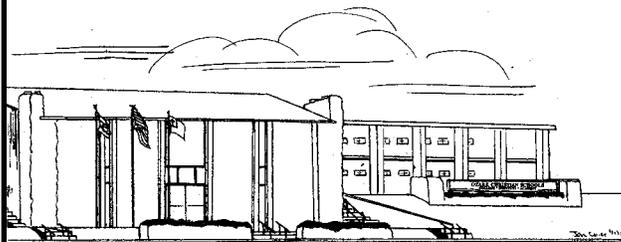


Ozark Christian Schools of Neosho
PO Box 398, Neosho, MO 64850-0398
(417) 451-2057 -- www.obweb.org

Return Service Requested



"Where God can help Himself to young lives."
Founder D. C. Branham

The STANDARD BEARER

Vol. 42, No. 4

July / August 2011

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord"

(Hebrews 12:14).

THE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS DECISION



By President Daniel E. Taylor

*Part 1: Deciding What To Do When
The Lord Speaks To You Directly*

(Please read John 5:1-16).

Upon my return from two weeks in England someone asked, "if I remembered how to preach." Actually the wheels started to turn again as soon as the plane landed on U.S. soil. I was like the preacher I heard on Focus on the Family that had an operation. He was afraid they cut the preach right out of him. So alone in the room, he started to preach on David and Goliath, five smooth stones, and the rippling brook! When he felt something start rippling he knew he still had it. As soon as I started to prayerfully consider this subject, something started rippling!

The subject I am considering is, **"The Consequence Of This Decision."** I realize this is a broad topic, so I want to narrow it down by considering one area of this truth: **Deciding What To Do When The Lord Speaks To You Directly.**

The story in our text is a vivid example of how important a decision it is! **Deciding what to do when the**

Lord speaks to you directly. Try to picture in your mind the scene in our text. A "great multitude" of sick people gathered around the pool of Bethesda. They have only a little hope, and they are using it by waiting for the angel to trouble the water. **Verse 3** says, *"In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water."* The word "waiting" has an ominous ring. To most of us "wait" is a nasty four letter word. But if you were blind, crippled or paralyzed, and "waiting" for the water in the pool to begin a rippling effect when the angel stepped into the water, "waiting" would mean much more than just passing the time. **It was different to be waiting in a collapsed building in Joplin than in the doctor's office!**

We are not told how long this man had been waiting or exactly what was wrong with him. All we know is that it hindered his mobility, and he had been this way for 38 years.

Jesus saw this man lying on a cot near the pool, and **verse 6** says specifically, *"Jesus knew that he had been now a long time in that case..."* Perhaps we are told these particulars to help us understand why Jesus went to this man out of the multitude that was there. It could also be that Jesus, **as God**, had heard this man pray many times over the past 38 years. **Verse 6**, *"Jesus knew."* Maybe this man had prayed like the penitent thief, *"Lord, remember me."* And Jesus said, "I am going to go by the pool of Bethesda and see if the impotent man is there." And there he was! And Jesus **knew.**

So Jesus asked him in **verse 6**: *"Wilt thou be made whole?"* Do you want to get well again? Do you want to recover? Do you want to be healed? At the first glance this question seems like an insult, "Do you want to be well again?" But when God is asking, "There are no dumb questions!"

Take the rich young ruler for example. He thought he was ready to do whatever it took to inherit eternal life! That is until he heard what it was he had to do. Then he didn't want to.

So Jesus asked if he really wanted to recover. And what this man said in reply convinced Jesus that this man meant business. Notice how the sick man answered the question. He didn't simply say yes or no. He explained how that he could be sick for so long, and wait for the healing so long, and really want to be healed for so long, **and yet still be just waiting.** **Verse 7**, *"The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me."*

This man had been waiting by the pool faithfully, and he had seen the water troubled more than once! He had earnestly tried to get in and you can sense the frustration! Five little words describe this man's experience when the water has been troubled. **"But while I am coming."** This man is saying, "I know it looks like I must not really want help, but the problem is that when there is a move of God it's over before I can maneuver my messed up self to where I can get in!" That's what is meant by, **"but while I am coming..."** *Continued on page 2*

There's a lot of things that can happen to a person, "while they are coming..." to a place where they can get help. An old man named Cecil was coming along nicely, but he abruptly died. Will he remember thru eternity, **"but while I am coming?"**

If you read "To China With Love" by Hudson Taylor, you will never forget the Chinese boy who was warming up to Hudson and Christianity, then drowned! **"But while I am coming."**

There is a sense of urgency about salvation. Coming to Jesus for help is the one thing that supersedes my basic rule of life. That basic rule is, **"If it has to be done in a hurry, it's usually not the will of God!"** Hurried things are temporary. But salvation is a **now thing!** "Today if you will hear his voice..." It is the one thing that shouldn't be put off!

When we read this story, there are things that tend to distract us from the lessons God intended the text to teach. Somewhere in the group of people reading this message someone is wondering, "Why did Jesus focus on this fellow?" when there was "a great multitude." And all of them were either blind, halt or withered, and all of them were waiting. Why out of a multitude did He approach him?

And with that question comes the devil with his commentary. I've got ten commentaries in my office but the one that follows me everywhere I go is The Devil's Commentary. "Yea, hath God said..." Do you know how I have learned to deal with the Devil's Commentary? Apologetics don't help me much. I learned from Job! Job 13:15, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him." The devil says, "it's an injustice!" God says, "Look at what I want you to see, and don't be distracted!" The **point** is that Jesus focuses on the individual, not that he ignored the problems of the multitude. Jesus told Peter, "What is that to thee? Follow thou me."

Verse 6 of our text says, "When Jesus saw him lie, **and knew that he had been now a long time in that case...**" Jesus knew this mans case, and he knew how long his case had been pending! And he knew everybody else's case! But everybody else's case

is not our business.

A good lesson from the text is that God knows your case today. He knows if your spiritual life is deteriorating. He knows what happened and when it started! Hey, I see it, and I'm just the pastor. Surely the Good Shepherd knows where you are.

Another good lesson from the text is how this man tries to share the blame as to why he hasn't got over his problem. **Verse 7, "The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me."** In other words, "It's not all my fault. Yes, I've got problems, but there is a guy out there somewhere that ought to help me do what I need to do. And he hasn't showed up!" Notice in verse 7 the sick man didn't call Jesus, Lord, like many did. He called him, "Sir." In other words, "Sir, you might be my problem."

You may be thinking, "You know, Brother Taylor, you're not very sympathetic." Actually, I'm very sympathetic when sympathy is called for. But 38 years belly-aching around the pool ain't gonna get you anywhere! I've seen a lot of people digress spiritually in my 30 plus years of ministry. But I have never seen one of them that didn't have someone to blame other than themselves. My husband, my wife, my boyfriend, girlfriend, mom or dad, people in the church, Brother Taylor or Brother Miles. This man would have been better off to leave "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool" completely out of his statement. He should have just said, "I'm here because I want help. And I'm here after so long a time because my problem hinders me from getting in! But I still want help!"

That's where some of you are. It's not because there is no one around to help you. It's because your problem is hindering you. But remember, **It's your problem!** The prodigal came to **himself!**

You say, "Well, Brother Taylor, you think you are so smart, what would you have done?" After 38 years, I'd of got me a place on the edge of the pool. Just like some of you, if I was having the trouble you're having, I'd come

every meeting and lay across the altar until something happened! But you don't, and you have a good excuse. But if you were dying physically or going broke and the only hope was in the altar, what would you do? But the guy in the text, just saw his inability to get in as somebody else's fault.

But that being said, you have to commend him, he was still there! After Jesus listened to his explanation, Jesus determined that the man really did want to get over his problem. And I think it's vital that we recognize this man didn't need anyone else except Jesus to help him. Neither do you! And regardless of how many other people are in this room, Jesus sees you. He knows how long you have been in this case. And His question is, "Will you let me make it better?"

When Jesus spoke, this man had a decision to make. He had to decide if he was going to try to obey the command. "Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk" Most of the Lord's miracles are in response to His command to do something you can't do. "Stretch forth thine hand." "Go show thyself unto the Priest." To one four days dead, "Lazarus, come forth." And in this case, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." Somewhere between the end of **verse 8** and the beginning of **verse 9**, this man started getting up! Jesus never tells you to do something unless He intends to enable you to do it. **Obedience is not only better than sacrifice, it is better than anything. All the resources of God lie within the act of obedience!**

John 5:8, Jesus saith unto him,

1. **Rise-Get up!** There was an old-time holiness preacher named Brother Dillard who was down sick and folks had expected that he would die. A preacher friend of his had been fishing and caught several big enough to fry. He came to Brother Dillard's

Continued on page 3

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

Bimonthly publication of Ozark Christian Schools. Printed in the U.S.A. We are a non-profit organization. Any contributions are appreciated and are tax deductible.

POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to *The Standard Bearer*, PO Box 398, Neosho, MO 64850-0398.

Periodical postage paid at Neosho, MO 64850. Publication number 712 020.

Fax (417) 451-2059 E-mail: obi@juno.com www.obiwweb.org

house and told Sister Dillard to cook the fish. Then he went into the room where Brother Dillard was confined to the bed. The preacher started running through the house yelling, "Get up, Dillard." All that hollering didn't help Dillard, but when he started to get up God healed him!

2. **Take up thy bed—Take up!** That cot is a good type of the flesh! You can't just leave it, but you can carry it rather than let it carry you! You don't have to live in your old nature, but you will always have to deal with it.

3. **And walk—Walk up!** The Bible has a lot to say about a Christian's walk. Brother Painter said, "We have more time, but we don't spend it doing anything worthwhile." We have better means of travel, but don't go to better places. We have more money, but we don't spend it on more important things.

Now this man can **walk**, but how and where will he walk? You may think, "That has nothing to do with the story." You may say, "This is about Jesus healing someone and getting them back on their feet. It doesn't have anything to do with **how** and **where** he walks after he is made able to walk!" If **how** and

where he now walks doesn't matter, then what's the point of **verse 14**? "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." If what the man does after he has been delivered doesn't matter, then why did Jesus hunt him up in verse 14 and tell him to be careful how he "**walked**" after he was healed? Jesus is saying, "You got yourself in a mess, I got you out of it, don't go back and mess it up!" Because if you do, you'll be in a worse fix than being crippled for 38 years and having little or no hope!

The worldly crowd that focuses on the attitude of the Pharisees about healing on the Sabbath need to read the text. This is not an indictment of righteousness, this text does not teach the liberal view that Jesus just wants us healthy and happy. Verse 14 is for the express purpose of letting us know Jesus wants us healthy, happy, but more than anything, **Holy!** And if you mess up on the holy, you will lose the healthy and happy.

I am going to state as clear as I can what you need to do in response.

First, you need to **get up**. By that, I mean get up from your seat as if you are rising above the problem that

has been troubling you!

Second, you need to **take up**. By that, I mean you need to believe God is going to give you the strength to carry what had you down rather than let it carry you!

Third, you need to **walk up**. By that I mean you need to be active in things that will help you keep the victory.

I never went to another bar after I got saved. I never went to another rock concert! I never went to another drag race! I never played poker again! I never boxed again! I never let fame or money become my goal!

Our walk after we are raised up has to take us a different direction. Everything you do from this day on needs to be calculated by how much it benefits the Lord and His Kingdom.

Finally, you need to **stay up**. By this, I mean when the Lord helps you today, don't lose your grip on it! "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." Now it's yours. I've taken you as far as I can. The Lord has spoken to you directly. What are you going to do? It's your decision!

EDITORS NOTES

WHY? WHY? WHY? THE QUESTION EVERY HUMAN BEING ASKS By Editor Wallace E. Joice



This article is a reprint from June, 2003. In light of the recent tornado in Joplin, MO, I felt it would perhaps be helpful. I am pastor of First Assembly of God in Joplin. We received very little damage at home and at the church, but the city is devastated. The tornado traveled approximately 13.5 miles, and

destroyed approximately 8,000 homes and more than 300 businesses with a current death toll of 158. One of the men who attends our church, Lee Lansaw, 83, lost everything as you can see in the following photo.



"And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, If the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? But now the LORD hath forsaken us,

and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites" (Judges 6:13). These words were Gideon's reply to the angel of the LORD who had suddenly appeared to him and said, "The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour" (Judges 6:12).

The words of the angel seem ironical when we note that Gideon was seeking to hide his activity from the Midianites. No doubt, he was shaking in his sandals, as he threshed a little wheat by a secluded winepress. But God saw, not only what he was, but what he would become by His grace and power.

The Israelites "had cried unto the LORD because of the oppression of the Midianites" (Judges 6:6,7). The LORD then sent a prophet to rebuke them for their unfaithfulness and idolatry (Judges 6:8-10). Then, in His grace and mercy, He wrought for them a mighty, miraculous deliverance,

Continued on page 4

and Gideon was the means of that deliverance.

I will pursue the narrative no farther. Rather, I wish to focus our attention on Gideon's reply; especially upon one little three-letter word in it—"why."

Gideon was not the only Biblical character to ask "why." Job, though he cursed not God, was made to cry out in the hour of his affliction, "Why died I not from the womb?" (Job 3:11). Even Jesus, our Lord and Savior, amidst the agonies of that hour when "He was made sin for us" though He "knew no sin; that we may be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21), cried out "...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). If the sinless Son of God asked "why" in His agony, surely He understands when the pains and pressures of life cause us to ask "why."

There are many circumstances which make us ask "why." Like the Psalmist Asaph, we wonder at "the prosperity of the wicked" (Psalm 73:3). Yes, sometimes the righteous are afflicted (Psalm 73:14), while "the ungodly...prosper in the world" (Psalm 73:12). Seeing this, we cannot but ask "why."

When friends prove untrue, we are made to ask "why." Hear Jesus as He reacts to the kiss of betrayal, "Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?" (Luke 22:48). Hear the heartbreak of Paul as he records the unfaithfulness of one who forsook him in the hour of trial and need, "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world..." (2 Timothy 4:10).

Sickness, too, makes us ask "why." Some of God's choicest servants are greatly afflicted, while many who never give God a passing thought, enjoy good health.

Bereavement often makes us ask "why." Especially, is this true when the loved one taken is young and greatly needed.

While the Word of God does not completely answer all our "whys," it does have some answers.

**FIRST OF ALL,
THERE ARE SOME THINGS
WHICH GOD DOES NOT
INTEND FOR US TO KNOW.**

The Bible says, "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever; that we may do all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29). From this passage, we see that there are some things which God has revealed, and there are some things which God has concealed. There are at least two reasons for this. **The first reason is that our human limitations make it impossible to comprehend all of God's knowledge.** God reveals to man only what man can comprehend. Man's finite mind can no more comprehend all of God's knowledge, than a thimble can contain all the waters of the oceans.

My mother taught the nursery class at my home church for many years. Once, as she was teaching about God's creation, a little boy looked up at her and asked, "Sis. Joice, why did God make a turtle?" Mother did not know the answer to that question, and neither do I. Turtles seem like useless creatures to me, but I do not doubt that God had a reason for creating them.

A few miles from Neosho is the birthplace of George Washington Carver, the great Negro scientist who achieved wonders with the humble peanut. Dr. Carver, who was a devout Christian and always gave God credit for all his accomplishments, used to tell this story: "When I was young, I said to God, 'God, tell me the mystery of the universe.' But God answered, 'That knowledge is reserved for me alone.' So I said, 'God, tell me the mystery of the peanut.' Then God said, 'Well George, that's more nearly your size.' And He told me." So some things are too big for us, while other things we can handle.

The second reason that some things are concealed from us, is, if we understood everything, we could not honor and glorify God in walking by faith. Paul said, "(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)" (2 Corinthians 5:7). Faith is believing God regardless of the circumstances. So it was with Job, thus he said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:..." (Job 13:15). Then he said, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after

my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me" (Job 19:25-27). And again he said, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

Sight is not involved in faith. We must trust regardless of circumstances or appearances. We see this illustrated by Abraham's obedience to God's call. The writer of Hebrews says, "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out not knowing whither he went" (Hebrews 11:8). Surely, nothing glorifies God more than our walking by faith.

**THEN NOTICE SECONDLY,
THE FACT OF GOD'S
JUDGEMENT UPON SIN.**

God's inflexible moral law is that sin must always be punished. Paul said, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7,8). Our first parents, Adam and Eve, sowed sin and reaped death, and so do we. Paul said again, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin: and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12).

I hasten to say that not every case of tragedy or suffering is caused by the individual's sin. I would point out that man is so close in relation to each other that it is inevitable that the innocent suffer with the guilty. Even after the passing of six millennia, mankind still suffers the effects of Adam's sin of disobedience. The great Bible scholar, P. C. Nelson, said, "The fall opened the floodgates of sin and sorrow and sickness and death upon the human family."

Consider that the punishment of parents, of necessity, involves their innocent children. Then consider that the punishment of children, of necessity, involves the punishment of the parents. We are bound together in

the ties of kinship and association.

**IN THE THIRD PLACE,
CONSIDER THAT GOD CAN
BRING GOOD OUT OF EVIL.**

One of the most precious of God's promises says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). As we analyze this verse, we note that it says, "And we know." This is the voice of faith speaking. The child of God knows that God's promises are true, because he knows that God is true.

Further, the promise states, "That all things work together for good." This includes the good things that happen to us. This is not only true, but easy to believe. But, "all things" include the bad things that happen to us, as well as the good. This is where our faith is tried. It is easy for us to believe that the good things that happen to us work for our good, but it is difficult to believe that the bad things also work for our good.

Perhaps it will help our understanding to note that this verse does not say that all things that happen to us are good, but "that all things work together for good." Many things that happen to us are not good, but God makes them to serve a good purpose.

This was wonderfully illustrated in Joseph's trying experiences. It was not good that Joseph's brothers hated him. It was not good that they sold him into slavery. It was not good that Potiphar's wife sought to seduce him, and failing to do so, falsely accused him. It was not good that he was cast into prison. Yet many years afterward, he reflected to his brothers, "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive" (Genesis 50:20).

Notice to whom this promise is made: "to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." So we see that this is no general promise. This promise applies only to those who love and serve God. The reverse is often true of those who do not love and serve God.

It has been said that "the trials of life make us better or bitter." Josh Billings said, "Life is a grindstone: whether it grinds you down or polishes

you up, depends on what you are made of." The same sun that melts the wax will harden the clay. So we see that, only if we "love God," will it prove true "that all things work together for good."

**FOURTHLY, NOTICE THAT
GOD CHASTENS THOSE
HE LOVES.**

Hebrews 12:6 says, "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son" Chastisement is the mark of human parental love; how much more is it the mark of divine love. Proverbs 13:24 says, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

The Bible reveals at least a two-fold purpose for the Lord's chastisement. **First, that our lives may bear the peaceable fruit of righteousness.** Hebrews further says, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: Nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Hebrews 12:11). If our parents disciplined us righteously and responsibly, we are surely better persons because of it. So God's correction causes our lives to yield "the peaceable fruit of righteousness."

Second, God chastens us that He need not condemn us with the world. Paul wrote, "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world" (2 Corinthians 11:31,32). God loves us too much to allow us to go on in a way that leads to eternal ruin and destruction. He chastens us that He might save us. He chastens us that He might make us what we ought to be.

Billy Graham told a story many years ago that has often been an encouragement to me. He said, "I have a friend who during the depression lost a job, a fortune, a wife, and a home. But he tenaciously held to his faith—the only thing he had left. One day he stopped to watch some men doing stonework on a huge church. One of them was chiseling a triangular piece of stone. 'What are you going to do with that?' asked my friend. The workman said, 'See that little opening

away up there near the spire? Well, I'm shaping this down here so it will fit in up there.' Tears filled his eyes as he walked away, for it seemed that God had spoken through the workman to explain his ordeal through which he was passing. 'I'm shaping you down here so you'll fit in up there!'" And so, dear friends, the trials that God allows us to go through down here are for the purpose of fitting us for heaven.

**FINALLY, SOMEDAY WE WILL
UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY.**

Paul says, "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away... For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (1 Corinthians 13: 9,10, and 12).

Here we often stand baffled amidst problems, perplexities, and seeming injustices, but in that perfect land above, our knowledge shall be perfect, and we shall understand perfectly. God will there show us His great blueprint, and we shall rejoice in the wisdom of His providence.

Meanwhile, surely He speaks to us in the words He spoke to Peter so long ago, "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter" (John 13:7).

I conclude now with a poem that I have carried in one of my Bibles for nearly a half century. It has often been a blessing and an encouragement to me. May God make it a blessing to all who read it as well.

HE MAKETH NO MISTAKE

My Father's way may twist and turn,
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad to know,
He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead
For He doth know the way.

'Tho' night be dark and it may seem
That day will never break;
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,
He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim;
But come what may, I'll simply trust
And leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift
And plain it all He'll make.
Through all the way, tho' dark to me,
He made not one mistake.

(Author Unknown)



The Bible school and churches in Guatemala continue to move forward in the work of the Lord. We just finished our spring semester with 29 enrolled and 6 graduating on May 28th. Over 60 students have graduated from the Bible school since OBI took over the mission in November of 2004. Most of these are in the ministry throughout Central America. We anticipate 12 -15 new enrollments for the fall semester beginning July 4th, along with the returning students there will be 35-40 in attendance. We thank God for the increase and for the spirituality that is being manifested in the classes and services.

Please pray for our national staff and students at the Bible school, the pastors and members of the 3 churches that are connected with the mission, and missionaries and visitors who come to Guatemala. On May 20th, at the church in Villa Hermosa, four armed robbers held Pastor Danny Hernandez, his wife, and our caretaker Brother Teddy at gunpoint before the evening service and stole the P. A. system (purchased

in February) and the keyboard. Several threats against Brother Juan Carlos, the director of the Bible school and pastor of the church on campus at Los Alamos, have been phoned in demanding extortion money. So far, no kidnappings have occurred, and no harm has been done. These incidents are on the rise on a national scale and we would appreciate the saints of God who care about this work praying a hedge of divine protection around us.

The Lord of the harvest has been faithful to supply the needs of the mission over the last several months. God isn't bothered by the economic downturn. Even though monthly support has dropped some in the last year and a half, He has continued to touch hearts and prompt sacrificial giving to keep things solvent. Thank you so much for all the prayer support and financial donations that provide the means to keep sending forth laborers into the vast unreached harvest fields of lost humanity.

For the Kingdom, The Penningtons

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

Would you commit to pray for the staff of OBI Guatemala each day?
5 Minutes 10 Minutes 15 Minutes 20 Minutes 25 Minutes 30 Minutes

Would you consider being a financial blessing to OBI Guatemala?

Monthly \$ _____ One time \$ _____

Thanking you in advance for all you may do!

OBI Guatemala, PO Box 398, Neosho, MO 64850-0398

DEAN'S LIST AND HONOR ROLL

DEAN'S LIST SPRING 2011

Caleb Williams.....	4.000
Angela Carlisle.....	4.000
Hope Harris.....	4.000
James Miles.....	4.000
Hannah Hurst.....	4.000
Jessica Farmer.....	4.000
Robert Taylor.....	4.000
Deborah Wofford.....	4.000
Anna Carpenter.....	4.000
Charlotte Knox.....	4.000
Sara Lewis.....	4.000
Ryan Thomas.....	4.000
Jessie Hoover.....	4.000
Chris Beth Biggerstaff.....	4.000
Janine Niswonger.....	4.000
Rachel Hicks.....	3.967
Angela Donohoo.....	3.943

HONOR ROLL SPRING 2011

Shayla Smith.....	3.897
Andrea Hutson.....	3.897
Ben Bradley.....	3.854
Clayton Hutson.....	3.854
Patrick Rael.....	3.842
Justin Smith.....	3.829
Emily Woosley.....	3.829
Robin Bennett.....	3.818
Kirah Pries.....	3.818
Maria Rice.....	3.813
Nicole Williams.....	3.707
Matthias DeMent.....	3.657
Ryan Riggs.....	3.628
Matthew Embrey.....	3.625
Brandon Chan.....	3.600
Caleb Bontrager.....	3.600
Nathan Brimm.....	3.856
Samuel Casey.....	3.500

BIBLE HOLINESS CONVOCATION 2011

October 17-20

Morning Prayer 9:30 am

Morning Service 10:30 am

Children's Service 10:30 am

Youth Service 2:30 pm

Evening Prayer 6:30 pm

Evening Service 7:00 pm

OBI Campus, 906 Summit,

Neosho, MO

417-451-2057



What Happens To Those Who Never Get The Message?

By Doug Presley
OBI Graduate 2002

I was in a shopping mall recently in Dayton, Ohio, when a young man sitting at a kiosk waved me down and asked if I was interested in buying mobile internet service. He told me that his company owned the fastest and newest 4G network, and that I would not be disappointed by the quality of the service. I said that I traveled frequently as a missionary, and that I often found myself in need of an internet connection in certain remote areas. I explained that I was interested in his mobile 4G service, but that I was unsure of its availability in the areas I would be traveling. The young man, whose name was Gary, seemed a little disappointed when I asked to see the coverage map. The map showed the entire United States, with the areas of their 4G service colored green, but it seemed as if there was very little green on the map. I told him that I really did have a great need of his service, but it wasn't of any benefit to me if it couldn't reach me where I was at. Gary sighed, and agreed, and told me that this was the great problem of trying to sell 4G internet service at the moment—the demand was great, but the network was small, and they just couldn't get it out fast enough to those who needed it. I empathized with Gary, and told him that I was sure that the network infrastructure would catch up eventually. He said that his company was working on new technology which would supply enough power to the signal so that it would increase the range of the network by about 50 times its current limits, even without adding any new towers. This new technology was built off of their former network infrastructure called "Expedient Technology." He seemed quite optimistic as he added, "we're all waiting very anxiously for this new technology to arrive."

Gary was intrigued that I was a missionary. He didn't seem much interested in the gospel message itself, only the mechanics of why we would go half-way

around the world to get our message out. I told him that we had to go and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, so that people could be saved and go to Heaven. I told him that just like his 4G service, the need was great, but the laborers were few, and we had to go and reach as many as we could. Then he asked me a question that shook me to my core: "What about those you don't reach? What happens to those who never get the message? How do they get to Heaven?" (As the uneasiness of the question gripped me, the Holy Ghost brought scripture after scripture to mind: John 14:6 "*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" Romans 10:14 "*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*" Acts 4:12 "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*" "They won't, Gary. Jesus is the only way to Heaven. There is no other way." Gary sat dumbfounded, as if he were waiting for a different response to his question—perhaps one that suited his expectations a little better. But there is no other response. There is no different answer. If the gospel doesn't reach them, then they are lost. It is sometimes difficult for those of us that are redeemed to keep this in the forefront of our minds. Like Gary, we sit dumbfounded, waiting for an explanation that better suits our idealistic expectations—one that is less demanding of us, less confrontational, and less convicting than the reality of innumerable souls entering into eternity each and every day without Jesus because nobody reached them. It's an unpleasant reality, but it's the truth. The flesh will take such great pains to avoid this painful fact that some have resorted to "handling the word of God deceitfully," pretending that it's just not real, choosing their own ideology over the Biblical truth. But regardless of what the Watchtower says, or what Carlton Pearson is preaching, or what Martin Zender or any other heretic may be blogging on the internet, there really is a hell, and "wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat". I left the mall that day intensely sobered by

my encounter with Gary, having been confronted again with the weight of responsibility to go and reach the lost. I thought of the map showing the green areas of coverage, and I wondered what the map of the gospel coverage must look like. As powerful as this gospel is, it is all to no avail if it doesn't reach those that are lost. Like Gary's network, the demand is great, but the network is small, and we just can't seem to be able to get it out fast enough to those who need it. And as children are being born every moment of every day into the atheistic households of the Lausitz region—giving rise to a fourth generation of Godless eastern Germans—we truly are "further behind now than we've ever been".

I thought about Gary and how he was waiting on more power to extend his "expedient" network, and that all hope of selling his internet service rested solely upon it. I also thought about another group of people in Jerusalem who were waiting in like manner for a promise of power. Jesus had told them that it was expedient that he go away; else the Comforter would not come. He said, "*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 Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*"

For the past several months, Anna, Kellison, Kenna, Kemily and I have been preparing ourselves for full-time missions work in the eastern part of Germany. Like many others, we are feeling the sense of urgency to work while it is day, because "*the night cometh, when no man can work.*" We know that the task is great; the fields of harvest are vast, and our abilities are small. But through the anointing and unction of the Holy Ghost, we believe that He desires to expand our range of the network in the beauty of holiness and the power of Pentecost.

Please pray for Pentecostal Missions International, the ministry of the Doug Presley family, as we endeavor to raise the necessary monthly financial support and make preparations to live, minister, and win souls in Eastern Germany.

If you would like to have them for a service at your church, please call Brother Doug at 918-607-8321.



Alumni In Action

GOOD NEWS

I was expecting to hear good news as the phone rang. "Hello, Pastor." "Yes, sir," I responded. It was one of our new converts on the phone. The Lord had gloriously saved him and his wife and daughter recently.

Nine days ago I baptized him and his daughter in water. "Pastor, I just had to call ya!" He is sniffing and crying. "Pastor, my daughter just called home to tell us she got baptized in the Holy Ghost! I'm marking this day down as a day to remember." He continued to speak, "Thank you Pastor, God has done so much for us. It's just wonderful!" As we rejoiced together, he reaffirmed his gratitude for loading up the kids and driving eleven hours to get to camp!! I'd write more but I must get busy for the ministry because I want to get some more phone calls like that!!

OBI Alumni President Randy Snow



By David Brimm
Pastor Bethel Chapel
Granite City, Illinois
OBI Graduate 1984

Thirsty?

Isa 55:1 "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Every year in the US there are thousands of people that suffer from the symptoms of dehydration, not to mention hundreds of deaths. Dehydration occurs when the amount of water leaving the body

is greater than the amount being taken in. Water is a critical element of the body, and adequate hydration is a must to allow the body to function properly.

Our spiritual body is much like our physical body. As the physical body needs water so the spirit needs the water of the Spirit of God in order to function. Without the proper intake of the Spirit into our lives we become spiritually dehydrated and suffer from many of its symptoms and even spiritual death.

First, let us consider the causes of spiritual dehydration. The most common reason for dehydration is exercise and hard work in a hot environment. Those that are putting forth effort to work for the Lord are especially at risk of dehydration. While those that are facing struggles in their life and are exerting all of their spiritual strength to prevail in the battle are also at risk. Another reason for spiritual dehydration is illness or infection. Many are suffering a loss of the spirit do to the infection of sin in their life. Perhaps others have been infected with bitterness or anger and are feeling their spirit drained and dry. Lastly, those that have been injured or have suffered some hurt in their life can suffer from spiritual dehydration.

Any time that we are offended in our spirit we can begin to experience spiritual dehydration.

Secondly, we will look at the symptoms of dehydration. One who is beginning to suffer from dehydration may experience dry mouth. You may be suffering from spiritual dehydration when you can't seem to pray, praise or preach with anointing any longer. Another symptom is the inability to shed tears. Nothing seems to stir your emotions any longer, you don't cry for souls, or for revival in your church. One more symptom is eventually the heart is affected. Trying to compensate for the loss of fluid the heart is overworked and is damaged. It can be a very fatal mistake to let prolonged spiritual dehydration damage the heart of a Christian.

Thirdly, I would like to speak to the treatment for dehydration. The answer is simple it's WATER. The Holy Spirit is the only water that can hydrate our spirit. It is available, it is so plentiful and yet so few will drink of the water of the Spirit of God. We must avail ourselves to the moving of God in our church's, and commit ourselves to a prayer life that continually hydrates our spirit.

Births:

- On January 12, 2011 Nathan and Diane (Snider) Gilpin were blessed to have a little girl, Kylie Haven.
- Jake and Crystal Dillehay are the proud parents of a little boy born on March 1, 2011, Elijah Neal.
- On March 24th, 2011, R. C. and Danielle (McCarty) Betz welcomed into their home a little boy, Blake Charles.
- Azariah Cyrus, was born on April 7, 2011 to Patrick and Menesha Rael.
- Reitha (Johnson) and Shawn McDaniel are the proud parents of a little girl, Reiawna KayLyne. She was born on April 25, 2011
- Hannah Elizabeth was born on April 25, 2011 to a proud mom and dad, congratulations are in order to Mark and Anita Vaughan.
- Rob and Aliesha (Burks) Adair welcomed Austin David into their home on May 9, 2011. Congratulations!!!!
- Josiah Steven Ritchie was born on June 24, 2011 to Joshua and Amanda Ritchie. Congratulations!

Marriages:

- Todd Jarvis and Kristina Rogacki were united in marriage on May 28, 2011. Best Wishes!!

Ministry News:

- The Doug Presley family is currently itinerating to raise necessary monthly financial support to live, minister and win souls in Eastern Germany as full-time resident missionaries. If you would like to have them for a service at your church, please call Brother Doug at 918-607-8321.

- Congratulations to Chris Godfrey on his recent graduation from AGTS with a Masters in Theological Studies.

Prayer Request

- Adam Caran former instructor at OBI would appreciate your prayers as he is in failing health in a rehab and senior center. His address is: 18040 Midway Villa 134, Dallas, Texas 75287. Cell 214-336-3338, Home 972-380-2940

Death Notice

- Our condolences of sympathy to the family of James M. Moss, of Lockwood, MO. Brother Moss was a 1973 graduate of OBI. He made his final graduation of faith on June 28, 2011.

2010-2011
Officers

Randy Snow, President
dsnows@msn.com

Mark Hutson, Vice-President
marklisa@wildblue.net

Sheila Shelton, Secretary
shelton_0204@yahoo.com