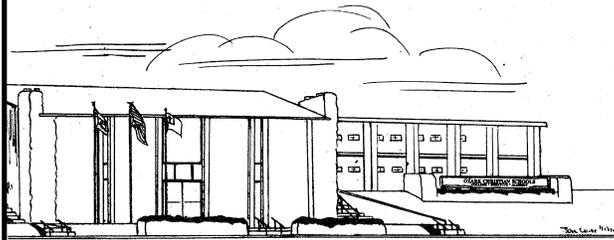


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Founder D. C. Branham

The STANDARD BEARER

Vol. 42, No. 1

January/February 2011

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

HAVE A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

<p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						<p style="text-align: center;">FEBRUARY</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28						<p style="text-align: center;">MARCH</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Decision Days - March 17-20</p>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									
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LOST TIME



By President Daniel E. Taylor

*“And if men strive together, and one smite another with a stone, or with his fist, and he die not, but keepeth his bed: If he rise again, and walk abroad upon his staff, then shall he that smote him be quit: **only he shall pay for the loss of time**, and shall cause him to be thoroughly healed”* (Exodus 21:18, 19).

This text is taken from the ancient law concerning liability compensation. But as we enter into the New Year, I want to focus on the phrase in verse 19, *“**he shall pay for the loss of time.**”*

LOST TIME is a very grievous loss. Verse 19 says that a person can do a number of wrong things and be acquitted—(“quit” which means, “not found innocent but mercy does not condemn”), but it goes on to say, *“**only he shall pay for the loss of time.**”*

I realize the text is referring to one person injuring another person, and being responsible for compensating them for time they lost from work. But let’s look at it another way. What if you cause yourself to lose precious time when you could have been productive for the kingdom of God? If so, you will *“pay for the loss of (your) time.”*

A person can waste their youth, their intelligence, their resources, and their talent. They can be forgiven, restored, and go to heaven, *“Only he (they) shall pay for*

the loss of (their) time...” The Jews so respected time that they divided each day into eight segments called “watches.” During each of these intervals, a guard was set to insure the safety of every minute of every hour of every day.

The Bible teaches that time is so important because it is the dressing room for eternity. Therefore, we must remember, you will *“pay for the loss of (your) time.”*

Be careful, young person, you may laugh at messages like this and think, “I have plenty of time.” But death comes equally to us all, and makes us all equal when it comes. When Queen Elizabeth was dying she said to her physician, “I’d give millions in money for moments of time.” You can’t buy time, but you will pay for the loss of it!

The Bible tells us to redeem the time which means—“Get the most out of your time by spending it on worthwhile things.”

The Bible tells us there is an “accepted time.” That is, a time when it is favorable to seek God. **“NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME”—“TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE”** (2 Corinthians 6:2; Hebrews 3:7).

The Bible teaches us there is a fullness of time. That’s a time when all the conditions and contingencies have been met and God takes you to the next level. The five foolish virgins missed the moment when they could have moved up to the next level because they wasted their opportunity to get more oil.

I read of a preacher that had a vision of a man in hell that walked through the flames crying, “I wasted time, now time wastes me!”

I will state the points of this message in the form of an acrostic of the word **TIME**.

T = TRY. TIME is when we “try” to accomplish things. Many years ago I read a book entitled simply “TIME.” It defined time as “duration,” when things happen. It gave such statistics as: how many bottles of coke were filled in a minute, how many cars were assembled an hour, how many times a hummingbird flapped it’s wings per second. “Time,” it said, “is when things are done.”

Yet, we need to remember that “time” is running out for each of us. I had a vivid example of this at the information desk in the hospital. I asked for the room number of a certain patient to which the receptionist replied, “He expired.” In other words, his time ran out. Seeing that time is running out for all of us, don’t you think we should **TRY** and do something worthwhile with the time we have?

I = INTENSITY. TIME is when we are “intense” about the exercise of our faith. Intense means “deeply felt.” When one is intense about their faith, it means they feel very deeply the importance of living out their faith. God needs people that are so fervent about the kingdom of God that they will do whatever task it requires to see it advanced!

The Lord is not pleased with lazy Christians wasting precious time doing nothing while people die lost. Oh God, help us to feel very deeply the burden you have for the lost! *(Continued on page 4)*

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



By Editor Wallace E. Joice

In Second Corinthians chapter 2, verse 18, Paul says, “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: **for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.**” In the context, both before and after this text of Scripture, the Great Apostle points out many contrasts. However, I am limiting myself to the contrasts of this verse.

Notice the contrast between “**seen**” and “**not seen.**” The things “**seen**” we can perceive with the sense of sight. How easy it is to focus on the things we can see. How attractive some of them are to us.

Again, consider that this contrast is between the “**temporal**” and “**eternal.**” All that we can see with our eyes is “**temporal.**” The Greek word so translated is “**proskairos,**” and means literally “**for a season.**” It is so translated in Hebrews 11:25, in regard to Moses’ reputation of “**the pleasures of sin for a season.**” Thus, the great British commentator, Henry Alford, renders it, “for the things which are seen are for a time; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Most modern translators translate the original “temporary” instead of “**temporal.**” Though “**temporary**” gives the sense, “**temporal**” seems to me to contrast better with “**eternal.**”

**“SEEN” THINGS ARE
“TEMPORAL.”**

Our bodies are “temporal.”

Paul goes on to point this out in the next chapter. There he says, “*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed upon, that mortality might be swalloweth up of life*” (2 Corinthians 5:1-4).

The word “**tabernacle**” is an old English word derived from the Latin. Most modern translations render the Greek word **skenos** as “tent.” It denotes a temporary dwelling.

As a boy and a young man, I often went camping and fishing with my maternal grandfather. We sometimes stayed several days. We would usually pitch an old army tent. I have often gone to sleep with the wind blowing against its sides, and the rain pelting its top. It was not a permanent shelter—it was “temporal.”

Bible writers often use a tent as a picture of the body, the temporary dwelling of the soul. No doubt, it would naturally suggest itself to Paul, since he was a “**tentmaker**” by trade (Acts 18:3).

Brother Branham was very fond of Black people. I shall never forget a story he once told me. There used to be a Church of God in Christ in Neosho. Brother Branham sometimes employed the pastor, and often remembered him on special occasions. Once when he carried a food basket to his house, he was met by his wife. He asked for the pastor, and was told that he had died a couple of months before. After he expressed his surprise and shock, the

sister said, “Well, Reverend, didn’t any of us come here for to stay.” No, we’re “*pilgrims and strangers*” here. We will all too soon pass from time to eternity.

Consider too, that **the world is temporal.**

John admonishes us, “*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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever*” (1 John 2:15-17).

Dr. A. T. Robertson renders “*passeth away,*” as “is passing away,” a present continuing action. I am reminded of the words of the old hymn, “Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand.” The first verse says:

“Time is filled with swift transition,
Nought of earth unmoved can
stand;
Build your hopes on things eternal;
Hold to God’s unchanging hand!”

For over forty years, my folks lived in what proved to be their last earthly home. We used to say that we lived two miles south of Jenks, Oklahoma. Now it is surrounded by fine homes. The buildings we erected with our own hands have been torn down. The house where we lived so long, and made so many plans is gone. The land where my brother and I used to hunt is filled with nice houses.

Yes, the world is even now passing away, and someday it will pass into utter oblivion. Jesus said, “*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away*” (Matthew 24:35). (Continued on page 5)

M = MASTERED.

TIME is when important skills are mastered.

To excel in any occupation requires that you spend time and work at it. Some people are more gifted physically and mentally than others, but even gifted people will fail if they don't work at mastering their chosen occupation. This principle applies to work in the church as well.

Do you know how a Sunday School teacher, youth leader, pastor, or any other church worker spells love? T-I-M-E. If you really love the people you are called to minister to, you show it by spending time mastering the job God has given you to do. Many churches are stagnant spiritually because of ill-prepared or hurriedly prepared sermons and lessons that haven't even been prayed over.

E = EGO. TIME is when

our ego is recognized and dealt with.

My definition of ego is—"That which plays up what makes you look good, and plays down what makes you look bad." Most of us don't want to admit we have an ego as I've defined it, but we all do. Ego is the nature of the flesh that we are challenged to crucify daily.

Over the years, I've had to change my method of sermon preparation. I use more notes than ever. There are three main reasons I use more detailed notes now than when I was younger. First, because my memory is getting worse. Second, because I have learned the value of retaining the material so I can preach it again. Third, the main reason I use so many notes now is because I have learned how easy it is to leave the anointing and get into the ego while preaching. So now I spend more **TIME** praying about

what I need to say, and how to say it to get the most positive results. I've spent an hour prayerfully trying to figure out how to say a certain thing without letting my frustration bleed through and offend somebody.

But, of course, it takes **TIME** for a preacher to pray through and prepare his message; **TIME** that he could spend doing enjoyable, leisurely things. Oh, but **"he shall pay for the loss of (his own) TIME.**

So, here we are at the beginning of a brand new year. **This will be the only 2011 we will ever have.** God has a perfect will for each of our lives this year. And we can either use it or lose it. If we use our time this year to do the things God has planned for us, we will benefit both now and in eternity. But if we let the days go by without even trying to do His will, **we are going "to pay (dearly) for the loss of (our) TIME."**

Decision Days 2011

DECISION DAYS 2011 – March 17 - 20

Special Speaker



Stacey Floyd

Theme: His Will, His Way, Your Choice

"...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

Registration Noon - 5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 17th
 Juniors, Seniors, and qualifying graduates are free;
 All others are \$35.00.



- ◆ Sit in college classes
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- ◆ Eat in our dining hall
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- ◆ Allow God some quiet time in your life
- ◆ Hear the *Overcomers Choir*

Contact OBI Registrar Bonnie Stoner, (417) 451-2057, or write
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 As the date becomes closer, you may check our website for updates: obiweb.org

TIME AND ETERNITY

Yet further, **Our universe is temporal.** Isaiah says, *‘For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind’* (Isaiah 65:17). Before this the psalmist had said, *“Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end”* (Psalm 102:25-27).

Some have advocated “The Big Bang Theory.” I do not know whether the earth and universe started with a bang or not, but I know that it will end that way. Peter tells us, *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which **the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with a fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up”*** (2 Peter 3:10).

We should all take the advice of George Whitefield to Lady Huntingdon. He advised her, “Build your nest in no tree here, Lady, for the Lord has consigned the whole forest to the flames.”

Most writers feel that the earth will be renovated by fire. Others opt for an utterly new creation. Whether it will be renovated or renewed, everything we see will go into oblivion, and the heavens and the earth will be completely changed.

Consider, secondly, that the THINGS “NOT SEEN” ARE “ETERNAL.”

First note that **God is eternal.** Isaiah tells us, *“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).

I remember hearing the children sing at my cousin Vernon Brummett’s church:

“God’s love is like a circle,
A circle big and round.
And when you see a circle,
No ending can be found.
And so the love of Jesus
flows on eternally.
Forever and forever,
I know that He loves me.

All analogies in regard to God must fail, but a circle seems to me to best describe the eternal existence of God. There was no beginning, and there will be no ending. As we dwell in time, so He *“inhabiteth eternity.”*

Secondly, we note that **the soul is eternal.** I know that some deny this, but none can deny that the punishment of the wicked and the bliss of the righteous are described by the Greek word **aionios**. Look carefully at Matthew chapter 25, verse 46, *“And these shall go away into everlasting (aionion) punishment, but the righteous into life eternal (aionion).”* Just check any non-cultic Greek Bible or lexicon.

Thirdly, consider that **heaven is eternal.** Jesus speaks to us in John’s gospel, chapter 14:2, 3, *“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”*

Paul shares the same truth: *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ*

shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17). In that **“place”** which He has **“prepared”** for us, we shall **“ever be with the Lord.”**

Truly, as the old hymn says,
When we’ve been there ten
thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s
praise
Than when we first begun.”

Finally, ponder that **hell is eternal.** I pastor the oldest Pentecostal church in Missouri. It had its beginnings in 1904 as a result of a revival campaign by Charles Fox Parham. I believe that Brother Parham was a good and great man. However, he had given up a belief in everlasting punishment. He believed in conditional immortality or, in other words, the annihilation of the wicked. Brother D. C. Branham, who was reclaimed in a Trinitarian Apostolic meeting and whose parents and other loved ones “embraced the faith,” referred to this as a “flashlight hell.”

I would like to believe in the annihilation theory, but so much in the Bible leads me to believe otherwise. In Revelation chapter 19, we read, *“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them, that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. **These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**”* Then look at Revelation chapter 20, verse 10, *“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, **where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**”* (Continued on page 7)

Simplicity

By G. D. Watson

(1845-1924) G. D. Watson was a Wesleyan Methodist minister and evangelist based in Los Angeles, CA. (This is a reprint from *The Standard Bearer*, April 1980 issue).

God's best gifts are the simplest, such as air and light and water and bread. So, in religion, the greatest things are unmixed love, pure humility, fixed obedience, and a single eye to please God. A refracted sunbeam gives seven colors; that is complexity, which is the opposite of simplicity. The simple white light is infinitely more blessed and useful than the complex, colored rainbow. To be fond of complex things indicates childishness of taste. Complexity in religious life bespeaks a baby condition of moral nature. The more pure and advanced the mind is, the more it admires perfect simplicity in everything. Simplicity in the Christ-life is a state of perfect unbiased transparency. There is no mixing of the desires or tempers or affections. There is oneness of motive and of intention, where the conscience, desires, and will all flow one way in sweet agreement. Faith and hope and love exist without being mixed with their opposites of doubt and fear and hate.

But no definition of spiritual simplicity will satisfy the heart. The Holy Spirit, who is the God of simplicity, must reveal it to the eye of the soul. When the blessed Spirit softly unveils to all our inner perceptions the perfect simplicity of the Christ-life, the unmixedness, the unsullied transparency of God's Word and His inner kingdom, there is a holy charm and a sweet satisfaction to the mind beyond the expression of words. When all duplicity and tangled complexity of

every sort is purged out of us, and when the Holy Spirit floods all our inner being with the simplicity that is in Jesus, how it makes us love that same simplicity in everybody and in everything! We have a keen appreciation of simplicity in character, manners, dress, speech, worship, and business. Anything extravagant, grand, pompous, puffy, stilted, far-fetched, loud, slangy, odd, smart, brilliant, confused, or complex in experience, life, or expression, becomes very offensive.

The soul that is living in sweet oneness with Jesus will intuitively detect and recoil from everything that is mystical, shady, tricky, or complicated. Such a soul abominates the secret lodges, the tricks of trade, the keeping up of appearance, or anything subtle or selfish. He deals only with what is open, straightforward, and translucent. A person may have intellectual simplicity, which is the characteristic of all great minds, and yet, if he is not purified by the Holy Ghost, he will still be lacking in simplicity of moral nature. A person whose heart is rendered perfectly simple by the full indwelling of Christ will be inundated with simplicity in every other direction of mind and manners and business.

Perfect simplicity of spirit is the heavenly shield against foolish, fanciful forms of religious experience. When people fancy they have found something startlingly new, profoundly hard to be understood, and transcendently fine in religion, it is always because they have left the old, eternal path of white simplicity and become tangled in Satanic fog. A soul that is possessed by the Holy Spirit seeks ever to live in an ocean of pure, tender love and to be full of good works. It will instinctively avoid

rash, unnatural, and overstrained views of religious life and duty. The light the Holy Spirit pours into us is pure and white, not a red, startling aurora borealis. The visions of God He gives to us are lucid, wide, calm, elevating, sweet, restful, and loving; and not those complex, wild, and overstrained notions which are always indicative of fanaticism. The Holy Spirit will turn us into the simple, quiet, non-combative lamb, and not into some great, towering extraordinary giraffe. He will mold us into the lowly, uncomplaining, unostentatious dove, not into some enormous, far-famed albatross.

Thousands of people ruin their religious experiences by forming fictitious and abnormal notions of advanced experiences. They stretch and pray and strain after some unique, great, dazzling monstrosity of spiritual life utterly outside the mind that was in Jesus. The devil is ever looking out to gratify such unscriptural desires with counterfeits of grace. They lose their dove-like simplicity, and are soon tangled up with all sorts of absurdities. The Bible reveals to us simplicity of desire, "*Thy face, Lord, will I seek*"; simplicity of will, "*This one thing I do*"; simplicity of motive, "*Do all to the glory of God!*" simplicity of guidance, "*Lead me in a plain path,*" because the enemy is on the complex path. Let us ever seek a simplicity like Jesus, not only in our experience, but also in our work for Him. Let us never attempt startling and brilliant things; never wittingly draw notice to ourselves; never overtax ourselves with huge enterprises; never parade the feats we have done, or the extra things we are going to do.

Oh, for that perfect, guileless simplicity of heart and life which adorns with equal grace an angel or an infant, and makes them both feel at home with each other.



GOD'S WILL

by director
Mike Pennington



Brother - Sister Pennington,
Sarah, Victor, Ziona

“And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life, and I will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:40).

Our involvement in the will of God for our life is paramount in regard to our eternal destination. While the specifics of God's will for us as individuals are sometimes difficult to ascertain, they will assuredly be directed toward God's general will for humanity – that all men see Jesus, believe the truth, and have everlasting life. God desires that we glorify Jesus with our life so that others will see him and be saved.

For 30 years the Bible school in Guatemala has been focused on spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ through daily personal evangelism, distribution of tracts, (5,000 –

7,000 annually), weekly radio broadcasts, drama presentations, children's crusades, and outreach services. The training of national workers is the most effective method for the spontaneous expansion of Christianity among any ethnicity. God is using many graduates of OBI Guatemala to help people see Jesus, and respond to his grace and claims of Lordship in their lives.

Our spring semester is January 7 – May 28. We anticipate around 25 students from five countries to attend. Please pray for our national staff, and those from stateside who are planning to come and join with us in both physical labors and spiritual ministry in 2011.

The “last day” that Jesus spoke of is approaching, and the curtain of time and opportunity to perform God's will is quickly closing. We appreciate your participation in this ministry financially and before God's throne of grace in prayer.
Godspeed, The Penningtons



Students on personal evangelism



Spring 2010 graduates with Brother Juan Carlos



2010 Fall Graduates
with student body and Brother Pennington

Editors Notes (continued from pg 5) TIME AND ETERNITY

The story is old. It was old when Charles G. Finney used it. He attributed it to an old writer. It was older still when Billy Sunday used it to great effect. It goes something like this: “Suppose a little bird is set to remove this globe by taking from

it one grain of sand at a time, and to come only once in a thousand years.” Supposing that after eons of time, she finally finished her task, eternity would be no nearer to an end than when she began.

We could go on to other

planets in the solar system. After she had removed them, she would be no closer to the end. **There is no end.**

Why, oh why, will men and women risk their never-dying souls! After all is said and done, **only eternity matters!**

Commencement 2011

Ozark Bible Institute and College Commencement April 22, 2011, 6:00 PM

Commencement will be held at Bible Holiness A/G, 614 North High Street, Neosho, MO



Speaker to be
Announced

For more information call OBI @ 417-451-2057 or visit our web site @ obiweb.org



Alumni In Action



By Vernon Jarvis,
Pastor First Pentecostal Church,
London, KY (OBI Graduate 1976)

ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, ANY COST

When the great preacher Stephen Olford was a young man, he decided to become an engineer because he loved cars, and wanted to design them. He was a very smart man, and he was also committed to the Lord. His goal was to make a lot of money as an engineer designing cars so that he could give a lot of money to missions. That was his goal, and it was a noble one. And it would have been fine if God had called him to do that, but God had called him to preach. **Down in his heart he knew he was running from God, and as he did, he became deathly ill.** His Father, a missionary in Africa, happened to send him a letter with these words: "Tis but one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." God used these words to pierce his heart, and his will melted before God. He prayed a prayer with three phrases: **"Anywhere....Anytime...Any Cost."** All of us must pray that prayer if we are to receive His guidance and be in His will. **"Anywhere.... Anytime...Any Cost."**

It seems that many youth today are living lives of indecision. They have found a place that appears to be comfortable to them—"straddling the fence." Now that doesn't seem at all comfortable to me but apparently some, when faced with life decisions, find making choices more uncomfortable than sitting on the fence. But the fact remains that you will get absolutely no where, and you can never do the Will of God in the place of indecision. **If you decide to not decide, you have already decided.**

In my life, a decision was made to attend a

little-known Bible school in Neosho, Missouri. In the fall of 1973, I made my way to Neosho to try to do the will of God. I had visited another much larger Bible college campus, but could not feel peace in my heart about attending there. My pastor had taken a group of high school students to Convocation the year before. I did not leave convinced to go to OBI, but rather the contrary. My flesh was screaming "no way," but the quiet voice of the Spirit was saying, "This is where I want you to be."

I could have never known the significance of that decision. It was at OBI that I was called to preach, and the direction of my ministry was established. My convictions were solidified, and my fellowship in ministry was determined. I met my wife at OBI, and our lives have been interwoven with that ministry ever since. Three of our four children attended the Bible school. **One decision has the power to set you in a direction for the rest of your life!**

Decision making is an important spiritual process. Allow me to make a few suggestions from Proverbs 3:5-6. **First of all, Let God Choose the Way.** The wise man tells us to *"Trust in the Lord."* His way is far above our reasoning, and since He has a design for your life, He will lead you in the way you should go. **Secondly, Let God Confirm the Way.** We are not to lean *"to our own understanding."* Ephesians 5:17 instructs us to *"...be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."* God will confirm His will for your life by the Word of God. His Word will be a *"lamp unto (our) my feet and a light unto (our) my path"* (Psalm 119:105). **Third, Let God Clear the Way.** The verse says *"he shall direct our paths."* Another rendering of this verse says, "He will clear the road for you." God will remove every hindrance or obstacle that is in the path He wants you to follow.

All of these principles are important, but ultimately **YOU** must decide to follow the call of God or go after other things. My prayer is that you will say yes to voice of God, and be willing to go **"Anywhere ... Anytime... At any cost."**