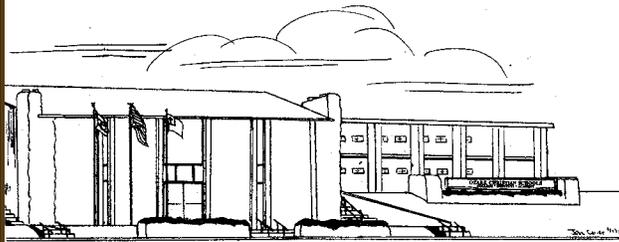


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# The STANDARD BEARER

Vol. 41, No. 4

July/August 2010

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

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bible Holiness Convocation October 18 – 21, 2010 Kesler Memorial Auditorium Neosho, MO

*Theme: LEAD ME IN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS  
"...he leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake" (Psalm 23:3).*



Daniel E. Taylor  
President  
OCS  
Monday Evening



Doug Presley  
Sand Springs, OK  
Tues-Thurs AM  
Speaker



Randy Webb  
Richlands VA  
Tues- Thurs PM  
Speaker



Gene Canter  
Neosho, MO  
Tues- Thurs AM  
Prayer Services



Mike Shelton  
Neosho, MO  
Tues- Thurs PM  
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*Youth service speakers and Children service speakers to be announced.*

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## THE THREE FACES OF THE DEVIL



By President Daniel E. Taylor

“Now the serpent was more subtil,...” (Genesis 3:1).

“...because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion...” (1 Peter 5:8).

“...for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:12-15).

The verses above give us three symbolic descriptions of the devil: (1) The subtil serpent; (2) the “roaring lion;” (3) An “angel of light”.

A serpent, a lion, an angel, but it is the descriptive word in each phrase that should caution us—**subtil, roaring, and of light!**

Whenever a minister feels inspired to warn people about the power of satanic deception in the last days he runs into two risks:

(1) **One risk is that he will cause people to go to the extreme of suspecting everybody.** People start to see a demon behind every bush. They become paranoid, inverted, unfriendly, and aloof. They think they are the only ones that could be right with God.

(2) **Another risk you run when preaching of the devil’s deception is people will laugh it off.** They ignore the threat of deception as a ghost and goblin story intended to scare them into obedience. They snicker at people that take the possibility of deception seriously.

Neither approach is good—to ignore the devil or to become paranoid. But here are the facts! The devil at this moment is trying to deceive us. Either with subtlety, fear, or masquerading as a messenger of light.

**I. A SUBTIL SERPENT.** “Now the serpent was more subtil,...” (Genesis 3:1).

“Subtil” means cunning, wily, crafty, skillfully clever, insidious—in operation like a poison. “Insidious” means operating inconspicuously like poison with a deadly effect. **If**

the activity of the devil was obvious, it wouldn’t be so dangerous. When the serpent talked to Eve it sounded like he was looking out for her and Adam’s best interest. He made it sound like he cared more about them than God did. Or in your case, more than your pastor or parents.

The devil as a serpent suggests the ability of the devil to hide who it is that is talking to you. I don’t know what a serpent was in the Garden of Eden. It appears from Genesis 3:14 that it was a mammal and not a reptile. “And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:”

We know that the devil isn’t a serpent, but he is a fallen angel that somehow convinced the serpent to allow himself to be used by the devil. Like God, but with a different end in view, the devil is looking for someone to use.

We need to remember that a person doesn’t have to be demon-possessed to be used by the devil to talk to you. Neither does a person have to be saved to be used by God to talk to you. Lying prophets told the truth part of the time! Baalam’s donkey was a messenger of God when the Lord chose to use him!

And on the other hand, Simon Peter was used of the devil to try and discourage Jesus. Matthew 16:22-23, “Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.” Some people think Peter must have backslid for a moment when he said this. Not so! He was one of the three most spiritual among them. But he reasoned like a man rather than spiritually, and the devil slipped in and took advantage of Peter’s good intentions.

To detect deception, you must discern it in what’s being said rather than the visible appearance of who is saying it. It looked like Peter, it sounded like Peter, but the message was from Satan.

**II. A ROARING LION.** “...because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,...” (1 Peter 5:8).

Another way the devil does his dirty work is through **FEAR**. The roar is about paralyzing his prey! The roar of the devil usually comes in the form of **threats or what ifs**.

Simon Peter had heard the roar and knew how it could affect you. Jesus had told Peter, “Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat...” (Luke 22:31). Every voice in the High Priest’s courtyard

was a **ROAR OF THE LION!**

In *Pilgrim’s Progress*, Christian came upon a lion by the road. It roared and frightened Christian, but when he got to the lion, it was chained and had no teeth.

Listen to what Peter tells us to do when faced with the devil’s roar: “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). “Resist steadfast in the faith...”—what does that mean? It means, “**Stand up to the devil in your faith!**”

In Luke 10:17-19, it tells about Jesus sending out the 70. Here is what they said when they returned: “And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us **through thy name**. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.” In other words, “I helped cast him out of heaven for his rebellion against the Most High. “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Put your faith in what Jesus said, and not in the **Lion’s Roar!**

“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). What does that mean? Don’t think that it is only you that’s having trouble. This is the universal problem that faces every Christian! Stand up to the devil—don’t cave in, and Jesus will give you the victory!

**III. AN ANGEL OF LIGHT:** “...for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:12-15).

How does the devil manifest himself as a subtil serpent, roaring lion, or angel of light? **Most often he uses people!** Look at 2 Corinthians 11:12-15. Paul says to the Corinthians in verse 12, “But what I do, that I will do, (What I have been doing as a sincere and faithful minister of Christ, I

(Continued on page 4)

Daniel E. Taylor, Editor-in-Chief

Wallace E. Joice, Editor Carol J. Joice, Graphic Art

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## HALF-WIT JACK AND THE AGNOSTIC LAWYER



By Dr. T. J. McCrossan

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In the book *"Bodily Healing and the Atonement,"* re-edited by Roy A. Hicks, D.D., and Kenneth E. Hagin, D.D., T. J. McCrossan is referred to as Dr. T. J. McCrossan. When or where this degree was awarded to him, I do not know. For certain he was a noted pastor, author, Bible teacher, and a highly respected Greek and Hebrew scholar. He taught the Greek and Hebrew languages in the Manitoba University, Manitoba, Canada, before entering the ministry.

For 18 years he was the Examiner in Greek for the presbytery in Minneapolis, Minnesota. During this period, he not only built Bethany Presbyterian Church of that city, but for 12 years pastored historic Oliver Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

It was during the revolutionary ministry of Dr. Charles S. Price that Dr. McCrossan embraced the full-gospel message, receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in 1922. Thereafter, these two servants of God labored side by side in many evangelistic efforts, each complementing the other's ministry.

I have most of T. J. McCrossan's works. While I do not agree with all his conclusions, I highly recommend his works. This is, in my judgment, the best story he ever told.

By Editor Wallace E. Joice

"A Philadelphia friend told us this story. He said an agnostic lawyer lived for years in the next block to him on the same street. He was naturally a very kindly man and had a host of friends; but, because of this fact, his evil influence (religiously) was all the greater.

"One morning, while the agnostic and this friend were waiting for the same car, a truck drove up and unloaded a great tent on the corner lot opposite, and other men began immediately to put the tent up. Being curious to know what the tent was for, the lawyer went over to inquire,

and found that an evangelist was beginning meetings there that evening. That evening the tent meeting began, and soon a great crowd was attending, for the evangelist was a real man of God.

"About the fourth morning after the meetings started, the lawyer heard that a little fellow about fourteen years old, known throughout the whole community as Half-Wit Jack, had been saved the night before. That same morning our friend was waiting for the car, when he saw the lawyer come out of his gate and walk toward the corner. Suddenly little Half-Wit Jack came around that corner walking toward the lawyer. The lawyer stopped him, and said something. Little Jack replied and then walked rapidly away. When the agnostic reached the corner to take his car, he just nodded to our friend and all other acquaintances, and then walked off by himself. When they boarded the car, he went away up front and sat by himself. He tried to make his friends believe he was reading his paper, but our friend, who was watching him keenly, could see that he was not reading. Next morning the lawyer was just as queer and unfriendly. Again he went to the front of the car, and had nothing to say to anyone. The result was that all who knew him were asking one another: 'What is the matter with lawyer A.?'"

"After this strange conduct of lawyer A. had lasted about three days, that night our friend and his wife went to the tent meeting; and to their great surprise, they saw lawyer A. there. The evangelist preached a splendid gospel sermon, and then urged all the unsaved, who desired to accept Christ as their Saviour, to come to the altar. The first one to go was lawyer A., the agnostic. Some one told the evangelist who he was, and he went down and spoke with him; and, in a few minutes, they both arose and walked to the platform. The evangelist then said: 'Lawyer A., whom you all know, has accepted Christ as his Saviour, and he desires now to tell you neighbors what led him to do so.'

"The lawyer then stood up and said: 'Neighbors, you all know that for many years I have been a conscientious agnostic, and that I have talked against the Bible because it taught that there was a Heaven after death for the good, and a Hell for the wicked. Well, three days ago I heard that Half-Wit Jack had got religion here the night before; and, as I was walking to take the car the next morning, I saw Jack coming toward me. I stopped him and said: 'Jack, they tell me you got religion last night.' 'Yes, Mr. A., I did.' 'Well, Jack haven't I often told you that there isn't any Heaven and there isn't any Hell?' 'Yes, Mr. A., you have; but last night God was talking to me, and I began to think for myself. I reasoned like this: suppose there isn't any Heaven, and suppose

there isn't any Hell, then Mr. A., I will be just as well off as you are when I die. But if there is a Heaven, and if there is a Hell, then I will have two chances to your one of going to Heaven, and you will surely go to Hell; and, Mr. A., I am no fool: and he walked rapidly away.'

"The lawyer then told the audience how God had used those words of Half-Wit Jack to make him think, as never before. All day long, except when busy with clients, the Holy Ghost would repeat him little Jack's words: 'Suppose there isn't any Heaven, and suppose there isn't any Hell, then, Mr. A., I will be just a well off as you, when I die. But if there is a Heaven, and if there is a Hell, then I will have two chances to your one of going to Heaven, and you will surely go to Hell; and, Mr. A., I am no fool.' Then at night, he said, God would wake him up, and again and again—like a voice speaking to him from within—he would hear little Jack's words: 'Suppose there isn't any Heaven, and suppose there isn't any Hell, then, Mr. A., I will be just as well off as you when I die. But if there is a Heaven, and if there is a Hell, then I will have two chances to your one of going to Heaven, and you will surely go to Hell; and, Mr. A., I am no fool.' 'The result was, friends,' he added, 'that I saw myself as a poor lost sinner who needed a Saviour; so I came here to night, and God has saved me for time and eternity.'"

Unsaved friend, won't you come to Jesus now? Remember again there is no other way to obtain salvation. First John 5:11, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." Reader, let the Spirit speak to you now through the words of this dear old hymn:

*I gave My life for thee, My precious blood I shed,  
That thou mightst ransomed be, And quickened from the dead;  
I gave, I gave My life for thee, What hast thou done for Me?  
I suffered much for thee, More than thy tongue can tell,  
Of bitt' rest agony, To rescue thee from Hell;  
I've borne, I've borne it all for thee, What hast thou borne for Me?*

(From the book, "The Bible: Its Hell and Its Ages," pgs. 139-142.)

## THE THREE FACES OF THE DEVIL

FROM PAGE 2

continue to do), “that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion;” (That I may prevent those from getting an opportunity that are seeking an opportunity), “that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.” To claim for their own self advancement that they are God’s messengers the same as us. Paul is saying to the Corinthians that there are people claiming to be just as much God’s messenger as he is, when in fact they are the opposite. Verse 13, “For such are false apostles,” (A counterfeit of one that has really been sent by God), “transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.” (“Transforming themselves”—or assuming as far as they possibly can, and yet be consistent with their sinister views, the habit, the manner, and doctrine of a true follower of Christ.)

Verse 14, “And no marvel;” (And we should not be surprised at their tactics), “for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” (Because the Devil himself masquerades as an angel of light). Remember, the devil is the prince of the power of darkness, but he can present himself as an “angel of light” or a “messenger of illumination.”

Verse 15, “Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” Then Paul says, “We should not be surprised for if Satan can present himself as a messenger with insight from God, is it any harder for him to get people he can control to appear as ministers of righteousness?”

Remember what I said at the beginning: I don’t want you to become paranoid or indifferent toward the devil’s attempt to deceive you. But I do want you to be aware of things you should guard against. Guard against being devastated if you find out someone you believed in is not what you thought they were. As much as we don’t like to talk about such things, the Bible says plainly that in the last days that sort of thing will get worse. If you find out that someone whose ministry helped you, was hiding what they really were, **don’t backslide**. That’s what the devil wants!

The Lord will help you discern when the devil is behind something if you don’t ignore the facts. One thing God used to help me was a good pastor. My old pastor, Brother Winstead, taught me a lot. I was like a lot of you are about your pastor. I thought Brother Winstead didn’t know what he was talking about sometimes. The Corinthians did Paul the same way. I remember twice he warned me about an angel of light. Both times it was just in casual conversation about why he didn’t use them to preach for him. I thought Brother Winstead just had an attitude toward those guys because they were a little overbearing. But both of them fell with a thud, and left a long trail of indiscretions. Do you know what Brother Winstead discerned about those guys that made him cautious? Brother Winstead discerned the same thing Paul discerned in Corinth—**he detected what motivated them**, and it wasn’t godly motivation.

At one time I thought, “Well, they preach good, the Spirit moved on people in the service, and people got help, so it must be all OK!” That’s what a bunch of the folks in Corinth thought. But it’s not how loud you holler, or how high you jump, **it’s how straight you walk when you hit the ground!**

What are the motivations of those Paul called Satan’s ministers, that are

transformed to look like ministers of righteousness?

**They are motivated by their ego rather than a desire to please Jesus.** Brother Winstead said, “They come into a local pastor’s church and take over. They insinuate that God has given them the word for the church, and anyone that tried to stop it was of the devil.”

**They are motivated by a desire for preeminence, rather than a concern for a person’s soul.** Don’t misunderstand, Brother Winstead was a go-getter. He had Sunday School Contests and Bring a Friend Sunday. But Brother Winstead said that when numbers and accomplishments were used to bring glory to yourself, the devil was close by. People are not pawns in a game. It’s not, “Hey look at me,” but what you are willing to do for God that no one sees.

**They are motivated by personal material advantage more than an eternal reward.** It takes material things to keep body and soul together, but when money becomes the most important thing, the devil is close by.

My purpose in this message is not to discourage people with the fact that Satan gets control of some people and tries to use them to destroy others. My purpose is to make sure folks are aware that it is going to happen. **Satan has these three faces and Christians need to recognize them.** So don’t be deceived. But do as I Peter 5:8-9 admonishes, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

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## WHAT THEN?

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When the plants of our mighty cities  
Have turned out their last finished work;  
When our merchants have sold their last yardage  
And have dismissed the last tired clerk,  
When our banks have raked in their last dollar  
And paid out their last dividend;  
When the Judge of the earth says,  
“Closed for the night.”  
And asks for a balance ... what then?  
When the choir has sung its last anthem,  
And the preacher has made his last prayer,

When the people have heard their last sermon  
And the sound has died out on the air;  
When the Bible lies closed on the altar,  
And the pews are all empty of men,  
And each one stands facing his record ...  
And the Great Book is opened ... what then?  
When the actors have played their last drama,  
And the mimic has made his last pun;  
When the film has flashed its last picture,  
And the scoreboard displayed its last run,  
When the crowds seeking pleasure have vanished

And gone out in the darkness again ...  
When the Trumpet of the Ages has sounded,  
And we stand up before Him ... what then?  
When the bugle’s call sinks into silence,  
And the long-marching columns stand still;  
When the captain has given his last orders,  
And they’ve captured the last fort and hill,  
And the flag has been hauled in from the masthead,  
And the wounded afield have checked in,  
And a world that rejected its Savior,  
Is asked for a reason ... what then? -Selected

Job 37:5 *God thundereth marvelously with his voice, great things doeth he which we cannot comprehend. V.13 He causeth it to come whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy.*

Elihu, the fourth would be comforter of Job, spoke these words in his dissertation about God’s sovereignty over nature, and in particular the clouds and weather (Job 36:26-37:24) Immediately following these words, God addressed Job’s dilemma out of the whirlwind. (Job 38:1) It appears from ancient times, through the present day and according to prophecy, in the future, that God uses the elements of nature to speak to mankind about our dire need to trust and obey His purposes for our life while on this temporal home we call planet earth. (I.e. Noah’s flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, recent earthquakes, hurricanes, oil spill?, seals, trumpets, and vials in Revelation)

The volcano Pacaya, located about 20 miles from the Bible school in Guatemala erupted on May 27th around 6:00 p.m. spew-



Cloud of volcanic ash raining pebbles and sand



Students and Staff in the cleanup process



Jason Pennington getting in on the clean up

ing out a cloud of volcanic ash that rained pebbles and sand over a 50 mile radius. We received about 2 inches of this, and then about 10 inches of rain from the tropical storm “Agatha” on May 28th and 29th. Wide spread destruction from collapsed buildings, flooding and landslides prompted the government to declare a 15 day state of emergency. About 250-400 lives were lost during this time. The bottom level of the mission house was flooded, as was the church in Villa Hermosa, and 3 of our 5 buildings leaked because of the 2 inches of ash on them, but we thank the Lord that nothing caved in and no one was injured or killed. A week’s worth of cleanup and repair has gotten us on the way to a sense of normalcy on the campus, but it will take awhile longer to get everything back to rights.

In this day of weather satellites, radars, computer graphics and I-phones, it would do us well to consider that God is not nearly as impressed with our technology as we are. The gospel of Jesus Christ, not our wisdom, is the only hope



Sis Pennington working to clean up



Bus station collapsed from weight of volcanic ash



Several tons of ash from the campus roofs



Debris from flooding in Villa Hermosa

for eternity. (1 Cor. 1:17-21, 3:18-21) A natural disaster quickly brings a realization that we are not in control of things at all, but only observers and reactionaries. Eternal disaster can only be averted by individually maintaining a current relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of your life. We are involved in training people to share this message of hope in the power of the spirit. Thank you for your prayers and financial support for this ministry. May God be with you in the times of physical, emotional and spiritual trials, tests, and temptations that you face is our prayer. **HE STILL REIGNS!** The Penningtons

## HOW TO DEAL WITH GRIEF

by Jack M. Skinner President International Bible Association (OBI Graduate 1973)

The best way to deal with grief is to “deal with it”, not try to avoid facing it. Grief (sorrow) will affect all of us some time in our life and to prolong dealing with it only prolongs the pain and may make it much more painful.

There is a portion of Scripture that speaks about dealing with grief, sorrow and mourning due to unpleasant happenings we may encounter. *“A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one’s birth. It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools. For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity”* (Ecclesiastes 7:1-6).

I am sure as humans we all try to avoid hurt and pain. It is natural for an individual to evade that which is unpleasant; but the Preacher in Ecclesiastes informs us that it is better to face the unpleasant and go through the mourning process rather than try to cover it up with laughter and mirth. To avoid the sorrow of a lost loved one may be natural but to face and conquer it makes it spiritual. To realize death is the beginning of life for a true Christian is to find comfort rather than pain for those who remain. It is not that we should not sorrow; but that we should not sorrow without hope, hope that overcomes all despair. *“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him”* (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).

The writer in Corinthians writes: *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body, the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you”* (2 Corinthians 4:7-12). Paul proved by his life that the look toward the eternal reward a Christian is promised makes the sufferer more than

a conqueror. My pastor used to say, “Everybody wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die to get there!” For a true Christian to die is for them to receive their reward, a reward that thieves cannot steal and that rust will never corrupt. Where there is no more pain or sorrow or death. Hallelujah, what a place to be and to enjoy His presence forever!!

The writer of that wonderful song, *Sweet Hour of Prayer*, penned the words, “in seasons of distress and grief my soul has often found relief.” The grieving seeker experiencing God’s love and comfort finds a great treasure on earth, an experience the departed loved one who is truly saved enjoys every moment for eternity. *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28). To truly face grief is to seek Him! When He is found, there comes a peace that surpasses any adversity and strengthens the seeker’s faith, faith that will build a stronger Christian and make that Christian shine for Jesus to those who gaze and who will soon face their own time of sorrow and grief.

The shortest verse in the Bible, *“Jesus wept”* (John 11 :35), reveals to us humans the importance of facing grief. Jesus, knowing that He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, wept! Was Jesus weeping because of the death of Lazarus or was it because of the carnal thinking and unbelief of those around Him? Lazarus would have escaped the sorrows of this life and the intent of the Jews later to kill him because of his testimony of the resuscitation. Jesus wept because men fail to recognize the blessedness of the first death if it incorporates the second birth. To die in Christ is to be born again into the kingdom of Heaven, to be saved, to be translated into the presence of God, to inherit the kingdom of God! It is the Blessed Hope, not the cold dreary earth, that receives the Righteous. *“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore”* (Psalms 16:11).

Do not avoid sorrowing for a departed loved one who followed the Saviour’s footsteps which led them in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. (Psalm 23) Conquer sorrow by allowing the experience of mourning in God’s presence. He will lift you above all adversity and strengthen you as His child. *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 8:37-39).

### MY WIFE

by Jack M Skinner

My wife is now gone you see,  
 She no longer resides next to me!  
 But she is not in earthen ground,  
 She abides where True Love abounds!  
 Her life was built around the Cross,  
 Therefore she did not suffer loss!  
 , But gained a crown immortal there,  
 Where Jesus lives, His Kingdom to share!  
 Though I am sad and weep a lot,  
 My wife enjoys what Jesus bought!  
 For by His Blood He paid her fare  
 By accepting she enjoys Redemption there!  
 For one and all she shared her best,



To guide us all to eternal rest!  
 Now what will our decision be,  
 For now it is up to you and me!  
 Now she bids her children come,  
 To join her Saviour who is her Sun!  
 He not only shines for her up there,  
 But upon this earth He proves He cares!  
 My wife is gone you see,  
 But Jesus still remains with me!  
 And hope I have someday to Heaven go,  
 And leave this life of pain and woe!  
 So it’s not bad she’s gone away,  
 For she lived and longed for that better day!  
 Now she is home with all things new,  
 Both Jesus and she await for me and you!





# Alumni In Action

## Moving Up

*"But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself"* (Psalm 4:3). Five years ago, it was like a funeral at Faith Tabernacle: fifteen of our youth left for O.B.I. They were all excited and we cried as they drove away. Bro. Taylor and Bro. Miles were not in my favorite five at that moment. But as last Sunday night took place I wept as they lead songs, preached, and played the music with a Holy anointing. They are now assistant pastors, youth pastors, children's pastors, bus helpers, jail ministers, Royal Rangers and Missionette leaders, missions coordinators, secretaries and Sunday School teachers. Everyone of them is involved in ministry, some here and some other places: all workers in the kingdom. I've never for one moment regretted encouraging them to "set themselves apart, so that the Lord could have them for Himself." Young man, young lady, set yourself apart to see what God will do with you! Pastor, encourage them and reap Heaven's reward. And by the way... Bro. Taylor and Bro. Miles have moved up!!

Randy Snow, OBI Alumni President

### HE'S WATCHING ME

1. God is watching us. *"Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him..."* (Psalm 33:18). *"The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous..."* (Psalm 34:15). *"For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings"* (Job 34:21). We can be assured that God is wanting to see good things in us and through us. Knowing that God is watching us should bring both comfort and concern. It amazes me that more people are not constantly aware that God sees everything that we do or even think. We are a fool to ever believe the devils age old lie that somehow what we do is ever a "secret". *"...dost thou not watch over my sin??"* (Job 14:16). *"... for the Lord searcheth all hearts..."* (1Chron. 28:9). *"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good"* (Prov. 15:3). Even though we know these scriptures, often times we are deceived into thinking we "can get away" with something wrong or maybe we try to "classify" or "categorize" sin. God hates sin whether it is "white" or otherwise.

2. People watch us. We can't always be assured that people are watching us for the right reason. I work a public job, and deal with a host of Customers and employees that are lost and in need of a Savior. I try to be constantly aware that since I call myself a Christian, I need to conduct myself in a manner that would never bring a reproach to the Gospel. It is amazing how the unsaved have a "code of conduct" for those of us that call ourselves a Christian. Most of them know more about how we should act than we do sometimes. I love it when one of my customers says, "Steve, sorry about that, I should watch my language around you." People are watching us, whether we like it or not, and my prayer every day is "Lord let my light shine." *"The wicked watcheth the righteous..."* (Psalm 37:32). *"Having your conversation (lifestyle) honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation"* (1 Pet. 2:12). Sometimes people are watching us hoping that we fail, or with evil intent. *"And Saul eyed David from that day and forward"* (1 Sam. 18:9). Here we find David through no fault of his own incurring Saul's wrath, because the women attributed "ten thousands" to him and only "thousands" to Saul. Jealousy is as cruel as the grave. Shame on us as Christians if we "rejoice" when some other Christian fails while going through a trial, or God forbid has a Moral Failure. Lord help us to not get jealous when another Christian receives a blessing of some sort. I know some people that struggle in these areas.

3. The devil is watching us. You can be assured he never has your best interest at heart. *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"* (1 Peter 5:8). You can mark it down, the devil knows what our weaknesses are. Many times he is more aware of them than we are. We are not to be "ignorant of his devices" (2 Cor. 2:11). I hate the devil, and I hate it when he trips a Christian up. Lord help us to stay prayed up!

4. We need to be watching. *"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh"* (Matt. 25:13). *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation:"* (Matt. 26:41). We can get our eyes on material things *"Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied"* (Prov. 27:20). *"The ways of a man are clean in his own eyes"* (Prov. 16:2).

What we need to be looking at: *"My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways"* (Prov. 23:26). *"I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?"* (Job 31:1). Lord help us as Men and Fathers to make this covenant!! *"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes:"* (Psalm 101:3). It can come in the form of magazines, newspapers, TV, computers and cell phones!! The devil is after us all. Remember God sees and knows all, so lets stay on guard and stay prayed up.

Last of all even in eternity we will have our eyes. *"In Hell the rich man lifted up his eyes"* (Luke 16:23) and in Heaven *"God shall wipe all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away"* (Rev. 21:4). Remember all of us will hear 7 words: *"Depart from me, ye that work iniquity"* (Matt. 7:23) or *"Well done thou good and faithful servant:"* (Matt. 25:21). I know which ones I want to hear!!

Steve Holden, OBI Alumni 1985-86

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Brother and Sister Stoner celebrated their 47th Wedding Anniversary on June 1. They wish to thank the alumni for the card and offering.**

#### BIRTHS:

Kent and Kandi Keller are pleased to announce their newest addition, Evangeline Bryce Keller. He was born on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Tim and Heidi Sappington are the proud parents of a baby girl. MiKayla Elizabeth arrived on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

#### FRIENDLY REMINDER

If you have any announcements: ministry news, marriage, births, etc.  
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2009-2010

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