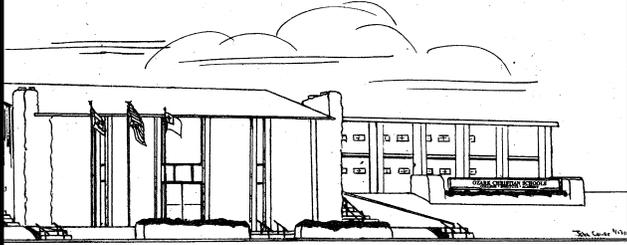


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Founder D. C. Branham

The STANDARD BEARER

Vol. 38, No. 1

January/February 2007

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14).

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Starting a new month
In a bright new year;
The signs of the times,
Say His coming is near.

Each day's a new page,
God gives us to fill;
Doing things unproductive,
Or doing His will.

Let's look to the Future,
Let go of the past;



Only Treasure laid up,
In heaven will last.

So put on His armor,
There's work to be done;
There are hearts to be mended,
And souls to be won.

It's as much what we do,
As the things that we say;
That lets our light shine
And brightens someone's day.

By Laura Wallace

December 22, 2005

(Laura Wallace is an aunt to Editor Wallace E. Joice. Over the years, several of her poems have been published in The Standard Bearer. In October, Laura and her husband, Jack, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.)



A Timely Message For The New Year

THAT'S A REASON TO HOPE

By President Daniel E. Taylor

Sometimes Sister Taylor calls me "Mr. Optimistic." She tells me, "You think there is hope for everybody and every situation;" which, of course, is not completely accurate. I know there is no hope for the devil but, I must admit, when I first heard the gospel and about heaven and hell, I felt a little sorry for the devil. Believe me, I have since lost all sympathy for him, but in my early Christian experience the thought of anyone, even the devil never having a chance to be saved was a horror to me. And it still is for anyone but him.

Getting back to the subject of my optimism, I do believe in hope. The night my mama died and I didn't know how she stood with God, the Holy Ghost woke me up in the wee hours of the morning and brought Romans 4:18 to my remembrance—"Who against hope believed in hope..."

Hope is one of the three things that Paul said would last when everything else was gone. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity (love), these three; but the greatest of these is charity" (1 Corinthians 13:13). Hope finds it equal in faith and is only surpassed by love. Hope is not the greatest thing, but it is a great thing. So when I read the Bible, I am constantly asking the Holy Ghost to show me things that will give me hope. **I've found that I don't have to work at getting discouraged.** Discouragement comes naturally in the daily duties of life. But I have to look for "**hope**" for most of things in life are "**against hope.**"

Please recognize that I am writing this from my heart, not my head. These are words of a preacher, a father, and an American, living in a world that is groaning for the day of sweet release and I am not looking for a reason to quit, I am looking for a reason to go on.

The majority of you who are reading this article are carrying burdens you never dreamed of. You have seen children grow up and saints grow old. What were once stable adults have become vacillating as they faced various crises with their children. And in the back of your minds, you have secretly wondered, "**Is there any hope?**"

It is painful when you see those you love wandering farther and farther from God. Many of you have given the best years of your life trying to influence those you love to live for Christ and make heaven, only to hear them say such things as: "**I don't believe the Word of God!**" "**I won't let God work in my life!**" "**I tried it and it didn't work!**" "**I've never done it and I never will!**" If you've ever heard a similar statement from one you love, then you know how painful such experiences are. At first glance, these statements seem final. The one who said them would almost seem hopeless, especially if we didn't know the rest of the story. Each of these statements were made by Simon Peter. The first statement was made in Matthew 16:21 and 22, when Jesus told of His coming death and suffering. Peter rebuked God incarnate and told Him what He said was wrong. But Jesus kept working in Peter's life, and not only did he come to believe every Word of God, but he helped write it—**that's a reason to hope.**"

The second is in John 13:8 and 9. Jesus was washing each of the disciples' feet, and when He came to Simon Peter, he wouldn't let him wash his feet. Peter went so far as to say to the Lord, "I won't ever let you do that in my life." Yet, it is wonderful to see how easily Jesus was able to change his mind. **That's a reason to hope.**

The third statement is in Luke 5:4 and 5. Jesus told Peter, "*Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught.*" Peter responded, "*Master, we have toiled all night and have taken nothing.*" In other words, "I've tried it and it didn't work." I think it is obvious what the problem was. Peter tried the first time for himself because he decided he wanted to give it a try. Oh, but what a difference it made when the Lord spoke to him. Pray that the Lord will speak to your loved ones—**that's a reason to hope.**

The fourth statement is in Acts 10:13 and 14. Peter was on the roof of Simon the tanner's house when he had a vision. Unclean beasts were let down in a sheet and a voice said, "*Rise Peter, kill and eat.*" Peter said, "*Not so Lord, for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.*" In other words, "I've never done what you are asking and I never will." It would seem that this would conclude the matter. But the Lord kept dealing with Peter and let the sheet down two more times, and **that's a reason to hope.**

A friend of mine often said when things went wrong—"Every little goodbye ain't gone, and every little shut eye ain't sleep." That is Virginia jargon for—things are not always as they appear, nor will they always stay the same.

One night when I was 15 years of age, my older brother and I sat in his 1965 Chevelle Supersport and talked about the Lord. The conversation ended with me telling him I wasn't interested in a religion like he had, and that I'd stay with the Catholic Church we were raised in. I could see the disappointment on his face, though I didn't know then how painful my answer must have been. It was seven years later before I finally got saved. To put it in perspective, if that talk with my brother happened today, it would be 2014 before I got saved. "Every little goodbye ain't gone," and every negative response our loved ones may give to the Gospel does not mean it will stay that way. **That's a reason to hope.**

ALL THOSE WHO DOUBT

All those who doubt remember not
The Holy Spirit's power.
He is not limited by time,
By age, by years, by hour.
He plants the seed down deep, deep, deep,
Into their little hearts;
Using us as instruments
His Word to them imparts.
If you would know the fullest joy
A Christian life can bring
Start now to seek these little ones
And bring them unto Him.

By Verna Meade Surer, Ft. Wayne, IN

Daniel E. Taylor, *Editor-in-Chief*
Wallace E. Joice, *Editor* Carol J. Joice, *Graphic Art*

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“REDEEMING THE TIME”

By Editor Wallace E. Joice

(This article is a reprint from the January/February 2001 Standard Bearer.)

In Ephesians 5:16, Paul says, “*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*” Again, in Colossians 4:5, he writes “*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.*”

In all of Paul’s epistles, he first sets forth doctrinal truth, then makes practical applications. Both of the texts considered in this article are found toward the end of the epistles which contain them. They have to do with the proper use of the time God has given us on earth.

Time especially relates to earth and man. God is above time and inhabits eternity. Isaiah says, “*For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones*” (Isaiah 57:15). God then is eternal and moves in the realm of eternity, but man is a creature of time. Thus Paul exhorts us to be “*redeeming the time.*”

What does Paul mean by the expression “*redeeming the time*”? **The word “redeem” was a market word.** It meant to buy and, in the original of our texts, it meant “to buy up for oneself.” W. E. Vine, the eminent Greek scholar, adds to this definition the following explanation: “making the most of every opportunity, turning each to the best advantage since none can be recalled if missed.”

The great leader and patriarch Moses expressed **the urgency and importance of time in the following way**, “*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom*” (Psalm 90:12). Our days are numbered, and thus each day is precious. Wisdom would teach us to use our time and opportunities to eternal advantage.

We should redeem the time because time is sinful. Paul says, “*redeeming the time because the days are evil.*” Since the fall, the world has been evil, and will become increasingly so as we near the end (2 Timothy 3:1-5; 13). As the world pursues evil, the Christian should pursue righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

We should redeem the time because time is serious. Paul reminds us, “*...behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation*” (2 Corinthians 6:2). All opportunities to be saved or to get others saved are in time. In eternity, character and destiny are forever unchangeable (Revelation 22:11).

We should redeem the time because time is sacred. Paul speaks of the first advent of Christ thusly, “*But when the fullness of time was come, God send forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons*” (Galatians 4:4, 5). In the incarnation, the timeless one invaded time in the person of His Son. Jesus came for the purpose of redeeming lost mankind. Time was sacred to Him. He declared, “*I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work*” (John 9:4). Our Savior’s words and example teach us that time is too sacred to waste on pursuits that have no eternal value.

We should redeem the time because time is short. In this regard, Paul says, “*But I say, brethren, the time is short: it*

remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away” (1 Corinthians 7:29-31). In essence, Paul reminds us that earthly pursuits that seem so important, in the light of eternity will seem trivial. Let us invest our lives in things that will outlast life.

We can redeem the time by engaging in prayer. Paul counsels, “*Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 4:6, 7). Time spent in earnest prayer to God is never wasted time. We are presumptuous if we think we can accomplish anything of eternal value without His blessing and enablement. We must “*pray without ceasing*” (1 Thessalonians 4:17), that is, consistently and persistently.

We can redeem the time by studying God’s Word. Paul’s injunction is, “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*” (2 Timothy 2:15). We are living in a time of confusion and error. Only through God’s Word can we know God’s way and God’s will.

We can redeem the time by witnessing to the lost. Jesus promised, “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth*” (Acts 1:8). The Holy Ghost comes upon us, not just to make us feel good, but to energize us to witness effectively for Christ. God’s purpose for every believer is to be a witness to win others to Christ. If we are not in some way engaging in evangelism, we are not “*redeeming the time,*” but wasting it.

We can redeem the time by walking with God. We read of Enoch, “*And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him*” (Genesis 5:24). Our witness and our work will be in vain if our walk is not right. If we talk the talk, we must walk the walk.

Enoch walked with God in a time of moral free fall. We read, “*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*” (Genesis 6:5). Jesus warned, “*But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be*” (Matthew 24:37). As was the case in the days of Noah, we are living in a time of great and growing wickedness. But even in such a time, we can still walk with God. And those that walk with God are going someplace. The writer of Hebrews tells us, “*By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony that he pleased God*” (Hebrews 11:5). Those who walk with God on earth will someday be translated to walk with God in heaven.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

You cannot pray the Lord’s Prayer and even once say “I”;
 You cannot pray the Lord’s Prayer and even once say “my”;
 Nor can you pray the Lord’s Prayer and not pray for one another,
 For when you ask for daily bread, you must include your brother,
 For others are included in each and every plea,
 From beginning to the end of it, it does not once say “me”.

—Author Unkown



Free Download!

“JUST CALL IT JOHN”
By President Daniel E. Taylor

Go to www.obiwweb.org
and get your
free download of
“Just Call It John” at OBI’s website.

Editor’s Note: Brother Robert Kirkpatrick, our printer, supplied me a copy of Brother Taylor’s message “JUST CALL IT JOHN.” He felt it deserved the widest possible hearing. After listening to the tape, I fully concur.

“JUST CALL IT JOHN”—what an unusual title! I wondered what kind of message I would hear. Basically, what Brother Taylor is saying is “Let’s call a spade a spade,” “Let’s call sin sin!” He speaks to the great political, social, and moral issues of today, yet in a caring, compassionate way. Pastors may want to share this with their people. You **must** hear this timely, relevant message! (WEJ)

“Just Call It John” is also **available upon request** on **cassette tape** for a **donation** of any amount. Fill out the following form and enclose with your donation:

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Former Staff Member “With The Lord”

Mary K. Essary/Billingsley
June 7, 1912 – December 1, 2006



Mary K. Essary/Billingsley was born June 7, 1912, in Hillsboro, Texas. She passed away on December 1, 2006, at Prescott Samaritan Village in Prescott, Arizona. She was 94. Her services were held at First Assembly of God, Prescott, Arizona, on December 9, 2006.

She is survived by one son, David Hugh Essary and his wife, Norma, of Argonia, Kansas, and one sister, Doris Kastl, of Prescott, Arizona.

She served in the capacity of dorm mother, librarian, work study supervisor, along with many other tasks. May the Lord comfort her family and the many friends who mourn her passing.

Words of Wisdom

A NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION

I will, like Paul, *forget* those things which are behind me and press forward; like David, *lift* up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help; like Abraham, *trust* implicitly in my God; like Enoch, *walk* in daily fellowship with my heavenly Father; like Jehoshaphat, *prepare* my heart to seek God; like Moses, *choose* rather to suffer than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; like Daniel, *commune* with my God at all times; like Job, be *patient* under all circumstances; like Caleb and Joshua, *refuse* to be discouraged because of superior numbers; like Joseph, *turn* my back to all seductive advances; like Gideon, *advance* even though my friends be few; like Aaron and Hur, *uphold* the hands of my spiritual leaders; like Isaiah, *consecrate*

myself to do God’s work; like Andrew, *strive* to lead my brother into a closer walk with Christ; like John, *lean* upon the bosom of the Master and imbibe of His Spirit; like Stephen, *manifest* a forgiving spirit toward all who seek my hurt; like Timothy, *study* the Word of God; like the heavenly host, *proclaim* the message of peace on earth and good will toward all men; and like my Lord Himself, *overcome* all earthly allurements by refusing to succumb to their enticements.

Realizing that I cannot hope to achieve these objectives by my own strength, I will rely upon Christ, for “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*”

—George Burger



Go Deeper With God

By the late D. C. Branham

“Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great” (Luke 6:47-49).

“Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth” (Matthew 13:5).

Surface blessings cannot satisfy the soul, go deeper with God. In two of Jesus’ parables, the Lord Jesus Christ points out the need of real depth of life and experience. Luke ends the account of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount with these words, *“Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings and doeth them, I will shew you whom he is like: He is like the man which built an house and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the floods arose, the streams beat vehemently upon that house and could not shake it; for it was founded upon a rock” (Luke 6:47, 48).*

And then there are the words of Christ recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, where the Saviour speaking in the parable of the sower says, *“Some (seed) fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth” (Matthew 13:5).*

It was the depth of the foundation on the rock that saved the house, and it was the lack of depth that caused the seed to be scorched and to die. The Lord Jesus used these parables to illustrate the fact that **we need to go deeper into the things of God.** And I urge the Saviour’s message on you: **Go deeper with God.**

We live in a shallow age. Our times are characterized by shallow emotions and shallow thinking. We suffer the effects of a shallow sense of moral values. **We hold light views of sin, or God, and of eternity.** The shallow spirit of the age seeks to invade the Church and the lives of God’s people. The devil would like us to be as shallow and as empty as this age in which we live. He would say to us; **“Pray if you must, but let it be shallow, ineffectual praying! Read your Bible, but do it without deep, reverent thought! Worship, but don’t carry it too far! Don’t get emotional! Don’t put your whole being into worshipping and serving God!”**

The devil doesn’t mind if we go to church, just so long as we don’t take it too seriously. He doesn’t mind if we have revivals provided we don’t get concerned over our unsaved neighbors and friends! **The call of the Spirit is to go deeper with God! Dig the well of worship until you strike an artesian flow! Intercede for the lost until your spirit is heavy for the unsaved and your eyes flow with tears.**

Do you realize that the devil doesn’t mind if you study your Bible as long as you do not seek to practice what you learn! The Bible is likened unto a mirror. It is possible to become completely absorbed in studying the beauty of the glass, the beveled edge, the silvered back, and forget that the mirror’s chief function is to reveal!

What good is Bible study if we fail to see ourselves and our spiritual state reflected in the **Word!** What profit is there unless we hear the call of the Spirit to **go deeper with God?**

Is it a surprise to you to learn that not all of the redeemed ones go deeply into the things of God and the things of the Holy Spirit? Paul tells us that the risen Christ was seen of above five hundred brethren. Mind you they were **brethren.** And yet, when you study the Scriptures you have to classify most of them as being in a sort of **outer circle of relationship.** They were satisfied to simply be brethren, and that is all! Out of this five hundred emerged a group of **one hundred and twenty** who obeyed the command of Christ and obediently tarried in Jerusalem. We might call them the **circle of the obedient.** There was yet another group called the **seventy,** and this is the **circle of service.** But it is not the nearest circle to Christ. There is the **circle of the apostles**—twelve men who were chosen that they might be with Christ. And yet, even from this group there emerged a highly favored **inner circle of three**—Peter, James and John.

What a revealing thing is this study of numbers! Five hundred were eligible to be called brethren; one hundred and twenty received the Pentecostal experience; seventy were enlisted in service; twelve were chosen for leadership, but there were three who would be satisfied with nothing less than intimate companionship with the Lord Jesus Christ! Like Mary, they chose the better part of sitting at the feet of Jesus.

“But who can get near to Christ?” You ask. **“How do you go about getting into the inner circle?”** Was it reserved for the three fisherman of the first century?” The Word of God gives a clear answer as it exhorts us to go deeper with God. Listen as the mother of James and John approaches Christ with a request. She asks, *“Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other the left” (Matthew 20:21).* What a request! She wanted the highest and the very best for her children. Note that Christ did not rebuke her for this desire. Rather, He gave her an answer that should set us all on fire with a holy ambition. He said that these favored places on His right and on His left, would be given to those for whom they had been prepared! **He made it clear that the positions were open! And that those who were to fill that place had not been chosen as yet!** In the days of Christ’s flesh, three fisherman wanted an intimate place and companionship with Jesus more than they wanted anything else, and they got their heart’s desire. If this is what you want more than all else, you can have it, too! The Holy Spirit urges us to **go deeper with God!**

Pizarro and his Spanish conquistadors came to see the new world in search of gold. They had heard tales of the fabulous wealth that awaited them in Peru, the land of the Incas. An expeditionary force was formed, and they started on the way to the new land of gold. But they had not reckoned on the long marches they must make. Nor the fever-ridden lands through which they must go. Finally, mutiny broke out among the soldiers. Pizarro gathered his men together. He stood before them, and repeated the stories of the wealth that lay before them. And then he dramatically drew his sword, drew a line in the earth before them, and cried, *“All who go with me must cross this line. Let others return to Spain if they will.”*

God grant to you the spiritual vision to see the line which the Holy Spirit draws before you today. He challenges you to pass from indifference and self-satisfaction across the line into a life of all out devotion to Christ and His Word. **Go deeper with God!**



**OBI
Alumni
Association**

Officers
Randy Snow, President
Mark Hutson, Vice President
Dawn Schminkey, Secretary

Alumni In Action

CANAAN LAND 2007

“They did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year” (Joshua 5:12).

The wanderings for Israel were finally over; the rest that had been promised was attained. No more fiery serpents, no more sand of the desert, or gathering of manna every morning. They had made it! They had reached Canaan, the

grapes of Eshcol, the land of milk and honey—a new dimension.

My prayer for each one of you is that this year God’s riches and blessings will be yours. May you enter into the fruit of Canaan this year. Oh yes, there are still battles while here, there are giants in the land and Jerichos to take. But moving out of the desert into Canaan’s joys brings victories never before experienced. For one, the scenery changed. I pray God will bring new converts with new ministries yet to be explored and the church will expand beyond our dreams. I pray for Holy Ghost meetings so a younger generation can know and experience the fruits of the Spirit themselves. Oh, to taste the joys of heaven and pass around the excitement of moving to a higher plain!

Secondly, they had now entered into a cultivated region. Notice they went to the old corn and the manna ceased! Stopped! So now they must move on or starve to death!

Alumni and friends, the same God who miraculously supplied you with manna, that brought you through the dry ground, that made the bitter waters of Mara sweet, that sent quail every evening, desires to lead us onward to the joyous fruit of the land of Canaan. I’ve always loved ol’ Caleb, who at 85 years of age, said “Give me that mountain.” Hold on—keep fighting the good fight of faith. Great victories are in store, but not just for you! Because of Joshua’s decision, dedication and determination to hold on, he watched as little ones found the joys of eating grapes as the juice dripped off their chin. He answered questions like, “Sir what’s this? We’ve never tasted anything so sweet!” With joy, Joshua replied, “That’s a peach, boy!”

Pastor, Sunday school teacher, deacon, fellow laborer—may we experience the same! “Sir, what is this?”

“Oh, this is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel!”

“I must go tell someone—this stuff is awesome!”

God of Heaven, help us to cross over and partake of the fruit of the land of Canaan THIS year!

Randy Snow, OBI Alumni President

Ministry News

Sis. Cheryl Kirk has moved to Sweetwater, TX, to be the youth pastor for First Assembly of God where Wayne and Pat Kirk are the senior pastors. Her address is 307 E Ave. C, Sweetwater, TX 79556.

Servant’s Heart

The 2007 OBI’s *Outreach* schedule is as follows:

- January 19 Pastor Kurt Beauford, Faith Assembly, Shawnee, OK. 405-275-4812
- January 20-21 **Pastor Gary Norris**, Landmark Tabernacle, Sand Springs, OK. 918-245-9367
- February 2 Pastor Gaylon Taylor, Southpoint Church of God, Tyler, TX 903-839-4991
- February 3-4 **Pastor Kerry Sampson**, Old River Assembly of God, Dayton, TX. 281-576-2960
- February 23-25 Pastor Ken Johnson, Little Rock Assembly of God, Waynesboro, MS. 601-735-3648

OBI Overcomers

The 2007 OBI *Overcomers* Choir schedule is as follows:

- January 19 Pastor Randy Perry, Amber Holiness Mission, Amber, OK. 405-224-1947
- January 20 Pastor Randy Snow, Faith Tabernacle Assembly of God, Denton, TX. 940-565-1055
- January 21 Pastor Terry Johnson, First Assembly of God Sherman, TX. 903-892-2865
- February 1 Pastor Randy Frazier, Community Bible Church, Chetopa, KS 620-236-1963
- February 2 Pastor Robert Whitley, Assembly of God, Fletcher, OK 580-549-6651

Births

David and **Crystal McDonald** have a sweet new little girl. Chloe Cherise came on September 11, 2006. She weighed 8 lbs., 3 oz. and was 22 inches long. Eric (3) is Chloe’s big brother. Congratulations to you all on your new wonderful blessing!

Stephen and **Tonya (Atwood) Biggerstaff** are happy to announce the birth of their ninth child, Sarah Grace. This little bundle was born on September 19, 2006, weighing 9 lbs., 2 oz., and was 20 ½ inches long. Sarah’s brothers and sisters are Chris Beth (sweet 16), Anne (12), Justin (10), Andrew (8), Grayson (6), Joseph (4), and Alton (2). The Biggerstaffs have recently assumed the pastorate of New Life Assembly of God in Calera, OK. Their new address is 3202 West University Blvd., Durant, OK 74701. Congratulations to you all on your new little girl from the Lord!

Someone else was born on September 19, 2006—Ragann Trinity Robertson. Mommy (**Laura [Beets]**) and Daddy (**Richie**) said that their little one weighed 8 lbs., 8 oz., and was 20 ½ inches long. Taylor (7), Morgann (5), and Justus (3) all love having the new baby around. Congratulations!

There is another man in the **Floyd** house. Little Austin James came to **Stacey** and **Vicki** on October 2, 2006. He weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz., and measured 20 inches long. His sisters—Alyssa (9), Ashlan (7), and Amberlee (4)—“are always giving Austin kisses.” Congratulations!

Steven and **Kelly (Edwards) Ferrell** are now brand new parents. Colin Rae was born October 15, 2006. This little guy tipped the scales at 7 lbs., and was 19 ½ inches long. Congratulations to you both!

Glendal and **Krystle Smith** are thankful to the Lord for

(Continued on page 8)

DECISION DAYS 2007

March 22 – 25

--Decisions Determine Destinies--

A weekend of activities planned especially for high school students interested in O.B.I.
Registration and room assignments begin Thursday March 22nd, 12:00 – 5:00 PM
(Free to Juniors & Seniors, \$25.00 to all others).



Rev. Stacey Floyd
Speaker

...A CLOSER LOOK

We at Ozark Bible Institute and College have planned for you *A CLOSER LOOK*. It's a time for you to really get to know O.B.I. You'll live in the

dorms with O.B.I. students, share meals with them and attend classes.

You'll also share free time and campus events with them. What better way to learn for sure what life at Ozark Bible Institute and College will be like for you!

(Please bring your Bible, bedding and personals.)

*Ozark Bible Institute & College, 906 Summit Street, Neosho, Missouri
For more information, call OBI office at (417) 451-2057.*

Alumni in Action (Continued from page 7)

their new son, Kendell Redden. He tipped the scales at 7 lbs., 2 oz., and measured 20 inches long. Kendell was welcomed on November 15, 2006 excitedly by his big brother, Harrison (5), and his sisters, Kaetlyn (7) and Laurel (3). Congratulations to you all!

Chris and Beth (Biggerstaff) Godfrey are happy to have their new little girl, Zoe Elizabeth. This 6 lbs., and 18 ½ inch little girl was born on November 29, 2006. Congratulations to Mommy and Daddy on this sweet little angel from the Lord!

Weddings

Jewel Chupp and **Matt Kitsos** gave themselves to each other on June 17, 2006. Congratulations to you both on your marriage and may the Lord continue to work in your lives as you live for Him!

Wedding bells were ringing for **Rebecca Waldrop** and **Bezaleel Ramirez** on August 19, 2006. They are currently living in cd. Victoria, Tamaulipas MEXICO. Congratulations to you both and may the Lord continue to do a work of grace in your hearts!

Nery Stone and **Brian Bostick** were united in matrimony on September 22, 2006. Brian is serving in the US Army. Thank you both for your sacrifice for our country. We appreciate you, Brian, for serving. Congratulations to you both on your new lives together!

On November 11, 2006, **Lori Howard** and **Lonny Adams** celebrated the start of their lives together as they were

joined in marriage. May the Lord bless and keep you both as you serve Him faithfully. Congratulations to you both!

Dressers, Countertops, and Carpet Needed!

The alumni has taken on some new projects. Before the Alumni Business meeting the dressers/desks and countertops in the downstairs of the men's dorm were replaced with new ones. The upstairs of the men's dorm and the ladies' dorm need to have the same thing done. The college needs about \$4,000–\$5,000 to get this accomplished.

Also the carpet in the lobby, offices, and library needs to be replaced. This will cost around \$4,000–\$5,000. The dressers/countertops will be completed first. Any remaining funds will be directed towards the carpet. If you wish to give to these projects, mark your contribution as **Alumni Project**, and send it to Ozark Bible Institute & College, PO BOX 398, Neosho, MO 64850.

Alumni News

Thank you to those who have sent announcements to us! Keep sending your news concerning ministries, marriages, births, prayer requests, testimonies, suggestions, etc. to Dawn Schminkey, 115 S. Ripley St., Neosho, MO 64850, Phone (417) 451-7644, email: dndsminkey@juno.com or OBI Secretary, Bonnie Stoner at PO Box 398, Neosho, MO 64850, phone (417) 451-2057, fax (417) 451-2059, email: obi@juno.com, website: www.obweb.org

Men who pray much don't bray much.—*Christian Clippings*