

Ozark Christian Schools of Neosho  
PO Box 398, Neosho, MO 64850-0398  
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“Where God can help Himself  
to young lives.” Founder D. C. Branham

Happy Thanksgiving

and

Merry Christmas to All

## The STANDARD BEARER

Vol. 43, No. 6

November / December 2012

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

### THE INTENT OF THE WISE MEN

By President Daniel E. Taylor



Messages that are suggested by the season or circumstances have always been an enjoyable challenge for me.

Special services with special themes that give me a direction to follow seem to make my job easier.

Christmas themes are some of my favorite things on which to preach. It usually starts with me thinking like Solomon, “*There is nothing new under the sun*” to preach on at Christmas time, and then ends with me thinking like Paul, “*Who is sufficient for these things?*” But there is something very effective in the habit of prayerfully staying with it. Learning that lesson helps in a lot of things one faces.

After reading the Christmas story in Matthew and Luke for a while, I went from seeing nothing fresh to preach on, to seeing way more than I’ll have time to preach. The Bible is like manna, fresh every time! One man said “it is inexhaustible in its supply of fresh food for the soul.”

In Matthew’s Gospel, we read, “*Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from*

*the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him*” (Matthew 2:1, 2).

The story of the wise men seemed to open up to me like it says in verse 11, “*They had opened their treasures... they presented unto him...*” So for my message on the wise men, I want to talk about **THEIR INTENT**. As it says in The First Noel:

*“And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from country far,  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.”*

“Wise men” is a term applied to men of understanding and skill in the affairs of life. These men were probably from the Caste of Median Priests in Persia. They were religious and sincere, but they did not know the true and living God. God in his mercy and grace gives them access to knowledge that will lead them to Christ, **if they will follow it**.

Of course, every time I read this story it shocks me that the Jews had this information given to them for years and didn’t even notice the star, or if they noticed, didn’t see the connection. But on the other hand these

men are called the “*wise men*.”

**First, their wisdom is reflected in their intention to compare what they were seeing on the horizon with what they had read in God’s Word.** People need to do that in our day!

Numbers 24:17 is Balaam’s prophecy about the star rising out of Jacob. When they saw this unusual star and found this ancient prophecy they fulfilled what Isaiah predicted in 60:3. “*Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*” My point is that it takes wisdom to see the relationship between what is happening around us and what we are told in the Word of God. This is no time to be drifting away from the Lord; it is a time to be seeking to get closer.

**Second, we see their wisdom in the fact they went in pursuit to find out more about the Savior that God had revealed to them.** The Bible says “*For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall* (Continued on page 2)

*be much required.*” Do you know what that means to you? It means that if you are in a place where many things about God are taught, that you are more accountable for your actions than someone that is in an environment where they don’t know of the things God expects of people.

When these wise men read the Scripture and saw the star, what they did with that knowledge was **“intentional” or their intent.** It was a willful decision on their part to either go in search of a king, or stay home and ignore the Word and the star. It is very important that we all understand that we will be judged based on what we knew about God’s will for our lives, and how we responded to it. Just so, there are degrees of punishment in hell based on what we knew God expected of us. When we state that there will be especially hot places in hell with severe torments for those like Hitler and Stalin, we must also recognize there will be especially severe torment in hell for those who knew to do God’s will and didn’t do it (Luke 12:47, 48).

**Third, we see their wisdom in the fact they didn’t let the contradiction of what they expected and what they saw hinder their faith.** To see this son of a peasant girl and know that the Word of God and the star said He was a heaven-sent king would have been difficult for most folks to believe. Worldly wisdom would have rejected that notion. Add to this the fact that the wise men were warned that the child’s own people would kill Him given the chance, would also make it hard to believe this was heaven’s king. Worldly wisdom would reject that too.

I guess the first huge hurdle I had to get over as a young Christian is why God didn’t just make every thing and everybody just do right? Learn-

ing that doing things God’s way, does not mean it is a trouble-free way, was not an easy lesson. To find that following Christ is actually enlisting as a soldier in God’s Army is enlightening. If you are a soldier you will get a chance to fight.

It is shocking at first to learn as the wise men did, that there is an enemy that feels just the opposite as you do about Jesus.

To see Jesus’ example of humility in coming to the world to save us in this lowly fashion and to understand that we should follow in His steps goes against all that our fallen nature holds dear. It takes wisdom to see beyond all this.

**Finally, we see the Magi’s wisdom in the foresight they had in bringing gifts to the King. This, too, was “their intent”**—they came prepared to give. The fact that the wise men came with gifts to offer the infant king, give us a reason to consider our giving. The gifts are mentioned in verse eleven *“gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”* All were expensive and extravagant. And none of them are ever mentioned again in the gospel narrative. Commentators suggest that these gifts were used by Joseph in the emergency that arose after the wise men left.

The wise men’s gifts were contributions inspired by God to provide for maintaining the work of God. As a matter of fact it would be thirty years before the first real convert would be won in Israel except for those few mentioned in the Christmas narratives. There are lots of people that would give to a project that would be done immediately and have their name on it. But what wisdom these men had in just keeping the work alive through their gifts, so He could do great things in the future.

**God could have miraculously**

**provided for His Kingdom.** He sent manna from heaven, the cruse of oil never failed, He fed the five thousand, and supplied the coin in the fish’s mouth. The coin in the fish’s mouth proves that other creatures in God’s creation “Cough it up” when God tells them to. But people are more stubborn than fish, unless they are wise men and wise women.

The points of this message are actually a spiritual IQ test to see if you are a wise person: What are the four marks of divine wisdom?

(1) Wise people compare what they see on the horizon and what they read in the Word and act on it.

(2) Wise people put effort into their pursuit to know more about Christ.

(3) Wise people realize that God’s ways are a lot different than our carnal ways.

(4) Wise people foresee the needs of God’s work and give.

If you got all four correct, you are so busy in the work of God that I feel honored you took time to read this article. If you got three right, it is time to climb a little higher. If you got two right, you will either go up or down from here. If you got one or less, be the first one in the altar.

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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.

Phone (417) 451-2057 Fax (417) 451-2059  
 E-mail: obi@juno.com www.obiweb.org

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**“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Prov. 3:5, 6).**



**“PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW”**

*By Editor  
Wallace E. Joice*

A favorite song sung by generations of the Church Universal says: **“Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

In retrospect, it seems that I can see my dear friend, Brother D. C. Branham leading the congregation of Bible Holiness Assembly of God in this chorus. It seems that I can see dear Brother W. H. Kesler as he led the Ozark Bible Institute chapel in this song he so dearly loved.

This brings to my mind a Scripture in the Epistle of James: **“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning”** (James 1:17).

From this we know that—  
**WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL TO GOD FOR EVERY BLESSING.**

In Psalm 33, verse 12, the psalmist said, *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”* This Scripture was originally spoken of Israel, but I think it is especially apropos of America.

In the United States of America, we have been especially blessed.—

**We have been especially blessed materially.** I used to joke that “we were so poor that even the poor people called us poor!”

However, I heard it affirmed just this past week that the poor people

of the U.S.A. are rich by world standards. My Dad, though not highly educated, was as my sister, Carolyn, said, “extremely smart.” He was also a very hard worker. He often worked 40+ hours, came home, milked a cow, and worked in a very large garden. Our mother managed very efficiently our meager income.

I do not remember being without a home, though we did not live in a mansion. I do not remember not having adequate clothing, although I never had a suit until I was a senior in high school (it was a used suit). I do not remember ever going hungry unless I chose to do so (by fasting). Our food, though not fancy, was abundant and nourishing.

When I read in the outdated statistics I have, that 83% of the world’s population went to bed hungry, I realize that we are blessed indeed. I doubt that the situation has improved any.

To this point, the U.S.A. has been the food basket of the world. Paul’s words have surely been true of us: *“Nevertheless he left not himself without a witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness”* (Acts 14:17).

**Then, we have been especially blessed spiritually.** There have been times of great spiritual revival. The Apostle Peter said, *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord”* (Acts 3:19). The history of our country has been largely connected with revivals—**“the times of refreshing...from the presence of the Lord.”**

The great revivalists—men like Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield, Gilbert Tennant, Charles G. Finney, Peter Cartright, D. L. Moody,

Sam Jones, Billy Sunday, and in our day, Billy Graham, have made an indelible mark on our nation’s history.

Places like Enfield, Connecticut and Cane Ridge, Kentucky are especially remembered. Then in our day, the great Pentecostal/Charismatic revival has had a worldwide impact. There are now millions of us all over the world.

I am awe-struck when I realize that Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri were the cradle of the **“latter rain”** outpouring of the Holy Ghost. My Great-Grandmother Clinton was among those early-day Pentecostal saints. First Assembly of God, Joplin, Missouri, was the first Pentecostal church in Missouri.

**Then, we are especially blessed politically.** We were settled mostly by people seeking to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience. We need to fully understand that the freedom they craved they did not extend to others. They hung Quakers and exiled Baptists. I have never heard of either of these sects ever persecuting anyone.

The freedom of religion that we enjoy seems to be an American innovation. Nearly, if not all of the countries of Europe and elsewhere seem to have a state religion. If you do not embrace that religion, you are persecuted at worst, or at best, you are a second-class citizen.

Thank God for freedom of religion. In the U.S.A., we are not forced to even have a religion. I have often said, “A religion of coercion is no religion at all.” True religion cannot be forced.

This brings me to my second main thought which is—

**WE HAVE THE DEVIL TO THANK FOR NOTHING**

**“Every good gift and every perfect gift”** is not **“from”** (Continued on page 4)

below” and does not come down from the Father of lies, but from **“the Father of lights.”** All the promises of God are **“yea”** and **“amen”** in Christ. As Paul says, *“For all the promises of God in him are yea and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us”* (2 Corinthians 1:20). The devil makes a lot of promises, but they are all **“nay”** and **“no way.”** He doesn’t fulfill them, and indeed, he can’t fulfill them.

Note two Scriptures in which Jesus speaks of Satan. The first is found in John, chapter 8, verse 44, *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”* Then in John, chapter 10, verse 10, He says, *“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.”*

From the Scriptures we see that **Satan is a murderer.** Indeed, he is the great assassin of souls. Through the serpent he brought sin and death into the human race. He is responsible for every soul that goes to hell.

The Apostle Peter warns us, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Peter 5:8). Surely, he is finding multitudes to devour!

Then Jesus characterizes **Satan as a liar.** We have already noticed that he promises much and delivers nothing. I have often told my daughter, Rebecca, “The devil doesn’t have a dime in you! You have been fed, sheltered, clothed, and educated with God’s money.”

Finally, **Jesus characterizes Satan as a thief.** Truly, Satan steals real manhood and womanhood from those who follow him. I am amazed how deep people go in sin.

But the horror of horrors is that Satan steals the very souls of mankind! Jesus Himself said, *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”* (Mark 8:36). If we die lost we are forever lost and ruined!

When we think of man’s sin and ruin, how grateful we should be for that One who came down from heaven’s glory to earth’s sin and shame, **“that they (we) might have life and they (we) might have it more abundantly.”** Surely, the **“perfect gift”** was none other than our Saviour! As Paul exclaims, **“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift”** (2 Corinthians 9:15).

## Decision Days Information

# DECISION DAYS 2013 MARCH 21-24

**The faculty, staff, and students, of Ozark Bible Institute and College invite you to attend and experience campus life at OBI.**

- \*Sit in college classes
  - \*Experience dorm life firsthand
  - \*Eat in our dining hall
  - \*Get to know the instructors
  - \*Attend special services planned with young people in mind
  - \*Allow God some quiet time in your life
  - \*Hear *The Overcomers Choir*
- Juniors or Seniors & qualifying graduates are free; all others are \$35.00**



Things you will need to bring:

- Bedding
- Bible
- Personals



**For more information, contact:**

OBI Registrar Bonnie Stoner, OBI, PO Box 398, Neosho, MO 64850-0398;  
417-451-2057, obi@juno.com, www.obiwab.org

## CONVOCATION 2012 REPORT

This was the first Convocation in over twenty years that Sister Taylor was unable to be with me. Needless to say, I missed “that old sweetheart of mine;” emphasis on “sweetheart” not old! At the time of this writing she is still recovering from colon surgery. Hopefully, by Thanksgiving she will be as good as new!

Other than the fact I was a little lonely without my sweetheart, Convocation was wonderful. The theme of “Vision” was addressed in every service with a powerful message from each speaker.

On several occasions during Convocation, people told me the messages were especially for them. Jesus said, “...*your heavenly father knoweth that ye have need of these things*” (Matthew 6:32).

We at OBI rejoice again in God’s faithfulness to make our Convocation a time of spiritual revival in the lives of our fellowship.

*President Daniel E. Taylor*



Missionaries represented in the missions service Wednesday evening of Convocation 2012.

## Ozark Christian Missions



**“WHOM SHALL I SEND?”**

*By OCM Director of Development  
Gene Canter*

### Encouragement

Isaiah records words depicting the heart of God in Isaiah 6:8. He says “*Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*” There were people in need of hearing the Word of God, and God’s heart was longing for them to have an opportunity to hear. Thus, he posed the question “*Whom shall I send?*” It is apparent that He would not send someone who was unwilling, because He continued his query with the words “*Who will go for us?*” Notice Jesus’ words in Matthew 9:38 “*Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*” At first view it is easy to conclude that God may be a little reluctant and He needs us to encourage Him through prayer to send someone to the lost. Rather, He asked us to pray in order that we might focus on the needs

of others and be willing to respond ourselves.

Just as the question of Isaiah 6:8 elicited Isaiah’s response “*Then said I, Here am I; send me,*” so taking up God’s burden in prayer to send someone to the harvest should cause us to join Isaiah and say, “*Here am I; send me.*” If we pray as Jesus asked us to pray, our prayer will either motivate us to go or to help send those who have been chosen to go. Paul said in Romans 10:15 “*And how shall they preach, except they be sent.*” **Those who go and those who send are partners in the great work of the harvest and help to fulfill the burden of the heart of God.**

### Convocation

It was with joy and a thankful heart on Wednesday evening of Convocation that I watched all of the missionaries from various fields of labor file into the Kesler Auditorium. They represent those who willingly offer themselves to go “*into all the world*” and reap the harvest. I am also thankful for many hundreds of others present on that Wednesday evening who willingly gave in the offering so that others could be sent to the harvest.

### Prayer Requests

OCM is active in going and sending laborers into the field. There are three areas we would like to ask you to pray with us concerning. **First, we have been asked to conduct two pastor’s schools in India in February of 2013.** Please pray the Lord will make a way financially for the pastors there who would like to attend one of the pastor’s schools. **Secondly, we are praying about an invitation to South Korea for May of 2013.** A Pentecostal pastor has written in behalf of a group of churches and expressed an interest in the message of holiness. Pray the Lord will give us guidance and direction in this regard. **Finally, we have a standing invitation to conduct pastor’s schools in Kenya and South Sudan in August.** Both ministries have asked for assistance in beginning a Bible School. South Sudan is to begin a pilot program in January. They have asked for a young couple to come and assist them. Bro. Anson and Sis. Tabitha Miller feel burdened to go help in the growing work with Bro. Garang in South Sudan. **Please Pray that God would lead and provide.**



Brother/Sister Pennington with Ziona

## THE WHY AND HOW OF MISSIONS ACTIVITY

*“Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him”* (Luke 20:13).

*“...By what authority doest thou these things? And who gave thee this authority?”* (Matthew 21:23).

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...”* (Matthew 28:18,19).

God sent His only begotten beloved Son to this earth to receive the harvest from what they had planted and developed. When Jesus exercised His prerogative of ownership, religious usurpers questioned His authority rather than reverence His position. The manner and content of Jesus’ teaching (Matthew 7:29; Mark 1:22), and the power over spiritual and physical forces that He demonstrated (Luke 4:36, Mark 1:27; 4:41) amazed the common populace and they were in awe of Him.

During this holiday season, when we commemorate the incarnation of the eternal Word, may we submit to His Lordship and reverence Him, and not dispute or challenge His right to command obedience.

The conflict between Jesus and His antagonists led to the beloved Son subjecting Himself to the authority of the governor, who, though he could find no fault in Him, condemned Him to execution by crucifixion. After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus

assured His followers that He still had total authority to receive the fruits of God’s vineyard and commissioned them to go in His stead to gather the harvest. It is by, and through the designated authority of Jesus Christ that we engage in missions activity until He returns. *“For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, ...”* (Mark 13:34, 35a ).

Bible training classes, evangelism, radio broadcasts, and personal character development continue to happen at the Bible school in Guatemala. Three church congregations and their pastors work to gather and disciple converts. This is the work of OBI Guatemala. We do these things by active submission to the authority of the beloved Son of God.

For souls, *The Penningtons*

## Some Scenes From The Past Few Months At OBI Guatemala



Student praying with musician during outreach service February 2012



Students on evangelism March 2012



Cell group participation in the 17th anniversary service at Los Alamos church July 2012



Children participating in Kid’s Crusade at Villa Hermosa July 2012



Students loading up for outing August 2012



Kids Crusade in Prados conducted by Jason Pennington and the Trawick family Sept. 2012

## MYSTERIES OF THE AGES COMING INTO FOCUS

By Dudley Zerbel  
OBI Graduate, BBL 1985

*“And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days. And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king’s business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it”* (Daniel 8:26, 27). *“In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the LORD God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:”* (Daniel 9:2, 3). *“And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken”* (Luke 18:33, 34).

Distant objects and vistas may be beautiful in color and image but the richness of detail can be hard if not impossible to perceive. Let us examine this truth in light of the span between prophecy given and prophecy fulfilled.

As you approach a distant object your perception increases and details grow clearer by stages. At a great distance your vision is limited to basic colors and shape. Even the atmosphere can affect the color of an object due to its light filtering characteristic and the greater the distance the more of a filtering affect. But as you draw closer, details slowly focus, the haze of distance fades, the shape, the colors, and the true size, even textures of the object and individual parts of the scene become clearer. Sometimes a very large object is perceived as misleadingly small until you are close enough to comprehend the size of it. Then when you do comprehend the truth about it, you are overwhelmed at how significant that "small de-

tail" becomes.

Sometimes in order to get a better view of something, you are required to approach from an awkward or disadvantaged position. This can happen when traveling through mountain ranges, or through thick jungle growth. As you move closer, little is perceived or understood due to line of sight alignments or objects in the way blocking the view. Then suddenly, as you draw closer the perspective changes and/or the view limiting obstacle is moved out of the way and you can see with a fresh understanding what was not possible until you had reached that better vantage point.

As Tozer stated it, "One of the greatest hindrances to spiritual poise and balanced living is the tendency to accept as correct, images seen out of focus." This is so with prophecy and end time events. What has been out of focus we must be careful of until clarity of revelation comes.

**It seems our perception and understanding of prophecy is governed by three distinct principles: 1. God hides the fullness of meaning until His proper time. 2. The ability to understand is limited in relationship to our proximity to the event. 3. Our grasp of prophecy is determined in a great part by our desire to know and our persistence to understand.**

With these concepts in mind it seems that we should question the speculative and sensational approach taken in a large body of prophecy writing and commentary. So much of it is fanciful and hard to believe. Sensational prophecy writing in and of itself, the "I wrote it first" showmanship, is largely self serving and often jumps to the wrong application or conclusion because of its carnal motivation.

Sometimes this wild speculation is due to the fact that the prophecy is still closed. If the time is not at hand to understand an eternal revelation, it will not be understood nor applied correctly. It must be stressed though, that the study of prophecy will be profitable in that we will gain an idea

of prophecies' grandeur and significance, and will fill our minds with the thoughts of God, preparing us for the reception of understanding when it is time to be revealed.

Looking to this passage in Daniel, we see an example of this idea illustrated. It would seem that the closer to the event we approach the more the understanding of the prophecy will come into focus. The application will be clear and thus, it is no more speculation but rather a sharp focus of the vivid painting of the scene written on the pages of prophecy before us.

There are supernatural revelations of truth future—prophecy. There are supernatural explanations of that prophecy—revelations of understanding given by the Spirit. The Book of Prophecy has been written, and we need that same Spirit of revelation to show us the true meaning and application of the prophecy. Otherwise, we may, as so many before us, misapply and give a wrong explanation of God's secrets.

Today there is such a need to be careful in speculation, but also a great need to fill our minds with God's revelation, and to meditate and consider what God has said. How careful we need to be in order to hear God's speaking voice. Is God today looking to open our understanding to a mysterious prophecy of old saying, *"Come and see?"*

What days we live in! Each day we behold the world's politics and the world's religions moving into place as prophesied thousands of years ago. Even today there are prophecies still closed until God's time. What a time to as Daniel, *"set" our faces "unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications."* That time of seals opening and understanding being given, of distant objects coming clearly into view, that time seems to be today. What mysteries might we fully understand in the soon coming days? What images of revelation we might see! **Look up, believer, our "redemption draweth nigh!"**



# Alumni In Action

## CHRISTMAS



*"But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law." (Galatians 4:4)*

I can still see the blue Graco baby pen. I can also still remember their cries as I entered into the living room. "Daddy, out."

"Daddy, out!" "Pwease, Daddy, out." Just as I reached for them, law stepped into the room. "Oh no, they've been disobedient to Momma." Now everybody knows you can't go against the order of the Home!! In just a few moments I heard, "Honey, I hope you didn't get them out!" I still remember the look on my wife's face as she came around the

corner to see me sitting in the middle of the play pen with two girls playing happily. The tears were gone. All were satisfied! There were smiles all around!

Friends, that's what Christmas is. We deserved judgment because of disobedience. Christ made a way. He stepped into our arena and totally changed our cries to rejoicing! I love Christmas. I love Christ. I still remember the agony; the tears of anguish over my disobedience. Like the old song that says:

*"My soul was distressed 'neath Jehovah's dread frown,  
And low in the pit where my sins dragged me down.*

*I cried to the Lord from the deep miry clay  
Who tenderly brought me out to golden day!"*

Christmas brings us hope. Christmas brings us joy. Christmas brings us the glory of God. Christmas made a way for us to go to Heaven. For soon and very soon we shall be lifted out of this pen! 2013! I honestly never thought we'd be here this long! My heart's cry is greater now than ever before. "Father, out!" *"Even so come Lord Jesus."* Friend, it could be today! And it's all made possible because of Christmas!

*OBI Alumni President, Randy Snow*

## THANK YOU!

Thanks and appreciation are in order to Twin Oaks Cabinet Shop, OBI Alumni Association, and many others for purchasing the new chairs (pictured below) which were available for use during Convocation this year. May each one be blessed abundantly who had any part in making this a reality. Reports are that the new chairs are much (emphasis on much) more comfortable than the old ones which had been around nearly 30 years.



Monday night congregation sitting in the chairs enjoying the better comfort.

## Announcements

### Births

Alex and Jessie Cooper are the proud parents of a baby boy, Bodie Michael Cooper. He was born on September 11, 2012 and weighed 2 lbs 10.7 oz and was 15 inches long.

### Marriages

Kasey Carpenter and David Hilton were united in marriage on September 22, 2012.

Dathan Tucker and Priscilla Hosmon were married on September 28, 2012. They will be youth pastors at Catoosa Assembly of God in Catoosa, OK.

### Ministry

Kenneth and Katy Crews have taken the youth pastorate position at Broadway Assembly in Lorain, OH.

**2012-2013  
Officers**

**Randy Snow, President**  
dsnows@msn.com

**Mark Hutson, Vice-President**  
marklisa@wildblue.net

**Sheila Shelton, Secretary**  
shelton\_0204@yahoo.com