


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

the Baptist Voice

ISSUE 30 | SUMMER 2017

FROM LANCASTER BAPTIST CHURCH & WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE



When Church and Culture Collide

A Biblical
Response to a
Secular Society



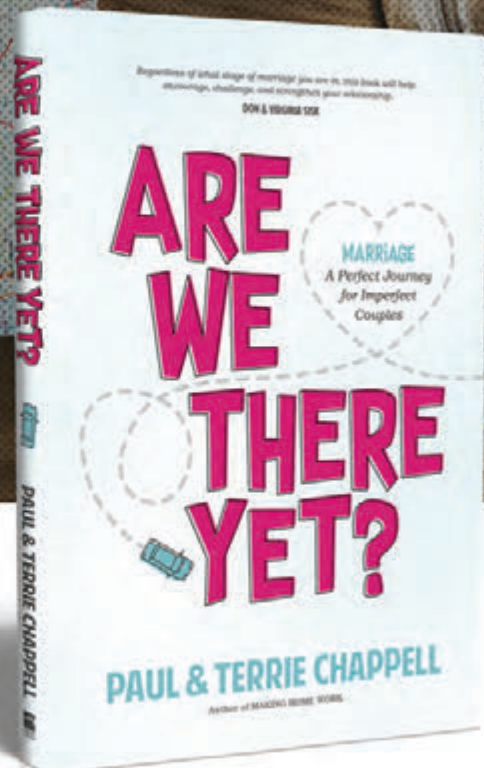
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CONTENTS

SUMMER // ISSUE 30



Todd Starnes

p.22

An interview with FOX NEWS radio host Todd Starnes about being on the front lines of the culture war in America

08 // SO FAR THIS YEAR

A lot has happened at WCBC and LBC in just six months.

12 // 30 YEARS OF BUS MINISTRY

Since 1987, over 16,000 souls have been saved through the bus ministry.

24 // COUNTER CULTURE

Discover five practical stances you can take in an increasingly secular society

38 // CROSS CULTURAL EVANGELISM

As a missionary, adjusting to a new culture can be a challenge

40 // AWAKE AMERICA

How God is using Dr. Chuck Harding and Capitol Connection in Washington, D.C.

44 // WHEN WORLDVIEWS COLLIDE

Living in a secular society that refuses God is the norm, not the exception.



50 // IS GOD FACT OR ABSTRACT?

God honors our faith, but He also provides facts on which to base our faith.

54 // SEPARATION

The principle or practice of separation has never been popular.

60 // APOLOGETICS

Three historical arguments for the existence of Jesus

64 // MUSIC

Music services that develop the praise of new believers

06 // FIRST WORD

18 // CURRENTS

Muslims are being converted in high numbers in Europe, Millennials are dropping the church—not their faith, US Embassy raises the rainbow flag with the American flag, a teacher's rights

28 // PREACHER HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor Bobby Roberson in North Carolina, Pastor Tim Rabon in North Carolina, Pastor Terry Randolph in Arizona, Pastor Keith Thibo in Illinois

34 // CHURCH PLANTING

A look at church plants around the country and for whom to pray

the
BaptistVoice

Summer 2017, Issue 30

When Church and Culture Collide

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ABOUT THE BAPTIST VOICE

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Confronting the Culture

This issue is dedicated to helping you stand firm in the midst of a shifting culture. Will you seize the moment and act upon it? Christ is returning...and we know it!

IT doesn't require prophetic insight to see the moral trajectory of our country. We see a nation turning her back on the God Who blessed her and insisting on a tolerance that excludes His principles. We see a people who are bent on following the downward progression of the sins listed in Romans 1.

As a pastor, it is all amazingly discouraging. As a patriotic citizen, it's disheartening.

But I will not spend my days in depression or anger. Some may complain or withdraw, but these responses are not consistent with the plan of God. Christ promises to build His church—even in the midst of a pagan society: "...I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

There has never been a more needy time in our country in which to preach the gospel. We must not sit on our hands bemoaning the state of affairs. We must act—strategically, decisively, obediently.

In these pages, we've laid out an action plan to engage our culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ. My challenge to you is a question: Will you seize the opportunity?

I believe that the local church is the hope for our nation, and I choose to obey Christ's instruction,

"Occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13).

Occupy—it means "busy yourself." Will you do it? Will you earnestly pray over the steps presented in this issue, asking God to direct and bless your involvement? Will you make definite plans for how you and your local congregation will win souls, plant churches, and reach your community with the gospel?

Will you close this issue as a "good read" and set it aside? Or will you act?

I don't know how much longer our nation has without revival. And I surely don't know how long we have until Christ returns. But I do know that our time is short. As Leonard Ravenhill once said, "The opportunity of a lifetime must be seized in the lifetime of the opportunity."

Yes, there are challenges, and there will be more ahead. But the gospel is as powerful today as it was in the first century. And the hope of Christ's return is as real today as it was when Jesus ascended to Heaven.

The hope of tomorrow's generation lies in what we do with today's opportunities. Will you seize the opportunity?



DR. PAUL CHAPPELL
Pastor & Publisher

WE ARE LIVING AT A CRUCIAL POINT IN AMERICAN HISTORY. YET MANY AROUND US ARE SLEEPING.



x

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.

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2017

LANCASTER BAPTIST CHURCH

SO FAR
THIS
YEAR

↑ New Life Baptist Rancho Vista Campus Pastor Peter Mordh holds the first baptism service in West Palmdale.

WE PRAISE THE LORD for the many victories that we have been able to experience so far this year. Souls were saved, new believers were baptized, new converts were discipled, graduates were commissioned, and the gospel of Christ was preached faithfully every week. 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 ahead! Why that confidence? Cultures shift, but God’s Word never changes. Here is a quick look at the past six months:



The Lancaster Baptist Church Spanish ministry celebrated twenty-six years of ministry during the annual Spanish Spiritual Leadership Conference last January. Delegates from across the country and several foreign countries attended three days of powerful preaching and practical sessions. Pastor Paul Chappell, Pastor Carlos Navarrete, Dr. David Cortes, Pastor Alejandro Cordova, Dr. Ezequiel Salazar, and Missionary Ed Bordell were the special speakers.

2. VISION NIGHT

ON JANUARY 8, we introduced a new theme for the year to our church family on Vision Sunday. This is done primarily through the Sunday messages. The theme is shared from a biblical text and developed into ministry goals for the coming year. Our theme for 2017 is “By Grace” taken from 2 Peter 3:18.

3. ANNUAL WINTER REVIVAL WITH DR. JOHN GOETSCH

FOR NEARLY THREE DECADES Evangelist Dr. John Goetsch has preached our Winter Revival at Lancaster Baptist Church. His messages this year were themed around the life of Samson. To watch or listen to these messages, visit preaching.lancasterbaptist.org.



4. LBC COUPLES RETREAT WITH PASTOR WENDAL

PASTOR SCOTT WENDAL was our guest speaker at this year’s annual Couples Retreat in Newport Beach. His Friday evening message reminded couples that most marriage problems can be solved by applying Ephesians 4:32.



5. BY GRACE OFFERING

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 5, our church family had the opportunity to give toward our ongoing campus development projects. That night Dr. David Gibbs, Jr., was the guest speaker, and LBC members gave toward the future Children’s Building.



6. SOUTH CAMPUS & COLLEGE LIBRARY GRAND OPENING

ON FEBRUARY 26, Lancaster Baptist Church participated in the Grand Opening of the new Walther Center Library and South Campus buildings. The South Campus provides nearly 17,000 square feet of space for Spanish classrooms and nurseries. The college library has nearly 100,000 volumes.



7. WEST COAST BAPTIST FINE ARTS

THE WEST COAST BAPTIST FINE ARTS COMPETITION was started in 1995 to help students develop their talents and sharpen their skills for the Lord. In March, Christian schools from across Southern California and Arizona competed in dozens of areas including Bible preaching, Bible teaching, music, academics, and speech. Each area of competition has been carefully planned to help prepare students' minds and abilities for a life of service to Christ.



8. EASTER WEEKEND

Resurrection Sunday is a highlight of the year at Lancaster Baptist Church. People who normally wouldn't step into a church will often attend on Easter Sunday. In preparation, LBC members and WCBC students went the extra mile to bring guests to church. Over 145,000 doors were knocked on and given a personal invitation. Through these endeavors many church members were able to present the gospel and several souls were saved. The church family also

wrote the names of people they were praying for on a purple ribbons and attached them to crosses located around the campus. The drama and music ministries put together a presentation entitled *Redemption*. Pastor Chappell's preaching and the music from the choir and orchestra told the story of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection. The program was presented four times during the Easter weekend. A record number of people attended and were saved. Over 130 people have been baptized since this event.



9. SPECIAL GUEST TODD STARNES AT LBC

FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR Todd Starnes attended Lancaster Baptist Church as a special guest. Todd was saved in a Baptist church as a young boy. His parents were bus workers. He is a seasoned journalist and valiant culture warrior. His writing was instrumental in bringing to light the story of a boy who was told by a Palmdale school teacher not to bring Bible verses to lunch. Pastor Chappell interviewed Todd Sunday morning about religious freedom.

10. FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION DAY AT LBC

“PRAISE FOR AV’S FIRST RESPONDERS” was the front page headline of the *AV Press* on Monday, May 1. For the past thirty years, Lancaster Baptist Church has hosted a First Responders Appreciation Day to recognize and thank these first responders in our community. It was an honor to host them and their families.



11. WEST COAST BAPTIST YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Lord blessed the West Coast Baptist Youth Conference in April. When Dr. Chappell gave the invitation for the final service, the response was overwhelming. Within the first few minutes, the platform was filled with students praying with counselors. Many of the students surrendered to full-time ministry.

12. 4OUTREACH FALL KICK-OFF

THE 4OUTREACH program is an organized plan to help us share our faith passionately. We have divided our valley into four quadrants to help maximize our outreach times. Each soulwinning member of Lancaster Baptist Church chooses a location closest to his home. The soulwinning leader has doorknocking maps and visits available for them and their partners. We began our spring kick-off in March.



13. LBC OUTDOOR BAPTISMS

LBC HELD ITS SECOND outdoor baptism service with over forty people following the Lord in the Christian’s first step of obedience. Many of those who came were people who had been saved at Easter. The next step for them is to be enrolled in discipleship.

14. WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE commissioned 229 graduates in May to the harvest fields of the world. They are now a part of the 2,500+ WCBC alumni who are pastors, assistant pastors, youth pastors, Christian school teachers, missionaries, and other full-time servants.



15. LANCASTER BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION SERVICE

LARRY CHAPPELL is a graduate of Lancaster Baptist School and the Youth Pastor at Lancaster Baptist Church. He was also the commencement speaker at the LBS graduation ceremonies. Eight of the thirty seniors who graduated that evening started attending LBS when they were in kindergarten. Many of their parents have been saved at LBC. It was a blessing to see the fruit of the ministry that evening.

[LANCASTER BAPTIST CHURCH]

THIRTY YEARS OF BUS MINISTRY



JOHN DOWNEY
Twenty-Nine Years
as a Bus Captain

John Downey was led to Christ and baptized by Pastor Chappell in 1987.



PHIL CHAPMAN
Twenty-Eight Years
as a Bus Captain

Phil Chapman has seen hundreds of children saved from his bus route.



LOWELL ALLEN
Twenty-Three
Years as a Driver

Lowell has served as a driver and mechanic helping to transport children to church every week.

M I S C .



Eldon Lofgren has been a member of Lancaster Baptist Church from 1986 until the present. His one condition for joining was that he could help start the bus ministry. He has served as a faithful captain and now as a deacon.



Abram Thomas began riding the bus at Lancaster Baptist Church when he was still young. Because of the influence of Pastor Chappell and some godly Sunday school teachers, Abram eventually enrolled in West Coast Baptist College and became a captain of his own bus route. Today he is serving with his family as the pastor of New Heights Baptist Church in Inglewood, California.



1987, Eldon Lofgren approached Pastor Chappell and asked if he could begin a bus ministry. A short time later, Eldon and his son, Jeremy, went out on a Sunday morning in a van. They returned a short time later with three children—the first “bus kids” to attend Lancaster Baptist Church.


That simple desire has since blossomed into a bus ministry that presently operates fifteen routes

Since 1987, over 16,000 souls have been saved through the bus ministry.

reaching every corner of the Antelope Valley. God has given Pastor Chappell and the church family a burden to reach people who perhaps others do not want. Every weekend for thirty years, many volunteer workers venture out into the community to minister in the love of Christ, and each Sunday over 500 children ride the buses to church. The bus ministry has seen high days of over 3,000 in attendance. These riders are loved, encouraged, and taught the Word of God. During their time at Lancaster Baptist Church, many of them are led to Christ. Since 1987, over 16,000 precious souls have been brought to Christ through the soulwinning efforts of the bus ministry.

WATCH VIDEO ONLINE

On Sunday evening April 2, Lancaster Baptist Church honored those who had served in the bus ministry for twenty plus years. A video was produced showing their influence in the community. You can watch online at lancasterbaptist.org/ministries



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Lancaster Baptist Church Awarded Best Christian Workplace



THE STAFF of Lancaster Baptist Church is simply a team of servants that are united by a common desire to serve God, win the lost, and minister to God’s people. The staff of Lancaster Baptist Church act as an extension of Pastor Chappell. Their godly passion is contagious and is a major factor in the strong spirit of the church family as a whole. We are constantly striving for excellence in

our ministry. That is why we recently enlisted a Christian company, Best Christian Workplaces Institute (BCWI), to analyze our workplace environment. BCWI helps organizations understand and model the qualities and behaviors that create healthy and effective workplaces. In April, they conducted a survey of our church staff. The feedback revealed a very engaged staff, highly motivated

and committed. LBC was identified as a “healthy” organization, which surpassed what is expected for a church undergoing this process in the first year. As a result Lancaster Baptist Church has been recognized as a 2017 Certified Best Christian Workplace by BCWI. We praise the Lord for dedicated staff who serve Christ and their church family at Lancaster Baptist Church.

MISC.



LBC STAFF CHILDREN’S BIRTHDAY PARTY

At Lancaster Baptist Church we are blessed to serve with the world’s greatest staff. We know that behind each staff member is a family that loves and supports their calling. Sometimes life at Lancaster Baptist Church can be extremely busy. That is why during the month of May we pause and have a giant birthday party for the children of staff members. It is a moment when Pastor Chappell can once again remind the children that he loves them, and he is praying for their families.



STAFF WORKDAY BARBECUE

The week before Spiritual Leadership Conference our entire staff dedicates a day of the week to prepare the campus for guests. Afterward, we enjoy a lunch prepared by Pastor Chappell.

LISTEN TO PREACHING ANYTIME

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Lancaster Baptist School



X
Pastor Chappell presents diplomas to the graduating seniors at Lancaster Baptist School

STARTING LANCASTER BAPTIST SCHOOL twenty-eight years ago was a huge decision of faith. We had little in the way of finances or facilities, but we had a conviction that young people needed a Christian education, and we had teachers who were willing to invest themselves into helping children have a heart for God and develop the mind of Christ.

Over the years, our school has grown in the way of faculty, academics, fine arts, and sports opportunities. We have high academic standards with accreditation from WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) and AP classes for juniors and seniors. Today, we have over five hundred Lancaster Baptist School alumni who have gone on

to graduate from a variety of colleges and universities; serve in the military; become successful in many different professions; and serve in the ministry.

Yet, even with our growing academics and sports programs, what still excites us more than anything else, is nurturing the hearts of young people and seeing them respond to God's will

MISC.



Brandon Ewing recently joined our school staff as our new Assistant Administrator. After being honorably discharged from the Marines, he attended Baylor University in Waco, TX, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies and Economics. In May of 2016, Mr. Ewing graduated from West Coast Baptist College with a Master's degree in Christian Education.



The Fourteenth Amendment is often cited by litigators and judges as an excuse for sinful behavior. But **Reese Alvarez**, a senior at LBS, challenged that concept on Law Day in the Antelope Valley and won first place for his speech about traditional marriage. Sixteen other schools competed.

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SCHOOL PROFILE

UPPER LEVEL AND ADVANCED COURSES

Advanced Math 1
Advanced Math 2
Geometry
Algebra 2
Pre-Calculus
Physics
Chemistry
AP Calculus AB
AP United States
History

MUSIC PROGRAMS

Varsity Choir
Varsity Beginner
Strings
Varsity Intermediate
Strings
Varsity Beginner Band

Varsity Intermediate
Band
Orchestra
High School Ensemble

CIF SPORTS

Boys Football
Girls Volleyball
Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Boys Soccer
Boys Baseball



Muslim Converts in Europe

Muslim converts are breathing new life into Europe's struggling Christian churches

Christianity is making a comeback in Europe—and it's mostly thanks to Muslims, say experts in Islam and faith leaders.

A soaring number of Muslims, many of them refugees from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, are converting to Christianity, breathing new life into Europe's once floundering Christian churches. The Muslims are flocking to various Christian denominations, experts said, including becoming Protestants, evangelical, or Catholic.

As many parts of Europe are becoming more secular and houses of worship are seeing congregants leave in droves, it is Muslim converts who are reviving struggling Christian churches.

It's illegal in many Muslim countries to convert to another religion; therefore making it safer to convert to Christianity in Europe.—*Fox News*

FEWER MILLENNIALS ARE IDENTIFYING AS CHRISTIANS

JUST 56% OF TODAY'S YOUNGER MILLENNIALS (born 1990-1996) call themselves Christians, even though the vast majority (about eight in ten) were raised in religious homes. Pew Research found that each successive generation of Americans includes fewer Christians. To put it simply: Older generations of Americans are not passing along the Christian faith as effectively as their forebears.—*Pew Research*



MISC.



The U.S. embassy in Macedonia raised the **rainbow flag** just below the American flag. Why? "...to commemorate the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia," the embassy announced on its Facebook page.



A school worker in Augusta, Maine, was ordered to stop using religious phrases like **"I will pray for you"** because such language is not allowed inside a public school building.

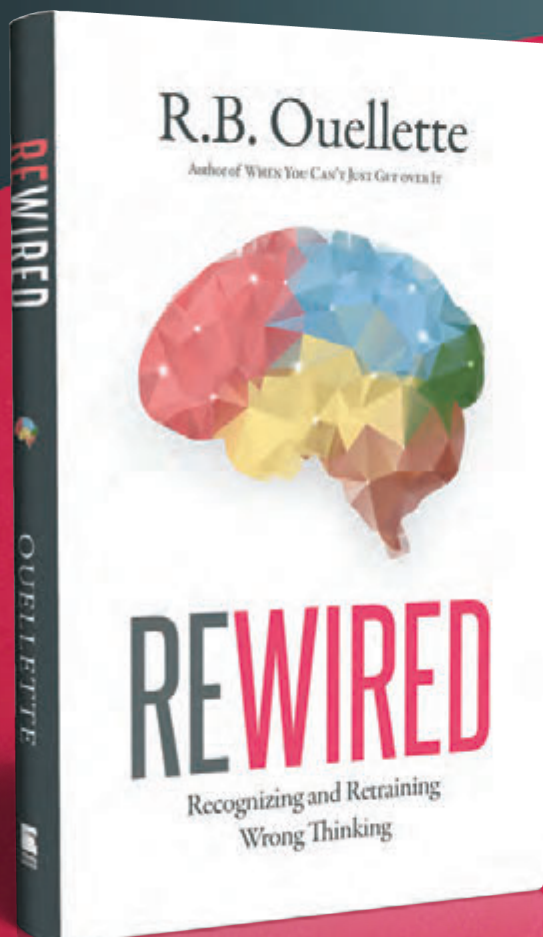
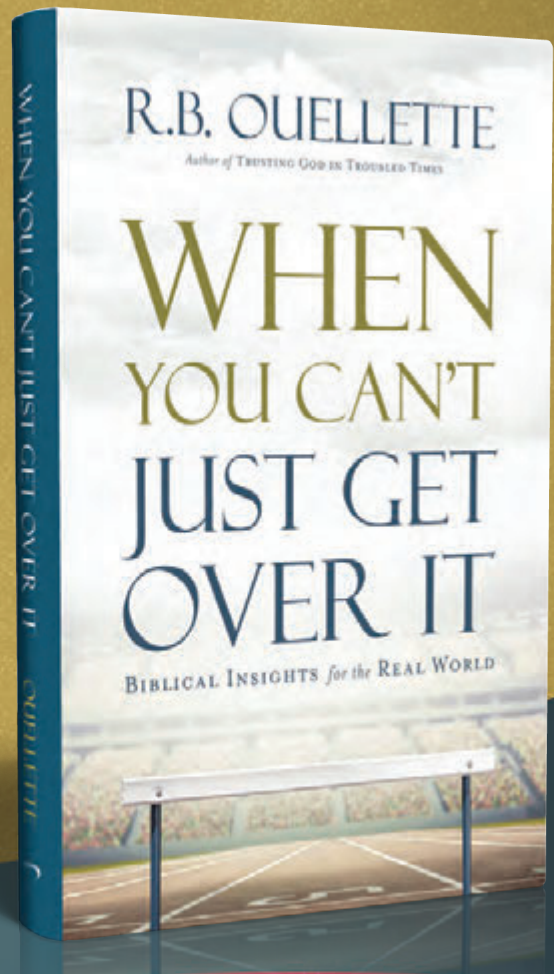


A substitute teacher in New Jersey **received his job back** after being fired for giving a student a Bible.

WHEN YOU CAN'T JUST GET OVER IT

BIBLICAL INSIGHTS FOR THE REAL WORLD

Although we would love to coast through life with little difficulty and minimal challenges, we often find ourselves facing barriers greater than our inner resources to scale. In this book, R.B. Ouellette leads readers through the lives of ten Bible characters and draws insights that will help you overcome the same difficulties they faced. Better yet, you'll learn not how to "just get over it," but how to clear the hurdle and be better on the other side because you encountered it.



REWIRED RECOGNIZING AND RETRAINING WRONG THINKING

Our thoughts are so powerful that much of the spiritual warfare that takes place in our lives happens in our minds. In these pages, learn to recognize thinking patterns that undermine your ability to live a victorious Christian life, and discover how to retrain your thoughts with the powerful weapon of God's Word.

A woman wearing a grey headscarf is shown in profile, looking thoughtfully to the right. She is standing in a large, ornate church interior with high ceilings, arched windows, and wooden pews. A yellow caution tape with Arabic script is stretched across the foreground. The lighting is dramatic, with warm tones from the church's interior and cooler tones from the woman's clothing.

Constant Threat of Persecution

Nearly half of the world's population lives under active oppression for the Christian Faith.

WHILE CHRISTIANS in the United States are feeling more hostilities, especially through legal action, the freedoms they enjoy are still far beyond what many Christians possess. In nearly every nation where nominal Christianity is not the majority religion, believers face severe restrictions with harsh penalties. Being a Christian in these nations is not convenient, and it is often painful. This past Palm Sunday was a dark day in Egypt. Suicide bombings at two Coptic Christian churches, one in Alexandria and the other in Tanta left 45 people dead and many more wounded. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), released a report highlighting the worst offenders—nations who actively squelched all religion not “sanctioned” by their government. While this list is not exhaustive, the report gives a glimpse into the danger many Christians face.

—*Opendoorsusa.org*

PHOTO: REUTERS/AMR ABDALLAH DALSH



X
Parishioners survey the aftermath of the deadly church bombing in Egypt.

2017 Top Violators of Religious Freedom



1. NORTH KOREA

This nation is one of the world's most repressive regimes. Those holding clandestine religious services are arrested, tortured, and executed.

2. IRAN

Christians are regularly arrested for their beliefs. Several have been executed for the capital crime of "waging war against Allah."

3. ERITREA

The government tortures thousands of religious prisoners each year, often resulting in death. All public religious activities are banned.

4. SUDAN

Since South Sudan declared independence in July 2011, the Muslim-dominated government has increased its oppression of Christians and other non-Muslims.

5. SOMALIA

Islam was already firmly established in Somalia before the arrival of Christianity. Believers face increased hostility.



Interview with Todd Starnes

Fox News Radio host Todd Starnes is on the front lines of the culture war in America.

America is a nation at war. This is not a war being fought with might or military; it is being fought with words and ideas. We aren't sending soldiers to face off with our enemy, but there are definitely opposing sides in the confrontation. The battle isn't taking place on foreign soil; it's right at our doorstep. And the casualties are mounting daily. It's the battle for religious freedom.

Thankfully, there are people like Todd Starnes who are not afraid to join the fight on the front lines of America's culture war. He's a born-again Christian. He believes in traditional family values. He stands for biblical principles. And he is a "watchdog" for religious liberty. We talked to him on our campus about standing against the barrage of liberal media.

HOW DID YOU COME TO KNOW THE LORD AS YOUR SAVIOUR?

I've lived in New York and worked for Fox News for thirteen years, but I am originally from Memphis, Tennessee. I grew up in an independent Baptist church. My parents were part of the bus ministry. It was during that time I made the decision to accept Christ.

WHAT IS IT LIKE BEING A CONSERVATIVE IN NEW YORK?

I live in Brooklyn, just a few blocks from where Hillary Clinton's campaign headquarters were located. I truly felt that to cover the American liberal I needed to live in his natural habitat. I stick out like a sore thumb. People see me walking down the street and think, "He's either a Baptist or a Republican." But it is an honor to be at Fox News and to tell our stories to the rest of the country. I really consider that to be my mission field.

WHAT ROLE HAS PUBLIC EDUCATION HAD IN DEFINING AMERICA'S BELIEF SYSTEM?

The public school system in America has been turned against us. It has been taken over by

liberals and secular humanists. They are basically indoctrination centers for the left. That is why we have seen such a massive cultural change in this nation in just a brief amount of time.

GIVE US THE CONTEXT BEHIND YOUR NEWEST BOOK.

Looking back at the presidential campaign, one of the key moments was when Hillary Clinton said that the folks who believe in traditional values are not just “deplorable” but are “irredeemable.” Our belief system is so egregious that we are beyond redemption. And it reminded me of something that former president Barack Obama said on the campaign trail in 2007 about Americans who cling to their guns and religion being “bitter.” But I am proud to call myself a gun-toting, Bible-clinging, chicken-eating deplorable, and I’m not bitter, I’m blessed. And that is really why I wrote this book. It is a call to action for Christians to take a stand in America and defend religious liberty because if we don’t do it, no one is going to do it for us.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST TROUBLING ASSAULT YOU HAVE SEEN ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RECENTLY?

I think one of the more disturbing issues right now involves this war being waged by gender revolutionaries—that’s what I call them. The issue goes all the way back to the teaching of evolution. If you can begin to question the first sentence of the Bible, then everything past that sentence can come into play. Now you don’t just have male and female—Facebook has fifty-eight different genders from which you can choose. We are literally deconstructing gender. This is a direct assault on God and God’s Word. What happened in North Carolina just a few months ago with their bathroom bill is an attack on those who believe the Bible. It is important that we cover those stories because if we don’t, if we stay silent, then we risk losing the battle altogether. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “Silence in the face of evil is itself

evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.” This is a moment for every Bible-believing Christian in America to speak and to act.

WHAT HAS ENCOURAGED YOU THE MOST ABOUT VISITING OUR CAMPUS?

I love speaking and visiting churches that are involved in the community. I have to be honest with you, I didn’t know much about West Coast Baptist College until very recently. And as I was visiting with the students and having a chance to talk to them and hear their heart I came to understand that if we are going to change the culture—and California is the epicenter of the battle—we are going to need more students like the students here at West Coast Baptist College. We are going to need more institutions like this one that are engaged in the culture. Because ultimately, if we are going to change this country it is not going to be through a political party, it is going to be through a personal relationship with Christ. That’s the big issue here.

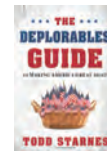
One of the things I appreciate about Pastor Chappell is that he is out there taking a vocal stand on issues, and he is doing it in a way that is not offensive or mean-spirited. He is lovingly conveying gospel truths.

Pastor Chappell mentioned in a sermon I heard him preach recently that we are called to be “salt and light.” Unfortunately, many Christian churches are on a salt-free diet. They don’t want to engage the culture. They don’t want to offend.

When California was pushing Senate Bill 1146 that would have forced Christian colleges to bow down to the LGBT agenda, a good number of Christian colleges did not want to comment. They just hoped it would go away. And that is the wrong approach. I know it is unpleasant, and it goes against our nature, but sometimes you have to take a stand. You don’t have to be mean about it, but you have to draw a line in the sand for what the Bible says. And I am thankful Pastor Chappell is willing to take that stand. **BV**

BOOKS AUTHORED

If you’re not familiar with Todd Starnes, here is a list of the books he has written:



THE DEPLORABLES' GUIDE TO MAKING AMERICA GREAT AGAIN

Fox News Radio host Todd Starnes reports from the front lines of the culture war in America and provides insights on what you can do to bring about real and lasting change in our nation.



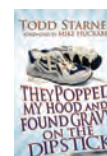
GOD LESS AMERICA: Real Stories From the Front Lines of the Attack on Traditional Values

Pay attention, people of faith. Dark clouds are gathering. The winds of intolerance are blowing. There’s a great storm approaching.



DISPATCHES FROM BITTER AMERICA: A Gun Toting, Chicken Eating Son of a Baptist's Culture War Stories

This is a collection of stories from conversations he has had with regular folks who have deep concerns about the direction we are going as a nation.



THEY POPPED MY HOOD AND FOUND GRAVY ON THE DIPSTICK

Todd shares stories from his journey to better health and along the way, loses over 100 pounds, runs the New York City marathon, and survives open-heart surgery.

Counter

A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO A SECULAR SOCIETY

Culture



C

hristians across America are frustrated. Some are discouraged. Some are fearful. Some are hopeless.

Our culture is shifting before our very eyes, and there seems to be little to nothing we can do to stop it. We see the decaying morals and we sense the intolerance toward Christians growing around us.

Pastors, too, become discouraged with it all. Those serving in ministry wonder if there is hope for our

nation or for revival. But lest we bemoan the difficult times in our country today, could I remind you that the gospel has prospered in even more difficult times in years past.

In fact, the Apostle Paul is believed to have written the book of 2 Timothy from the Mamertine Prison in Rome. He wrote at an incredibly difficult time both in world history and in his life. Christians everywhere were persecuted, and he knew he was only a short time from his own martyrdom. What was his instruction at this critical period? He told Timothy to continue.



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

Paul didn't sugarcoat his message. He straight up told Timothy that the godly will suffer, and the weak will be deceived (2 Timothy 3:12–13). But he followed those observations with a direct command:

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;” (2 Timothy 3:14).

All of us are going to face sizeable challenges. We are ministering in a culture that, by and large, is resistant toward truth

and intolerant of those who preach it.

So what do we do in the midst of such a culture shift? Do we look for a new philosophy of ministry? More palatable doctrine? Culturally-acceptable preaching?

No, I challenge you to stand for truth no matter what is legislated or promoted in our society against God or His Word.

God is our strength, but His power is only appropriated by obedience. He instructs us to put on the armor He has provided (Ephesians 6:11).

How do we stand for the truth? I suggest five practical stances as you hold the truth.

1. STAND FOR TRUTH PERSONALLY

Before Satan targets your ministry, he targets your heart. God commands us to resist his pull: “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

The Apostle Paul understood the personal nature of spiritual warfare. With passion and strategy, Paul made one spiritual conquest after another. He went to pagan cities as the first Christian witness and boldly proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am truly awed when I think of a lone man entering these cities and lifting his voice to the truth. What courage, what boldness, and what victories God gave! From one city to the next, Paul led people to Christ and planted churches—and all of this in a morally decadent culture.

But even this man who was used of God to reach much of the Roman Empire with the gospel knew his susceptibility. He knew he was not beyond personal failure. And so he wrote, “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway” (1 Corinthians 9:27).

With the voice of one who was experienced in personal combat, Paul wrote Timothy, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (1 Timothy 4:16).

Take heed. Satan attacks men before he attacks ministries.

We are vulnerable, but Christ is strong. When we put our confidence in our strength,

HOW CAN WE BE SALT AND LIGHT AS PASTORS?

Here are five ways we can have a positive effect on the communities we serve:

PREACH THE BIBLE POSITION ON ISSUES OF THE DAY

Our people need to know what the Bible says concerning these issues. But this will only happen as pastors preach these issues from the Scripture passages that teach them. This should always be done with a loving spirit. Preachers who sensationalize issues to gain a following or to gain publicity are self-promoting and narcissist. They are trying to gain attention rather than to be faithful to the Word of God.

NOTIFY PASTORS OF UNBIBLICAL LAWS BEING PROPOSED

I have always appreciated it when other CA pastors have called to tell me of a harmful piece of state legislation coming up for vote in Sacramento. In many cases, I've even provided our church with the information to respond to lawmakers.

CONTACT ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OPPOSE UNGODLY LEGISLATION

Many elected officials will respond to calls, letters, or emails from their constituents—especially when the response comes as a combined effort from Christians of multiple churches.

ENCOURAGE LEADERS WHO ARE STANDING FOR RIGHT.

Write leaders who do vote against ungodly legislation—even if their vote was overruled—and thank them for standing for right.

ATTEND LOCAL MEETINGS AND WITNESS TO THE LEADERS

Attend city council and town hall meetings. Let your local leaders know that you are personally invested in making your community a better place.

we fail. But when we put our confidence in Him, we have victory. First John 4:4 reminds us that we can overcome “because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

From a position of personal victory in Christ's strength, we can—and must—remain steadfast as we preach the unchanging truths of God's Word.

I'm reminded of Martin Luther's statement when he stood before the Diet of Worms accused of heresy for preaching salvation by faith alone. He defended himself, “My conscience is captive to the Word of God....Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise.”

Every believer who is faithful to God's Word cannot do otherwise than stand firm. Hold fast the truth—personally and positionally.

2. STAY INVOLVED AS SALT AND LIGHT

Although it may be difficult to minister in a post-Christian society, our witness makes the most impact when it is most needed.

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:13-16).

Consider the audience who first heard these words. In the paragraph before, they had heard instruction on *when* (not *if*) persecution would come. It was not easy to be salt and light in the first-century Roman Empire, but the early church did it.

We've known so little of what can be called real persecution here in America that I'm afraid we don't value the truth

as we should. It seems we're quick to explain why our salt has lost its zest and why our lights don't shine rather than asking what we can do to be a stronger influence on our society.

3. REMEMBER PAST GENERATIONS DID NOT HAVE A MORAL MAJORITY

Other than immigrants from some countries, today's Americans have only known freedom. And for the most part, we've known a society that was still heavily influenced and largely shaped by the Christianity of our forefathers.

But today, America is on a fast slide from the truth. Culturally and legislatively, our nation is forcefully rejecting God and righteousness. Without a nationwide revival, my grandchildren (and quite possibly my children) will live in a heathen country that is antagonistic toward—if not suppressive of—Christianity.

If we're not careful, we will observe this decline of the moral landscape and throw up our hands in despair. What difference does our work make? How can we plant churches in a country that is resisting truth?

Our freedom has been a blessing, but it has never been a necessity for the spread of truth. Remember, first-century Christians didn't have a moral majority—they didn't even have a political voice.

The New Testament records in sharp detail the suffering early Christians endured at the hands of the government.

“And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth” (Hebrews 11:36-38).

I have toured the catacombs tunneled under ancient Rome by Christians of

the second, third, and fourth centuries after Christ. I've visited Piedmont, Italy, where thousands of Waldensians were massacred en masse in two days. I've seen Bunhill Fields, the famous burying place in London for nonconformists; stood in Bedford Prison where John Bunyan penned *Pilgrim's Progress*; and viewed the Limmat River in Zurich where Felix Manz was drowned.

Our Baptist forefathers did not have a moral majority. But they did stand for truth.

I'm concerned that if we believe we need a moral majority to stand, we may have to lose our freedom to be reminded that the strength of the New Testament church has never stood in culture's acceptance. It has always stood on God's Word and in the Holy Spirit's power. With these, we can continue to stand for truth in a decadent society.

4. REMEMBER CHRISTIANS IN OUR WORLD TODAY ARE SUFFERING

It's not just Christians of the past who have suffered for the truth. As you read these words, Christians today are being tortured for their faith.

China, Iran, Egypt, Libya, India, North Korea—and those are just a few. All over the world, Christians are facing fierce persecution, and God is giving them courage and grace to stand for the truth.

The Apostle Peter used the testimonies of suffering Christians to firm the resolve and strengthen the faith of other believers. As he warned them to be vigilant against Satan, he followed with the admonition, "Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (1 Peter 5:9).

Paul instructed Timothy to expect persecution: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12).

The suffering of Christians in our world today reveals the pettiness of trifles we

allow to fill our time and consume our focus. Rather than getting bent out of shape regarding issues that don't have a bearing on our stand for the truth, perhaps we should heed the instruction of Hebrews 13:3, "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."

Remember our brothers and sisters in Christ who stand for truth in other countries. Pray for them and commit to stand likewise.

5. REMEMBER THE PURPOSE FOR STANDING

Why all the effort to stand for truth? Why the emphasis on standing personally, the investment of being salt and light, the effort of providing resources and informing others?

We can answer these questions with the pointed question of a young shepherd boy: "Is there not a cause?" (1 Samuel 17:29).

Too much is at stake for us to bow out now. How can we release the truth when men have given their lives for it? How can we deny the truth when Christ has suffered to bring us its freedom?

I suggest four reasons—four holy purposes—we must stand for the truth.

TAKE HEED. SATAN ATTACKS MEN BEFORE HE ATTACKS MINISTRIES. WE ARE VULNERABLE, BUT CHRIST IS STRONG. WHEN WE PUT OUR CONFIDENCE IN OUR STRENGTH, WE FAIL. BUT WHEN WE PUT OUR CONFIDENCE IN HIM, WE HAVE VICTORY.

The Glory of God. David was no match for Goliath, but that made no difference. A holy adrenaline kicked in when David heard the giant blaspheme his God.

The Generations Following Us. Solomon told his son, "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23). Grievously, many men who once stood for the truth have let their guard down and fallen for the wiles of the devil. Standing for truth means that we personally live it as well.

The Commands of the Word. How can we rationalize compromise in light of the clear commands of God's Word? God gives us everything we need to stand—and He commands us to do so. "Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life" (Acts 5:20). We cannot compromise truth and be faithful to the Word of God at the same time.

The Souls of Men. Who suffers when God's people compromise? The local church suffers—we lose our purpose. The generations following us suffer—they lose the truth. But there is another group who suffers—lost men and women who do not hear the gospel.

The eternity of some depend on your stand for truth. Don't compromise. **BV**

PREACHERS

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS



SALVATION

Pastor Roberson was saved in 1948 in the Kerwin Baptist Church about three miles from Gospel Light Baptist Church.



MARRIAGE

Dr. Roberson and his wife Jackie were married for sixty-six years before God called her home in 2015.



CHURCH

Bobby Roberson has been the pastor at Gospel Light Baptist Church since 1956.

Gospel Light Baptist Church

Pastor Bobby Roberson Ministering in Walkertown, North Carolina

“1

FEEL LIKE I'M ABOUT TO DIE IF I STAY THERE.”

Those were the words twenty-nine year old Bobby Roberson said to his friend and mentor, Dr. Harold Sightler. Brother Bobby suffered a heart attack at age twenty-nine—five years after becoming a pastor. He

laid in the hospital for twenty-one days, and he thought the Lord was done with him. Dr. Sightler didn't. “God's grace is sufficient young man,” he said. “You stand true.”

In 1956, Dr. Bobby Roberson became pastor of Gospel Light Baptist Church in Walkertown, North Carolina. Since

then, Pastor Roberson has seen God grow the church both numerically and spiritually. He has seen blessings from God, and he has endured trials of faith.

In the spring of 2006, Brother Roberson underwent extensive surgery for stomach cancer. God chose to give him a full recovery, and he preaches now with renewed enthusiasm and passion. Compassion has always been Pastor Roberson's strength, but now it has been deepened by this experience.

Pastor Roberson recalls the time Dr. Lee Roberson said to him, "Bobby, I've preached in 1,700 churches since I retired from the pastorate. I think the missing link in our churches is compassion."

**BOBBY ROBERSON HAS BEEN
THE PASTOR AT GOSPEL LIGHT
BAPTIST CHURCH SINCE 1956**

Bobby Roberson has followed that advice for the last sixty-one years. He cares for the individual members at Gospel Light Baptist Church.

When asked about what advice he would give to a young pastor, he cautions them not to let the ministry get too mechanical—like a business. He says, "I heard a great preacher say a while back, 'Brother Bobby, even if you cannot preach well, but you love your people, that means something.'" Don't look for benefits but look to do God's will, and God will take care of you. He did it for Bobby Roberson, and He can do it for you.



Pastor Tim Rabon

*Beacon Baptist Church in
Raleigh, North Carolina*

BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH began in 1948 when a United States postal worker became burdened for the families on his postal route. Through the years, Beacon Baptist Church has been blessed with five pastors including the current pastor, Tim Rabon. Pastor Rabon became pastor in 1997 after having served on staff at the church since July 1981.

Under his leadership, the church has grown from an average weekly attendance of 625 to over 1,200 with the highest day being 3,383. The church has seen scores of young people surrender to the Lord

and go into full time ministry. They have been blessed to plant six churches and service fifteen bus routes. Their missions giving has grown from \$60,000 to over \$400,000 in the last nineteen years.

Pastor Rabon has had the privilege of ministering at Beacon Baptist for a total of thirty-six years. He and his wife Sharon have two sons, a daughter, and seven grandchildren. All three of their children serve in full time ministry with their spouses. Additionally, his two sons serve on the pastoral staff at Beacon Baptist Church.



from Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College in May 1978 and became burdened for a small mining town in Globe, Arizona. In 1979, he started the Globe Bible Baptist Church and saw God bless and people saved. In 1982, he started Cornerstone Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona, where he presently serves as pastor.

Pastor Chappell and Pastor Randolph served as directors at Pacific Coast Baptist Bible until Pastor Randolph became President of Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College and later President of Heartland Baptist Bible College, from December 1994 to May 1999. Dr. Randolph has been a dear friend to Dr. Chappell and the ministry of Lancaster Baptist Church for many years.

PASTOR RANDOLPH HAS SERVED THE LORD FOR OVER THREE DECADES IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Pastor Randolph has been married for forty-five years to his wife, Mickie. The Randolphs have been blessed with three beautiful children and nine wonderful grandchildren.

Dr. Randolph's life verse is Galatians 6:9, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." For over three decades Pastor Randolph's church has helped countless other church planters and their families throughout Arizona. We thank him for his many years of faithful service. ^{BY}

Pastor Terry Randolph

Cornerstone Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona

Terry Randolph enlisted into the United States Air Force in 1969 and served in the Philippines, Viet Nam, and Thailand. While stationed at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, he was saved and baptized under the ministry of Veteran Missionary, Howard Quinlan. Terry graduated

PASTOR RANDOLPH'S MINISTRY

Dr. Randolph has faithfully served the Lord and his country

- 1969

Enlisted into the United States Air Force
- 1974

Saved and baptized while stationed at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines
- 1978

Graduated from Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College
- 1979-1982

Started the Globe Bible Baptist Church in Globe, Arizona
- 1982-Present

Started Cornerstone Baptist Church where he presently serves as pastor
- 1994-1999

President of Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College

SPANISH SPIRITUAL
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DE APRENDIZAJE Y COMUNIÓN EN LA
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[FOUNDER OF KING'S KIDS]

PASTOR KEITH THIBO

BAY VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IN WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

For over thirty years, Pastor Keith Thibo has given his life serving the people of Bay View Baptist Church. In 2015, he celebrated thirty years as pastor.

Pastor Thibo preached in Florida, Pennsylvania, and Ohio before joining Bay View as a youth pastor in 1985. Within three years, he became head pastor.

“When Brother Thibo took this church, he took a commitment to its people,” said Doug Rider, Thibo’s first assistant pastor. “He has been faithful to this church because he has a pastor’s heart.”

Pastor Thibo also founded King’s Kids International

Baptist Mission in 1978. This program was implemented at Bay View and is being used in churches across the country. The program teaches Bible memory for first through sixth grade children through books and electives. More than 5,000 churches in the United States and Canada and 105 countries worldwide use it. Course materials, which are made

IN 2015, PASTOR KEITH THIBO CELEBRATED THIRTY YEARS AT BAY VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

in Washington and shipped internationally, are translated into sixteen languages. He also is the author of three books.

Despite King’s Kids’ wide success, Pastor Thibo also founded Illinois Central Christian School, located on the church’s campus where students from kindergarten to twelfth grade are enrolled each year.

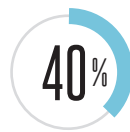
When asked how he has stayed so long in one church, Pastor Thibo responded, “I have an incredible group of people. I love them, and they love me...isn’t that amazing!” *(He laughs.)*

We praise the Lord for how God is using Pastor Thibo and the Bay View Baptist Church. **BV**

THE NUMBERS



of pastors regularly consider leaving because of stress



of them actually do quit, most after only five years



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OCTOBER 27-28

Fort Worth Baptist Church
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
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ERIC GOETSCH
Evangelist



DR. JIM SCHELLER
West Coast Baptist College
Vice President

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THE AMAZING CHURCH PLANTING STORY OF CROWN POINT BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR MARK IRMLER MINISTERING IN SIMI VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

The story of Crown Point Baptist Church begins with the directive of the Saviour to simply, “Go.” At the age of fifty-four, Pastor Mark Irmeler and his family surrendered to the call to start a new independent Baptist church in the city of Simi Valley, California. This would be the fifth church plant directly out of Ambassador Baptist Church in Fresno, California where Brother Irmeler first planted a church. God touched the hearts of two families to co-labor together with

the Irmelers in seeing this baby church birthed. These two couples, plus an extension team from West Coast Baptist College, would become the core workers for Crown Point Baptist Church.

After the first summer of outreach and making connections and contacts with families throughout the city, Crown Point Baptist Church held its Grand Opening service in September of 2012 with forty people in attendance.

The Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Simi Valley was the perfect place for the

church to start, but after two and a half years God allowed them to begin leasing their own building in a business park near the hotel.

After a few months of much prayer and negotiating, the Lord gave them favor in providing a 14,400-square-foot church auditorium that a former church had been using. In fact, Dr. Chappell was traveling to preach in Asia when he met the owner of the facility. After giving a tract to the businessman, the man asked Pastor Chappell if he knew of a church


needing a building. A few days later, Pastor Irmeler signed the lease agreement. The Crown Point church family committed to take a giant step of faith and trust God to provide \$10,065 every month for the first year's lease payment. God has been faithful!

The former church originally spent \$1.7 million on the infrastructure of the building so it could function as a church rather than a business complex. In addition to this miracle, God has allowed them to lease an additional 18,000 square feet of office,

OVER \$50,000 OF EQUIPMENT AND FURNISHINGS WERE DONATED TO CROWN POINT BAPTIST CHURCH

nursery, and classroom space for a total sum of \$1 per month for the first eighteen months of the lease.

God provided during those first few months not only the payment, but also \$50,000 to remodel the auditorium, all by their third anniversary.

The church has experienced both the highs and lows of every church plant but continues to trust God. Please pray for God's continued leadership and blessing on the Crown Point Baptist Church. 

West Coast Baptist College Alumnus Plants a Church in Hawaii

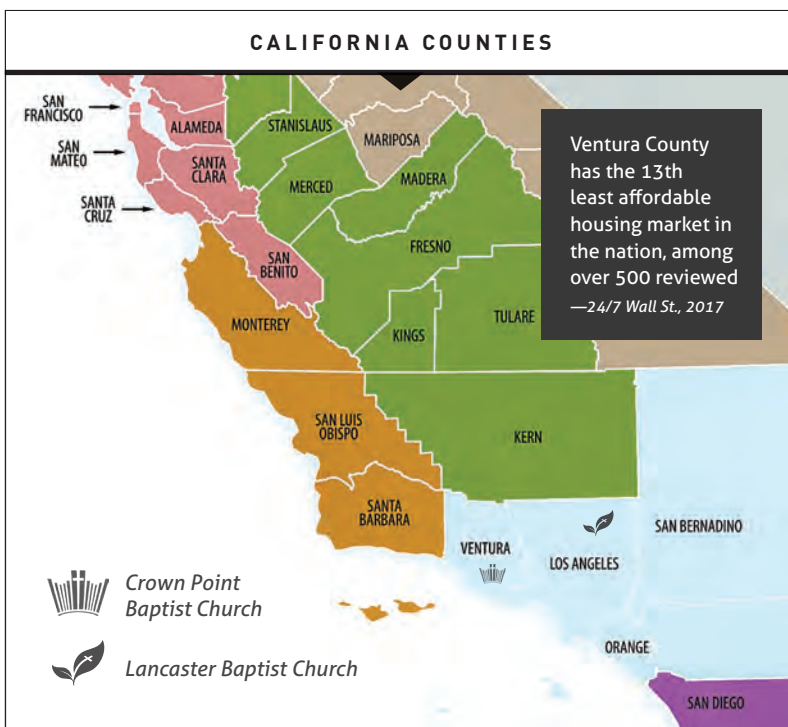


RAFAEL SOTO was born in Kalihi, raised in Ewa Beach, and saved at the age of eleven. During his senior year of high school, the Lord began working in his heart about attending Bible college with the purpose of working in the ministry. He attended West Coast Baptist College where he received both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Pastoral Ministry and Biblical Theology.

While at Bible college, he met his wife Cara. She grew up in the Washington DC area and was saved at the age of five. After graduation from college, they served for two years under Pastor James Reid at the Friendship Baptist Church. God then lead Rafael to a pastoral training position in Woodbridge, Virginia, where they served on staff at the Heritage Baptist Church, alongside Pastor Michael Edwards for five years.

After serving at two different ministries, Rafael began working towards returning to the islands to start a church. God directed him to the city of Hawaii Kai to plant Kai Point Baptist Church. He and Cara now have two young children, Adelyn and Branson.

The Sotos returned to Oahu in 2016 to plant the Kai Point Baptist Church in Hawaii Kai. In the last seven months they have moved into their own building and have seen twenty-two people saved. Eight of those have been baptized and started discipleship.



The Vernoy's in Paraguay



✕
While attending the 2017 BIMl Brazil Conference in March, the Vernoy's were able to show Pastor Chappell their new church plant.

CLINT AND RITA VERNoy were missionaries in Venezuela for twenty years until the rise of Hugo Chavez. The corrupt dictator barred the Vernoy's from continuing their work among the indigenous jungle tribes, and there have been no new visas given in years.

In 2007, they changed their field and began church planting on the tri-

borders region in South America. This is the region where Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay meet. The church is named La Iglesia Bautista Sin Fronteras (Without Borders Baptist Church). They are the only BIMl missionaries in Paraguay.

It is an extremely diverse region with the largest enclave of Middle Easterners outside of

Dearborn, Michigan. The city has been described as a modern day Corinth. The Vernoy's have a goal to establish a church that is as diverse as the culture.

They now have property and are looking to buy the house and building where they are currently renting for their services. Please pray for the Vernoy family and their church.

The Lunday's Serving in Brazil

SEAN AND STEPHANIE LUNDAY

have been church-planting missionaries in Brazil since 1993. Presently they are starting a church in a house in Sao Paulo, which is the second largest city in the world. Two properties were given to them for the purpose of establishing this new church plant. Brother Lunday is now pastoring two churches—his main work and the new church.

He serves as the acting director for BIMl Brazil, which allows him to serve forty-five missionaries. In March, he helped host BIMl's 50th Anniversary Conference in Brazil. He also serves as director of Amazon for Christ, which seeks to reach the unreached people groups in the Amazon and help the national workers establish churches with the use of med-evangelism teams.

The Lunday's (pictured) have three boys. Their oldest son Seth, just returned as a BIMl missionary church planter in Brazil.





Striving Together for Asia and Beyond



**SPIRITUAL
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Cross Cultural Evangelism

BY DON SISK

DURING CANDIDATE SCHOOL each year at BIMI, we would teach new missionaries about cultural shock and cross cultural evangelism. When the missionaries leave the US and enter another country, they immediately face the task of adjusting to a different culture. Their success in handling cultural shock and adjusting to the new culture will go a long way in determining their effectiveness as missionaries. I made many mistakes as a missionary. However, after a few months I was able to adjust. Things that at first seemed so strange eventually became common place. Wives always riding in the back seat of a car, the husband returning from work sounding the horn, and the wife responding to open the gate then to open the car door for her husband—these and many other Japanese customs became the norm.

When we started the church in Osaka, I determined in my mind that anything we could do the way Japanese customs demanded we would do it their way, if it did not violate a biblical principle. In other words we were not trying to build an American type church but a Biblical church. I knew that when the leadership was transferred to the Japanese believers, they would not be comfortable with an American type church. In the early days of my ministry I pastored a church that was over 100 years old. Every time there were decisions to be made, I would always hear from some of the members how “Brother whoever did it.” As I would meet with the emerging leaders of the church in Japan about decisions that needed to be made, I would often be asked, “What does the Bible say about this?” There was no one before me to refer back to. That was a wonderful position. The missionary does not go to a country to change the culture but to win souls, disciple believers, and establish biblical churches. If there



are things in the culture that are totally anti-biblical, the missionary should use his or her influence to change that. When William Carey went to India, they had a custom of binding the widow of a man who had died to his corpse and burning the live widow with the body of the dead man. Through the years he was able to influence the government to make this horrible practice illegal. In Japan, even though the number of Christians is small, they have had some good influence in the culture. This is good. But that is not the ultimate purpose of the missionary. Regardless of the culture, as one is filled with the Holy Spirit, God will give wisdom as to what to do and what not to do in a certain situation.

The new missionaries will do well when they go to another country to work with a veteran missionary or a national pastor to learn how to minister in that particular culture. Regardless of the culture, all men everywhere are sinners. The Word of God is powerful and will do its work in any culture. One of the greatest compliments ever paid to me was on a trip when I was the only American. During the trip they began to laugh about some of the ways that Americans did things. One of them said “Teacher Sisk is an American; we shouldn’t be laughing at Americans.” Another replied, “He is American on the outside, but Japanese on the inside.” We should do all that we can without violating biblical truth to be like the ones that we are trying to win. ^{BY}



DR. DON SISK
is the Missions
Chairman at West
Coast Baptist College.



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Awake America

How God Is Using the Capitol Connection in Washington D.C.

The miraculous history of the United States of America is due in part to the sacred fire of the American pulpit. It has been the preachers who have unashamedly preached the whole counsel of God's Word.

As the colonists suffered from the tyranny of Great Britain, preachers helped them recognize their God-given rights according to the Bible. Pastors were men of resilient testimonies with fiery dispositions.

"Thunder and lightning" are the words used by John

Adams to describe the ministers of Philadelphia. Thomas Jefferson reflected on the pulpit oratory as "a shock of electricity" throughout Virginia. Furthermore, a countless host of preachers became a courageous inspiration to their congregations by serving as chaplains and officers in the Continental Army.

From this, our forefathers acknowledged the importance of biblical truth. They understood that in order for a civilization to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, God must have preeminence and



X
Dr. Harding and
Pastor Creed at our
nation's Capitol



DR. CHUCK HARDING

Awake America is a God and Country ministry to local independent Baptist churches. Dr. Harding would welcome the privilege to share with you and your congregation what we, as God's people, can do to affect a change in the destructive course of our nation. We must protect and preserve our freedoms so that we may pass them on to our children, grandchildren and, if God tarries His coming, generations to come.

His Word must have a priority. This is how America was founded.

Liberals and revisionist historians are trying to hide how the preaching of God's Word during the War for Independence was the key element that created the spirit of independence. Men like Isaac Backus, Jonathan Mayhew, and John Leland would strongly stand behind their pulpits

and boldly preach the Word of God, kindling the revival fires of freedom and liberty. The reason our founders were who they were was many of them were the children of the Great Awakening. They grew up listening to the men who were preaching without a license from the state-run church. They did so under the threat of losing their lives.

Many times, Patrick Henry's mother would sneak him out at night to listen to some of these unlicensed preachers. These men, so fiery in their passion for the gospel, were the ones who instilled in our founders a reverence for God. In return, our forefathers were willing to put their wealth, their reputations, and ultimately their lives on the line for the slim chance of birthing a nation unlike any other nation in history.

As God's people, it is imperative for us to recognize and reclaim what our forefathers originally intended for this great nation. We cannot idly stand by and let evil prevail.

**AWAKE AMERICA WILL HELP
GOD'S PEOPLE BECOME MORE
INFORMED ABOUT THE CURRENT
STATE OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

One of the men God is greatly using to make a difference in our nation is Dr. Chuck Harding. Dr. Harding grew up in Washington, D.C. and has a passion to see God's Word influence the decisions of our nation. God gave him the unique opportunity of being the Deputy Commander of the Uniformed Protective Branch for the Diplomatic Security Service at the State Department. Because of this background, he has seen our government in action first-hand and is able to provide effective governmental assistance and advice for pastors and churches. He is the founder of Awake America Ministries and preaches God and Country meetings and Constitutional Awareness Conferences nationwide.

Pastor Mike Creed from Clinton, Maryland, has partnered with Dr. Harding regarding his burden for our elected officials and their staff members in our nation's capital. Brother Creed together with Evangelist Chuck Harding formed an organization entitled Awake America. Over the last few years they have been notifying pastors and asking them to pray earnestly for their elected officials.

In March of this year, the Independent Baptist Church hosted the fifth annual Awake America conference called Capitol Connection. Hundreds of pastors from all over the United States gathered for this event.

One of the worst predicted snowstorms on record was scheduled to hit Washington, D.C., the week of

this event threatening to cancel Capitol Connection, but God intervened. As a result, government was only slightly delayed and a full shutdown was prevented.

Those who were privileged to be a part saw something amazing happen. The leaders of God were able to meet with the leaders of our government. This unprecedented event came about from a desire born out of God's Word in Romans chapter thirteen to honor the office of governmental leadership.

Capitol Connection was carried out by loving, gracious, kind pastors who have a burden for America, but above everything else, they have a burden to see Jesus Christ and His Word honored.

Pastors went into offices all over Capitol Hill to meet and pray with our national leaders. They handed out Bibles and a reprinted copy of a Congressional edition of Washington's Maxims. Several government officials met with these pastors for as long as



PASTOR MIKE CREED

Pastor Creed grew up in a pastor's home in the greater Washington, D.C. area. He has pastored the Independent Baptist Church of Clinton, Maryland, for two decades and has a desire to reach Capitol Hill for Christ. He has teamed up with Dr. Harding in an effort to help churches better understand the need for their involvement in governmental affairs.



DR. PAUL CHAPPELL

Pastor Chappell preached the opening night of Capitol Connection from Acts 20:24 on not being moved in our faith.

“The guys with Awake America have the right idea. It’s what I’ve been talking about all over the country. If pastors, Sunday school teachers, deacons will rise up and teach their people the importance of being involved we can take our nation back. Don’t fall asleep just because one election is won. That doesn’t make the difference. It is our involvement. It is prayer for our elected officials at every level...Build that trusted relationship so that we can work on issues that matter for the Lord.”

—CHAD CONNELLY
Republican National Committee

forty minutes. Many leaders who are typically opposed to prayer allowed these pastors to pray with them. These meetings have connected the leaders of our churches to the leaders of our nation.


This event has been a strong encouragement for pastors and political leaders. Pastor Creed shared that the media tries to suppress the fact that there are several government officials who are Christians. Most of the pastors are surprised to find out how many of the leaders are born-again believers. In fact, many of the political leaders shared that what America needs is revival. Not only has Capitol Connection encouraged the pastors, but it has also encouraged the political leaders themselves. Many of these leaders are so accustomed to people seeking them with some hidden agenda. Often those who come into their offices come just to share their opinions or give discouraging comments. Pastor Creed shared that he and Dr. Harding personally go into the offices and simply ask the Members of Congress if they can pray with them and if they have anything they would like them to pray about. He shared, “We just let them know

that we care, and we’re available if they need us.” Many of the political leaders have been touched by these simple acts of kindness. A world with so much publicity is often the loneliest life. Several of these leaders are thrilled to see these pastors intentionally show compassion.

Many of the political leaders came for the preaching at Capitol Connection. As a result of this convention, several of the leaders have professed salvation. Brother Creed shared that he has even been contacted by a political leader about providing discipleship material.

After seeing the results of this conference, multiple pastors from Capitol Connection have gone home and started doing the same on a local level. They have become acquainted with their county and state officials and have made themselves available for prayer and spiritual encouragement. Leaders all over the country have been touched by the genuine compassion of these pastors.

Awake America helps God’s people understand that being educated and engaged with government is a biblical, constitutional, and historical duty. They challenge God’s people to intercede in daily prayer for our nation and representative leadership. When national issues arise that are beyond the scope of the normal governmental process, the need for intercessory prayer is of utmost importance.

Awake America and Capitol Connection have also focused on getting Christians into political offices. Christians can become part of county boards and city councils. Christians who are not running can become involved by casting their votes for good leaders. There are numerous ways for Christians to make an impact on this country. To find out more about Awake America, visit awakeamericaonline.org. 



X
Pastor Paul Chappell and his wife Terrie pray with Kevin McCarthy who serves in the U.S. House of Representatives for California’s 23rd district and as the House Majority Leader

A blurred city street scene with a person's back in the foreground. The person has long brown hair and is wearing a dark, textured jacket. The background shows a city street with buildings, a red traffic light, and a car. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

WHEN
WORLD-
VIEWS
COLLIDE



In the last sixteen years, Americans are 23% more likely to find a variety of immoral behaviors morally acceptable.

—Source Gallup, 2016

The evidence is overwhelming. Clearly, we are living in perilous times. The list of examples are endless. Transgendered use of restrooms, gay marriage, the murder of innocent babies, the proliferation of pornography, and a completely godless culture emanating from Hollywood and infiltrating our homes: all these are indeed negative elements of American society.

But we as Americans have been spoiled. The overall decency and morality of our nation has been the exception, not the rule. Our coins bear the slogan: “In God We Trust.” We pledge allegiance to one nation “under God.” Our president puts his hand on the Bible when assuming office and ends his oath with the words, “so help me, God.” Government-funded chaplains serve in our Congress. Most of our state legislatures and many

of our local governments begin their meetings with prayer. Our founding document, the Declaration of Independence, says that all men are “endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.”

But this is not the typical pattern. After God put Adam and Eve in a perfect environment, it was as soon as the third chapter of Genesis that man rebelled by violating God’s only rule and was cast out of the garden. In Genesis four, Cain killed Abel and by the sixth chapter, the Bible says “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” They were extensively evil and exclusively evil. So, living in a secular society that refuses to follow the biblical order is the norm, not the exception. No wonder the Scripture gives us so much instruction on how to deal with it.

Written By
R.B. OUELLETTE



WE ARE CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS. A SOLDIER MUST NOT FRATERNIZE WITH THE ENEMY BUT NEITHER MUST HE FLEE FROM THE ENEMY.

Some believe the best way to live in our secular society is to pursue a policy of *isolation*. We want to make sure there is no exposure to the world. We live in our fortified castles, pull up the drawbridge over the moat that separates us from society, and stay safe from the evils of the world. Others recommend the policy of *assimilation*. If we are to reach the world, we are told we must sing their songs, use their vulgar language, embrace their ungodly entertainment, and appropriate their immodest dress styles. But the Bible teaches neither of these. It teaches an intriguing combination of *separation* (2 Corinthians 6:17) and *confrontation* (Mark 16:15).

We are Christian soldiers. A soldier must not *fraternize* with the enemy but neither must he *flee* from the enemy. No, the soldier's job is to engage the enemy on the field of battle. How does the Scripture tell us to do this?

We are instructed not to be *conformed*. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). This command has the idea of not letting the world press us into its mold. The world always tries to get us to be like them. In fact, they think there's something wrong with us when we don't want

to live the way they live. "Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you" (1 Peter 4:4). They look askance and in amazement at us when we refuse to participate in many of their worldly behaviors. The ultimate purpose of the devil in getting us to *conform* to

the world is to get us to be *corrupted* by the world. The Bible tells us the way to avoid conforming to the world is to be connected to Christ. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Romans 12:2). Separation from the world is necessary for me to keep my connection to Christ. It is a two-sided coin. On the one side, I must be separate from the world, and on the other side, I must abide in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have a friend in San Diego who, for the last twenty years, has not

allowed himself or his family members to see anything from Hollywood. (I'm including "Finding Nemo," "Cars," and other seemingly innocent movies.) His reasoning is simple: "Hollywood has an agenda. I don't want their agenda to be accomplished in my life."

We are not only commanded not to be *conformed* to the world, we are commanded to be a *contrast* to the world. "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." (Matthew 5:14) Light is the opposite of darkness. Paul said this in Philippians 2:15, "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." We are to tell the truth while they tell lies. We are to have integrity while they practice duplicity. We are to be kind and loving while they are harsh and cruel. We are to be salt, whose essential characteristic, according to the Bible commentator Martin Lloyd Jones, is to its "different-ness."

We are also commanded to have *compassion* on the world. The Bible tells us that "God so loved the world." We are told to overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21) and to "have compassion, making a difference" (Jude 22). While the world system is our enemy, its citizens are our mission field.

A friend of mine who was moving into a new home said to me, "I think my neighbors are homosexuals. What would your position be toward them?"

I said, "I would be the best neighbor they had. I'd take their trash can in from the curb, offer to collect their mail when they're on vacation, and lend them my yard equipment."

While the Bible condemns homosexuality and I concur with the Scripture, homosexuals need first to hear the gospel of Christ. God loves them as He loves all sinners.

Sometimes in our effort to stand against the world, we leave our neighbors and coworkers with the impression that we look down upon them and consider them inferior to us. The truth is, we are sinners saved by the grace of God, seeking to see other sinners saved by the grace of God.

We are also commanded to *confront* the world. When Peter and John healed the lame man in Acts 3 in the name of the Lord Jesus, a crowd gathered. Peter was quick to give them the gospel. He laid at their feet the responsibility for the death of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts

world will not be changed by politics. It will not be changed by pressure or persuasion. It will be changed by the power of the Spirit of God speaking to individual hearts as we present to them the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many years ago, my wife and I visited a lady who had been saved at our church and needed to be baptized. When we went to knock on the front door of the house, a sign asked us to go to the back door. We navigated our way over bumpers, transmissions, and other automobile parts. When we knocked on the back door, not only



R.B. Ouellette



**PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF BRIDGEPORT, MI**

**WE ARE NOT ONLY COMMANDED
NOT TO BE CONFORMED TO THE
WORLD, WE ARE COMMANDED TO BE
A CONTRAST TO THE WORLD. LIGHT IS
THE OPPOSITE OF DARKNESS.**

3:14, 15), but he also demonstrated compassion on them when he said, “I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers” (Acts 3:17). When he was questioned by the authorities, he confronted them with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

When Paul was bound in jail, chained to four different sets of soldiers on a daily basis, he led them to Christ, and they formed the heart of his church plant in Rome. Always and forever, we must speak the truth to an ungodly society.

And having done this, it is our goal to see the Lord convert them, to see them saved and transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our

was the lady home, but her husband was as well. Although he listened to the gospel, he refused to trust Christ.

We returned to our car and were leaving when the husband came out motioning for me to roll down the window. He seemed to be quite agitated. I rolled it down—but not too far.

“What can I do for you?” I asked.

He said, “I need to pray that prayer. I need God.”

I opened the window further and Ralph Parrish trusted Christ as his Saviour. He came the next Sunday and made a profession of faith in Christ and was soon baptized. He

was laid off from his job at General Motors and had very limited income, but he bought a lime-green leisure suit at a garage sale so that he could be an usher and a greeter at our church.

After a while, he asked me to visit some friends of his and share the gospel. I knocked on their door, introduced myself, and said, “Ralph Parrish asked me to come see you.”

“What in the world happened to Ralph?” they exclaimed.

“What do you mean,” I said.

“Well, he won’t dance anymore, he won’t drink anymore; he won’t play cards anymore. He says, ‘It’s against the church rules!’”

I was able to lead those people to Christ. Ralph Parrish grew to the point that when he moved away, he used biblical criteria to decide which church to attend in his new town. The best testimony we have in our secular society is when people look at those who are changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ and say, “What in the world happened to Ralph?” ^{BV}



Six Ways to Culture Proof Your Church

—
Teaching biblical principles is the best way to expose error to your congregation.

BY
RB OUELLETTE

We are bombarded with error. Newspapers, television, billboards, radio, and magazines all try to fill our minds and hearts with philosophies and ideas that are completely contrary to the Scripture. Here are some thoughts to help strengthen the Lord's people against these attacks.

1. TEACH THE TRUTH
I am told that the ancient Chinese banking families never let their children see counterfeit money. They did, however, let them play with real money of all denominations from their infancy. They knew that which was real so well that they would instantly recognize the counterfeit.

2. GIVE BIBLE ANSWERS TO CURRENT CULTURAL ERROR
Is gay marriage being promoted as the norm? Teach them that the Bible says "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for

even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet” (Romans 1:26, 27). and “If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them” (Leviticus 20:13).

Is the transgender agenda being promoted? Teach them that the Bible says, “And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female” (Matthew 19:4).

Is promiscuity being promoted? Teach them that the Bible says, “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4).

3. TEACH THEM TO CORRECT ERROR MENTALLY AS SOON AS THEY SEE IT

Dr. Wayne Van Gelderen Sr. preached my baccalaureate service when I graduated from college. He cautioned us back in 1973, that we were being bombarded with falsehood. He said the only way to keep our minds straight was to correct the error mentally every time we saw it. Even “decent” television shows and “innocent” children’s books will promote error. That is why the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 10 instructed the Corinthian believers to reject thoughts that are not true according to Scripture and to use the Word of God as a weapon to pull down strongholds. We will absorb erroneous thoughts into our minds if we are not careful to correct them each time we see them.

4. SET APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR LEADERS IN YOUR CHURCH

It is the responsibility of the pastor to determine those areas of culture that are both a bad testimony and a negative influence on his people and to encourage those in leadership to stay away from them.

5. TEACH THEM BIBLE PRINCIPLES
There are not enough commands in the Bible to cover every situation. There is no command that says, “Thou shalt not drive 100 miles an hour.” But there is a Bible principle that we should be subject to the higher powers. “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God” (Romans 13:1). There is a principle that we should let our “moderation be known unto all men” (Philippians 4:5), and the principle that we should treat others as we wish to be treated, “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise” (Luke 6:31). It seems to me, that all of those would keep us from driving 100 miles an hour in virtually all circumstances.

6. SHOW THEM THE REAL LIFE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

Make sure that your members, and especially your teenagers, see the real life consequences of following the devil. One of the best things the Lord did for me in my early years was to allow me to see, at the Detroit Rescue Mission, lives ruined by booze. During the ten years my dad was the superintendent there, I saw men who had been accomplished musicians, nearly completed medical school, and held good jobs in corporate America—but all had their lives ruined by alcohol. As a result, though I have done many things I wish I hadn’t and have been tempted in many areas, liquor has never been a temptation for me. “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1).

At our church, we love to get our teenagers involved in the bus ministry. Seeing five children in a home with four different last names, no father present, and the mother passed out on the couch in a squalid living room does much to discourage our young people from an ungodly lifestyle. “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men” (Proverbs 4:14). “Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them” (Proverbs 24:1). **BV**



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

A man with short brown hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a brown leather messenger bag, is seen from behind. He is standing in a subway station, looking out a window. The background is dark and blurry, showing the interior of a train or subway car with some lights and structural elements.

Is God Fact or Abstract?

While God honors our
faith, He has also provided
empirical facts upon which
to base our faith

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The existence of God has been the subject of debate for hundreds of years. The fact that the number of non-churchgoers, skeptics, and atheists is on the rise is not surprising. “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14). The natural tendency of the human heart is to blindfold itself when it comes to God. If we can eliminate God then there is no accountability as to how we live, no one to judge us in the end, and no one but ourselves to determine our eternal fate. Yes, the human mind is happy to be blinded to the existence of God.

The rise of empiricism has only accelerated the denial of God’s existence. For the empiricist, only that which can be experienced by the human senses is real or factual. Many today believe that because God cannot be seen with the human eye or heard with the human ear, He cannot be placed in the realm of fact. Rather, something like God must be placed in the category of value. Fact and value have been split today into separate categories and only that which is factual is considered truth. If I can see it, hear it, touch it, taste it, or smell it, I can call it factual or truth. But if I cannot experience it with my human senses, then it is relegated to the

realm of mere value. There used to be a time when you could get into a good old-fashioned argument or debate with people about God. Public debates on creation versus evolution were common. D. L. Moody once spoke to a group of over a thousand atheists at their request. People were interested in “the facts” and then would wrestle with those facts as to their beliefs. Today, it is difficult to have a discussion with many people about God because they have taken Him out of the realm of fact and placed Him in the category of value. They do not have a problem with you believing in God as a value for your life, but consider it wrong for you to push something non-factual on to them. This is why God has been removed from the public school classrooms and public prayers. The name *Jesus Christ* is banned from public conversations and labeled politically incorrect because He is simply a “value” rather than a “fact.” All God talk is “non-sensical” and thus non-factual and untruthful.

So is God a matter of fact or simply a matter of a person’s values? Much of what we believe about God is indeed a matter of faith. “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear” (Hebrews 11:3). But I would contend that while

“For the empiricist, only that which can be experienced by the human senses is real or factual.”

BY
JOHN GOETSCH

“Our culture relegates God to the realm of value, but He is indeed a matter of fact! He is found by those who seek Him.”

God honors our faith, He has also provided empirical facts upon which to base our faith.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, “...they **heard** the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day” (Genesis 3:8). In John chapter one we learn of the deity of Jesus Christ—He was indeed God according to verses one through three: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.” This Word (Jesus Christ) according to verse fourteen “...was made **flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” When God announced to the world that Jesus Christ was His Son and the Saviour of the world, He did it with an audible voice. “And lo a **voice** from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

At the foundation of the Christian faith is the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. If Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead, 1 Corinthians 15 tells us that we are without hope. In fact, our entire set of beliefs is a hoax without the resurrection! “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain...For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your

faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins” (1 Corinthians 15:14-17). As Paul presents the argument that Christ is truly risen from the dead, he does so with empirical facts. “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was **seen** of Cephas, then of the twelve. After that he was **seen** of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was **seen** of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time” (1 Corinthians 15:3-8). Over and over, Paul points to the empirical evidence to prove the resurrection which forms the foundation of our faith.

The Book of 1 John is a marvelous little epistle which contains much instruction for the child of God today. For hundreds of years now, God’s people have benefited from the instruction given under inspiration of the Holy Spirit through the human writer John. The Apostle may have wondered if anyone twenty-one centuries later would believe what he was writing. So the Spirit of God inspired him to write from the basis of empirical facts in his introduction. “That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, and our **hands**

have handled of the Word of life: (For the life was manifested, and we have **seen** it, and **bear witness**, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us:) That which we have **seen** and **heard** declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full” (1 John 1:1-4).

Our culture relegates God to the realm of value, but He is indeed a matter of fact! He is found by those who seek Him. Look around. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world” (Psalms 19:1-4). Look in the Bible. “...thy word is truth” (John 17:17). Look within. “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them” (Romans 1:19). Yes, God is a matter of fact! Only a fool says and believes otherwise (Psalms 14:1). **BV**



DR. JOHN GOETSCH
is the Executive Vice
President at West Coast
Baptist College.



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T I O N





BY DAVID SORENSON

The principle or practice of separation has never been popular. It was not popular in ancient Israel, and it certainly is not popular for many Christians today, yet it is a crucial factor in pleasing God. Moreover, separation is critical in how our children turn out after us. There are several thoughts regarding separation that every Christian should consider.

THE FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE

The Bible says in 1 Peter 1:15–16, “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” Peter was quoting from Leviticus 11:45–46. The Hebrew word for *holy* essentially meant to be set apart or separated from that which is impure. Therefore, the concept of separation is inherent in the greater principle of holiness. We have been called to be holy in our lives even as our heavenly Father is holy. That requires a separated life.

THE SCRIPTURAL PRECEPTS

The concept of separation is found throughout God’s Word. It is the practical outworking of being holy. Consider these four passages of Scripture:

Psalms 1:1 says, “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” The magnificent book of Psalms begins with three negatives: walking not in the counsel of the ungodly, standing not in the way of sinners, and sitting not in the seat of the scornful. In essence, God has

promised blessing for those who get out of the world. This can be simply summarized in the word *separation*.

Romans 12:2 also says, “And be not conformed to this world.” The thought is to not allow the world to shape our thoughts, values, philosophies, morals, entertainment, or lifestyle. Separation from the world is clearly in view. Moreover, it is a New Testament mandate. This directive is in the imperative mode. If there is one area of life which Christians are often in violation of New Testament commands, it is in allowing themselves to be conformed to this world.

“WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, SAITH THE LORD, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING...” 2 CORINTHIANS 6:17

Second Corinthians 6:17 says, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” Once again, here is a New Testament imperative—a command, orders from headquarters. The *them* in the immediate context refers to unbelievers. Unbelievers are the essence of the world system. Notice further that it is the Lord Himself Who so ordered this. We are directly commanded by our Lord Himself to be separate from the world and all its impurity.

First John 2:15–16 says, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the

flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” Once again we find a clear imperative to distance ourselves from the world. Where Christian people have problems not so much in loving the world itself as they do in loving the things of the world. Those things often are the entertainments of the world, the music of the world, and the “cool” factor of the world.

The principle and imperative of separation are thus clearly and forcefully set forth in Scripture. Separation from the world, therefore, becomes an issue of obedience to

Christ. God has clearly ordered us to separate from the world. Our duty is to obey that commandment.

ISRAEL’S PRECEDENT

From the perspective of hindsight, the Old Testament is one long history of Israel ignoring God’s command to separate from the culture and influence of the world of that day. In Exodus 33:16, Moses said to God, “For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.” From day one, Israel was to be a people who were separated from their ungodly neighbors.

Sadly, Israel ignored God's mandate to separate. For centuries they rubbed shoulders with the Moabites, Amorites, Hittites, assorted Canaanites, Ammonites, Zidonians, and other people groups of the world in that era.

We know that God ultimately dispersed Israel and Judah out of their land for idolatry. But where did they pick up the idolatry of Baal or Ashtoreth worship, not to mention the abomination of Molech? They picked it up because of their lack of separation from their idolatrous neighbors. The history of Israel across the Old Testament era is that of their compromise of separation and the idolatry which followed. God then pled, warned, and threatened judgment for their sin. But it all started when Israel compromised the principle and command to separate from the world of their day. There is a profound example left for us in their precedent.

DAY-TO-DAY PRACTICE

My father was a pastor for approximately fifty years. Over the years, I heard him use the illustration of a stagecoach company in the American West advertising for drivers.

Men came from everywhere to apply for the job. The foreman asked the first man, "How close to the edge of the cliff can you drive the stagecoach as you go around the mountain?"

The applicant replied, "I believe I can drive the stagecoach within three feet of the edge of the cliff and still be in control of the horses." The foreman said he would consider his application.

The next man replied, "I can drive within eighteen inches of the cliff without losing control."

The third man replied, "I would drive as far from the edge of the cliff as I could."

He got the job.

The application is obvious. We ought to keep as far from the world as we can in our everyday life. Separation is very practical.

The world's allure is enticing. Romans 12:2 directs us not to be "conformed to this world." As a pastor for forty-eight years, I have watched numerous parents have one

foot in the world and the other foot in the church. They allowed the entertainments, attractions, and dress of the world to influence their family. Sadly, in most cases, their children wound up actively pursuing the world by the time they were young adults. In some cases, the adolescent or young-adult children from these families became involved in deep moral sin and some even in trouble with the law.

On the other hand, I have observed Christian families who were very consistent in seeking to be separated from the world and keeping it as far as possible from their children. Their children tended to grow up and serve the Lord and were godly examples. There are practical considerations for living a separated life.

The world's music is alluring. Music is spiritual in nature; it is the universal language of the human spirit. The music of the world "syncs" with our old nature. Nothing will keep a born-again Christian in the flesh more than listening to the world's music. And as a Christian walks in the flesh, the gateway for any kind of sin is open. But it feeds our sin nature—the flesh. It does not really matter if we happen to like music in the world. What does matter is doing what is right rather than doing what we want. That is the essence of Christian character. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19).

THE WAY OF SINNERS

Carnal Christians like to look the way people in the world do. Years ago when it was the style for men to wear long hair, many Christian young men let their hair grow long, ignoring the instruction of 1 Corinthians 11:14. They wanted to look the way popular characters in the world looked.

Some Christians condone social drinking; the neo-reformed movement even encourages it. I can think of nothing which is more quintessential of the world than drinking alcoholic beverages. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and

whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1). "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

I began my college career in a secular university. One day in a college-level chemistry class, the professor was discussing various types of alcohol, strictly on their chemical properties. He discussed the chemical property of methyl alcohol versus ethyl alcohol. Ethyl alcohol is the type found in beverage alcohol, but methyl alcohol (or wood alcohol) is a deadly poison. Should one drink methyl alcohol, he will be dead or blind by morning. A student raised his hand and asked the professor why methyl alcohol was a poison and ethyl alcohol was not. The professor replied, "They are both poisons. One just works faster than the other."

More crime, accidents, immorality, and sin in general take place when someone is "under the influence." "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine" (Proverbs 23:29–30a) But apart from this, there is an even more basic principle of separation from the world. With whom do you want to identify?

Perhaps the most subtle influence upon Christians is the way we think. Many Christians know better than to drink alcohol or commit adultery, but few consider their mind as a portal for worldliness. What we allow to enter our minds will determine the decisions we make.

Are we more like the world or less like it? Separation has never been popular. The injunction of 1 Peter 1:16 still remains: "Be ye holy; for I am holy." A major avenue toward that end is separation from the world and from its influences. **BV**



DR. DAVID SORENSON
is the Pastor Emeritus of North Star Baptist Church in Duluth, Minnesota, which he started in 1989.

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Ministry127 is a website hosted by Dr. Paul Chappell that brings together a wealth of sermon helps, videos, illustrations, slides, podcasts, and many other ministry tools contributed by a team of faithful friends and leaders from around the world. It is designed to encourage and equip spiritual leaders.

Three Truths about Church Separation

BY PAUL CHAPPELL

GOD HAS CALLED US to stand as gatekeepers of the truth. But truth is under siege. Satan continues to sabotage the church, and if we do not determine to take a stand, our loss will be a disgraceful one. He is right in the midst of the church trying to destroy the work of Jesus Christ. There are three truths about the church that every pastor should embrace.

1

COUNTER CULTURAL

One of the greatest challenges facing Christians today is the powerful influence of secular thinking. From all directions we're fed a constant barrage of persuasive—yet unbiblical—worldviews. But our response

to moral questions is not determined by popular opinion or human reasoning. It is, instead, grounded in the truth of the Word of God. We must counter secular reasoning with biblical thinking. (2 Corinthians 6:17)

2

CALLED OUT

Because the church is an ekklesia—a called out assembly—our philosophy of church should be cultivated scripturally and should provide a certain distinction. (Ephesians 5:22) I'm afraid that cultural pressure combined with our natural tendency to drift has left many preachers, who were once strong in what they believed, more concerned with relevance than with truth. Unfortunately, when the unsaved cannot see the difference between themselves and the church, it is the unbeliever who suffers.

3

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

*The Bible teaches us in Galatians 5:16, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." The church is the bride of Jesus Christ, and as we assemble together locally, we must be sensitive to the Spirit of God. This will be reflected in the selection of our songs, the kind of language we use from the pulpit, and in many other ways. Remember, the men and women who have moved the world have been the men and women the world could not move. Continue in the truth. **BY***



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Three Historical Arguments for the Existence of Jesus

BY TOBI ENGLAND

IS IT POSSIBLE that the most famous man in history never actually existed? That is precisely the claim made by some atheistic scholars, including Richard Carrier, Robert Price, and Raphael Lataster. There is a lot at stake in this debate. If Jesus never actually existed, then the main claims of Christianity cannot be true. The Bible is not a collection of wise sayings and moral axioms. Most of it is a true record of actual historical events. Those who deny the existence of Jesus build their case by dismissing the historical accuracy of the Gospels and minimizing the significance of collaborating evidence.

However, many people who reject Christianity remain convinced that Jesus did exist. E. P. Sanders has shown that the core facts of Jesus' life are accepted by the majority of historians, regardless of their religious beliefs. In fact, some former atheists like Dr. Michael Bird cite the evidence for the historical Jesus as a key reason for their conversion to Christianity. Here are three solid historical arguments for the existence of Jesus.

First, the Christian community viewed the literal life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus as central to their belief from a very early date. For example, Paul seems to quote an early Christian creed in 1 Corinthians 15. This passage was written by the mid-AD 50s. In fact, nearly all of the New Testament was written and in circulation within a generation of the events that it records. There simply is not enough time for a mythological or mystical Jesus to be invented by the early Christians.

Second, the Jewish historian Josephus (AD 37-97) wrote about Jesus at least twice. Once he calls James "the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ." A longer passage, found in Antiquities 18:3,



has several variants and is sometimes disputed. However, even the passages considered most likely not to contain later Christian interpolations reads, "At this time there was a wise man named Jesus. His conduct was good and was known to be virtuous. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who became his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion..."

Finally, the Roman historian Tacitus (AD 55-117) wrote of the burning of Rome under Nero. He is definitely a hostile witness, and did not have a good opinion of believers in general. In the Annals he records, "Nero fabricated scapegoats and punished with every refinement the notoriously depraved Christians... Their originator, Christ, had been executed in Tiberius' reign by the governor of Judea, Pontius Pilatus." It is interesting to note that Nero's persecution of the early church is known to historians only through a source that is hostile toward Christianity. This record affirms not only that Jesus existed, but also records some of the essential elements of His ministry.

There are as many non-Christian literary sources that verify Jesus' existence as there are for Tiberius Caesar! With this in mind, not even an atheist should claim that we must deny the existence of Jesus because of a lack of historical evidence. **BV**



TOBI ENGLAND is an instructor at West Coast Baptist College.



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5 Questions to Ask When Faced with a Decision

BY TERRIE CHAPPELL

WE ARE FACED with choices every day. Because of this, we must ask God for wisdom. James 1:5 says “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God...” When it comes to decision-making, we should make our choices based on biblical principles. Here are five simple questions to ask yourself when faced with difficult decisions:

DOES IT VIOLATE CLEAR TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE?

There are some difficult passages in the Bible that require time in deep study to comprehend. However, most of the Bible is not this way. The most basic test of any decision is an honest look at what the Bible says. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

DOES IT VIOLATE MY BODY AS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

If you borrow a friend’s car, you drive very carefully because that car does not belong to you. Our bodies were created and then purchased by God. Stop and ask yourself, “Is this really how I should treat God’s possession?” “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19)

DOES IT CAUSE ANOTHER CHRISTIAN TO STUMBLE?

Some people live with the attitude “I can do anything I want if it doesn’t hurt someone else,” but the reality is that everything we do in some way influences others. Some things we do may not be sinful, but they can be a cause for another Christian to sin. It is the responsibility of the spiritually mature to live in a way that builds up




those weaker in the faith. “Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way” (Romans 14:13).

DOES IT GO AGAINST MY SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY?

From Moses to the apostles, God has expressed His will through human authorities. No authority is perfect, but God still tells us to submit ourselves one to another. “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation” (Hebrews 13:7).

DOES IT GLORIFY GOD?

We are usually very conscious of our reputations and appearances, but do we ask ourselves if our actions lift up the name of Jesus Christ? As we become more aware of the presence of God in our lives, our choices become much clearer. “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). 



TERRIE CHAPPELL
is the Ladies Ministry
Director at Lancaster
Baptist Church.



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True Discipleship Requires a Total Commitment

BY GABRIEL RUHL

A HOG AND A HEN sharing the same barnyard heard about a church's program to feed the hungry. The hog and the hen discussed how they could help. The hen said, "I've got it! We'll provide bacon and eggs for the church to feed the hungry." The hog thought about the suggestion and said, "There's only one problem with your bacon and eggs solution. For you, it only requires a contribution, but from me, it will mean total commitment!"

That's the cost of true discipleship—total commitment. When Jesus left the Pharisee's house, great crowds followed Him, but He was not impressed. He knew most of them were not interested in spiritual things. They wanted to see a miracle or get a free meal from Him.

Jesus turned to the multitude and preached a sermon that deliberately thinned out the crowd. "And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:25–27). Jesus was looking for those who were willing to pay the price of true discipleship or those who were committed to following Him no matter what was required. A real disciple is someone who carries his cross.

Many Christians are confused today about what it means to carry a cross. Some have said, "I have migraine headaches, but I guess it's just the cross I must bear." Today, the cross has become benign—a piece of harmless jewelry. In Jesus' time, it was a horrible, agonizing, torturous mode of execution. It was the noose, the electric chair, or the lethal injection of His day. In that era when you



saw someone carrying a cross it meant only one thing—he was as good as dead.

We are to die to self. The Bible says in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." You cannot offend a dead man! That means there is nothing the world has to offer you that should interest you—it is as if the world is dead to you and you are dead to the world. "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." (Psalm 119:165).

One of the marks of a committed Christian is his desire to see God glorified. The very purpose for our existence is to give glory to God. A true disciple of Christ is not concerned about himself or preoccupied with his own glory. He's not worried about what brings pleasure to him. He is not trying to climb the ladder of success. His greatest concern is the Lord. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

You may not have all of the signs of a committed follower of Christ, but God can transform you into a true disciple if you surrender your will to Him. The life of a committed disciple is the only life that will matter for eternity. **BV**



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

TWENTY EIGHTEEN



June 10–13, 2018

Music Services that Develop the Praise of New Believers

BY JOHN TYLER

MINISTERING IN AN INCREASINGLY

secular culture simply means that the people we reach will often be biblically illiterate. It is a thrill to disciple such new Christians and watch God transform their lives. However, unraveling years of wrong thinking can present a unique challenge. This is no different in the area of music. The work of sanctification radically changes every area of the believer's life. The fruit of the Holy Spirit replaces the lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5). But God is not interested in simply replacing the repertoire of new Christians; God is interested in reshaping our affections from the temporal to the eternal. If we are to see that kind of change in the hearts of the new Christians in our congregations, it will take more than just an exchange of repertoire. How can our music services develop the praise of new believers?

CHOOSE SONGS THAT COMMUNICATE TRUTH POWERFULLY

Truth is central to worship because worship is any obedient response to truth. Creatively expressing truth through music engages the mind and focuses the attention and emotions on the truth being communicated. This must be the first concern of our music, for if the truth cannot be understood it cannot impact the heart. Make the first priority of any song selection the quality of the text—its poetry, its imagery, its communicative power.

PRIORITIZE CONGREGATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Corporate worship is not coming together to watch, but rather coming together to serve. Therefore, it is imperative that new Christians learn the importance of participation early on. Encourage them



to sing. Explain why we sing. Equip them to sing passionately. Be sure the environment is conducive for congregational participation

DEVELOP THE MUSICAL ABILITIES OF YOUR CONGREGATION

Many churches are guilty of using the gifts of the church while failing to develop them. We hear a talented singer or pianist and immediately involve them. Involvement, however, is only part of development. It is that part of development that depends mostly on the raw talent of the individual. Development comes by stretching the abilities beyond what is attainable by talent alone.

We will never develop a praising church without a specific plan to do so. Develop a comprehensive program for your children's ministries that ensures they learn certain key songs of your church culture and beliefs. Provide your church family, choir, and musicians with skill training. Frequently emphasize the priority of congregational worship. Make good recordings of music available to your church or simply provide a list of albums or artists that might be beneficial to their development.

Developing the praise of new Christians is a good work that demands discipline, the right beliefs, and a definite action plan. **BV**



JOHN TYLER
is the Music
Chairman at West
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CAMPUS LIFE

WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE





DR. PAUL CHAPPELL

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT OF WCBC

We were thrilled to see another group of over 200 graduates enter the ministry this past May. Please pray for them as they begin preaching, teaching, and soulwinning for Christ.

Next fall, West Coast Baptist College will be continuing to improve the overall program of the education provided for students in the following areas:

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Every student will continue to have practical training in soulwinning and church ministry. Christian service activities are directly overseen by Dr. Schettler and our church staff. Off-campus ministry involvement, when available, will be done with staff assigned in churches where doctrine and practice is consistent with our ministry.

ACADEMICS

Seven of our teachers will have finalized their terminal degrees in the next 12–18 months. We have chosen to raise up from within our faculty teachers who are committed to the Baptist distinctives, the authority of the King James Version, and the priority of the local New Testament church.

MISSIONS

Dozens of missionaries will visit our campus during the first semester. Students can also sign up for our fall missions outreach to the Mormon state of Utah or foreign missions opportunities.

Rest assured, our commitment to quality, conservative, Christian education is as strong as ever! We believe students at West Coast will greatly benefit from the spiritual passion of a local church college. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement in the ministry.

Commencement Exercises



GRADUATION IS ALWAYS a sacred time for us as we send forth graduates into the harvest fields. West Coast Baptist College exists to train laborers for His harvest. This principle guides everything we do. From classroom instruction to hands-on ministry experience, WCBC continues to train graduates who are making an eternal impact around

the world. On Tuesday of graduation week we celebrated the official grand opening of the new Walther Center Library. With over 100,000 volumes and 7,000-square-feet of study space, we are thankful many students will be able to use this new addition to our campus. On May 3, West Coast Baptist College held its

twenty-second annual commencement service. That day, 229 graduates received recognition and diplomas for their hard work. Several graduates were honored for spiritual and academic achievements. Only eternity will reveal how the Lord will use this commencement service and these graduates for the harvest.

MISC.



The 2017 Caleb Award was presented to **Gary Williams**. For nearly four decades, Brother Williams pastored the Bible Baptist Church in Saint Joseph, Missouri. In 2014, he and his wife Glenda moved to Lancaster to help at WCBC.



The second honorary doctorate issued by WCBC was awarded to **Alan Fong**, Pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in San Leandro, California.

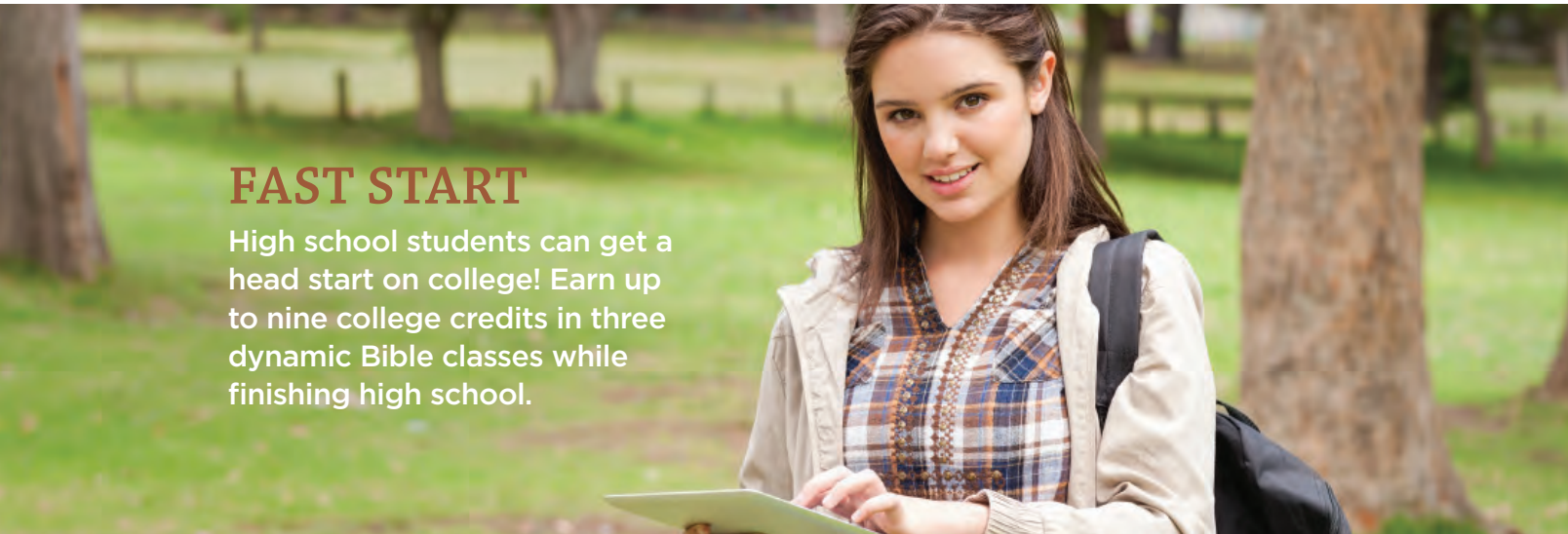


Dr. Mark Rasmussen celebrated 20 years as WCBC Vice President and as an instructor.



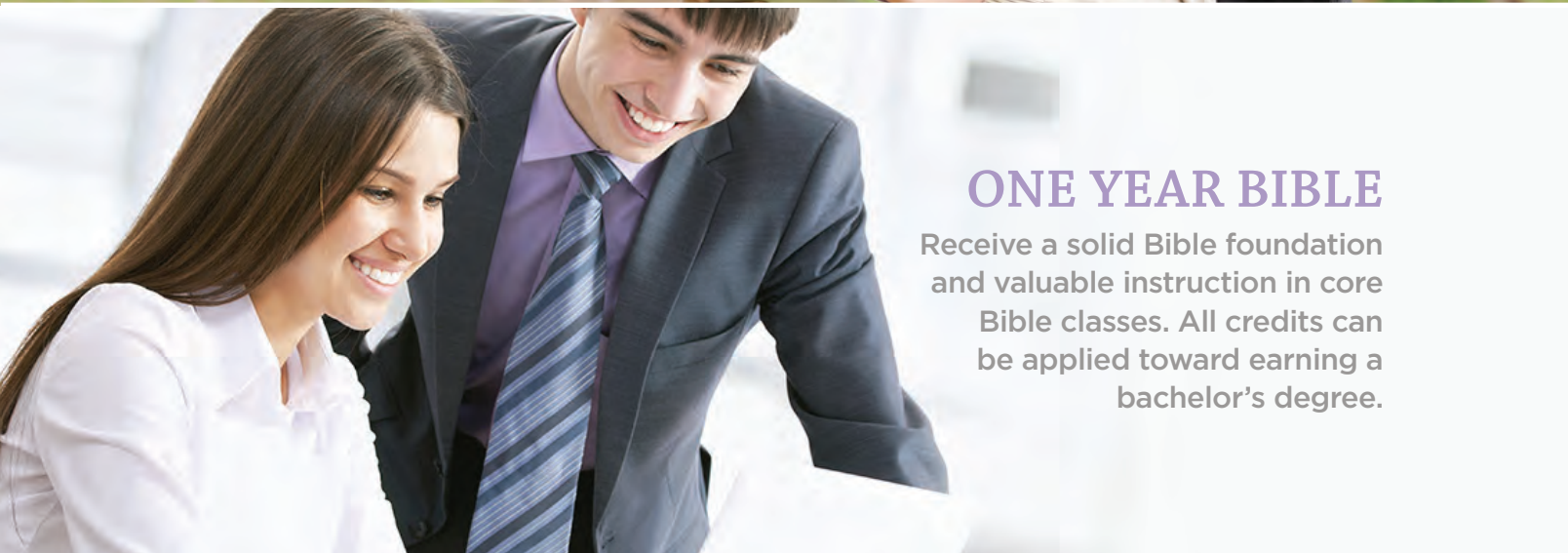
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Alumni Pastors Serving the Lord

West Coast Baptist College Alumni Are Being Used around the World to Spread the Gospel

IT WAS HARD TO IMAGINE twenty-two years ago when we welcomed the first group of students to West Coast Baptist College what a joy it would be years down the road to see WCBC graduates serving the Lord in fruitful ministry. It seems now that wherever you travel (including mission fields), you will meet up with WCBC alumni who are faithfully serving the Lord in that area. We are so appreciative of our graduates and the spirit with which they serve. It is a thrill to hear—whether in person or via written updates—what the Lord is allowing them to accomplish for Him. Here are a few pastors God is using.



MORRIS HENRIQUEZ

and his wife Elizabeth grew up at Lancaster Baptist Church and graduated from both LBS and WCBC. He pastors Bay Area Baptist Church (left) in Newark, CA.



STEPHEN KING

served for six years at Northstar Baptist Church in Duluth, Minnesota before being voted in as the senior pastor. He served under the leadership of Dr. David Sorenson until his retirement.



PAUL CONNER

served as a youth pastor in Texas and Canada for nine years before starting City Baptist Church in Vancouver, B.C., in September of 2014. He and his wife Jenette have four children.



RYAN JOHNSON

and his wife Sarah are graduates of Lancaster Baptist School and West Coast Baptist College. Both their parents are members at LBC. He pastors Redwood Baptist Church in Redwood City, CA.



JUSTIN STEIMER

was an assistant pastor in Kingman, Arizona, before moving to Sterling, Colorado, in 2009 to pastor the Lighthouse Baptist Church. He and his wife Jill have five children.



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BASKETBALL

JULY 16-22 & JULY 30-AUGUST 5

VOLLEYBALL

JULY 16-22 & JULY 30-AUGUST 5

WORLD VIEW

JULY 30-AUGUST 5





WCBC GRADUATES HAVE NO STUDENT LOAN DEBT

WE HAVE MADE IT A PRIORITY for these past twenty-two years to ensure that our graduates finish college without debt. We are eligible to receive Stafford loans and other financial assistance from the federal government because of our relationship with Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS). However, we have chosen not to accept these funds.

In this country, student loan debt is staggering and crippling many young people as they embark on life after college. Many even delay their graduation for that very reason. Americans owe over \$1.4 trillion in student loan debt, spread out among about 44 million borrowers. That's about \$620 billion more than the total U.S. credit card debt.

Our goal at West Coast Baptist College has always been graduates rather than just students. But not just any graduate. We want them to be adequately trained and financially free to proceed immediately to what God has called them to do. Thirty or forty thousand

dollars of tuition debt would make that impossible for decades. A few of our graduates may owe a small amount of money to a family member who has helped them finish, but no one receives a diploma at West Coast who owes money to the college. This enables them to proceed directly into the ministry for which they have been trained.

Nearly all of our students work jobs while they are at West Coast. The college provides scholarships, work study programs, and assists dozens of students through the Needy Student Fund. Our students learn how to work hard, pray, and trust the Lord. And where God guides, He always provides.

College debt is rough. Prices have only grown higher over the past decade, making college often financially intimidating. Here are a few stats you should know:

\$37,172 average amount owed per borrower

60% of US college students take out loans to help pay for school

10 YEARS the average time it takes to pay off your loans

5 APPS EVERY STUDENT NEEDS

WHETHER YOU'RE CONSIDERING

attending West Coast Baptist College or venturing into our online courses, college can be one of the busiest times of your life. But here are a few things that can make your student life a lot easier:



BUDGET APPS

With apps like Level, Money, and LarnVest, making sure your bills are getting paid is as simple as looking at your phone.

EVERNOTE

Evernote is a multi-device app that lets you organize and share your research and lecture notes across all your digital platforms.



THINGS APP

This app lets you schedule tasks, make checklists, sync calendars, and pretty much accomplish any organizational task.



AN ONLINE BACKUP

Few things are more devastating than a computer crash. For a few bucks a month, services like CrashPlan and Mozy keep your hard work safe.



DRAGON DICTATION

Dragon Dictation uses accurate voice recognition software to let you speak and instantly see your words in text.



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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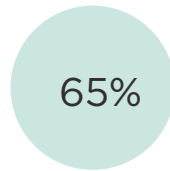
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YOU MAY BE A STUDENT who is not sure of God's will for your life, or perhaps you feel a calling into a secular career. You might be interested in Bible college but not ready to commit to a four-year degree. West Coast Baptist College has a program to meet your need. Our One Year Bible Program offers 33 credits of classes that are the heart of our Bible Department. These classes will equip you with the tools necessary to adequately understand the most important and foundational Bible truths. Each of these classes also transfers to any four-year degree program here at West Coast, should God lead you to further training.

The bottom line is—you go to college to get an education. At West Coast you will be taught by highly qualified, full-time instructors who have a passion, not just to stand in a classroom and lecture, but to invest into your life and impart to you valuable truths that will help you.

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BIBLE



EDUCATION



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Jobs for Students Who Attend West Coast

WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE makes every effort to help our students find jobs while they are in college. Our Job Placement Office will help students even before they arrive at college to find available jobs in the community and on campus. Job shuttles are available to provide transportation to interviews and jobs. A Job Fair is held every September when over 100 employers from the community come to our campus to find college students who are seeking employment. West Coast has a good relationship with our business community, so employers are eager to hire hard-working college students.

Interview Days

NOVEMBER 16-17
West Coast Baptist College will host Interview Days to allow churches and Christian schools to interview all seniors for placement into ministry. For further information, contact Dr. Jerry Goddard at jerry.goddard@wcbc.edu.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT 888.694.9222 or WCBC.EDU

Q+A

SHANE AGEE

SERVING AT TUCSON BAPTIST CHURCH IN TUCSON, AZ

Shane Agee, his wife Tavia, and their four children have called Lancaster Baptist Church their home since 2013. For the last four years, the Agee family has walked by faith and immersed themselves into the ministry. After graduation, we asked Shane what it was like being a married student at WCBC.

HOW DID GOD CALL YOU TO ENROLL AT WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE?

My wife and I began serving through the local church of Rocky Mountain Baptist in Pueblo, Colorado. The passion for ministry became an undoubtable call from God in 2009. My pastor encouraged us to consider WCBC for training, so I began to take online classes. It didn't take long for God to reveal my ignorance to His Word. Yet I still wasn't convinced to pull up roots and leave all that we were accustomed to in Pueblo. God then led me to call Dr. Rasmussen to get a different perspective. Through a series of questions and answers, I realized God was taking our family to WCBC to train for the ministry.

HOW DID YOUR FAMILY BENEFIT FROM LANCASTER BAPTIST CHURCH?

The time here has been transformational. The greatest impact was made on our family through the members and staff of Lancaster Baptist Church. They took a genuine interest in our family, and we love them very much! Many of the college students also personally invested and ministered the love of Christ to our children. To all of you, we are eternally grateful for your labor of love.



The 2017 President's Award was given to Shane Agee for his outstanding example of servant leadership. This award is presented during our commencement exercises and is named in honor of Dr. Chappell who preaches and lives servant leadership. It is this quality that WCBC strives to put into the hearts of our students.

WHAT IS SOMETHING GOD TAUGHT YOU AS A STUDENT?

From a practical perspective, God taught me that there is no substitute for hard work, persistence, and an optimistic spirit in the ministry. From an academic perspective, the time in the classroom is invaluable. The instructors are committed to strengthening the faith of each student, as well as developing their doctrinal understanding.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR AT WCBC?

I am most thankful that West Coast Baptist College has created an environment of developing servants who understand the value of integrity, character, and a work ethic, but most of all, they want to see Christ formed in every student.

HOW HAS WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE AND DR. PAUL CHAPPELL INFLUENCED YOUR LIFE AND MINISTRY?

Dr. Chappell and WCBC encouraged our family not to fear the ministry but to embrace it together. God never intended for me to do ministry alone. It is a family effort. The ministry is for all of us to be involved with life-change through the power of the gospel. Upon graduation God led us to join the staff of Tucson Baptist Church. We are very excited to come alongside Pastor Armstrong and his staff and put into use the tools we learned at WCBC. **BV**

WCBC ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

BIBLE PROGRAM

Church Ministries
Evangelism
Ministry Administration
Missions
Office Administration
One Year Bible
Pastoral
Secretarial

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Early Childhood
Elementary Education
Secondary Education

MUSIC PROGRAM

Vocal
Instrumental

MASTER'S PROGRAM

Biblical Studies
Church Music
Christian Education

PROFICIENCIES

Apologetics
Biblical Counseling
Business
Church Planting
English
Graphic Design
History
Home Economics
Math
Missions
Music Administration
Music Education
Science
Spanish
Speech
TESOL
Visual Productions
Web Development
Youth



wcbc.edu

OR CALL 888.694.9222

WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE

WE ARE BAPTIST

It is important to receive college instruction from an institution and leaders who share your values and convictions. West Coast Baptist College seeks to build upon the foundation that pastors and parents have begun in students' lives. At West Coast, students build life-long friendships and date fellow Baptist students.

WE ARE LOCAL CHURCH

People do what people see—that's why mentoring in a local church Bible college environment is so special. At West Coast, not only do the students receive quality academics, they also see their teachers involved in weekly soulwinning and local church ministry at Lancaster Baptist Church. If students miss seeing dynamic soulwinning and personal discipleship for four years, they are unlikely to implement such service when they enter the ministry.

WE TRAIN MINISTRY LEADERS

We thank God for godly engineers, lawyers, nurses, and businessmen, but at West Coast we are focused on training future pastors, missionaries, evangelists, music leaders, and Christian educators. We exist to develop leaders with a heart for God who are committed to the Word, compassionate toward the lost, and compelled to change communities for Christ. We train the next generation to strive for balance in rules and relationships and in soulwinning and discipleship.

WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID ABOUT WCBC...

PREACHERS OF THE PAST

WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR MEN WHO GAVE COUNSEL AND ENCOURAGEMENT AT THE FOUNDING OF WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE



DR. CURTIS HUTSON
EVANGELIST
1934-1995

I am happy to recommend West Coast Baptist College. Dr. Chappell is a man with a burden to reach the lost and to train leaders who will themselves be greatly used of God.



DR. TOM MALONE
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
1915-2007

West Coast Baptist College is connected with a tremendous pastor. Church-related schools can give better training to young people who are preparing for God's work.



DR. LEE ROBERSON
HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
1909-2007

I count it a great honor to give my recommendation of WCBC. I rejoice in works that are established on the Word of God and works that manifest a concern for a lost world.



DR. JAMES RUSHING
LAKE CITIES BAPTIST CHURCH
1936-2008

After having the privilege of serving on the board of four different colleges, I have been especially impressed with the spirituality, attitude, and surroundings at WCBC.

WEST COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE ALUMNI

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE 2,500+ GRADUATES WHO ARE FAITHFULLY SERVING THE LORD WITH BIBLICAL DISTINCTION



PASTOR ADAM LANGSTON 2005
JUNCTION CITY BAPTIST CHURCH
JUNCTION CITY, KS

What I have admired most about WCBC is their passion to reach the lost, their biblical philosophy, and their conservative stand.



PASTOR STEPHEN KING 2009
NORTHSTAR BAPTIST CHURCH
DULUTH, MN

I invested four years of my life at WCBC and received a lifetime of blessings. I learned how to proclaim the faith, how to defend the faith, and how to live by faith.



PASTOR KYLE HAYNES 2001
SHADOW MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH
MORGAN HILL, CA

I learned more from watching the pastoral staff and local church than any class I attended.



PASTOR RUDY ABROT 2002
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
CARSON, CA

WCBC made me realize that Bible college is not just learning the fundamentals but putting them into practice.



PASTOR PAUL CHOI 2007
HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH
EASTVALE, CA

I thank God for WCBC and its emphasis on the local church, spirit-filled Christian living, and soulwinning.



PASTOR BRUCE BURKETT 2012
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH
CORTEZ, CO

I am thankful for the biblical and uncompromised stand of West Coast Baptist College.



MISSIONARY ADAM FRIDENSTINE 2009
SERVING THE LORD
IN EL SALVADOR

I'm very thankful for learning the importance and value of one on one discipleship through the ministry of Lancaster Baptist Church. This has strengthened our church family.



MISSIONARY BRENT HAWLEY 2011
SERVING THE LORD
IN NICARAGUA

I saw the power of expository preaching. The missions faculty that West Coast has brought together was used of God to prepare me for the mission field.

PREACHERS OF TODAY

WE APPRECIATE PASTORS WHO SPEND TIME TO KNOW AND ENCOURAGE US IN OUR VISION



DR. RAYMOND BARBER
WORTH BAPTIST CHURCH, PASTOR EMERITUS
FORT WORTH, TX

I am happy to recommend West Coast Baptist College to any student looking for a quality education in a college that has dedicated leadership, a Bible-based curriculum, and high moral standards. All of the students from Worth Baptist Church who have graduated from WCBC have demonstrated what it means to have been taught by qualified teachers in a school that ranks at the top in Christian education.



PASTOR BOBBY ROBERSON
GOSPEL LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH
WALKERTOWN, NC

West Coast Baptist College was founded upon the eternal Word and has not changed. If you choose to attend, you will not be confused about God's Word, God's will, or God's way in your life.



PASTOR THOMAS SHEPHERD
BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
MACARTHUR, WV

We are so thankful for the conservative stand at WCBC. We are always thrilled when we send students to receive the Bible training they need to win this world to Christ.



PASTOR TIM RABON
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

I am thankful that the students we have sent to further their education at WCBC have returned home with a servant's spirit and a heart for their local church.



PASTOR SHANE LEWIS
SOMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
SOMERVILLE, AL

The students who have attended WCBC have come back to our church ready to serve and passionate about reaching the lost. They come back with a greater heart for God, the gospel, and the local church.



PASTOR DEAN HERRING
SOUTH VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
KUNA, ID

I have preached to the student body of WCBC on numerous occasions. I am deeply appreciative of the spirit of the place and the people and believe God's hand is evident there.



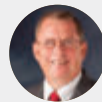
PASTOR KEVIN FOLGER
CLEVELAND BAPTIST CHURCH
CLEVELAND, OH

Cleveland Baptist Church has had the joy of having students from our ministry attend WCBC. They have come home with a heart to serve and have grown academically and spiritually as a result of their training.



PASTOR DAN REED
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH
ACWORTH, GA

I am always encouraged by what is happening at West Coast Baptist College. WCBC offers students an evangelistic Baptist church, and most of all, a great model in servant leadership. The students we have sent out from our church come back with a greater zeal to serve the Lord.



PASTOR RICK FINLEY
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
DURHAM, NC

I appreciate the fact that the work begins in our students' lives with the foundational importance of their hearts being focused on Christ. Everything else is built upon that foundation.



PASTOR MIKE EDWARDS
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH
WOODBIDGE, VA

It has been our privilege to have several West Coast Baptist College graduates on our staff. We have found them to be wonderfully prepared academically and professionally. The true blessing is that they are wonderfully prepared spiritually with servant's hearts for the local church.



DR. DON SISK
FORMER PRESIDENT OF BIMI
LANCASTER, CA

As I observe West Coast Baptist College graduates, two things stand out—their willingness to do whatever is needed and their zeal for soulwinning.



PASTOR DAVID MCCOY
PEOPLES BAPTIST CHURCH
MCDONOUGH, GA

West Coast Baptist College is the epitome of excellence. The atmosphere is electric and the program is extensive in both study and service. West Coast Baptist College is Christianity at its finest. It's the real deal.



PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE LOCAL CHURCHES AND FAMILIES LIKE THESE ALL ACROSS THE LAND



PASTOR R.B. OUELLETTE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
BRIDGEPORT, MI

I am delighted that both our children graduated from WCBC. The godly examples, excellent academics, sound doctrine, conservative stand, and church example encouraged my wife and me immensely.



GARY WILLIAMS
WCBC CAMPUS HOST
LANCASTER, CA

I am thankful for a pastor and faculty who are doctrinally sound, faithful to the ministry of the local church, conservative and Christ-honoring in music, separated in their lifestyle, and humble and loving in their spirit.



PASTOR MIKE NORRIS
FRANKLIN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH
MURFREESBORO, TN

My wife and I have seen firsthand the quality of education and ministry preparation provided by West Coast in our son who graduated in 2012. His training provided him with solid doctrinal teaching.



PASTOR DEAN MILLER
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
HATTIESBURG, MS

Lancaster Baptist Church and West Coast Baptist College have had a profound impact on my life and ministry. I am grateful to have my daughter enrolled and learning in this place.



PASTOR KURT SKELLY
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
FREDERICKSBURG, VA

There are few places you can send your children to college and know that what they are learning is in agreement with your ministry philosophy. We are grateful for West Coast Baptist College.



DR. DAVID GIBBS, JR.
CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION
MASON, OH

There is no question that the hand of an almighty God called into being West Coast Baptist College. I am thrilled beyond measure that my son enrolled and trained at West Coast Baptist College.



PASTOR ALAN FONG
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH
 SAN LEANDRO, CA

It was an honor to see our son graduate from WCBC. His passion for the Lord and for reaching the lost was learned from a faculty who mentored him and who modeled a godly life.



PASTOR PAUL KINGSBURY
NORTH LOVE BAPTIST CHURCH
 ROCKFORD, IL

Four of our daughters and numbers of our young adults from North Love Baptist Church and the RU Recovery Program have received a “five star” education at WCBC!



PASTOR SCOTT WENDAL
VALLEY FORGE BAPTIST TEMPLE
 COLLEGEVILLE, PA

As a parent of WCBC students, I am thrilled with the godly impact of the relationships made both with students and faculty. My son and daughter’s experiences at WCBC have deepened their spiritual roots and their love for God.



PASTOR TIM BUTLER
PEOPLE’S BAPTIST CHURCH
 GREENVILLE, NC

The heart of WCBC is contagious! It stands in the right position but with the right disposition. The doctrine is right, the music is uplifting, the soulwinning fervor is continual, but the heart is unsurpassed.



PASTOR TIM RUHL
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
 CHICO, CA

I have hired several West Coast Baptist College graduates to be a part of pastoral and school staff. Each has added a tremendous attitude and spirit of excellence to our team. The proof is in the results.



PASTOR COREY BANE
SHENANDOAH BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
 MARTINSBURG, WV

We knew that as our daughter was being trained for ministry that she was also being influenced by the very servant leaders who were modeling that in front of her. We could not be happier with the well-rounded education she received.





A photograph of a person in a white sweater looking towards a fountain in a park. The background is blurred, showing other people and trees. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

**NOTHING COMPARES TO SERVING
GOD WITH YOUR LIFE!**

WCBC.EDU



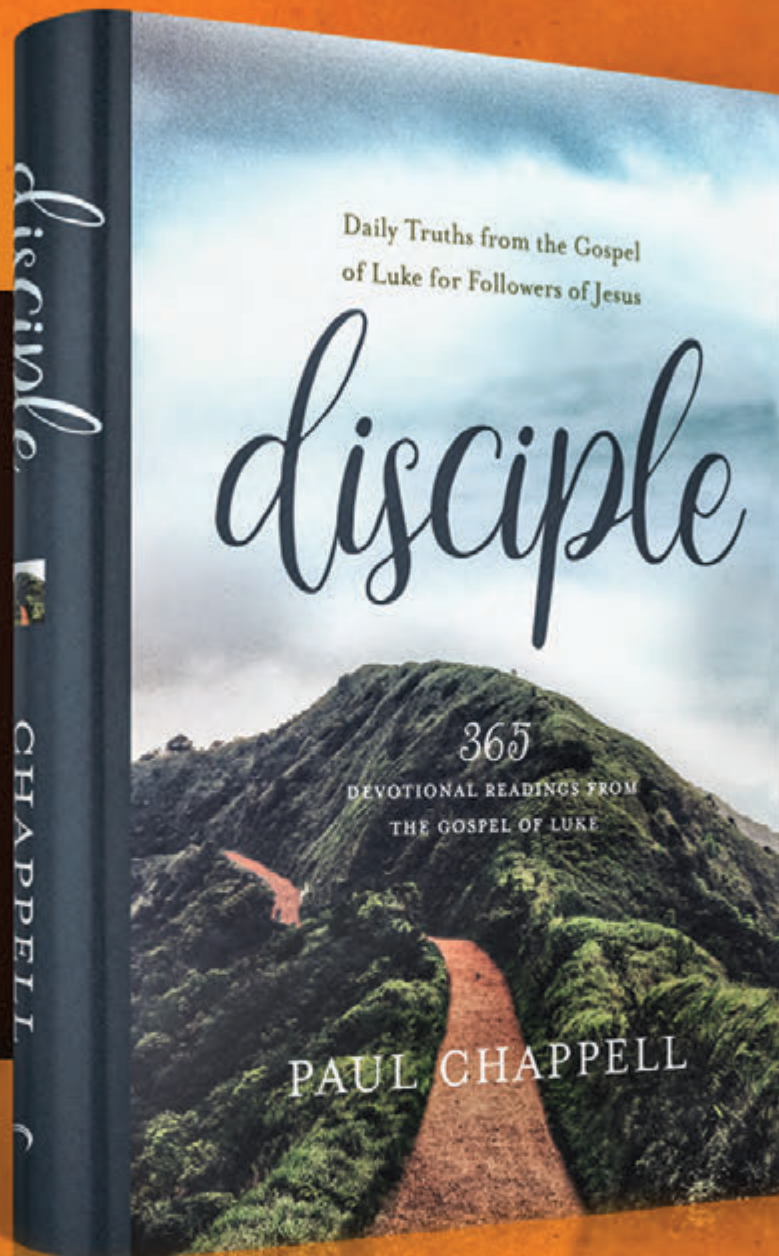
**“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed
thereto according to thy word.”**

—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
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growing together in Christ

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Lancaster, CA 93535
661.946.4663
lancasterbaptist.org
Paul Chappell, Pastor



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PUBLICATIONS

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