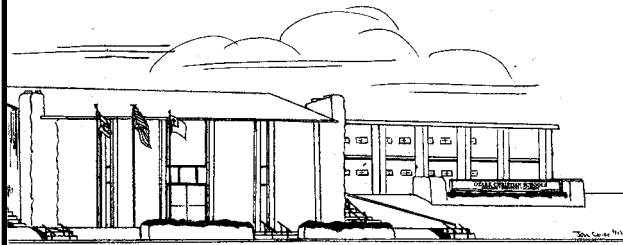


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**"Where God can help Himself  
 to young lives."** Founder D. C. Branham

# The STANDARD BEARER

Vol. 43, No. 2

March / April 2012

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

## Because He Lives

By Founder D.C. Branham



*"And he saith unto them,  
 Be not affrighted: Ye seek  
 Jesus of Nazareth, which  
 was crucified: he is risen;  
 he is not here: behold the*

*place where they laid him"* (Mark 16:6).

He lives, yes, **"HE IS RISEN!"**  
 What a glorious proclamation! What a  
 victory over death, hell, and the grave!  
 What a defeat for Satan! The jubilee over  
 the death of Gods only begotten Son  
 celebrated by a million chained demons

didn't last long. Satan had failed to shake  
 the second Adam's faithfulness to His  
 Father from the day He was tempted  
 in the wilderness until the day He was  
 crucified. Consequently, when Jesus  
 had been laid in the tomb, it looked, no  
 doubt, as if Satan had (continued on page 5)

## Ozark Bible Institute & College

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**Mark Hutson**  
**OBI Alumni**  
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**THE GREAT  
PHYSICIAN**  
President  
Daniel E. Taylor

*“And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him. And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, **They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick**” (Matthew 9:9-12).*

*“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me. Is there no balm in Gilead; **is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?**” (Jeremiah 8:20-22).*

Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet. Had Jeremiah lived in our day, he would be even more despised than he was then. The only time the people paid attention to Jeremiah was when they persecuted him for some message they didn't like. In Chapter 8, Jeremiah writes concerning the coming calamities on God's people for their sins, and the unrepentant response of the people to what God has said is coming! Interspersed through the narrative is Jeremiah's own comments which are inspired of God! These are the expression of a very godly, very sensitive, and a very burdened man of God under the anointing of the Holy Ghost.

In verse 20 he says, “Just as each season of the year has its proper work to be done that results in the desired return, we as a people have let the opportunity pass and we have not been delivered.” Then he says in verse 21, “I hurt for my people, I mourn for

them, the horror of what they now face grips my heart like a vise!” Then Jeremiah asked a question based on something he mentioned in verse 11. “The people that have all the so-called answers, the Dr. Phil's of Palestine, they give useless treatment for my people's grievous wounds, telling them, ‘Don't worry, this treatment will take care of it.’” So in verse 22, Jeremiah asked with tears the question that refers to the problem he identified in verse eleven, “*Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?*” If your remedies are real, then why isn't the health of my people restored?”

To understand the full importance of what Jeremiah is saying we have to realize that he is a true prophet of God in the midst of a lot of false ones. Jeremiah was a holiness preacher declaring the truth in a message that the people of his time didn't want to hear! “Repent,” he cried, “be sorry for what your sin has done to yourselves and God's kingdom.” But there were many false prophets that offered easier, more acceptable solutions to the people's problems—so they ignored, even persecuted Jeremiah.

Of course, as it is in our day, so it was back then, compromise and concessions recommended by the false prophets didn't help. All it did was prevent the people from going to the real physician and finding a real cure. The answer to Jeremiah's question in verse 22, “*Is there no physician there?*”, is answered in Matthew 9—**yes, Jesus is there.** Did you hear what Jesus said? “*The whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.*” Are you whole? Are you sick? **Do you need a physician?**

Here are the really important questions: Spiritually speaking are you taking over the counter drugs for a deadly illness? Are you putting a band-aid over a bullet hole through the center of your heart? Are you taking cough drops for tuberculosis? Are you taking Roloids for a heart attack?

Just as it was in Jeremiah's day, there are people using useless remedies prescribed by spiritual quacks, or diagnoses they have made them-

selves. Let me mention a few of the bogus remedies people are using to heal their spiritual wounds.

## **I. THE USELESS MEDICINE OF LIVING TO PLEASE YOURSELF**

I know why it happens. It is part of the devil's deception.

A neighbor told me a horse is a herd animal and needs companionship. A man once sold us a horse he called a boss mare. Living for just yourself is like being a boss mare, “I want you around for me, but I don't care about you!”

Ebenezer Scrooge isn't the last miser that lived to please himself. And you don't have to be a money miser, it can be any feeling of selfishness that makes you think it is all about you.

## **II. THE USELESS MEDICINE OF UNWARRANTED TRUST IN THE LOVE OF GOD**

God is without a doubt a God of love. Furthermore, God loves even bad people. But God's love emanates from His holiness. And because He is holy, He cannot condone or accept sin.

So it is understood that God loves us, but He hates our sin. Because God hates sin, he cannot allow people with unrepentant sin into heaven. The reason God hates sin so much is because of what it does to the people He loves! So, if God allowed sin into heaven, it would turn heaven into a messed up world just like the one we are in. And it would make heaven more like hell.

Because God so loved us, He did not ignore the sin problem and just let everybody in as they were. John Newton got in, but not as a slave trader and drunk. Paul, the apostle got in, but not as a hypocritical Pharisee.

In love, God gave His Only Son as a payment for our sin so “*whosoever*”(good people or wicked

(Continued page..5)

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

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**WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE**

*By Editor  
Wallace E. Joice*

*(Editor's Note: This article is continued from the January/February 2012 issue of the Standard Bearer. In the previous issue we noticed:*

- I. GOD'S PERFECT CREATION
  - II. MANKIND'S GREAT FALL
  - III. SIN'S CURSE ON ALL CREATION
- This is the completion of the article and it is available on the OBI website.)*

**IV. THE REALITY OF SATAN**

I am unapologetically a Theist. I am not an atheist. I firmly believe in the God of the Bible. **Just as fervently, I believe in the reality and person of Satan (Adversary).**

Often I am challenged as I was by a teenaged boy. He asked me, "Why, if there is a God, did He allow me to be molested by my father and grandfather?" I was appalled by the actions of these two close relatives, and I am not sure I gave an adequate answer.

However, there is an answer to these difficult questions. Just as surely as there is a God in Heaven and earth seeking our salvation, there is a Satan on earth seeking our destruction. Listen to the words of Jesus, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Peter also warned, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

**Very early in the history of mankind, Satan appears in the agency of the serpent.** We have already noted the great ruin he wreaked.

**I personally am grateful for the Book of Job.** There we are enabled to see behind the scenes of temptation. There is a war going on in the heavens of which we are mostly unaware. In the contest between God and Satan, Job was stripped of his possessions,

his family, and even his health. His reaction to this is recorded in Job, chapter 1, verses 20 through 22, "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, **and worshipped.** And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; **blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.**"

A little later, his wife saw him in his deplorable condition, sitting on an ash heap, and said unto him, "...Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh, What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? **In all this did not Job sin with his lips**" (Job 2:9, 10).

Notice that the Bible says that Job did not charge "God foolishly." Many times God is charged with things for which He is not to blame. Many times men charge "God foolishly."

A disaster is often called "an act of God." Was God responsible for the death and destruction that we see in Joplin? My answer is: "No, a thousand times no!" It was Satan that inspired and instigated the "great wind from the wilderness" that killed Job's children. He was the cause of all of Job's misfortunes. God allowed it, but He did not do it. This is true of all sin and disobedience.

One of Satan's most subtle tricks is to cause man to blame God for some of his own dastardly deeds. Was the tornado that wreaked havoc to Joplin an "act of God?" No, again I say it was an "act of Satan." Death and destruction are not the hallmarks of God's work, rather it is life and salvation. When I look at the terrible scenes of Joplin's destruction, I do not see the "finger prints of God," but "the hoofmarks of Satan." Next ponder—

**V. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**

**God does what He pleases.** His sovereignty (kingship, rulership) is absolute. Daniel tells us that "...he doeth according to his will in the army

of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: **and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou**" (Daniel 4:35).

**Then, God knows what He is doing.** Many times we don't. We are creatures of time, but He inhabits "eternity" (Isaiah 57:15). He sees the big picture. While we face the future with a blind uncertainty, He knows the future better than we know the past, or even the present. This is the reason that the Bible contains many prophetic fore views of the future. Isaiah speaking for God says, "Declaring the end from the beginning, **and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, my counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure**" (Isaiah 46:10).

**Furthermore, God neither seeks nor takes our advice.** I am 74 years old. I have more than fifty years of ministerial experience. I am somewhat flattered when younger men seek my advice. However, God has never asked me anything. Paul quoted Isaiah in Romans chapter 11, verse 34: "For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counselor?" God never goes or needs to go, beyond "the counsel of his own will" (Ephesians 1:11). Think next of—

**VI. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD**

**In one sense, it may seem that the happenings of May 22nd were merely random.** The wise man said, "I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; **but time and chance happeneth to them all.** For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them" (Ecclesiastes 9:11, 12).

**However, for the child of God, things are not accidental, nor incidental, but providential.** We serve a God that sees each sparrow fall, and numbers every hair. Jesus says, "Are

*not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows"* (Matthew 10:29-31).

Let me give you two personal illustrations of God's providence during the storm. We have only one daughter. She had worked for Greenbriar Nursing Home for nearly eight years. Less than a week before the terrible tornado, she and a supervisor had a disagreement. The supervisor cursed her and said, "For two cents, I would fire you." Rebecca replied, "I will save you the trouble. I'm out of here!" She walked off the job in Joplin at about 11:00 a.m. She had another job in Neosho by about 2:00 p.m. at the same wages with benefits.

Greenbriar suffered more deaths than any other place in Joplin. The last I knew the number was seventeen. One of Rebecca's co-workers was found with two residents in his arms. That would probably have been Rebecca's fate too, had she been there.

Then, I have one grandson, Alex. He was going south on Rangeline bound for Food-4-Less at 32nd Street. He had his wife, Ivy-Lynn, and his two daughters in his Ford Explorer. He told me the wind started blowing fiercely, and he saw a cloud descend on Wal Mart. When it lifted, Wal Mart was gone. What if he had been a few seconds earlier?

**You very well might say, "But what about those who were not spared?"** Many good and even godly people perished in the storm. I believe that for them it was sudden glory. A terrifying moment on earth, then an eternity in heaven.

"But what about those who were not ready?" you might ask. No doubt many died just as they had lived—without God. Then there were others who called mightily upon God. Romans chapter 10, verse 13 tells us, "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" I observe that it doesn't take long to call on the Lord. It is not my business to judge

anyone. I know that all of them are in the hands of a merciful God.

Finally, consider—

### VII. GOD'S ULTIMATE RESTORATION

Premillennialists see God's ultimate restoration in two stages—

**First, the millennial reign of Christ.** Prophets foretold a coming "golden age." In the 20th chapter of Revelation, we are told that Christ and the saints will rule for "*a thousand years*" (Latin: Millennium). The term "thousand years" is repeated at least five times in Revelation 20.

Not only will the millennial reign be rather **lengthy**, but it will be characterized by Christ's **authority**. He will rule with "*a rod of iron*" (Psalm 2:8, 9; Revelation 12:5; Revelation 19:15, 16).

Then the millennial reign will be characterized by fertility. "*...The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose*" (Isaiah 35:1). Everything shall return to its Edenic beauty and productivity. There will be no hungry or homeless.

Further, the Millennium will be characterized by the **docility** of the animals. Isaiah foresees the time when, "*The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lay down with the kid; and the calf, and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall feed together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea*" (Isaiah 11:6-9).

Finally, the Millennium will be characterized by **peace**. Isaiah prophesies concerning Christ's reign, "*And he shall judge among the nations, and rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war*

*any more*" (Isaiah 2:4). Imagine a world without war. I would have to imagine it, for though I'm in my 70's, I have never lived in one.

We celebrated the sesquicentennial of the Civil War in 2011. When I read of nurses squeezing the blood out of their skirts, and piles of amputated legs and arms outside the window of make-shift hospitals, I wonder why we don't mourn rather than celebrate. It will be wonderful to have "*a thousand years*" of peace.

**Yet, in spite of all the millennial blessings, the millennium will end in failure.** John tells us, "*And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the numbers of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breath of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them*" (Revelation 20:7-9). Thus, man will be a failure as he has been in all previous dispensations. Satan is then forever incarcerated in Hell. The Great White Throne Judgment takes place. Evidently, the present heaven and earth shall then pass away "*with a great noise*" (2 Peter 3:10). Then God will consummate His ultimate restoration. We look—

**Secondly, at "a new heaven and a new earth."** Revelation chapters 21 and 22 tell us of these. I especially like Second Peter chapter 3, verse 13, which says, "*Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*" Whereas the old heavens and the old earth has been stained by sin, **the new heaven and the new earth will be the everlasting dwelling place of righteousness.** In fact, we are told, "*And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life*" (Revelation 21:7). If

people ) that believed in Jesus as their Savior would not perish, but be saved!

So to base your hope of heaven on an unwarranted trust in the love of God is not medicine—it is poison. If you are saved, it will be by the grace of God, through faith in the substituting death of Jesus for your sins.

**III. THE USELESS MEDICINE OF EXTERNAL RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

There are several things in the Bible that God told us to observe that are symbols of real spiritual experiences.

**1. Water baptism** is an important ordinance in the church, but it won't save you. You just go down a dry sinner and come up a wet one. It is important in that it is a visible testimony making a public confession of Jesus as

your Lord. That is why it is important.

**2. Communion** is an important ordinance of the church, but it won't save you. In the church where I was raised, they took communion every service. They argued over common cup or no common cup. They taught "transubstantiation" meaning that in the priest's hands it became the blood and body of the Lord all over again. Communion is important, but its importance lies in its meaning, not in its regularity. And it won't save you.

**IV. THE USELESS MEDICINE OF A WORN OUT SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE**

You cannot expect to get to heaven on a spiritual experience you had some time in the past. Getting back to Jesus as the Great Physician, He is the only

one that can help you. Useless remedies will only make you worse. **Our Great Physician is always on call, walk-ins are welcome, even crawl-ins. The Great Physician knows people generally.** He knows what is in man. The Great Physician knows you personally.

I burned my eye once and I imagined all kinds of horrible results of my wound. I thought it would ruin my whole life. I'd never be able to hunt again or read again. I went to the doctor and after the examination the doctor put some drops in my eye and said, "It will be alright." When I came to Jesus, I thought there is no hope for my case, but Jesus said, "I can fix it, a few drops of my blood—it will be alright."

**Editor's Notes** (Continued from page 4)

Satan or sin could enter heaven, they would wreak the same havoc they wreaked on earth, but they shall "in no wise enter into it." Thank God, **we will then enjoy the immediate presence of God.** John relates, "and I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God" Revelation 21:3).

**Then, the heartbreaking things of this life will pass away.** We read again, "And God shall wipe away 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**" (Revelation 21:4). Dear friends, can you imagine what the subtraction of death, sorrow, crying, and pain will mean? Yes, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

The Bible tells much more about that eternal state, but I must stop with this. Remember, God said, "And there shall be no more curse..." (Revelation 22:3). Yes, God will right every wrong someday. He will lift the curse, and set things right. The words of an old song flashes across the screen of my memory: "**...when things that have saddened have all taken wings. Oh, I wouldn't miss it. Would you?**"

**Because He Lives**—(From Page. 1)  
 accomplished a great victory. However, what he thought had ended had only just begun. I am sure that all that goes on in the spirit-world is little known to mortal man. Much more activity was going on during that Passion Week than ever could have been recorded by a human hand. When Jesus uttered His last cry on the Cross, "It is finished," He was speaking of much more than His own death. This utterance implied the final accomplishment of Redemption which had been promised shortly after the Fall—"it, (the seed of the woman) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). It is true that Satan had accomplished the bruising of the Lord's heel, but Satan's destiny was sealed for all eternity when Jesus arose victoriously.  
 The words of our Scripture were spoken by an angelic being which knew the whole story. "Jesus of Nazareth" was (Continued on page 6)

<b>DEAN'S LIST</b>					
<b>FALL 2011</b>					
3.90 and above with 12 hours or more. Listed according to hours carried.		Daniel Shumpert	4.000	Candace Smith	3.854
Maria Rice	4.000	Brianne Stevens	4.000	Kayla Gabbard	3.846
Ben Bradley	4.000	Stephanie Toro	4.000	Danielle Jordon	3.846
Clayton Hutson	4.000	Alicia Webb	4.000	Anthony Sheridan	3.838
Jessica Farmer	4.000	Trey Holden	4.000	Callie Crafton	3.829
Sara Lewis	4.000	Hannah Hurst	4.000	Andrea Hutson	3.829
Andrew Shumpert	4.000	James Miles	4.000	Patrick Rael	3.829
Rebekah Astor	4.000	Charolotte Knox	4.000	Emily Woosley	3.829
Ethan Binkley	4.000	Ryan Thomas	4.000	Hope Harris	3.824
Faith Frazier	4.000	Tyler Brown	4.000	Grace Harter	3.824
Ashley Hedgspeth	4.000	Robert Taylor	4.000	Leah Mosier	3.824
Tiffany Holden	4.000	Shayla Smith	4.000	Evan Reed	3.743
Jonathan Hutson	4.000	Janine Niswonger	4.000	Jeron Presley	3.744
Andrea Patton	4.000	Kirah Pries	4.000	Josh Blankinsop	3.722
Joshua Rogers	4.000	Justin Smith	4.000	Rachel Rowlett	3.714
Megan Gaines	4.000	Angela Donohoo	3.941	Matthias DeMent	3.707
Angela Carlisle	4.000			Shanae Canter	3.667
Janna Blake	4.000			Shandalyn Gore	3.667
Bethany Boyer	4.000			Brandon Chan	3.657
Candace Pardue	4.000			Scott Shumpert	3.625
Brittany Chan	4.000			Daniel Hernandez	3.611
Rebekah Curtis	4.000			Blake Long	3.611
Amanda Schmid	4.000			Bryce Miller	3.571
				Brian Smith	3.563
				Thomas Ramey	3.556
				Christi McLarty	3.526
				Ashley Matthews	3.500



Daniel E. Taylor

**The Harvest Is Plenteous But The Laborers Are Few**

Brother Canter and I returned March 1st from a two week visit to India. Together we preached and taught Bible classes in three major cities. The hunger for the gospel among the people we ministered to was astounding.

The Lord has opened “a great door and effectual” (1 Corinthians 16:9), to OBI in the nation of India. Of course as the verse goes on to say—“there are many adversaries.” But God is helping us and only eternity will reveal the impact of the work we are doing there.

**I have a very special favor to ask of all our OBI supporters—Please pray for our work in India.**

1. Especially ask the Lord to call laborers from among our OBI students.
2. Pray that the students will hear and obey His call.
3. Pray that God will give us wisdom on the best way to advance His cause in India.

*Because it matters DT*



Gene T. Canter

Brother Taylor and Brother Canter left the U.S. for India on February 14th. Brother Taylor and Brother Canter made their way to Latur India in the state of Maharashtra, to visit Brother Yohan Dupte’s work.

At Latur Brother Taylor preached a crusade with near one-thousand people in attendance. A large number of people stood for salvation. Brother Taylor and Brother Canter were asked to go through the crowd and pray for those seeking salvation. Along with the crusade Brother Taylor ministered in Brother Dupte’s Sunday service as well, and he and Brother Canter taught in the Bible School on

Monday.

After eight hours of travel by auto, Brother Taylor and Brother Canter were guests of Brother Charles Akers who was conducting a Pastors School at the same time they were visiting India. Brother Taylor preached the Pastors’ graduation service as well as he and Brother Canter teaching several class sessions.

When Brother Koshy heard that Brother Taylor was going to be in India he asked that he please come to visit his work. After another long day of travel by air and auto we arrived at Brother Koshy’s home. Brother Taylor preached the Sunday Morning service at the church and several chapels in Faith Theological Seminary.

The need in India is incredible. There are 1.2 billion people; 86 percent are practicing Hindus who profess to worship 33 million gods. It is estimated that all branches of Christianity totals only 2.34 percent of the population. Can you imagine the despair of attempting to sift through 33 million gods, looking for one that is able to deliver from sin and grant eternal life? What can we do? How can we help? Would you earnestly join us in prayer? Dare we embrace the Light of Life and not share it with those in such dense darkness? As the Lord has freely given to us, we must freely give to others.

*Because it matters G C*

**Because He Lives**—(From Page 5)  
 a lowly title among the Jews. “No good thing can come out of Nazareth” was a proverbial saying, but God reverses the order of man. The angel was not ashamed to mention the place of His humble dwelling. The proud Pharisees may have hissed the name of Nazareth, but an angel was pleased to identify our Lord with lowly Nazareth. Not only did He have a lowly birth, but also He had a lowly death. They laid His lifeless form in a borrowed sepulcher, but death could not hold him there. “See the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:6). It is empty. Here lies our greatest hope, our most signal victory “He is risen.” Oh, the dumb silence that must have swept through the regions of the lost, and the fear and gloom that must have settled about the

heart of Satan when Jesus lay no longer in a rock-hewn sepulcher. The glorious part is that because He lives, we shall live also.  
 The greatest travesty of truth ever uttered was the words of the Jews when they told the believing soldiers to say they “stole him away.” Just how hard the heart of men can get is a question. No one knows how deep unbelief can go. In the face of the truest factual evidence, the rulers justified their action of crucifying the Lord Jesus. Although Satan failed in defeating the second Adam while He lived here on earth, he often accomplishes his will to defeat God’s purpose now by working in the hearts of men.  
 In a world that is deep in trouble because of the same unbelief that held sway over the rulers of the Jews, let us

not lose sight of an empty tomb, a risen Lord, and a conquering Saviour. It is true that the Resurrection was more talked about in the early apostolic days of the gospel than it is today. Things were hard and persecution was severe. There has been no letting up in Satan’s design to cause us to grow materialistically-minded, even selfishly-minded. There is a false security in “perishing things of clay.” Could there be a renewing among us of the importance of the Resurrection? Could that life from the tomb, that victory over all the powers of hell, be ours? It must be! He is alive forevermore and has authority over all things. May we keep first things first. “Christ in you, the hope of glory” has never ceased to be the standard for the Church of the Firstborn.  
 (A reprint from *The Standard Bearer*, April 1979 Issue)

## Guarding & Building

*"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."* Psalms 127:1

This scripture comes to mind when considering the contents of this article. We want to share some projects that we envision for the Bible school and mission work here in Guatemala this year, and petition God's people to pray against an outbreak of vandalism perpetrated towards the property.



Brother and Sister Pennington and Ziona in Guatemala



Thirty of thirty four students and acting staff for summer semester 2012

In the last 5 months our chain link fence has been cut 6 times, and items stolen, mostly metal things that could be recycled. More recently (Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>) the thieves cut and removed several of the poles in the fence. We have had to replace and work on the front gate/door lock several times because they have attempted a forced entrance at this place. So far no one has been assaulted or injured, and the things taken don't amount to much monetarily. For this we are grateful. Repairing the damage has taken time and a little money, but mostly just the hassle of dealing with it.

Natural inclinations and sentiments are disposed to retaliate and eliminate the problem. A spiritual response takes what Jesus said: to love your enemies and pray for them which despitefully use you, and put it into practice. We would ask for your help in praying for these matters, for hearts to be touched and changed by the power of God, and a hedge of divine protection to envelope the staff, students and facilities. Thanks for your faithfulness in this regard.

While we have the weapon of prayer in one hand, we need the tool of labor in the other. We want to continue our landscaping project and include raising the level of our back fence at the point of the vandal's entry, replacing the stolen poles and installing razor wire to inhibit further molestation. This will involve mixing cement and laying about 1,000 blocks to finish the second phase of the project, costing an estimated \$1,400.00. For several years we have been replacing termite eaten second level flooring in the buildings on the compound. This year it is the women's dormitory rooms turn. Two rooms need to be removed and replaced with treated planks and 5/8" hardy board costing about \$400.00 per room. These are material costs only, we will do the labor unless others volunteer to come and help. In the past we have had many good folks come down and roll up their sleeves to help work on various projects. Our God has been so faithful over the years to meet the needs that we have.

We have 34 students enrolled in the Bible school, studying, evangelizing and working in preparation for the ministry. The radio ministry continues to reach people. The churches are doing well. We are promoting the Bible school in several countries this spring. We appreciate all of the prayers and financial support that keep it all going.



Fifty feet of fence with fence posts stolen



Sawed off fence post indicated by arrow



Girls dormitory termite damage of flooring





# Alumni In Action



Mike Shelton  
Academic Dean  
1989 OBI Graduate

## What Am I Doing Here?

I remember the first time that I came to the campus of Ozark Bible Institute. It was Convocation in 1984. I was blessed by the great preaching of the word. There was one message in particular that God used to speak to my heart. Brother K.A. Smith preached on "Give Thyself Wholly to Them." It was in the altar that God first started dealing with me about coming to be a student at Ozark Bible Institute.

Time went by and it seemed like everything was going in my direction. I had a good job, a home, a good vehicle to drive and a great church to attend. I attended Decision Days in 1986. At the close of the service, Brother D.C. Branham came to me and said, "Son are you going to come to be with us in the Fall?" I began to tell Brother Branham all of the things that I owned, the job that I had, and etc. He listened patiently and when I was through, he said, "Son sell them all and come and be with us in the Fall." Those words rang in my ears all the way back to Texas. But, as it often happens, the effects of those services wore

off. It was getting close to September and I got off of work one day and went to the church to pray. It was one of those times of special visitation from the Lord. I was singing that chorus, "I Will Go Where you Want Me To Go." Suddenly, the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "Will You go to O.B.I." I said, "Yes, Lord, I will go to O.B.I." After a few days, I had forgotten again. I was welding away on a job when the Holy Ghost came into that shop and said, it is only two weeks until school starts. You need to go now. I was crying and people were wondering what was wrong with me. I was wondering how I was going to tell my Pastor. I got home from work and there was a message on my answering machine from Brother Blankenship that simply said, "you are wasting your time up there welding. You need to go to Bible School." I knew it was the Lord. It was a turning point in my life. It was a time that I got the answer to my question, "What are you doing here?" I knew the answer was, that, I was put on this earth to do a work for God. I believe that there are many young people out there just like I was, struggling with the call of God. Why not come to decision days, and see if you can find the answer to the question.

### "What am I doing here?"

### Announcements:

#### Marriages:

**Matthew Hutson** and **Anna Carpenter** were united in marriage on January 20, 2012. Congratulation!!

**Paul David Taylor** and Katrina Stevens were married on February 4, 2012. Best Wishes!!

#### Births:

Congratulations to **Nathan** and **Jennifer (Hatfield) Thomas** on the birth of their little girl, January Noelle. She was born on January 14, 2012.

Emma Margaret Jane was born on January 17, 2012 to Bryan and **Sara (Baker) McKelvey**. She was 6 lbs 5 oz. and 19 inches long.

*Any announcements: ministry news, marriage, births, etc. E-mail to shelton\_0204@yahoo.com.*

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