometimes it is easy to give up on people like Como. Sometimes it's easier to develop the habit of sharing the gospel weekly with strangers than it is to continue sharing the gospel with a lost family member or friend. And sometimes it's easy, even while sharing the gospel with others at scheduled times, to miss windows of opportunity to present the gospel in an everyday encounter.

Acts 8:4 tells us of the early Christians, "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word." How do we also develop this "everywhere mentality" when we are ready to share the gospel at all times and to see fruit among our friends and family?

Allow me to suggest four ways you can let your light shine.

SEE PEOPLE AS SOULS

Although we believe the Great Commission is worthy of—and even calls for—purposed times and strategic plans for spreading the gospel, there is a danger in using only those purposed times and strategic plans for sharing the gospel. In reality, however, we are surrounded by people who need the Lord—some of which are our family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors. We want to lead them to Christ as well, even if not on a Thursday night at 6:30 or a Saturday morning at 10:00.

The Bible tells us that when Jesus "saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them" (Matthew 9:36). We too easily see people and are moved with frustration at the inconveniences they may bring, or we are moved by intimidation of what they might say if we spoke up with the truth.

Every person has an eternal soul, and you and I know the truth of salvation. Remember the eternity of a soul as you encounter people throughout your day or week, and it will help to make you more mindful of developing relationships with people with whom you want to share the gospel.

LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES

We have a tendency to “miss the forest for the trees.” But there are people all around us who need the Lord. How can you see and seize these opportunities? By specifically looking for them!

For instance, when you make a specific

But do you remember who led Peter to Christ? It was his brother, Andrew. John 1:41 says of Andrew, “He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.” Andrew’s faithfulness to witness to his own family played a part in the backstory to Pentecost—even though Andrew himself didn’t preach the powerful sermon of Pentecost. When you and I steward the relationships God has given us, only God knows the outcome of that faithfulness!

God has placed specific relationships in your life—family, neighbors, co-workers, friends, and even briefer acquaintances such as your barber

**THERE ARE PEOPLE ALL AROUND US WHO NEED THE LORD.
HOW CAN YOU SEE AND SEIZE THESE OPPORTUNITIES? BY
SPECIFICALLY LOOKING FOR THEM! THEY’RE EVERYWHERE!**

soulwinning visit, go also to the homes on both sides of the people you originally purposed to visit, invite them to church, and see if there is an openness for you to share the gospel with them.

When you’re going through the checkout counter at a store, give the clerk a tract with an invitation to your church.

When a coworker tells you about a difficult situation in his life, offer to pray for him, and then tell him what a difference knowing Christ personally makes in your life.

You would be surprised how many opportunities there are to share the gospel when you are looking for them. First Thessalonians 2:4 says, “But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.” You and I too were “put in trust with the gospel.” And we should look for opportunities to share it with those around us.

STEWARD RELATIONSHIPS

Less than two months after Jesus rose from the dead, the Apostle Peter preached in Jerusalem, and Acts 2:41 records, “the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” What an incredible victory for the gospel as Peter preached that day!

or accountant or child’s soccer coach. See these relationships as a gift from the Lord, and nurture them for the purpose of sharing the gospel.

You may not share the gospel every time you see that person. For instance, if every time I saw my neighbor outside, I invited him to church and asked him if he is on his way to Heaven, pretty soon, he’d start avoiding me and tuning out everything I say to him. But if I nurture a relationship with him, asking the names of his family members and complimenting his lawn and am careful not to be a difficult neighbor myself, I’ll have more of an entrance into his life.

Of course, I’m not suggesting that you don’t witness to someone the first time you meet them. When we have a new neighbor move in, Terrie makes cookies or banana bread, and we go over to meet and welcome them and often invite them to church in that first visit. But what I am suggesting is that if a particular moment isn’t the right time or the person doesn’t respond to the gospel the first time you share it with them, continue to nurture that relationship.

There are two specific ways you can do this.

First, pray for that person. Begin praying regularly for the salvation of your unsaved family members and others with whom you have

regular contact. God uses prayer to soften people's hearts. Praying for them will also make you more observant of opportunities that do arise to share the gospel.

Second, be careful to maintain a good testimony for the Lord. If your coworkers see you being dishonest in your work or your neighbors hear you always losing your temper, they're not going to be open to what you have to share with them. On the other hand, if your extended family sees you loving them when they mock your faith, or your friends see you standing for Christ when it is unpopular, over time, they will see in your life what you are trying to also share with your words.

This is what Philippians 2:14–15 speaks of when it says, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world."

Think of it this way: another Christian may have the opportunity of a chance-encounter to tell the gospel to them, but you have the opportunity to also live the gospel before them. Use that opportunity wisely.

OBEDY EVERY PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

One of my favorite soulwinning stories in the New Testament is that of Philip and the Ethiopian man in Acts 8. As you read these verses, picture yourself in Philip's shoes—first, as the Lord tells you to go to the desert (not where you would expect to find someone and share the gospel with him) and then as He tells you to run and catch up with the royal caravan from Ethiopia:

"And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot" (Acts 8:26–29).

I can imagine that Philip could have felt uncomfortable with these instructions. But what Philip didn't know is that God had already been working in the Ethiopian man's heart. In fact, the man was right at that moment reading Isaiah 53

and had questions about it that led to a natural presentation of the gospel.

"And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away; and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:30–35).

Because Philip obeyed the Holy Spirit, as awkward as it may have felt to do so, this man was saved.

When the Holy Spirit nudges your heart to speak to someone about salvation, don't ignore His prompting. Even though the situation may not feel comfortable for you to speak up, you have no idea how God is already preparing the hearts around you. But He knows, and He does prompt us to witness for Him at just the right moments.

This is one reason why it is important that we seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit indwells us at the moment of salvation (Ephesians 1:13), but being filled with the Spirit is when we yield to Him and allow Him to control us. Ephesians 5:18 instructs, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."

When we are living in surrender to the Holy Spirit in all areas of our lives, we will be more sensitive and obedient to His promptings to witness as well. And we'll have the opportunity to share the gospel and bear fruit in times and places we never expected. 🍷

Adapted from *Take it Personally* by Paul Chappell (Striving Together Publications, 2016). For more information about this resource, including a companion workbook to use for teaching a soulwinning class, visit strivingtogether.com.



DR. PAUL CHAPPELL is the pastor of Lancaster Baptist Church and the president of West Coast Baptist College



SPONTANEOUS SOULWINNING

BY R.B. OUELLETTE

Nearly twenty years ago, the concept of Friendship Evangelism became popular in evangelical Christianity. The idea was that people could not respond to the gospel immediately. It required our lifestyle and friendship to gradually bring them to faith in Christ over a period of time (usually about

six months). Of course, this was contrary to Scripture and to the behavior of our Lord. Over time, emphasis on this concept faded—at least in independent Baptist churches. There was, however, an element of truth in the concept. It is true that some people do not get saved when we first present the gospel to them. That is why we must witness to them faithfully, patiently, and over a long period of time before we see them trust Christ.

An equally unscriptural error has affected some of us who believe in soulwinning. We have a regularly scheduled time. We go to a determined place. We knock on doors and present the gospel. However, we are often guilty of unscripturally restricting our soulwinning to those scheduled, organized times. We are “on duty” on Thursday night or Saturday morning but consider ourselves to be “off duty” the rest of the week.



AN EXHORTATION

This is contrary to the exhortation of Scripture. Jesus said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). One of the truths that we often miss in the parable of the sower is that three-quarters of the seed was on what we could consider to be poor soil! No farmer plants his seed on the pathway. He does not deliberately put it in shallow ground with rocks

underneath it. He would not sow it in a field infested with weeds. Yet, this sower did all of these things! The teaching is that God wants the seed sown everywhere, not just the places we think are good opportunities.

AN EXAMPLE

It is important for us to consider the example of Christ in this regard. In John 3, Jesus presented the gospel to Nicodemus. Nicodemus had come to ask Him questions. “The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him” (John 3:2). But Jesus raised the issue of Nicodemus’ eternal destiny. “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).

In John 4, Jesus is resting by a well after a wearisome journey. When a lady comes to draw water from the well, our Lord engages her in conversation and she becomes a believer.

In John 5, Jesus has traveled to Jerusalem to attend a feast but he sees a man lying by the Pool of Bethesda and deals with him first about his body (John 5:6–11) and then about his soul (John 5:12–15). In three chapters, we see three converts. None of them were the result of the public ministry of the Lord. Each of them was a “by the way” encounter. There are many similar examples in Scripture. The blind man in John 9 was met “as Jesus passed by.” Zacchaeus in Luke 19 was confronted as “Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.”

AN EXPLANATION

Perhaps a word of explanation is in order as to how we can take advantage of the spontaneous opportunities the Lord presents to us. First, we should be ready. We ought to be armed with gospel

tracts at all times. My friend, Dr. John Wilkerson, often says to his people at First Baptist Church of Hammond, “What kind of Christians pass out tracts? The answer is: those who carry them.”

We ought also to be alert to opportunities. We will cross paths with needy people on a daily basis. Many of them are fertile soil for the seed of the gospel.

I was eating in a restaurant in Turner, Maine, with Pastor Steven Christener, Pastor Gary Wilkins, and some other men of God. I gave the waitress a tract and explained that it told her how to be sure

“GOD WANTS THE SEED SOWN EVERYWHERE, NOT JUST THE PLACES WE THINK ARE GOOD OPPORTUNITIES.”

she was on her way to Heaven. When she came back later, she informed me that she had read the tract, prayed, and asked the Lord Jesus to save her. She shared the gospel with a co-worker in the kitchen who prayed and trusted Christ as well!

On another occasion, I gave a gospel tract to a stewardess on an airplane. After spending some time in the small galley, she came back to me very excited. “I did not know this!” she said.

“I knew number one, that we are all sinners. I knew number two, that the penalty for sin was death in Hell. I had tried not to sin because I did not want to go to Hell. But I did not know that Jesus had already paid the penalty for my sin.”

I made sure she understood the gospel, then asked if she was willing to pray and trust Christ as her Saviour.

“I already did,” she said. “I read the tract and prayed the prayer at the end of it.”

She went on to tell me that her uncle was a preacher, and she faithfully attended church. And yet, though she had been made well aware of her lost

condition, she did not know the salvation that was available in Jesus Christ.

RELY ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

We must also be reliant on the power and direction of the Holy Spirit. It is interesting that the word for Spirit is *pneuma* which means wind or breath. Remember that when Elijah hid in the cave, God was not in the fire, the earthquake, or the mighty wind, but in the “still, small voice.” How many times have we been prompted to go back and give someone a tract? How many times has there been an urging within us to bring up the gospel to someone? How many times have we been prompted by the Spirit but ignored Him?

I was sitting on an airplane in an aisle seat on my way from a preaching meeting. The man in the window seat beside me was drunk, and he did not want to listen to the gospel or anything else! I finally was able to disengage myself from conversation with him, but the Lord reminded me that the lady across the aisle from me was not drunk. Airplane aisles are quite narrow. It was not difficult for me to reach over, give her a tract, talk to her and eventually see her trust Christ as her Saviour.

REACH OUT TO PEOPLE

But if we are to be successful in the opportunities God gives us to witness during our “non-soulwinning” times, we must reach out to people. While many people are open and many people are needy, there is no outward identification to tell us who they are. We do not know until we try. I often say to our church members, “We don’t know which doors are locked and which doors are open until we reach out and turn the knob.”

Often, I start by giving them a gospel tract. I might say, “May I give you some good news? This tells you how to be sure you are on your way to Heaven. I could show you from the Bible how to know where you’ll spend eternity in just a few moments.”

I was on my way to the Philippines on a mission trip. I decided to get my shoes

shined in the San Francisco airport and thought I would try to win the gentleman shining my shoes to Christ. It turned out he was already saved and happy to testify of the Lord Jesus.

Next to me, waiting for a shoeshine, was a pilot for China Airlines. The Holy Spirit reminded me that I did not have to be in the Philippines to engage in “missionary activity.” I spoke to the pilot and he gladly prayed to trust Christ as his Saviour.

The Great Commission is universal in its scope. It not only includes all nations and all people; it is our responsibility at all times.

Recently, while going out to eat lunch with Dr. Paul Chappell, he took me to a store called The Art of Shaving. I was introduced to some wonderful shaving products but something much more important took place. The store was empty except for Dr. Chappell, me, and the lady who worked there. As we chatted about shaving, we introduced the subject of spiritual things. Though we were over an hour away from Lancaster, it turned out this lady had attended Lancaster Baptist several times. Unfortunately, she always left before the invitation because she had to get to work at a bar! When she found out that Paul Chappell was the pastor of Lancaster Baptist, she said, “I thought I recognized your voice!”

Dr. Chappell patiently and carefully presented the gospel to her. It was obvious the Spirit of God was at work on her heart. She not only prayed to trust Christ as Saviour, she thanked us both for taking time to visit with her. She also gave us her contact information to give to Pastor Chappell’s son Matthew who will be starting a church just a few miles from where she lives.

How is your witnessing? Are you looking for opportunities to share your faith with people God allows to cross your path? I challenge you to become a spontaneous soulwinner. 🍷



DR. R.B. OUELLETTE is the pastor of First Baptist Church in Bridgeport, Michigan.

THE PASTOR’S TOOLBOX

Encouraging Your Members to Engage in Spontaneous Soulwinning

TEACH WITNESSING

Teach the concept of witnessing as a companion to soulwinning. Dr. Lee Roberson divided his church into leaders, workers, members, and those to be reached. He wanted members to do five things: Read the Bible, pray, tithe, attend church three times a week, and witness. By witnessing, he did not mean going door-to-door soulwinning. He meant carrying tracts, passing them out, talking to people, and getting names and addresses of those who were interested. I must confess I rebelled against this concept a bit at first. After all, I wanted all members to go soulwinning! One of the men on my staff said, “Preacher, think about it. Almost all of our soulwinners are also workers in some area or another. If we could get the people who do nothing to start witnessing, it would give us more contacts and give our people a starting point in giving out the gospel.”

BE FAITHFUL TO WITNESS

The First Steps class that I teach always starts with “good news” that anyone wishes to share. It is very helpful that I often have an example of someone that I led to Christ. It is also helpful that I have these examples to share in the church services. I want the class, all of whom are new to our church, to get the concept of witnessing and to know that I seek to be faithful at doing it myself.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

The day before Mother’s Day of this year, I witnessed to a lady at the Dollar Store. She promised to come the following week for our Open House Sunday. As I was relating the story during the announcement time of our church service, I saw a hand go up at the back. She had come a week early with her husband and their three children!

HAVE PUBLIC TESTIMONIES

Give public opportunities for people to share their experiences of “out and about” soulwinning. Each of our soulwinning groups begins with people sharing their soulwinning experiences from the previous week. Often on a Sunday night, I’ll ask the people to share the story of someone they’ve been able to lead to Christ recently. Our ushers take the microphone to them in the pew and they tell what the Lord has just helped them to do. While many of these stories will come from our regular soulwinning times, there will also be many that will come from people who are engaged in another activity but took advantage of the spontaneous opportunity to present the gospel.



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WHERE IS THE LIGHT?

*ONE LIGHT CAN EXPEL A LOT
OF DARKNESS SO LONG AS
IT IS SHINING*



BY JOHN GOETSCH

IT

was Saturday afternoon, and we had successfully positioned our trailer in the corner of the church parking lot on the south side of Minneapolis, Minnesota. After getting my family settled, I went to the pastor's office to go over the details of the week of revival and have a time of prayer. As

we were leaving the building about an hour later, he said, "Let me show you where the electrical breaker panel is just in case you lose

your electricity—it's kind of hidden down in the basement." It wasn't uncommon for us to trip a breaker when all six of us were getting ready for church on Sunday morning.

We made our way down the stairs to a large fellowship hall and walked to the opposite end where in a small closet was the panel. He pointed out the breaker switch. I recalled as we walked back across the fellowship hall that there was nothing in that large open area. I thought, "This will be a great place for the kids to play this week while we are here." We climbed the stairs, said, "Good night," and I rejoined my family in the trailer.

With services starting early the next morning, the kids took baths later that night, and we were vacuuming the trailer carpet when sure enough—we tripped the breaker! Everything went dark but we were all used to the drill. Dad would have to find the church key (which in this case was still in my pocket), head to the church, and reset the breaker. With the words “I’ll be right back,” I headed across the parking lot, unlocked the church door, and headed down the stairs to the basement. About half way down the stairs, I realized that the basement was very dark and I couldn’t see a thing. I went back up to the church entry to find a light switch. I was soon to learn that while I knew where the breaker panel was, the Pastor had not pointed out where the light switch was to the stairs or the basement! I searched everywhere I could think of but to no avail.

Thinking it was perhaps at the bottom of the stairs or somewhere near it, I ventured down those dark steps once again. After feeling along the walls in every direction possible without success, I thought, “I’m just going to have to cross the dark abyss of the church fellowship hall without light.” Knowing there was absolutely nothing in that large room, I walked confidently in the darkness toward the small closet at the far end of the building. Suddenly, out of nowhere I was stuck with something metal right in the throat. Gasping for air and holding my throat I scrambled to my feet and ran to the stairway and out the door. Upon arrival in the trailer, I announced to my wife and kids that there was a monster in the church basement and we would have to live in the dark until morning!

At daylight I armed myself with a baseball bat and made my way back to the building. Upon reaching the basement, I was stunned. Something had changed! The room was no longer empty. The teenagers had enjoyed an indoor soccer game late Saturday night, and I had been attacked by the top bar of a soccer goal that had been placed in my path to that closet!

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John

8:12). Many people are confident that they can make it across the room of life without that light. Life is too busy and complicated to search for a light. They mistakenly assume nothing really bad will happen and if it does, they’ll figure it out somehow. If their own knowledge or experience is insufficient, they’ll just find someone else to follow on the broad way that leads to destruction.

But the world is rapidly changing. Life in the twenty-first century is filled with unexpected obstacles. Hazards line the road that lead to the so-called happiness we seek. The path of life is filled with roadblocks, detours, and unexpected accidents that leave people confused, frustrated, angry, and lost. As Christians, we are not the answer in this dark world of sin, but we know the source of light. John the Baptist lived in a culture that likewise had

lost its way. “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:6-9). John knew that the only hope for man was Jesus Christ—the Light of the world. “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world...” (John 1:29).

God has placed us in a world of darkness with one purpose—to be a light! “And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light to them which are in darkness” (Romans 2:19). “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without

“GOD HAS PLACED US IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS WITH ONE PURPOSE—TO BE A LIGHT!”

rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15).

I didn’t sleep much that Saturday night. My throat ached and my heart raced as I dreaded going back into that basement to face the foe in the fellowship hall. I kept thinking, “If only the pastor had shown me where the light switch was located!” Sadly today, many Christians have hidden the light. Whether ashamed, shy, or just plain lazy, we cannot avoid the command of the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

All of the darkness in this world cannot extinguish one light. You may be the only reflection of Light in your family or workplace or even in your community, but let your light shine. One light can expel a lot of darkness so long as it is shining. I didn’t need a spotlight or even an overhead light that night. A simple candle or flashlight would have enabled me to navigate safely across that room. Brighten the corner where you are. God will enable you. This changing world desperately needs you to be a faithful light. 🕯️



DR. JOHN GOETSCH is the Executive Vice President of West Coast Baptist College in Lancaster, California.



A STRATEGY FOR OUTREACH

HOW TO HAVE A SPECIAL DAY IN YOUR CLASS

Most people are somehow under the impression that special days in a church just happen and that the preparation comes together on its own. Having a special day of any kind takes hard work and much preparation if it is to be effective.

Here at Lancaster Baptist Church, we have several “special” days throughout the year, but none of them compare to our annual Open House in October. This is a time when our church family strives together to see as many guests in attendance as we possibly can on the same day. Every year, hours upon hours of preparation are put into every aspect of this one special day, and by God’s grace, we have been able to see many first-time guests attend.

But it doesn’t end there. The week after Open House Sunday, we push for a big day in our connection groups. Some people assume that visitors will automatically come back the next week and get involved just because they were at the church the previous week, but ministry doesn’t work that way. Like my dad always said, “Blessings do not ride piggyback.” We cannot just borrow the momentum from a big day and expect it to carry through into our classes. Here are some ideas that can help us have a tremendous Sunday the week following a special day:

PRAY

James 4:2 says, “...ye have not, because ye ask not.” Oswald Chambers said, “We can do lots of things after we pray, but we can do nothing before we pray!” We have all been guilty of trying to do God’s

work in our own flesh from time to time, but we must remember that the arm of flesh will fail us. This is why we must have God’s power. We should definitely be praying individually that God will bless our efforts and bring guests into the class, but we should also pray as a class. Schedule a class prayer meeting and encourage your members to pray.

MAKE SURE EVERYONE ON YOUR ROSTERS GETS A PERSONAL VISIT

Sometimes as teachers we can get so focused on the people who are on the fringe, that we take for granted those who are faithfully attending our classes. We cannot just expect people to be there. Encourage the ones who haven’t been to class in a while and the faithful ones who come each week.

If you have a larger class and are not able to visit each member the week leading up to the special day, enlist some help from your leaders in the class.

SEND AN EMAIL TO EVERYONE

Send out an email about halfway through the week to remind your class about the upcoming special day and to let them know that you want them to be part of it. If you frequently connect with your class through email, try changing it up by using a graphic, sending a video, or somehow making it look different.

SEND TEXT MESSAGES

Use technology to your advantage! Show someone you care. The Bible says Jesus was “moved with compassion” when He saw the multitudes (Matthew 9:36). Send an individual (not group) text and let him know that you have been praying for him and that you are looking forward to seeing him the next morning.

ORGANIZE A PHONE CALL CAMPAIGN THE SATURDAY BEFORE

Never underestimate the power of a phone call. Have some of your members help by calling to remind people about the special day.

MAIL A POSTCARD

Try to have some postcards printed specifically for your class. Put the information about the special day on it. Include elements like the lesson title, friendly fellowship, special refreshments, and whatever else may apply.

PROVIDE A PROSPECT CARD

Two weeks before the special day, have your members fill out a card with the following information for someone they know who could be a part of the class: name, phone number, email, and address. Also, include these four options that they can choose from: make plans to visit this person with me; contact this person and use my name; contact this person, but keep me anonymous; pray for me as I contact this person.

KNOCK ON EXTRA DOORS

If you want to have a big day, go soulwinning! Challenge your class to go, as well, but lead them by example. God blesses our obedience and faithfulness to go out.

PROVIDE A COMMITMENT CARD

This card should say something like: “I _ commit to be the guest of _ on (date of special day).” Give them out in your class so they can start to commit people to be their guests on the special day.

HAVE A COMPETITION

You could give a \$5 Starbucks gift card to each first-time guest. You could have a competition between the ladies and men. You could also have a focus on inactive members in the class. We recently challenged the leaders in our class with this. I assigned them a new care group and gave each leader an inactive member who hadn't been in over six months. I told them to just pray for him and to ask God to allow him to be the difference maker to help that inactive member be an active member before we reshuffle our care groups again in the spring.

SUPPLY CLASS CARDS TO EVERYONE IN CLASS

Give out class cards the Sunday before to your members so they can pass them out to neighbors or coworkers.

PREPARE YOUR CLASS FOR THIS DAY

Teach your class how to have a special day. Often your own class is as intimidated by first-time guests as first-time guests are by your class. If you are praying for first-time guests, you need to train your class how to treat those guests. Let your class know that you need them to greet guests intentionally, offer the guests a seat by them, sing when it's time to sing choruses, and pay attention during the lesson. The last thing you want is someone distracted by someone falling asleep during the lesson or on half of the class that isn't participating in singing.

REFRESH YOUR WEEKLY CUE CARD

Make sure everything you are doing is to the best of your ability. Evaluate what needs to be refreshed coming into your special day by asking yourself these questions: How do we currently run our class? In what order do we do things? Should anything be done differently?

Should anything be changed or eliminated? Is anything awkward? Is anything irrelevant?

PRINT EXTRA BULLETINS

We need to believe by faith that we are going to have a special day, which means that we should prepare for the harvest that God is going to send. Don't print the same amount of bulletins as you normally do! If you do, you are basically

“Sometimes as teachers we can get so focused on the people who are on the fringe, and we take for granted those who are faithfully attending.”

saying to God that you expect nothing different to happen. If we don't expect something different, it's because we have invested no greater effort. My effort should match my expectation.

ENLIST SPECIAL GREETERS

Train them how to greet a first-time guest—smile, shake their hand, offer them a seat. Make your first-time guests feel like a million dollars and treat them like royalty. You may even need some greeters outside of the classroom ready to help first-time guests find your class.

COORDINATE EXTRA REFRESHMENTS

Plan for extra guests and have your class members get involved. Don't run out of coffee or donuts! Confirm with your class members the day before to make sure you are covered.

PREPARE A QUALITY LESSON

When we are involved in the preparation for a special day, sometimes we wait until Saturday night to put together our lesson. “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). Be sure that you are prepared to stand and teach the Word of God and that the presentation is right. Also, make sure that the lesson is practical.

HAVE EXTRA CONNECTION CARDS

Make sure all first-time guests receive a connection card to fill out. This will enable them to provide their contact information. Get more members involved to help you get these filled out and turned in to the class secretary.

FOLLOW UP

After a special day, we have an intense amount of follow-up. Visit each person who visited your class. Thank him for coming and see if he has any questions. Look for opportunities to share the gospel and lead him to the Lord.

SEND THANK YOU NOTES

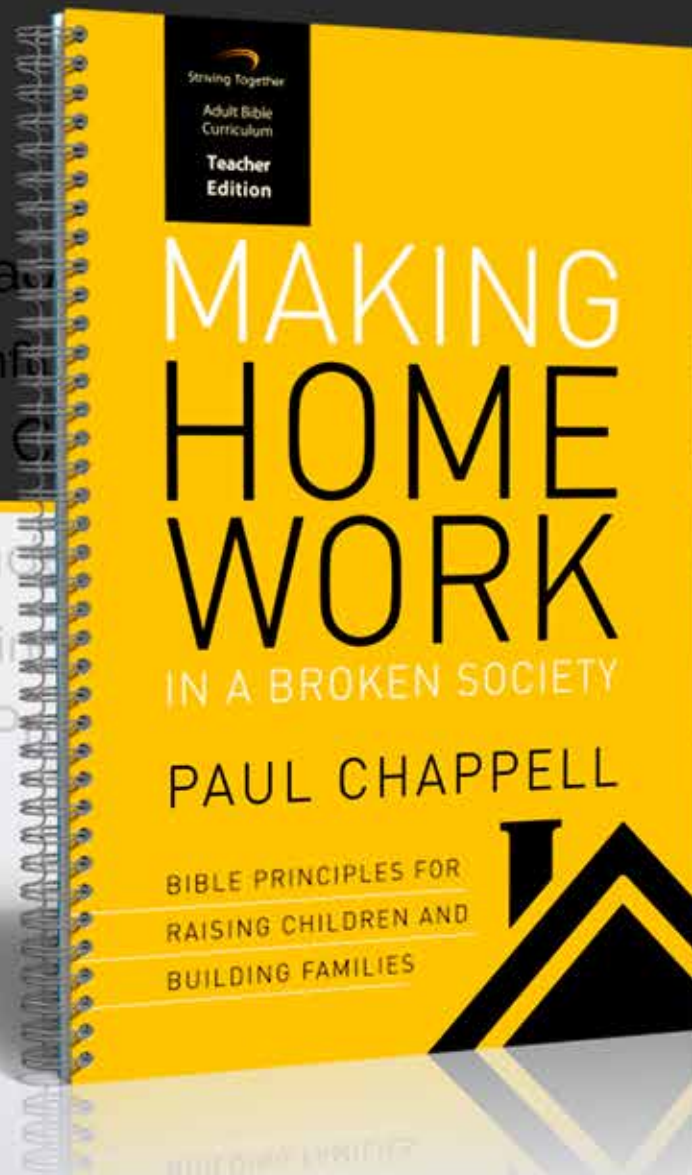
Watch for people during the special day who shine in your class (greeting people, bringing visitors, serving refreshments, etc.) Look for those who help you make it such a special day. Thank them for catching the vision.

It's important that we remember that special days don't just happen because we write it on a calendar. Special days are exciting, but they require preparation, training, and follow up. Ask God to give you wisdom as you endeavor to implement these steps. 📌



GABRIEL RUHL is the Adult Ministries Director at Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, CA.

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DR. PAUL CHAPPELL has been the senior pastor of Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, California since 1986. He and his wife Terrie have been married for thirty-six years. Their four adult children are all married and serving in ministry.


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LOVING ENOUGH TO SAY, “NO”

BY LARRY CHAPPELL

Contrary to what most parents think, teens really do want boundaries. When a teenager isn't given clear guidelines, he does what seems right in his own eyes.

Boundaries communicate love. They help your teen resist temptation and the negative pressure they feel from their peers. They give them a good reason to avoid sin when confronted with an inappropriate decision.

To be productive, rules need to be founded on the boundaries you establish in your home. They should be attached to a biblical principle.

Boundaries are the parameters in our lives that keep us from danger. “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Romans 13:14). Here are

a few ways you can communicate love to your teenager even when saying, “No.”

SEEK BOTH TO GUIDE AND GUARD THE HEART OF YOUR TEEN

Rules without a relationship breeds rebellion. No matter how much your teenager pushes, bends, or breaks the rules, they need to know you love them.

Parents, we show this love when we actively guide them through instruction. “These words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children...” (Deuteronomy 6:6–7).

It is critical you spend time with your child on a regular basis. Avoid rehashing past mistakes. Instead, help them consider their choices. “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23).

Actively guard them through correction. A teen will never mature if he is not forced to accept the consequences of his actions. Be firm but measured. It is our job to hold them accountable.

Confronting a teen can be tough, especially when a parent is physically exhausted or unfaithful in his own personal walk with God. But your teen needs you to be his authority more than he needs you to be his friend.

HELP TEENS UNDERSTAND THAT BEHIND EVERY “NO” IS OFTEN A GREATER “YES!”

Your teen will not always understand your reasons for saying, “No.” But as a parent, it is okay to say, “No” just because of your personal preference. After all, you are the parent. It is acceptable to say, “No” to something as a matter of taste and explain this to your teen.

Often parents will need to say, “No” because the timing is not right. Teens love to speed up timelines. They want immediate gratification whether it is dating or driving. It is okay to put the brakes on if you feel your child is not ready.

Perhaps your teen is asking for you to allow something that you would normally permit, but trust has been broken, and you must say, “No.” Remind him of the importance of honesty and integrity. “Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once” (Proverbs 28:18).

For a Christian, there are certain issues that are non-negotiable. When saying, “No” because of a matter of truth, it's critical that you help your child to understand what is at stake, and why you have said, “No”. If it is truly a matter of truth, use Scripture to support your decision.

Help your teens identify the greater “Yes.” Talk to them about the issues they face. Influence them by being a good role model. Help them set goals for their future.

DEMONSTRATE UNFAILING LOVE THROUGH THE ‘UPS’ AND ‘DOWNS’ OF THE TEEN YEARS

Saying, “No” is often the most loving thing you can do. Understand there is a big difference between *loving* to say no and saying no because you *love*. Your teen can often tell the difference. He may question your judgment, but he should never question your love. 🍷



LARRY CHAPPELL is the Student Ministries Director at Lancaster Baptist Church.



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A SHINING CHRISTIAN

BY JERRY FERRSO

Everyone appreciates light. It does not matter how small it may be. If it is shining, it can lead us out of darkness.

The Bible reminds us that God desires His children to shine in this present world! Philippians 2:14–16, “Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life...”

I believe as Christ-followers we would agree on the importance of letting our light so shine! But it is sad how many Christians have let their light dim. As we consider these verses, I believe they contain two practical principles to help keep our lives shining.

First, we are instructed to stop complaining. If anyone had reason to complain it was the Apostle Paul. He was in prison when he wrote the book of Philippians. His crime was faithfully

preaching the gospel of Christ. Yet he amazingly writes to inform us that if we want our light to shine, we need to stop complaining.

Second, we are challenged to be “blameless and harmless.” Blameless is being free from fault. As a Christian, we will not live our lives without sin, but we should live our life without the dimming effect of sin. Here is a practical acrostic for the word *SHINE* that we can apply to our outreach:

S - SEEK TO KEEP YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY

How can we faithfully share Christ with others if our relationship with Him is weak and in decline? Stay close and excited about the Lord and sharing Him will flow much easier from your heart.

H - HUMBLY YIELD YOUR LIFE TO THE LORD ON A DAILY BASIS

We have to constantly yield our lives to His plan for us. One of His desires

for our lives is to be an engaging witness for Him. For this to take place, we need to die to our desires and be dialed into His passion of people coming to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

I - INITIATE RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF SHARING CHRIST WITH THEM

We need to be looking for the establishment of new relationships for the purpose of sharing the gospel with them. Too often we get comfortable with the people we already know, and we fail to take on more risk of building new relationships because of the fear of being rejected. Take courage and walk across your office and become someone’s friend. Remember the stakes are huge. We are talking about Heaven and Hell!

N - NEVER GIVE UP ON PEOPLE

We need to exercise patience with people. People need time to consider what we have shared with them. I have found that our tendency is to dismiss people too soon. If a person does not make a salvation decision in a two or three week period, we move on to the next prospect. I am sure my dad is thankful that people were patient with him. It was years before he fully understood the gospel and made a decision to accept Christ. People need time to digest the biblical teaching on salvation because most likely it contradicts everything they have ever known.

E - ENCOURAGE YOURSELF BY YOUR OBEDIENCE IN GOING AND SHARING THE GOSPEL

Christians get discouraged in the area of witnessing. When discouragement comes, we are less eager to share the gospel. One way to stay encouraged is by not focusing on your results but on your obedience. If I keep my focus on obedience, I am able to stay encouraged and I continue to look for those moments to share Christ. If you keep sharing, it is only a matter of time before you will be reaping! 🍎

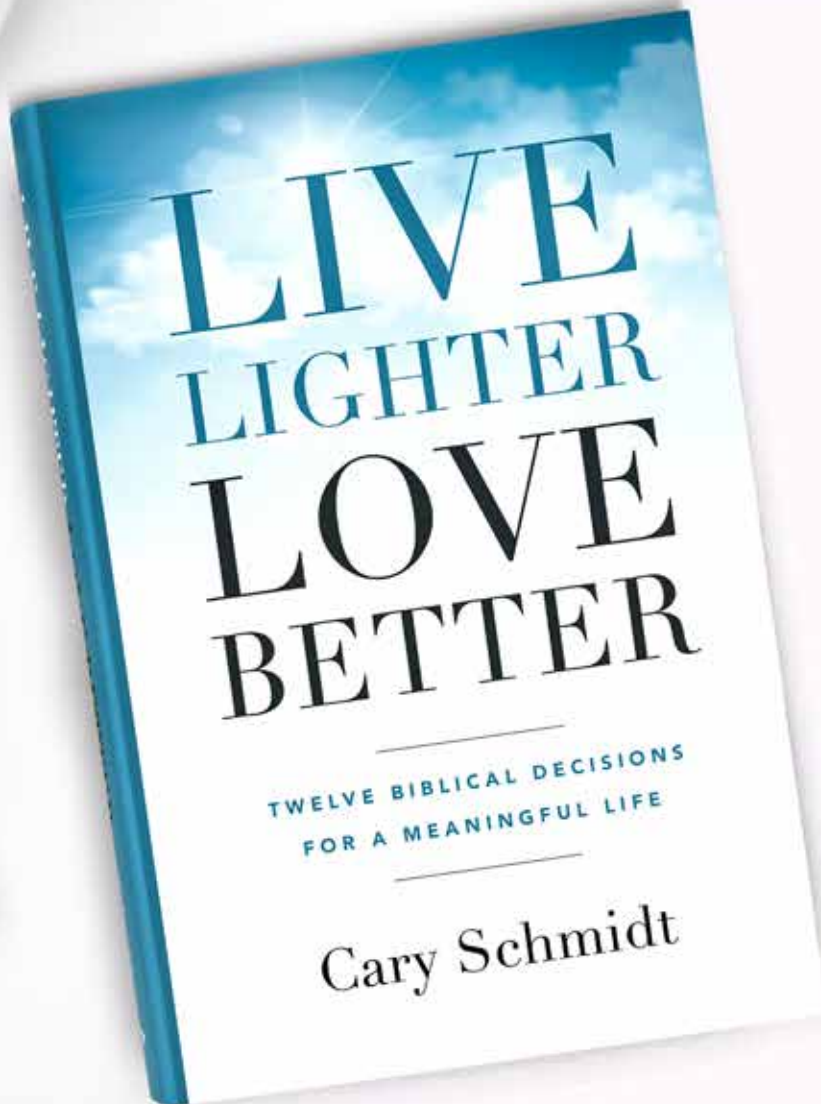


JERRY FERRSO is the Outreach Director at Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, California

A top-down view of a white coffee cup filled with black coffee on a matching saucer. To the left is a spiral-bound notebook with a black pen resting on it. In the bottom left corner, there is a small potted plant with long, thin green leaves.

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STENSAAS STORY

BY BRYAN STENSAAS



I was born and raised on a hog farm in Concordia, Kansas. I joined the military and shipped out to Vietnam on the USS *Midway*. I did two tours over in Vietnam. When I was in Spain, a missionary named Eddie Woodfield had started Bethel Baptist Church. A friend of mine who had been saved talked me into attending church with him. I agreed and heard the gospel for the first time. God totally changed my life.

In 1977, I enrolled at Tennessee Temple and started Bible college. I finished in about two and a half years. A month after graduation, I was on the mission field. I helped start churches outside of military bases in Spain, Italy, and Germany.

When the bases closed, my family came back to the United States. I began pastoring a church in Sedalia, Missouri, for about three years. One evening, we were having a mission conference. While one of the missionaries was preaching, I began praying for the members in the church to surrender to the Lord's will. It was then the Lord



BRYAN STENSAAS

The Stensaas family now serve as missions instructors at West Coast Baptist College



spoke to my heart and said, “You’re going to Africa.”

I said, “God, I’m the pastor.”

He said, “You’re going to Africa.”

So I resigned the church and went back on deputation again to raise support. I called my missions director, Dr. Bragg, and said, “Dr. Bragg, what do you have open in Africa?”

He started reading the list. When he came to Uganda, I remember telling him on the phone, “Man, I don’t want anything to do with Uganda. That’s Idi Amin’s territory, and he eats people for lunch. What else do you have?”

So he started down the list, and I wrote it all down on paper. I began to pray about what the Lord would have us to do and where He would have us go. Every time I got on my knees Uganda would come up.

About a month and a half after finishing language school, our family was in Uganda. The Lord called us to the city of Mbarara which is about four hours from the capital. It was there where we had started our ministry.

We found if we did what the Bible said, God would give the increase. We led people to Christ. We made disciples. We grounded them in the Scriptures. We watched them have a desire to have a church and a desire to serve God. You could see God’s hand on them and His leading.

Many would come to us and say, “Come to my village and start a church.”

I would respond, “No, but I will work with you and help you see a church started.”

In America, we have the concept that missions is just soulwinning. But that is only part of it. Everything you do on the mission field has to do with training and mentoring new believers.

We developed our own four-year Bible institute. We also developed another institute into a full-week session. We called it a Tri-annual Institute, because we would bring men in three times a year. We would begin teaching them at 8:00 in the morning and go until about 9:00 at night. All through the week we would saturate them with training. Then on Saturday, we would send them back to their villages, and they put into practice what they had learned.

One day God really touched my heart, through a series of events, to start a Christian radio station.

I had been going to one village on Monday, another on Tuesday, and another on Wednesday. I ran out of days, and there were still thousands and thousands of unreached villages. I couldn’t get to them all.

I remember thinking, “How am I going to get the gospel to them? These people are dying!”

God said, “Christian radio is what I want you to do.”

I didn’t know anything about radio, but God did. When we started Life Radio, God began touching the hearts of other missionaries, and they also

“I DIDN’T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT RADIO, BUT GOD DID... WE HAVE ALMOST COVERED THE NATION OF UGANDA WITH CHRISTIAN RADIO.”

began radio stations. Together, we have almost covered the nation of Uganda with Christian radio.

Mwijuka Robert was saved by listening to Life Radio in Mbarara. “I went looking for the church where that radio came from,” he says. He enrolled in discipleship and was later called into the ministry.

After two years of working as the assistant pastor at Independent Baptist Church of Mbarara, God laid a burden on Mwijuka’s heart to start a church in the village where he was born. After two and a half years of soulwinning and reaching people, he began pastoring a church with 148 in attendance his first service.

It seemed like every week or so we had someone come in from a different village telling us they had been saved listening to Life Radio. They wanted to know what to do next. So we would get them involved in our discipleship program. Then we would introduce them to our Bible institute. Hopefully, we would get a church in their village. The goal has always been to reach more people and to see churches established. The radio allowed us to reach people we would have otherwise never reached.

PRESIDENT IDI AMIN

He was the third President of Uganda, ruling from 1971 to 1979. The number of people killed as a result of his regime is estimated by international observers to range from 100,000 to 500,000 people.



1971 Milton Obote is toppled by Army chief Idi Amin. Amin declares himself president for life and claims parts of Kenya



1979 Tanzania invades Uganda forcing **Idi Amin** to flee; Lule becomes president, but is replaced by Binaisa



2002 Army evacuates more than **400,000** civilians caught in a fight against cult-like LRA with its brutal attacks on villages



I'll never forget October of 2002. I woke up at 2:00 in the morning to all kinds of shooting. War had broken out behind our house. We got dressed, went into the living room, and began praying. The mission field will teach you how to pray.

This went on for hours. All of the sudden the phone rang.... It scared me to death!

It was the voice of Pastor Chappell. "Brother

"I WOKE UP AT 2:00 IN THE MORNING TO ALL KINDS OF SHOOTING. WAR HAD BROKEN OUT BEHIND OUR HOUSE. WE GOT DRESSED... FELL TO OUR KNEES AND BEGAN PRAYING.

Stensaas, can you hear me okay on the phone tonight?"

I responded, "Yes, sir, I can Pastor."

"Thank you for allowing us to visit with you for a moment."

Lancaster Baptist Church was having their missions conference, and I had forgotten that he was supposed to call us and interview us during the service.

So he starts conducting this interview. Then he discovers what is going on around us. The rebels had attacked the town. Bombs were going off just outside of town. The rebels were killing anyone they could. They were a wicked group.

The church could hear the explosions over

the phone and through the speaker system. They immediately began praying for us before hanging up the phone that evening.

I went outside that next day and drove around to see and assess what had happened. I drove down one road and thousands and thousands of refugees were coming in from the villages.

The fighters had hit a village where we had ministered the day before. Many of the people we had pleaded with to be saved had been killed.

Hundreds of people came to the church. The expression on their faces was a dead stare. "Can you help us?" they would ask.

Needless to say, nothing in Bible college prepared us for how to respond to such a crisis. But a miracle occurred.

God fed 1,500 people for three months at that church, and we never had any extra support. God just continued to bring the supplies in that we needed day after day, week after week for three months. That is 250,000 meals. God is still the God of the Bible. He is still working today. He can still meet our needs, no matter what they are.

We served as missionaries in Uganda for twenty-one years. During that time we were able to establish fifteen churches and three different Christian radio stations. It is exciting to watch those same churches send out members into other villages to share the gospel and to see churches established.

For the past fourteen years I have been fighting a disorder known as peripheral neuropathy—a condition that develops as a result of damage to the peripheral nervous system. It has effected my feet. Every year it gets worse



STENSAAS VIDEO

You can watch the life and ministry of Bryan Stensaas by visiting our Academics Page at wcbc.edu and clicking on Missions

and worse. We thought we would live and die on the mission field. And honestly, I think it is a gift from God. I don't want it, I didn't want it, but God knew that we would never leave the field unless He forced the situation. We knew it was time to say goodbye to Uganda.

It was just a few weeks later I was attending the Missions Conference at Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, California. The church had prepared a banquet for all of the missionaries to attend at dinner. Dr. Rasmussen, the Vice President of West Coast Baptist College, came up to me and asked, "Can I talk to you for a minute?"

I said, "Sure," meanwhile thinking, "Oh, man, I am in trouble. I have said or done something I shouldn't have done."

We walked into another room and he said, "You know, for several months we have been praying about asking you if you would consider leaving the field and coming here to teach missions at West Coast Baptist College." When I heard those words, I knew it was the Lord speaking.

They had no idea that we made the decision to return to the States. We didn't want to retire. We didn't want to stop serving the Lord, but we began to pray, and God opened the door.

My heart is missions. If I can help prepare missions students for what they might face on the mission field, they may be able to avoid many of the mistakes I made. We are thrilled to have a part. Even in my latter years, I want to be able to affect those going to the mission field. 🍏

BEARING PRECIOUS SEED

WHY PERSONAL SOULWINNING IS
COMMANDED FOR EVERY STAGE
OF LIFE AND IN ALL POSITIONS

BY DON SISK

IN 1954, on Thanksgiving evening, I made my calling to preach known to the Black Oak Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana. I knew I was saved. I knew Heaven was my eternal home. And I knew I had a desire to tell others about Christ. I remember saying to Derwood Humble—the person who prayed with me at the altar that night—“I know that God has called me to preach, but I don’t know how I

can do it.”

He answered, “Don, how did you get saved?”

I said, “By the grace of God.”

His reply was simple yet profound, “If you ever preach, it will be by the grace of God.” That was great advice in 1954, and it is great advice in 2016.

Our church was very evangelistic. We had people saved regularly. We had great evangelistic meetings. However,

I never heard the word *soulwinning*.

In November of 1955, Virginia and I moved back to our hometown of Nortonville, Kentucky with plans to enter Bethel Baptist College in Hopkinsville. Before the winter semester started, I had been called to pastor two part-time churches.

The Johnson Island Baptist Church had preaching on each second and fourth Sunday. The Silent Run

Baptist had preaching on the first and third Sunday. I was pastoring two rural churches, but I had never heard the word *soulwinning*.

In April of 1956, we had a spring revival at the Silent Run Church. David Brown was the evangelist. On Tuesday afternoon Brother Brown and I went visiting people to invite them to the revival. (That was what I thought the purpose of visiting was, but God had a different plan.) We visited a home where the mother and daughter were members of our church, but the husband and son had not been saved. As Brother Brown began talking with Ruby Jackson, he was not inviting him to church. He asked him if he was saved. Ruby replied he was not. Brother Brown then asked if he would like to be saved. Mr. Jackson replied he would.

David Brown said to Mr. Jackson, "Ruby, let me take my Bible and show you how you can know you are saved and going to Heaven."

In my mind I thought that somewhere in the conversation he would tell Ruby Jackson to attend church that evening where he could be saved. I had never heard of anyone being saved anywhere other than at the church altar.

Brother Brown used the "Roman's Road" (which I had never heard of) to lead Ruby and his son Bobby to the Lord. That day I caught soulwinning. Brother Brown did not teach me, I caught it from him.

A few weeks after the meeting, I was at church one Saturday studying my Sunday sermon. God brought to mind a lady that attended Sunday school every week with her daughter but never stayed for preaching. She was in my wife's Sunday school class. Many of the ladies were burdened for Mrs. Edmondson. I began going over the verses in my mind that Brother Brown had used in Mr. Jackson's home.

I thought, "I am going to Mrs. Edmondson's house to show her how to be saved."

I can even now remember with fear and trembling getting into my car and driving down that country road to her house.

When I arrived, I immediately began thinking it was probably not a good time.

However, I stepped out of my car and headed for the front door. I knocked, then waited. When she came to the door, I noticed she had been crying. Through her tears she said to me, "Brother Don, I am so glad to see you. I have been listening to Pastor Utley preaching on the radio. I need to be saved."

She and her daughter came out of the house and sat on a porch swing. I sat in a chair near the swing. I opened my Bible and went through the plan of salvation and both of them bowed their heads and trusted Jesus as their Saviour.

After I became the President of BIM I, pastors would often say to me, "Dr. Sisk, you are a busy man. You do not need to come out soulwinning." My reply was always, "I am never too busy to go soulwinning."

I have never gotten over the wonderful joy of showing people how they can know that they are saved and going to Heaven. I pastored churches in Kentucky for eight years and had the glorious privilege of leading people to the Lord on a regular basis.

In 1963, I became the associate pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Harvey, Illinois. My primary job was outreach. I was able to see a great number of people saved through my personal soulwinning ministry and had the joy of taking others with me. I watched as person after person in our membership caught soulwinning.

In 1965, Virginia, Renee, Tim, and I went to Japan as missionaries. Contrary to what some missionaries had told us, soulwinning worked even in Japan. We saw many people come to know the Lord.

We had a Shinto priest and his family accept Christ. One night we were able to give the plan of salvation to a seventy-six year old man and see him bow his head to ask Jesus to be his Saviour.

In 1974, I became the Far East Director of Baptist International Missions, Inc. When I was home on visitation night at Highland Park Baptist Church, I always went soulwinning. In every church where I preached mission conferences I would go soulwinning with the pastor or other members of the church. In restaurants, motels, buses, airplanes, and many other places I have had countless hundreds of opportunities to take the Bible and show people how to be saved.

After I became the President of BIM I, pastors would often say to me, "Dr. Sisk, you are a busy man. You do not need to come out soulwinning."

My reply was always, "I am never too busy to go soulwinning."

After my resignation from BIM I, Virginia and I moved to Lancaster, California. In the thirteen years we have served at West Coast Baptist College, I have had the great joy of going soulwinning, sometimes several times a week.

Soulwinning works in any geographical location, in any culture, with all ages, and all classes of people. I am and will be eternally grateful for the day I saw David Brown take a Bible and show Ruby Jackson how he could know that he was saved and going to Heaven.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy" (Psalm 126:5). With a burdened heart, I have sowed the precious Word of God in thousands of places, and I rejoice that God has used it to bring many to Him. 🍏



DR. DON SISK is a veteran missionary and the Missions Director at West Coast Baptist College. He has served the Lord in ministry for over sixty years.



GOD'S HEAVENLY VILLAGE

MARGARET STRINGER LEADS A TRIBE
FROM CANNIBALISM TO CHRIST

The helicopter circled the village, and Margaret Stringer looked hard at what might be her last mission work. Her two co-laborers, Dominggus and Noak, gave a wary look at the long house in the middle of the clearing, but Jim, the pilot, wasn't as worried. He was just dropping the three off. He didn't know the long house was where this tribe held their demonic rituals and cannibalistic feasts.

The helicopter hovered over a fallen log, and Margaret and the two Christian men from other villages jumped the remaining few feet onto the log. In hindsight, their reception was expected, but no cultural

anthropology class prepares you for a group of stark-naked men running at you and chanting. The tribal men bear-hugged the three Christians and began pulling them toward the long house. Jim knew to stick around until all looked safe, and from his vantage point, it did. He radioed back to base, "They are getting a good reception. They are being hugged."

Margaret craned her neck to see the helicopter cutting back over the jungle while Dominggus pulled back at the villagers and repeated, "We'll just talk out here. We'll just talk out here." Then Margaret prayed, "Okay, Lord, this is it. It



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ONE MISSIONARY.”

is just You and us. If You want us to die here, we die here.” It was at that moment the peace of God entered Margaret. When she looked at Domingus, she saw him stop struggling and heard him say, “Okay, where do you want to take us? Let’s go.” The three went willingly into the long house.

Margaret Stringer had known God wanted her to be a missionary since the age of twelve, even though she didn’t really know what a missionary was. Many in her church didn’t take her seriously (a pat on the head and a “that’s nice, dear”), mostly because her church never had

missionaries through their door. She told *The Baptist Voice*, “I finished high school without ever seeing one missionary.” But she did have a pastor’s wife who encouraged her by giving her stories and biographies about missionaries.

Margaret went to a Southern Baptist college in Greenville, South Carolina, and joined the church where Dr. Harold Sichtler pastored. Dr. Sichtler encouraged Margaret to attend Tennessee Temple in Chattanooga, where she eventually graduated. Back at Dr. Sichtler’s church on vacation, Margaret met a missionary to what was then Dutch New Guinea (now



MARGARET STRINGER
In 1980, Margaret and two Senggo Christians would be the first to tell the Vakabuis tribe about Jesus.



Irian Jaya, Indonesia). She saw pictures of naked headhunters and primitive huts—National Geographic kind of pictures. She saw a picture of the young boys wearing little red shorts the missionary’s wife had made. At a sight like this, many of us start wondering, “Is the price of my cup of coffee worth supporting one of these children?” but not Margaret. When she looked at those primitive people, God touched her heart. She said, “That’s it! That is where I am going.”

It wasn’t an easy place. The missionary’s wife who made the little red shorts had a nervous breakdown four months after she went to the field. The couple left the Senggo tribe, and no one wanted to go back. In 1964, Margaret arrived on the field and began working with a different tribe on the island, but the Senggo tribe kept sending word that they wanted a missionary back (“What must I do to be saved?”). The Senggors even gave up headhunting and cannibalism since their first contact with missionaries in the 1950s. In 1975, the group of missionaries decided to take the gospel back to the Senggo tribe. Margaret began learning their spoken language and creating a written language (the tribe had none before).

The missionaries had to start at the beginning when they shared the gospel—as in, “In the beginning, God created the

heaven and the earth.” The gospel just didn’t make sense to the villagers. They would ask Margaret, “Have you ever seen Jesus?” “No.” “Was He from your tribe?” “No.” “Did He speak your language?” “No.” And they would just give her a puzzled look. Then she told them about the God who created them and created the fish they eat. She told them of His perfect village where people don’t get sick or kill each other (they were very excited about this). But then she would tell them that God couldn’t let anything bad into His village (they were very sad about this). Then she told them about Jesus and how He opened the path to God’s village by dying for them. Many fell under heavy conviction and were saved. After a service one lady said she wanted to confess her sins and be saved. She started naming them off one-by-one, keeping track on her fingers and toes. Finally she ran out of toes and said, “Lord, there are a lot more in there,” and finished her prayer for salvation.

Margaret and others began discipling the early converts. Eventually, of those converts came the first pastor and others who helped the missionaries translate their first Bible. Margaret thought back to the pictures from the missionary couple and had to tell those Christians that they were the same people in the pictures of the naked headhunters and the boys with the little red shorts.

As the Senggo believers matured spiritually, God began leading Margaret to another tribe, the Vakabuis. They didn’t know the name of the tribe at the time; Margaret had just heard of them through the Senggo people. The Senggors knew they were sinners, but they also knew the Vakabuis were bigger sinners. They still shrunk heads and ate people. The Vakabuis never had contact with a missionary before 1980. It would be Margaret and two Senggo Christians who would be the first to tell them about Jesus.

Inside the long house, Noak told the men of the Creator who lives in the sky and created the whole world. This frightened the villagers, especially since they thought the three just came from the Creator Himself out of the sky! The villagers fed the three and felt Margaret to make sure she wasn’t a spirit. (Noak assured them she was not.) The missionaries left on good grounds with the Vakabuis tribe, though there was still much work to be done. It was nearly five years after their first contact that the first Vakubuis man

THE SENGGOS KNEW THEY WERE SINNERS, BUT THEY ALSO KNEW THE VAKABUIS WERE BIGGER SINNERS. THEY STILL SHRUNK HEADS AND ATE PEOPLE.

accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour. Soon another was saved, and another, and a church building was built.

Today the village has been transformed. The people wear clothes, and they no longer head hunt or cannibalize. The Vakabuis once killed any twins who were born and kept their dead on racks in the village, but they no longer do these practices either. A team of missionaries, including one brave woman, made a difference in many tribes throughout the Brazza River area. One day, we will stand with the Christians from these tribes and hear God say, “Welcome to My Village.” 🍷

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CHURCHES

SOULWINNING MINISTRIES GOD IS BLESSING

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

MINISTERING TO THE COMMUNITY OF PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

IN

1989, First Baptist Church of Plattsmouth, Nebraska was on the brink of closing its doors. The church had been without a pastor for eighteen months. An elderly couple and one widow were the only church members remaining.

But they decided to launch out by faith to call a new pastor. They believed God wanted their church to go forward, though many obstacles stood in the way.

At the time, Plattsmouth was little more than a small mid-western town swallowed up by vast corn fields. First Baptist Church was a small body of believers struggling financially. They couldn't pay their pastor, their building was in debt, and they lacked money for unpaid bills. There was little hope for continuing as a church.

God blessed the faith of those early members and touched the heart of a young preacher and his wife. Raymond and Jean Wicks answered God's call and obediently came to a church that could offer them nothing in return.



During his first week in Nebraska, Pastor Wicks began laboring diligently to get the church back on its feet. He knocked on doors, repaired the church building, and preached God's Word with conviction. In time, it was clear to see that God was beginning to bless the Wicks' faith and patience.

The church began to outgrow their downtown facility. To accommodate, they purchased properties nearby and created space for parking and classrooms.

In 1999, Pastor Wicks started a Christian school and rented a former public school building. The building was later purchased and paid off completely. It continues to serve as the location of First Baptist School.

In 2005, the church purchased twenty acres of land on the edge of town along Highway 75. It was an ideal location. For five years the church family prayed and sacrificed to see God provide. God honored their faith, and construction on their new facility was finished in 2010.

Until then the church had Sunday school classrooms on four different properties. They now have a church building that is able to handle the church needs all at one location. God provided an attractive, first-class facility. The total property value is currently

over six million dollars. Every week guests are attending and seeing God's hand at work.

The Lord has blessed Pastor Wicks and his wife with six children. They have all graduated from Bible college, and three of them are currently serving on the church staff at First Baptist.

"Our children were a big emphasis of our personal ministry as they were growing up," Pastor Wicks explains. "I feel balance is a key component to sustain a ministry, business, home, or church."

While the church has become one of the largest

independent Baptist churches in Nebraska, the spirit of the church family is the same as it was nearly three decades ago. When you visit a service you can sense the members love God and each other, and they genuinely want God to continue blessing.

Little did anyone know the harvest that God would yield from those early seeds of faith. Looking back over twenty-seven years, to God be the glory for the marvelous work He has done at First Baptist Church.

In September, the church hosted the Striving Together Conference with Dr. Paul Chappell and Dr. R.B. Ouellette. It was the first time for both men to preach in the state of Nebraska. As

"I BELIEVE THAT TRYING TO STAY CLOSE TO THE LORD DAILY IS ONE OF KEYS TO A BLESSED LIFE AND MINISTRY."

a result of the conference, several pastors from around the country were equipped, strengthened, and refreshed for the work of God.

Serving the Lord has brought many blessings and challenges for the Wicks family. "We have seen victories and disappointments over the years," says Pastor Wicks. "I suppose that will be the case for the rest of our time on this side of eternity. I believe that trying to stay close to the Lord daily is one of keys to a blessed life and ministry."

After nearly three decades of ministry Pastor Wicks remains hopeful about the future. "I still believe that God wants to do a great work," he says. "I want to be prepared to be a part of any working of God that He desires to do through my life personally or through our church."

Today, the First Baptist Church of Plattsmouth is a thriving testimony that God is still in the business of changing lives! Words could not describe God's goodness in this place, and all of the glory belongs to God! The lives changed, the families rescued, and the victories won have all been by God's amazing grace. To Him be all the glory for His wonderful works! 🍎



RAYMOND WICKS

has been the pastor of First Baptist Church in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, since 1989.



CASTLEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

CHURCH PLANTING IN CASTLE ROCK, COLORADO

Recently ranked by *Money Magazine* as one of the best places to live and work in the country, Castle Rock is nationally known as one of the most charming towns in America. But it wasn't the beauty of the city that influenced Tate Thronson and his wife Debbie to move to Colorado, it was the rapid growth that caught their attention. The town grew from just a few thousand people in the early 1990s to around 65,000 today. In the next seven to ten years, developers expect the growth to continue over 100,000 people.



the church has used as a worship facility over the past eight years.

Castleview Baptist does their best to utilize a variety of outreach programs from canvassing, to door knocking, to special events. The outreach that has been the most unique has been an annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament for boys and girls ages ten through twenty. The tournament runs Friday night through Saturday. A special speaker presents the gospel, and each year fifteen to thirty young people pray with a counselor to receive Christ.



For sixteen years, Pastor Thronson had served in several ministry capacities including youth pastor, visitation pastor, assistant pastor, and twice as interim pastor. But in 2007, he surrendered to plant an independent Baptist church somewhere in the West.

After much prayer, he was introduced to the town of Castle Rock, which is approximately thirty miles south of Denver. Through a series of miraculous events, God made it clear this was the place He wanted their family.

On August 17, 2008, the Thronsons began their first service at Castleview Baptist Church. The Lord blessed. What began as a handful of believers has grown to a thriving church with exciting services, growing families, and a heart to reach the lost in Castle Rock.

One of the greatest challenges the church faces is the affluence of their town. Douglas County is routinely in the top ten highest median incomes in the country. As a result, land is expensive and warehouse space is non-existent. However, the Lord has provided an elementary school that

THE POTENTIAL TO REACH UNCHURCHED PEOPLE IN THE WEST ATTRACTED THEM TO THIS GROWING COMMUNITY.

The church also has a heart for missions. Their faith promise giving recently increased from \$40,000 last year to almost \$90,000 this year. Their emphasis this year was on church planting in America.

This past summer, Castleview Baptist Church had the opportunity to launch their first church plant. Russell Martin is now the pastor of Harvestview Baptist Church in Rexburg, Idaho. The town is 98% Mormon and the home of Brigham Young University Idaho, but already God has blessed their faith.

Castleview Baptist Church is looking forward to what the Lord has next. Pastor Thronson is a man of tremendous vision and a heart for souls. Please pray for this church as they endeavor to reach their community for Christ. 🙏

NORTHWEST BAPTIST CHURCH

WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE ALUMNUS PASTORING IN KANSAS

BRYAN

Shaffer pastors the same church he was called to preach in as a young boy. Born and raised in the Kansas City Area, he never expected this is where his call to ministry would lead.

His family attended Northwest Baptist Church when he was a child. At that time, the church was growing, but over the course of the next several years the church dwindled and eventually went for three years without a pastor. They decided that if their final candidate did not become

the pastor they would give up, sell the property, and give the money to missionaries. That candidate, Dave Noffsinger, became the pastor.

In the fall of 2003, Bryan attended West Coast Baptist College. He graduated in May of 2007 and married Vanessa two months later.

In 2010, Pastor Shaffer began working with Pastor Noffsinger at Northwest Baptist Church. He later referred to it as “a highlight in his ministry.” After

“IT WAS AT WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE I LEARNED HOW TO GO SOULWINNING AND HOW SHARE MY FAITH.”

serving for two years as the assistant pastor, Bryan became the senior pastor on April 15, 2012.

He immediately began putting into practice the principles he learned at Lancaster Baptist Church—knocking on doors and reaching people. God blessed and the church continued to grow.

The need for space was clear. They used everything from storage spaces, to offices, to the church kitchen as classrooms for adult Bible classes. In September, they adjusted their Sunday schedule to accommodate the expansion needs they were facing. As a result, they witnessed growth almost immediately.

Pastor Shaffer has observed the spiritual growth of the church. “There has been a greater unity and sweeter spirit,” he says, “and our service attendance has greatly increased!”

Northwest Baptist Church is next to Fort Leavenworth. Nearly 2,000 soldiers come to Leavenworth to attend school each year. The Lord has allowed their church to function as a spiritual, mental, and emotional hospital to many of these soldiers and their families.

The church knocks on every door in Leavenworth at least three times annually and once a year in the neighboring city of Lansing. They serve the members of their community through a program called “Unconditional.”

Bryan hired an assistant pastor, Joshua Ham, who is also a graduate of West Coast Baptist College. God is using



Josh to reach public school students for Christ.

The spirit of the church is strong, and the members are excited to serve the Lord. Pastor Shaffer reflects on his time at West Coast as being an equipping experience, “It was at West Coast I learned how to go soulwinning and how to share my faith,” he says. “Dr. Chappell has been a great blessing to me. He lets me know he is praying for me and our church. It is a great blessing to have him take a personal interest in how the Lord is working.” 🍷

QUICK FACTS

- **FAMILY** Over the past two years the Lord has allowed the Shaffers to adopt two children, Liam and Abigail
- **LOCATION** The Northwest Baptist Church is next to Fort Leavenworth, so they are primarily a military church



Pastor Brad Wells

GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Brad Wells served as a missionary in Papua New Guinea for nearly seventeen years before moving to Washington, D.C. to plant a church. It was a huge leap of faith for their family, but the calling of God was clear.

In 2014, the Wells family completed their ministry in Papua New Guinea and established the work under national leadership. They had started a church and Bible school that continues to grow. They also left behind a nationally syndicated radio station that is expanding each year, reaching thousands throughout the country.

On January 11, 2015, they held the first service of GraceWay Baptist Church in a community art center known as Hill Center. It is the Old Naval Hospital commissioned by Abraham Lincoln in 1864. It is well-known in the area.

Washington, D.C. is one of the most transient cities in the world. It presents many unique challenges. The church has had many people come and go over the last two years.

God has given Brad and Deborah a beautiful family. They have seven children who help serve with them in ministry. They love the city and people God has placed before them.

Pastor Wells has a vision to accomplish much. One day he would like to start a Bible institute and a Christian school. The church is also praying for a permanent building they can use for services. 🙏

QUICK CHURCH FACTS

- **PASTOR** *Missionary to Papua New Guinea for nearly seventeen years*
- **LOCATION** *It is more expensive to live in D.C. than in New York City*
- **DEMOGRAPHICS** *Starting with the most responsive: military, interns, staffers/lobbyists, and residents*



Pastor Joel Kobernat

QUICK CITY FACT

- **QUAD CITY AREA** *Made up of Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa; Moline and Rock Island in Illinois*

CROSS POINT BAPTIST CHURCH

Joel Kobernat grew up in a pastor's home in Geneseo, Illinois. He served as a youth pastor in his home church for nine years before moving to Davenport in 2015 to plant Cross Point Baptist Church. Just five months after their church began, tragedy struck their family. Joel's father passed away from a heart attack. Joseph Kobernat was the longtime pastor of First Baptist Church in Geneseo and the sending church for Cross Point. Through Joel's grief, he remained faithful to his call.

The Kobernats have seen God grow the church to about ninety people every Sunday morning. They have seen people saved, baptized, and growing in their faith. Just recently they were able to lead their neighbors to Christ and see them baptized.

Davenport is the largest of the four Quad Cities in Iowa and Illinois. The population is just over 100,000, but the Quad City Area has about 400,00 people.

Joel says he was drawn to Davenport after seeing the great need for a gospel-

centered, life-giving church. He is praying that God will allow their church to plant other churches. "Our goal," he says, "is to see churches planted across the Quad City Area." Their passion is to lead people to Christ, make disciples, and serve others. We pray that Cross Point will be a church that has a vision for generations to come.



ARLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

BRINGING STABILITY TO A CITY INUNDATED WITH UNCERTAINTY

Mark Campbell became the pastor of Arlington Baptist Church in March 2014. Having grown up in Maryland, he was already familiar with the ministry. Since 1945, Arlington Baptist had been known as a leading church, but over the years, the church began to diminish. God has used Dr. Campbell to rebirth the church and see new growth emerge. The facilities of the church are immense. It has a 600-seat sanctuary, 200-seat chapel, two gyms, and 25-acres of land as well as a 50-unit apartment building.



With a cemetery on the property, one can literally go from cradle to the grave. However, many of the facilities are in need of updating and repair.

Recently, the Lord allowed the church to complete a total renovation of the sanctuary. They were also able to pay off the church mortgage and be completely debt free for the first time in many years.

Their Christian school has seen approximately twenty students saved in the last two years. And for the first time in many years, the church has added new missionaries.

Arlington Baptist Church is an international church due to the fact

that Baltimore is very multicultural. The church has numerous first generation members from all over the world.

The church is also very active in outreach. In addition to their regular soulwinning program, they have an upcoming full week of outreach into the community by the entire school body and church family called ACTS—“Activating Compassion To Someone.” They delivered Thanksgiving baskets to many needy families in Baltimore. They have Good News Clubs in three local public elementary schools. These are just a few of the ministries under Pastor Campbell’s leadership.

The Lord has used Arlington Baptist Church to bring stability to a city inundated with uncertainty. Even after serving in ministry for twenty-four years, Pastor Campbell feels he is still a student of the Word. “God has taught me to spend so much time in His Word,” he shares. “My reading and study of God’s Word is greater now than at any time in my life.”

The future of Arlington Baptist Church and of independent Baptists is exciting to watch. How wonderful to see the great works God is doing all over our nation! These are not days of doom and gloom but of glory and blessing. 🍷

QUICK CHURCH FACTS

- **HISTORY** *The church started in the Pimlico section of Baltimore in 1945*
- **PASTOR** *Dr. Campbell has served twenty combined years as a pastor*
- **DEMOGRAPHICS** *With a population of 621,849 people, Baltimore is the largest city in Maryland*



HORIZON BAPTIST CHURCH

MINISTERING TO THE COMMUNITY OF CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA

B

efore planting Horizon Baptist Church in Camarillo, California, Brian Leversee served alongside his father, Dr. Ron Leversee, who is the pastor at Desert Gateway Baptist Church in Gilbert, Arizona. It was there, as an assistant pastor for eight years, that Brian learned the work of the pastorate. While serving under his father, he developed and grew the church's

outreach, missions, youth, and discipleship ministries. After successfully training and establishing leaders for each of these ministries, Brian began sensing God burdening his heart for another step. It was during the 2007 Spiritual Leadership Conference at Lancaster Baptist Church that he surrendered to God's call to plant a church.

After raising support, Pastor Brian and his wife Anna moved their family to Ventura County California in June of 2008. Having no contacts, or even a place to meet, the Lerveeses began reaching out into the local community



meeting one family at a time.

It was not long before the first Bible study began taking place inside their rented town home. The Bible studies grew from just a handful of people in the beginning, to completely filling up the house and even the garage. It quickly became evident that a more suitable location was needed for the new and growing church.

In September of 2008, the newly formed Horizon Baptist Church held its first service at La Mariposa Elementary School in Camarillo, California. It was there that they began to expand the work and vision of the church by adding more people and ministries.

Under the leadership of Pastor Lerversee, the church continued to grow and develop even as they migrated between several temporary locations. In the fall of 2010, God blessed Horizon Baptist Church with a more permanent location that had enough space to adequately meet the congregation's needs.

As with any church plant, their journey has not been without challenges. Not long after moving into their new facility, the affects of the nation's economic downturn struck the heart of their church. Many families experienced job loss or job transfers forcing them to leave

the area. This, combined with a transient military presence, led to the loss of over forty families and over 100 people in the course of a year.

It was a huge blow to the church. They lost six of seven deacons. A choir of nearly thirty was reduced down to four. Children's teachers, youth workers, and adult teachers all who had been trained under the Lerversee's ministry were forced to move. The church was left with a fraction of its core and about eighty very new members, regular attendees, and visiting prospects.



BRIAN LEVERSEE

has been the pastor of Horizon Baptist Church in Camarillo, California, since 2008.

It was very difficult for Pastor Lerversee to adjust to such a regression in ministry. Brian admits struggling and being overwhelmed. He credits the Lord and his wife for giving him the courage to continue, "I praise God for giving me a faithful and encouraging wife who, even while battling her own discouragements, helped to encourage me while also taking on additional ministry burdens within the church."

Looking back, the Lerversees have learned that even in the most trying times, God is faithful. "If we will faithfully wait for and trust in Him, we will reap the fruit of His faithfulness."

Horizon Baptist Church has an aggressive outreach program. Along with special Sundays

"IF WE WILL FAITHFULLY WAIT FOR AND TRUST IN HIM, WE WILL REAP THE FRUIT OF HIS FAITHFULNESS."

and other events hosted by the church, their outreach efforts still strongly rest on door-to-door connections within the community. These important times of meeting neighbors are regularly leading to opportunities to present the gospel, guests visiting their church, and souls being saved.

Their discipleship ministry is also experiencing growth and response. Seeing souls regularly come to Christ and enrolling them in one-on-one discipleship has been a hallmark of their church. The results have been wonderful as new believers grow in their faith!

In his last eight years of ministry, Pastor Lerversee reminds others of the importance of faithfulness. "Opportunities, attendance, and finances can fluctuate, and sometimes wildly," he says. "Despite all of this, we are required to be faithful."

Today Horizon Baptist is continuing with one passion—to grow in the grace and knowledge of God. They are a place where the Word of God is taught, people are loved, and a community can find real hope. We are excited to see what God has in store for their future. 📌



GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

MINISTERING TO THE COMMUNITY OF SOUTH CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Graceway Baptist Church is a young and exciting church located in Matthews, North Carolina. In a short time, Graceway has grown from a humble beginning into a growing and thriving church. There is a sweet spirit amongst the people and an expectation for the continued blessing of God.

Pastor Chris Edwards and his family arrived in February of 2004, and held their charter service in September of that same year. Since that time, the church has continued to grow and move forward to impact both the community

In 2014, the church family moved into a beautiful new facility and have already filled its seating capacity.

and the world for Christ. If you visit one of their services, it is clear to see why God is blessing. It is a place where unchurched people can find true friendship and a foundation of Jesus Christ on which to build their lives.

Pastor Edwards' desire is to preach the message of God's unchanging love and faithfulness and to reach South Charlotte and the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 2014, the church family moved into a beautiful new facility. They have already filled its seating capacity, and people's lives are being transformed on a weekly basis.

Pastor Edwards has preached at Lancaster Baptist Church for church planting conferences. His faith and the story of Graceway Baptist Church have been an inspiration to pastors and church planters around the country. We look forward to their continued growth. ✓



CHRIS EDWARDS is the pastor of Graceway Baptist Church, Matthews, North Carolina

QUICK FACTS

- **LOCATION** Charlotte is the ninth fastest growing city in America
- **CHURCH** In 2014, they completed construction on a new facility



SOUTH VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

AFTER PASTORING TWENTY YEARS, DEAN HERRING BEGAN A NEW CHAPTER OF LIFE

For thirty years, Dean Herring spent his life ministering in South Georgia. During that time, he spent eight years as a youth minister, two years in evangelism, and twenty years as a pastor. He had the privilege of preaching at numerous youth camps, marriage retreats, and conferences across the country each year. But after a visit to Treasure Valley in southern Idaho, God began to impress upon the hearts of the Herring family that He wanted them to move to the area and plant an historic Baptist church.



In November of 2005, the Herrings bid farewell to their friends and loved ones, and moved to Idaho to begin the work that God had led them to do. On the second Sunday of February, 2006, the South Valley Baptist Church had its first service with forty-three in attendance. Six people accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Watching people grow in Christ and become servant leaders has been the greatest blessing of Pastor Herring's life. "Coming home every Sunday after ministering to people who found Christ as a result of our church is such a fulfilling experience," he says.

Unlike most church planters, Pastor Herring was fifty years old when he started South Valley Baptist Church. "You don't have to be a young man to plant a church," he says. "I had people advise me that because of my age I needed to settle down and stay put until Jesus returned. Think of all that I would have missed if I had played it safe."

Only God can bring something out of nothing, and there is a loving and vibrant church in Idaho where just eleven years ago it did not exist.

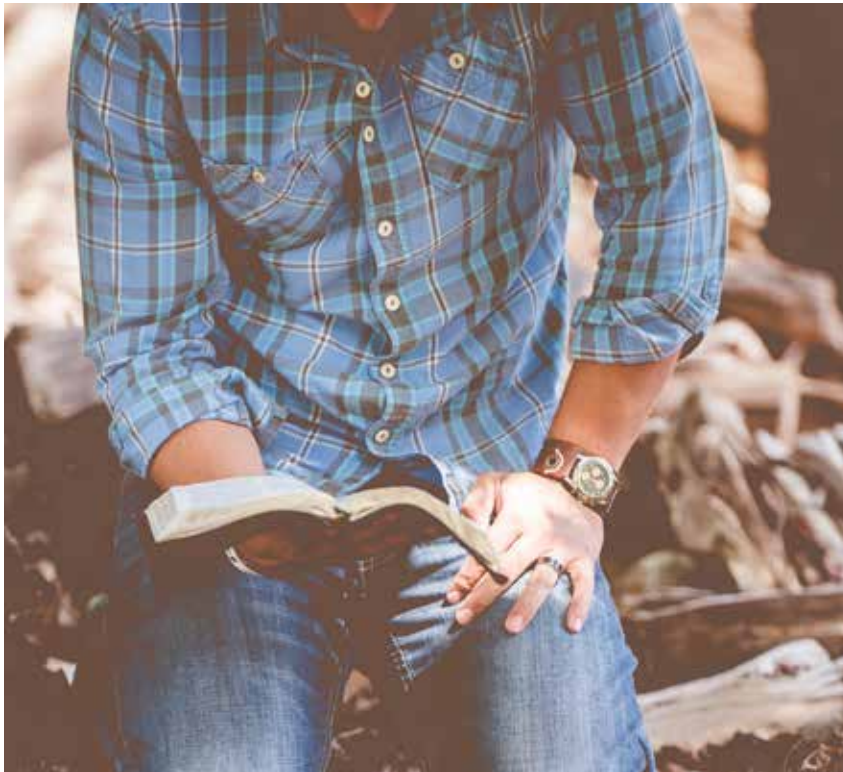
The church still does not own property or a building. Each year they have been setting up for every service and tearing

down afterwards. Pastor Herring credits the members of his church by saying, "Our people wouldn't be willing to do that for that long if they didn't have a servant's heart." Even amid the challenges, South Valley Baptist believes the best days are still ahead.

Dr. Chappell often speaks of his respect and love for Pastor Herring. He has been a guest speaker at Lancaster Baptist Church and has been used of God to encourage other church planters. Through trials and transitions, he has been faithful to the Lord and to his calling. 🙏

QUICK CHURCH FACTS

- **FAMILY** Dean and Susie have six children. Their son Nathan is an assistant pastor at SVBC. Their son-in-law Chad and daughter Georgia work in the youth ministry
- **DEMOGRAPHICS** Kuna is one of the fastest-growing areas in Idaho, having nearly tripled in population between 2000 and 2010



SEVEN TRUTHS I SHARED WITH FUTURE PASTORS

BY PAUL CHAPPELL

These are exciting days to serve the Lord. While it's true that the ministry landscape is very different from when I first entered the ministry, it's also true that there have never been more opportunities or a greater need for gospel-preaching churches. Here are seven truths I recently shared with the senior men of West Coast Baptist College in relation to entering the ministry:

DON'T BE REACTIONARY

Not every leader whom you've looked up to will remain faithful, and some who you believed were spiritual will hurt you. Don't let that change your ministry philosophy so that you develop methods based against certain people, rather than based on biblical beliefs. "And the things that thou hast

heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).

ALWAYS LIVE WITH GRATITUDE

The ministry isn't always easy. I find that even if one hundred aspects of ministry are going well, I most naturally notice and feel troubled about the one or two that aren't. Intentionally giving thanks, however, is one of the best ways to maintain a proper perspective amidst the pressures of ministry (Ephesians 5:20).

MAINTAIN A HEART FOR SOULS

Whatever aspect of ministry you are in, remember that at the heart of it is the Great Commission. If you do not schedule time to share the gospel, pray

for a heart of compassion, and purposefully interact with the lost, you'll lose your heart for souls. "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them..." (Matthew 9:36).

RETAIN STRONG BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES

"Baptist" isn't a cultural affiliation that comes and goes. It represents biblical, New Testament doctrine, polity, and distinctives (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

BE CREATIVE, BUT DON'T FOLLOW EVERY TREND

Creativity is not borrowing worldly methods to reach people. Creativity is finding ways to connect God's unchanging truth with hearts. Creativity was Jesus pushing the boat out from shore to make His voice project across the water. It was Paul using the "altar to an unknown god" as a springboard for the gospel message. By all means, be creative, but don't use new methods just because they're new and look cool on Instagram (1 Corinthians 9:22-23).

MAINTAIN A CONSISTENT DEVOTIONAL LIFE

You will have 1,001 reasons to let your personal Bible study and prayer life slip. Don't. Without consistent times of personally and passionately seeking God, you have nothing to give others. Put a priority on your devotional life, and your walk with God will flourish (Mark 1:35).

ENCOURAGE OTHERS

Remember those moments when a single text message or a handwritten thank you note breathed new life into your spirit? There are many people today who suggest ministry is too hard or fruitless. Be someone who encourages others to continue pressing forward for God and the Great Commission (2 Timothy 2:1).

If you are a younger man in ministry, I'd encourage you to take these seven principles to heart. And for those of us who have been in ministry for a few decades, let's encourage those just starting out that, although the harvest is great, being a laborer is the greatest opportunity in the world. 🍷



DR. PAUL CHAPPELL is the pastor of Lancaster Baptist Church and the president of West Coast Baptist College



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LIVING A LIFE OF JOY

BY TERRIE CHAPPELL

If you knew you were receiving a letter from an unjustly incarcerated man, what would you expect to read? Frustration? Anger? Gloom?

The book of Philippians actually is such a letter—a prison epistle. The Apostle Paul penned this letter from the recesses of a Roman prison. While we would expect the letter to be sad and gloomy—or at least mournfully resigned—it's not. The book of Philippians is even known as “the epistle of joy.” In these four short chapters, Paul mentions joy, rejoicing, or gladness no less than nineteen times!

So what was Paul's secret? How could he maintain a positive outlook and even mentor others in joyfulness while he was enduring such difficult

circumstances? I believe the answer is found in another oft-repeated word in Philippians—mind. Paul used mind, think, and remember at least sixteen times in this epistle.

What do we learn from this? The secret of Christian joy is found in the way the believer thinks—her mindset. You can't always choose what happens to you, but you can always choose how you will shape your mindset.

In the book of Philippians, Paul describes an attitude of the mind that will produce joy regardless of surrounding circumstances. This short epistle has much to teach on how we can cultivate the right kind of mind.

THE SINGLE MIND

In Philippians 1, Paul discusses his difficult circumstances and faces

them honestly. But he looks at them from a completely different perspective than most of us would. Rather than looking at the circumstances in themselves, he looks at them in relationship to Jesus Christ.

Paul's greatest passion was to know and serve the Lord. Thus, every circumstance he faced was viewed by how it could be used to accomplish his goal. Prison, hunger, loneliness, unjust treatment, fear, uncertainty—none of these things could rob Paul's joy, because he was not living to enjoy circumstances. He was living to serve Jesus Christ. When we look at our circumstances through Christ, everything changes.

OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

The very foundation of our joy is that we know Christ. Regardless of the ebb and flow of earthly circumstances, we can rejoice in knowing that we have a secure home in Heaven and an eternal future greater than any of us could plan.

And yet, our relationship with Christ gives us so much more than a home in Heaven. It gives us direct access to our Heavenly Father and the privilege of an ongoing and ever-growing relationship with Christ Himself. In fact, Jesus pointed to this as the best part of the eternal life He gave us at salvation: “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3).

OUR POSITION AS SERVANTS

At first thought, the position of a servant may not seem to you like a very good reason to rejoice! But that would depend on whom you had the opportunity to serve.

This position, when faithfully fulfilled, also gives us the incredible opportunity to one day experience the joy of hearing the Lord Himself say, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (Matthew 25:21). 🍷



TERRIE CHAPPELL oversees the Ladies Ministry at Lancaster Baptist Church and has served alongside her husband, Dr. Paul Chappell, for thirty-six years.



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Registration

Registration for the Warrior conference begins on January 1, 2017.

Early Bird special	January 1—February 28	\$60
Ladies Conference rate	March 1—August 20	\$70
Late Registration	August 21—September 14	\$80

Visit lancasterbaptist.org/ladies-conference to register!



IDEAS FOR COMPLETING DEPUTATION IN 18 MONTHS

BY KEITH STENSAAS

To most missionaries on deputation, arriving on the mission field after just eighteen months of raising support is an unattainable dream. I have met missionaries who have been on their deputation trail for three to six years. One missions agency says that the average deputation time is four years.

With the advantage of having a father as a missionary, much good advice from my pastor, and by God's grace, we were able to accomplish deputation with full support in just eighteen months. I realize that every person is different, but perhaps some of these things that we did may help you as you step out on the deputation trail.

BUY OR RENT A MOTORHOME

We saved so much money by getting a good motorhome. We had an over-the-

cab model and were thankful that we didn't have to worry about the upkeep of two different vehicles. The amount of money that we saved by cooking our own meals and not having to stay in motel rooms was amazing, not to mention the privacy that a motorhome affords.

DON'T ALLOW YOURSELF TO GO INTO DEBT

Some people try to raise their support while still working a job. Do not start deputation until you are out of debt. Working a job while on deputation will actually work against you. Pastors are very unlikely to support a missionary while he has another source of income, and working the job will limit the distance you can travel to your meetings.

BUILD GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

Using a motorhome enables you to build relationships in a much deeper way.

Here is the plan we followed: If we had a Sunday meeting, we asked the pastor if we could arrive and hook up on Thursday. (Don't split up those Sundays.) If we had a Wednesday meeting, we asked if we could arrive on Monday. We never had a pastor refuse this schedule. We spent those extra days soulwinning and working around the church in whatever ways we could help.

MAJOR ON THREE STATES

When you are starting out, you will not have the money to travel coast to coast. We started deputation with \$250 a month from our home church. My dad advised us to choose three states. This limited our traveling and stress as well. When we went to the field, we had about one-third of our support coming from each of those three states.

WORK EIGHT HOURS A DAY TO SCHEDULE MEETINGS

Missionary, if you are going to get support, you cannot do it by being lazy. Most secular workers work at least eight hours a day. Should it be any different with us? I spent at least eight hours a day calling every independent Baptist church I could find in those three states to set up meetings and to make confirmation calls. About one out of every ten calls resulted in a meeting. We had two meetings a week for eighteen months, taking off only for Christmas.

TRAVEL WITH YOUR FAMILY

Just as you can tell much about a prospective pastor by looking at his family (1 Timothy 3:4-5), one can do the same with a missionary. If his family is not in order, his ministry will not be in order. Churches need to get to know your family and to hear from your wife.

The attitude with which you approach deputation will greatly influence the rate at which you get support. Remember that you are asking strangers to trust their finances with you. Be grateful and thankful for each meeting you have. 🍷



KEITH STENSAAS is a second generation missionary serving the Lord in Masaka, Uganda



THE NEED FOR REST AND NOURISHMENT

BY KEVIN FOLGER

It seems that there are busy seasons of life when we give ourselves to our calling in more intense and more protracted ways than normal. No matter your calling, your life is demanding, and you are busy running from one event to the next. I don't suppose that there is much we can do to change that. Modern conveniences don't seem to make our lives less busy; they just provide a way to cram more. People have begun to think that unless they are busy doing something, they feel

bored and unfulfilled. Because we are busy, we are people in need of rest. We need to rest physically as well as spiritually. Even during the ministry of Jesus, there were times of great stress, and He spoke of the need to rest.

"And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat" (Mark 6:31).

I am reminded of Elijah the prophet as he went through a very intense time of ministry when he faced Ahab and the nation of Israel on Mount Carmel.

He dealt with the false prophets of Baal, and of course, subsequent events that came one right after another. He was so exhausted that when it was all over, he wasn't able to enjoy the victory. On the heels of this great victory, Queen Jezebel sent him a message, and he ran for his life. It was at that point that God stepped into the stress and provided him with physical rest and nutrition, and he recovered.

Although we may not be to that point of exhaustion, it is advisable that we find some time to pull back from the hectic pace of life and relax each week. The Lord understands the demands of life and ministry. He knows our need for rest, and He admonishes us to get in the yoke with Him. He promises a rest that the world can't provide.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

I am laboring, so why not labor with the One who is able to give me rest as I labor with Him? If I look to the Lord, He is more than able to give me what I need in the realm of strength and energy.

Do you find yourself in need of rest? There is a rest for the people of God through a time of corporate worship. God designed the congregating of the body of Christ, not to take things out of us, but to put good things in us. The statement has been made about our physical bodies that, "We are what we eat!" I think that is true of the spiritual body, too! These passages address the fact that God's church is a good place where we find rest and nourishment for our souls: Psalm 1:1-3, Psalm 73, Ephesians 4:11-16, Jude 1:20-21.

There is an energy, a dynamic that God gives to His people who are willing to come apart from the world and come together to worship and to hear from Him. 🍷



DR. KEVIN FOLGER has been the Senior Pastor of Cleveland Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, since 1995.



EIGHT WAYS TO PREPARE FOR A SOULWINNING RELAUNCH

BY PAUL CHAPPELL

I firmly believe that Christ's last command must be our first priority. As a pastor, I take seriously our responsibility as a church to share the gospel, and I take seriously the spiritual maturity of our church family in making soulwinning a priority. That is why every spring and fall, we press a restart button on the church soulwinning program, encouraging every member to enlist or reenlist in reaching our community with the gospel.

So, what do we do to prepare for a soulwinning relaunch? Each year is slightly different in the theming we use, but below are eight basic components:

PREACH ON SOULWINNING

It is vital to me that our church's soulwinning efforts are grounded in our biblical mandate found in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20). Thus, I'll preach a few messages before our fall soulwinning launch on our responsibility to share the gospel.

SING SONGS ABOUT REACHING THE LOST

Use the song service to remind the congregation of the power of the gospel and our responsibility to share it. In the services preceding your soulwinning launch, include songs such as "There Is Power in the Blood," "Jesus Saves," "Rescue the Perishing," and "Send the Light."

SHARE SOULWINNING TESTIMONIES

Have testimonies by soulwinners and those who have been reached by soulwinners in the past twelve months. Testimonies help us put faces to needs. They encourage people who have not been involved to want to be part of something that God is using to change lives.

CONDUCT SOULWINNING SIGN UPS

Rather than simply telling people they should be involved, provide sign up cards or sheets for people to specifically enlist (and reenlist). You can provide these sign ups either in

the teen and adult Sunday school classes or as cards passed out during a church service. We have done both at different times.

OFFER TRAINING

We conduct two soulwinning classes each fall. The first gives basic instruction for new soulwinners in leading a person to Christ. (For this class, we use the book *Take It Personally*.) The second class covers more advanced training such as witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses, answering difficult questions, etc.

OFFER SOULWINNING PARTNERS

Encourage those who have been involved in soulwinning before to have a new partner (2 Timothy 2). The best soulwinning training for a new soulwinner is to go out with a seasoned soulwinner.

HAVE AN ORGANIZED START DATE

When people sign up for the fall soulwinning launch, there is a specific date listed—one of the already-scheduled soulwinning meetings of the church—when it will begin. At that meeting, they pair up with their new partner for the fall.

BE PREPARED WITH SOULWINNING MATERIALS

Order soulwinning materials such as the 4Outreach Packet available from Striving Together Publications. Also be prepared with designated areas for soulwinners to go. For our soulwinning, we systematically work through maps of our community, with each connection group being assigned a specific area. Prior to the fall launch, we highlight a fresh batch of maps.

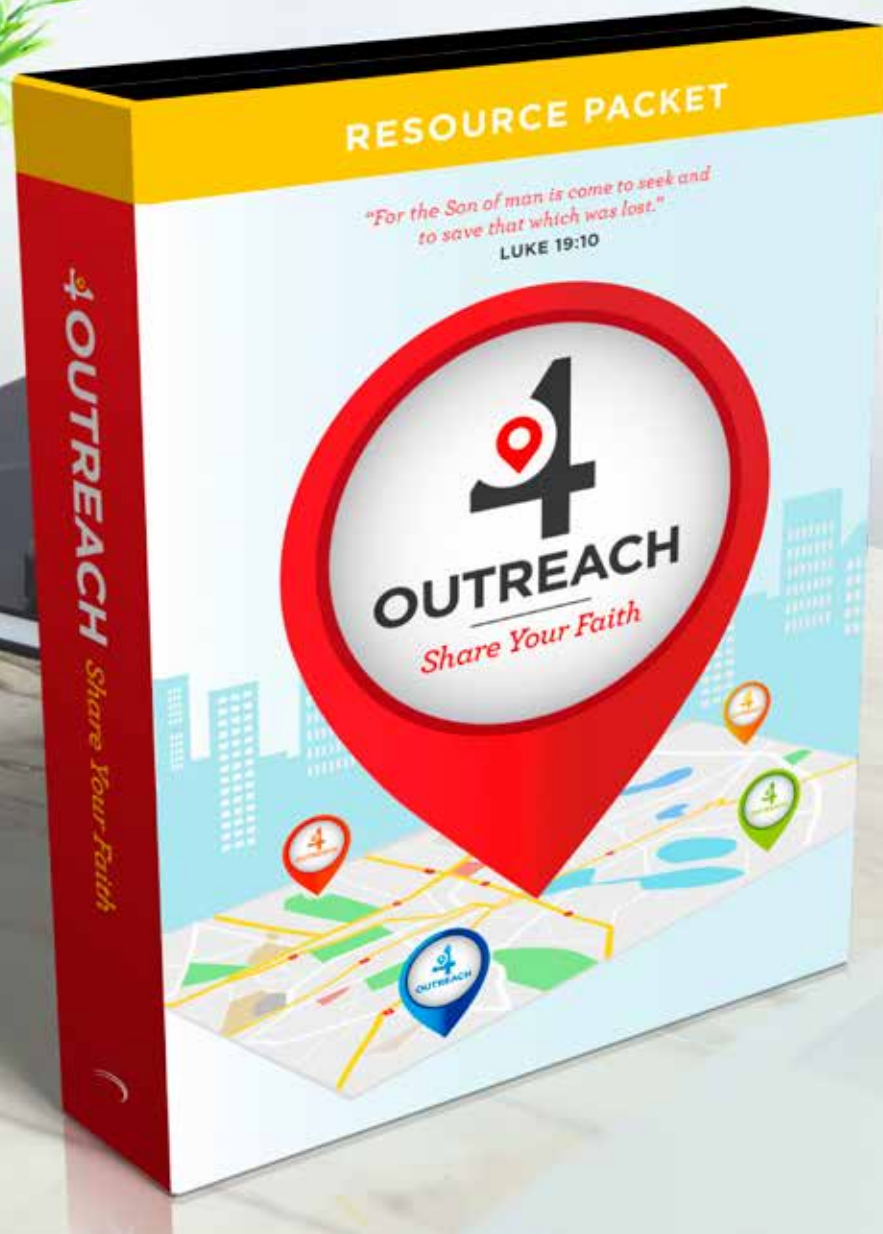
Above all, pray. Pray for the Lord to stir the hearts of His people with their responsibility. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring conviction in the hearts of the lost so they will be receptive to the gospel. Pray for God to use your church to make an impact on your community like never before. 🙏



DR. PAUL CHAPPELL is the pastor of Lancaster Baptist Church and the president of West Coast Baptist College

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WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT ABOUT SUNDAY?

BY JON GUY

Music is everywhere! Whether you are in an elevator, shopping at the mall, watching your favorite show, or attending a football game, you cannot get away from it. In some ways, this is a disadvantage to our corporate worship, because we have been so saturated by music everywhere else. The power and effect of music in our churches can lose its potency. We must work to keep our congregations involved and engaged in our corporate worship, because something is uniquely and dynamically special when we gather on Sundays to sing.

So what's so different about Sunday? Here are some questions to consider.

WHO IS SINGING?

When we gather on Sundays, we are gathering as the body of Christ! We are not coming together around a political

cause, an economic agenda, or shared social interests. We are gathering with others who have come to Christ through the cross of Calvary. There is really no other experience like it on earth when God's people assemble unified in His name to express their love, passion, and praise through music. "Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works" (Psalm 86:8).

WHY ARE WE SINGING?

There are two reasons. First, we are part of His creation, and the original purpose of all that was created was to bring God pleasure. Revelation 4:11 says, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Sin interrupted this purpose, but one day all of creation will once again

glorify His name when every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Christ is Lord.

The second reason we sing is we have been redeemed. God has lifted us out of the pit, set our feet upon a rock, established our going, and put a new song in our mouths. We were condemned to live an eternity without God, but in His grace, He provided a way for us to be purchased back to Himself. May the truths of redemption swell in our hearts as we passionately praise our Saviour for all He has done.

WHAT ARE WE SINGING?

Our song is our salvation. God has given us a new song because we are new creatures in Him. Each of us has a unique testimony, and this is what God has given us to sing. The songwriter said it best: "This is my story, this is my song." Some of the greatest lyrics ever penned were born out of personal struggle and difficulty. Without the trial, there would not have been a song.

TO WHOM DO WE SING?

There is only one audience when the church sings, and that's Christ! We don't sing to each other and we don't sing for each other. We sing to the One Who is worthy of all praise. Churches that have a large or established music ministry are at a great disadvantage, because the congregants can quickly begin to believe that worship through music is the responsibility of the musicians. We are not entertainers who seek to please the ear of an audience. We are prompters who seek to engage the hearts and minds of worshippers. May we have the same pursuit of the psalmist when he said, "Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious."

The singing heard in our churches on Sundays is unlike anything else being heard around the world. May we follow the admonition of the psalmist in Psalm 149 when he said, "Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of the saints." 🎵



JON GUY is the Music Director at Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, California

CAMPUS LIFE



EAGLES BASKETBALL

NICK CORL, A SOPHOMORE FROM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRIDGEPORT, MICHIGAN, PLAYS AGAINST THE WCBC ALUMNI DURING COLLEGE DAYS



CAMPUS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE

COLLEGE DAYS

WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE HOSTS TEENS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

ONE of the best ways to learn more about a college is to visit their campus. That is just what high school students from around the country did this past November. The Lord blessed the West Coast Baptist College Days by allowing students to experience what it is like to be enrolled at WCBC. The schedule was filled with chapel services, classroom lectures, basketball games, intramural football, volleyball, and a host of other activities. The greatest advertisement for WCBC is the students and alumni themselves. God blessed by having several students register for the fall semester.



LEFT: Dr. Chappell, President of WCBC, preaches college chapel on Wednesday morning



LEFT: WCBC College ladies play with visiting students on the campus Hole-y Ground Miniature Golf Course



ABOVE: Students perform a college drama depicting the answer for our culture—the gospel



ABOVE: Dr. Mark Rasmussen, WCBC Vice President, welcomes high school students and answers questions



LEFT: Teens from around the country were invited to a lunch with faculty and seniors on Friday afternoon

THE BALLOUS MINISTERING IN THAILAND

MISSIONARIES JAY AND ALISA,
SERVING IN LAMPHUN CITY



The Ballous began as missionaries in Thailand in 2013. Jay and Alisa are the daughter and son-in-law of Dr. Mark Rasmussen, Vice President of West Coast Baptist College.

The Ballous made a two-year commitment when they arrived in Lamphun City to learn the Thai language. As they studied Thai, God brought along many different surprising opportunities. Jay taught Bible institute classes and also filled the pulpit of a national pastor while he was out of country for a few months. The experiences gained in learning the culture and preaching in Thai were invaluable.

In the fall of last year, the Ballous began the Sila Baptist Church. In these first years, a great percentage of their ministry was

focused on planting seeds in hearts that had never been exposed to the gospel. They filled their home with people several times a week to teach English classes, to share meals together, and to tell them the gospel story. They are watching as hearts slowly soften and receive more and more of this brand new idea that there is one God who created them, loves them, and has a plan for their redemption.

Jay is leading the church into its second year, and Alisa is expanding the English teaching ministry into the local prison and some government offices. They are looking for a new location for the church in the spring of 2017. The Ballous are excited to see the gospel take root and brand new Christians growing through discipleship.



THE REEDS: MISSIONARIES TO THAILAND

CHRIS AND BECCA REED met and both graduated from West Coast Baptist College. After serving as a firefighter in Las Vegas for several years, Chris followed the Lord's leading to West Coast Baptist College to train for full-time ministry. Becca grew up at the Franklin Road Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. During a Missions Conference at Lancaster Baptist Church, God pressed upon Chris's heart that he should leave his current staff position at WCBC and go to the country of Thailand. So far, the Reeds have raised nearly all of their support and are looking forward to finishing deputation by the end of the year. Please pray for this family as they endeavor to learn the language and begin to live amongst the Thai people.



KOUMALY THONGDY, MISSIONARY TO CAMBODIA

For the past six years, Koumaly Thongdy has served as a missionary in Cambodia. Koumaly was one of the earliest graduates of WCBC. He served as an assistant pastor at Pacific Baptist Church in Long Beach before God called him to the mission field. While they have been on furlough, they are excited to report this month that their village ministry had a record attendance of fifty-eight.

J¹⁷ JOSHUA CAMPS

Chosen GENERATION

• 1 peter 2:9 •

joshuacamps.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN

July 16–22

LEADERSHIP

July 16–22

MUSIC

July 16–22

BASKETBALL

July 16–22 & July 30–August 5

VOLLEYBALL

July 16–22 & July 30–August 5

WORLD VIEW

July 30–August 5



Q+A

MATT MANNEY

SERVING AS A PASTOR IN
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Greater Philadelphia Baptist Church began with some very humble beginnings. Pastor Manney, his wife Amanda, and their four children have called Delaware County their home since July 2011. The church collectively chartered one year later with about twenty-five founding members.

HOW DID GOD CALL YOU TO BEGIN PASTORING GREATER PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST CHURCH?

I knew when I was fifteen I wanted to be church planter but had no idea where, except that I wanted to be in a big city. After I graduated from West Coast, my wife and I worked for Pastor Scott Wendal at Valley Forge Baptist Temple. After three survey trips and looking at over two dozen possible cities, Greater Philly officially opened its doors in September of 2011.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS IN WHICH YOU HAVE SEEN GOD'S BLESSING IN MINISTRY?

We had been praying for our own location since we started the church in September of 2011. We looked at almost fifty locations... store fronts, churches that had closed down, libraries, warehouses, movie theaters. We held a giving campaign and raised \$125,000 and purchased an old Methodist church. It was an incredible miracle and working of God! We continue to have slow growth, but we have a base of operations and place to call our own.

WHAT SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS CAN YOU SHARE WITH US?

Growth for the ministry. Our goal is to reach an average of 120 weekly coming to church



"I'm doing my best to love people, tell them about Jesus, and provide a place to connect with Him every Sunday."

by the end of 2016. We are also praying for clarity and execution of vision and strategy—to reach people, see them saved, baptized, and connected into a Growth Group at Greater Philly.

WHAT IS ONE PRINCIPLE YOU LEARNED WHILE ATTENDING LANCASTER BAPTIST CHURCH AND WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE?

Dream big! What I experienced at LBC and West Coast firsthand is rare. If God could give the Antelope Valley an LBC, I want that for the people of the Greater Philadelphia region too. I am doing my best to love people, tell them about Jesus, and provide a place to connect with Him every Sunday. The people of my city deserve that commitment from me as their pastor whether they acknowledge it or not.

WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND WCBC TO SOMEONE PREPARING FOR MINISTRY?

West Coast is on the cutting edge of modern-day ministry. Learning to be a leader is what you can experience at West Coast. Any young person who wants to impact his generation for Jesus will get the passion and tools to do just that in whatever respective location God will lead him to serve. 🍷

WEST COAST ONLINE

As the time for Christ's return approaches, the need to take a firm stand in the Word of God worldwide grows stronger. West Coast Baptist College offers a Masters in Religious Education with concentrations available in biblical studies, Christian education, or church music.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
masters.wcbc.edu

OR CALL 888.694.9222





REACHED THROUGH DAILY IN THE WORD RADIO, NOW A MISSIONARY

BY RUTH LOVEGROVE

AT the age of twenty, I started and ran a successful Event Design business in the Midwest and was compelled to start earning my degree in Design and Business Marketing and Management. I completed both degrees but eventually lost the business. I moved back to Arizona at age twenty-four in search of a new, fresh start. I was heartbroken at the failure of my business, but I can look back now and see how God used the trauma that came from this loss to bring me to Himself.

The Lord allowed me to have a lengthy commute after moving back to Arizona in search of that new start. Nothing helped calm my nerves while driving such a distance except the preaching that I found on a radio program called *Daily in the Word* with

Dr. Paul Chappell. The Lord had my undivided attention and began to speak directly to me and to my sin through the sound preaching of His Word. I scoffed at it yet began listening every single day—even turning it on during my spare time. After a solid two months of listening, contemplation, and wrestling with God, I finally submitted my will to His and trusted Christ.

After searching and praying, the Lord led me to a good church. I was disciplined and began growing spiritually. After several years of serving at the church, I met my husband, Josh, who was a graduate of West Coast Baptist College—the very place where *Daily in the Word* was broadcasted.

Since getting married in June 2010, the Lord has blessed us with three precious sons. We are now on our way to Ethiopia as missionaries. 📍



DAILY IN THE WORD RADIO

More than twenty years ago, Dr. Paul Chappell took to the air to share biblical answers for life's greatest challenges. What started as a local program on one radio station in Los Angeles soon spread to other stations. Today, *Daily in the Word* is on dozens of stations across the country and around the globe with thousands of listeners. Our vision is three-fold: to spread the gospel to the unreached, to encourage and strengthen believers in their faith, and to share ministry opportunities and resources. Visit dailyintheword.org today to find a station in your area.

ARE CHRISTIAN COLLEGES THE BEST COLLEGES?

Most people falsely conclude that when it comes to Christian colleges, you have to forfeit academic excellence.

According to the 2016 Forbes list of the top twenty-five colleges, that is not always the case. For the most part, colleges that started faith-based, like Harvard and Yale—departed from their Christian heritage years ago. But what about the schools who held true to their beliefs?

"Hundreds of other colleges and universities have not left the Bible behind, often to great success," reports Forbes. Actually, of the best-ranked 130 schools in the U.S., twenty-five are 'Christian.'

WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND

How does it work?



The Student Assistance Fund allows students to complete their education and fulfill their call to full-time ministry due to the sustaining gifts given. Because West Coast Baptist College does not accept government funds, many students are unable to finish due to financial needs. Your gift will literally be God's answer to the prayers of a diligent student.

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Training Laborers for His Harvest

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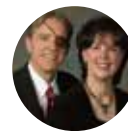
ALASKA CRUISE

JULY 29 - AUGUST 5, 2017

Enjoy a seven-night cruise full of encouraging fellowship,
great preaching, and uplifting music from Ron and
Shelly Hamilton and West Coast Baptist College.



DR. PAUL CHAPPELL



DR. RON HAMILTON



DR. R.B. OUELLETTE

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