

Ozark Christian Schools of Neosho  
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"A place where God can help Himself  
to young lives." *Founder D. C. Branham*

# The STANDARD BEARER

Volume 45, No. 1

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

**OZARK BIBLE INSTITUTE AND COLLEGE**



## DECISION DAYS



**MARCH 20 - 23, 2014**

**Theme: Your Next Decision - A New Direction**

*"And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt"* (Exodus 3:3).

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

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## “WHY?”

By President  
Daniel E. Taylor

“Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day’s journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed; and his mother said unto him, Son **why hast thou thus dealt with us?** Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, **How is it that ye sought me: wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?** And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them; but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man” (Luke 2:41-52).

This text is special to me because it was the text Nancy Marler read the night Sister Taylor and I got saved in her revival thirty seven years ago on October 17, 1976. Same text but an entirely different theme. I want to focus on verse 48, and the question Mary asked Jesus: **“Why hast thou thus dealt with us?”** In other words, “Why

have you treated us like this? Why have you done this to us?” I don’t think it should be all that surprising that the first recorded conversation that a person has with the Incarnate God starts with the question, **“why?”** “And when they saw him, they were amazed; and his mother said unto him, Son, **why hast thou thus dealt with us?** Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing” (Luke 2: 48).

In a recent sermon I mentioned my pastor, Brother Winstead, and his gentle rebuke on questioning **“why.”** The reason his rebuke hurt so bad was because he was right. My attitude was wrong. I was like a petulant child that felt mistreated. Somehow in my mind I figured that the God that controls everything could have changed this! I was like Mary and Martha, “if you had come when I called on you, this would not have happened.” Brother Winstead was right, and I thank God for sending Brother Winstead to help me understand that it is wrong to question God’s intentions! Over the years I have discovered there are three basic types of **“why?”** The doubtful **“why.”** That’s the one I had when Brother Winstead gave me a talking to.

**I. A DOUBTFUL “WHY” QUESTIONS GOD’S WISDOM AND HIS DECISIONS.** I tell my students there aren’t any dumb questions, but that’s not completely accurate. There is one dumb question. It is the one that questions God’s wisdom or His decisions! Abraham asked a rhetorical question in Genesis 18:25, **“Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?”**

**II. THE REBELLIOUS “WHY” QUESTIONS NOT ONLY GOD’S WISDOM AND DECISIONS, BUT HIS RIGHT.** We sing the old song, **“I Belong To The King,”** yet we question **“why”** things are allowed to happen or why we must

obey Him and face certain things! When Jesus told the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, the Lord of the vineyard asked this question, **“Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?”** (Matthew 20:15). In other words, if you belong to the King, is there anything wrong with Him leading you through experiences He wants you to have?

**III. THE PERPLEXED “WHY.”** We don’t understand, and we wonder **“why.”** Paul said in Second Corinthians 4:8, **“We are perplexed, but not in despair.”** We are puzzled, but not driven to panic. We are bewildered, but not at wits’ end. We don’t understand, but we accept the fact that the Lord knows what He is doing!

There was a medical missionary, Helen Roservearce, who worked in the Congo during the invasion of the Mau Mau Revolutionaries. This innocent, pure, righteous woman of God was assaulted, abused, and humiliated. While recovering from that horrible event, Helen strove to draw closer to the Lord. In prayer, the Lord impressed on Helen a question. It’s a question we all must face, **“Can you praise me, thank me, and trust me through this experience, even if I never tell you why?”**

In verse 49 it says, **“And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”** We see in this

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

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verse our Lord's response to Mary's "why?" It is interesting how the Lord answers Mary's question with two questions of His own. The first question is suggestive, "How is it that you looked for the answer anywhere else?" Jesus is saying, "If you know me, then you ought to at least know in what direction to look for the answer to your 'why.'"

**The first thing you should do when confronted with a perplexing question is rule out the impossible and improbable.** When you have faced as many problems, both secular and spiritual as I have, you learn to rule things out. You learn to narrow down the possibilities. If the light over my head is off and the rest are on, I know the power's not out. If I check the switch and its on, then I replace the bulb unless the fixture or switch is bad. I don't go down to the electric company and attack them. I don't check the meter. Its called tracing the problem, and **it begins by understanding where the problem isn't!** The Lord is not the problem! So Jesus is saying to His troubled and anxious mother, "You of all people should have known me well enough to not look for answers to 'why' in other places!"

So the question is: how is it that you looked for the answers in other places than the house of God, in other places than how it relates to spiritual things. Jesus is asking Mary, "What were you doing looking for answers in the market place, the social gatherings, the play ground, etc. You should have known that the answer to every 'why' is somehow attached to our relationship to God and His house." Jesus is saying to Mary, "You, of all people, should have known nothing had happened to me! You heard the angels announcement, you heard the shepherds, and the wise men! You know who I am and why I came!

You should know I'm not engaged in foolishness, or forgotten why I am here! You know I didn't wander off somewhere distracted! But you did! Why? Because you assumed some things."

In Luke 2:43-44 it says, "And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they **supposing** him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance." Jesus said, "Mary you assumed some things that weren't right. How did you allow that to happen? Didn't you know that wherever I was that I had to be taking care of my Father's business?"

**You can't always know what Jesus is doing or exactly why He's doing it, but you can know the general rule that applies—He is always doing what is right.** So, I got over that little episode with Brother Winstead. I've never questioned God's rights or wisdom concerning what He does or allows. Some things the devil does, especially evil things. Jesus said, "an enemy hath done this." But it all happens as God looks on and He allows it.

On February 15, 1947, Glenn Chambers was on his way to Quito Ecuador to pioneer a Christian radio station called, "The Voice of the Andes." Before leaving the Miami airport, he dashed off a note to his Mom on a scrap of paper he picked up off the airport floor. That evening the plane he was on crashed into the Andes Mountains, a 14,000 foot peak called El Tabalazo, and all aboard died instantly. The importance of the message from Glenn died with him, but on the back of the scrap of paper Glenn used was one word in bold type, "**WHY?**" Of all the questions in the world none is more searching or more painful than "**why?**"

Some years ago, Brother Hampton and I were talking together about that mysterious word, "**why?**" Then Brother Hampton called my attention to the last five chapters of Job. Chapter thirty-eight begins like this, "Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding." Then Brother Hampton pointed out that God went on to tell Job for the next four chapters over one hundred things Job didn't know, and God said, "Job you couldn't understand if I explained them to you!" Of course, the point being, "Job, you're going to have to trust me! Trust me even when you don't understand why."

A man became a missionary to Africa in the fifties. Before going on the mission field, he pastored a little church in Alabama, received all the tithes until it grew, then they set his stuff in the street. He was an evangelist. His little boy had leukemia. People had complained because the boy cried a lot. He had a flat on his car, and his little boy was sick. A preacher he knew passed by, waved and didn't even stop. A few days later, his little boy died. He stood by his little boy's grave and wept, wondering "why?" He bowed his head in prayer by that little grave and said, "Lord, I'm not going to hell over a mystery." He and his wife went on to become missionaries after the death of their son. In those days, you couldn't go if you had children. One day on the mission field, an African man handed him what looked like a bundle of rags. Inside the rags was a little African baby. The father said, "The baby's mother has died and I'm

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about to. Please raise my son for me.” The African boy grew, became a powerful man in his country’s government. When that nation was about to expel the missionaries, that man rose up in parliament and said, “If it were not for missionaries, I’d be dead!” God continued to move through the missionary. He and his wife died the same day an hour apart. And they didn’t go to hell over a mystery.

There are three questions that will keep coming back to you over and over, why me, why this, and why now? You may be here and just the other

day you were looking at the calendar and noticed something for the first time—**Everyday on the calendar ends in Y: “why?”**

**Hear me, God is too good to do bad. God is too kind to do anything cruel. God loves you too much to let you down.**



## OBI Guatemala Update

### TRANSFORMATION

*“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature” (Galatians 6:15).*



By Mike Pennington and family, your missionaries to Guatemala

Here at the verge of a new year we think about making changes and new beginnings in our daily life. People make resolutions to do better (eat healthier, exercise more, give up some vice etc.). Usually their last resolution in the end is to not keep the previous ones.

In the above text, the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ is summed up in just two words: “*New Creature.*” Elsewhere he enjoins us to “*walk in newness of life*” (Romans 6:4), “*serve in newness of spirit*” (Romans 7:6), and “*put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness*” (Ephesians 4:24). All of the religious rituals that mankind practices—circumcision, baptism, sacrifices or sacraments—are meaningless without a new creation. Only an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ in our spirit can bring about this transformation to a new creature.

In the May/June 2012 Standard Bearer we shared a brief testimony of a 48 year old student at OBI Guatemala named Juan Blanco, or “Tio Juan” as he is affectionately known by the other students. God has made a new creature of this man! From over 20 years of alcoholism, drug abuse, being homeless and in mental and spiritual darkness, God has transformed him into a conscientious, humble, effective communicator of the message of the gospel that changed him.

At the November 2012 graduation, Tio Juan received the Scripture memorization award as a 1<sup>st</sup> year student. He served as our student men’s leader for the whole year 2013. Tio Juan has traveled with us to various places to share his testimony and promote the Bible school. He served his four one month practicums at churches with distinction and glowing reports of God’s hand in his ministry. After his graduation Oct. 12, 2013, Tio Juan, who is from El Salvador, worked on getting his immigration papers in order. On December 28, 2013 he assumed the pastorate of a church in La Cuchia, San Marcos, Guatemala under the direction of Brother Hugo, a 1986 graduate of EDEVAN-OBI who has pioneered three churches along the Mexico/Guatemala border. Tio Juan is engaged to be married to a fine Christian widow lady who has two teenage daughters in September 2014. (Concluded on page 5)



Tio Juan soon after being saved at the “House Of Restoration” homeless shelter operated by a 2006 graduate of EDEVAN OBI, Juan Carlos Romano Aleman. (Arrow on left is Tio Juan, arrow on right is Pastor Juan Carlos Romano Aleman) (February, 2012).



Tio Juan on right with Brother Pennington on outreach ministry at Rio Bravo, Escuintla, Guatemala (March, 2013).



Tio Juan speaking at Spring Banquet April 2013.



What a transformation in a person's life in a little over two years! From a homeless alcoholic sleeping in a cardboard box in the port town of San Jose Puerto in October 2011 to a respected pastor and leader of men, lovingly teaching and preaching God's redemptive grace to others. What a Saviour!

Our new semester started January 10<sup>th</sup> at the Bible school in Guatemala. Please pray for the anointing, protection, and provision of God on the staff, teachers, and students as we continue to prepare and reach more "New Creatures." Thanks to all of the faithful supporters who make this ministry possible through their prayers and sacrificial giving.

*For souls, the Penningtons*



**Tio Juan second from right in back row  
Graduation October, 2013.**



## OCM Mission Report

### OPEN DOORS

Please pray for the nation and people of South Sudan. The nation is currently involved in political upheaval; many people have been killed. Brother Garang, with whom we have worked for many years, has asked that we come in mid August 2014 and conduct another pastors' school. He has reported that many pastors are anxious to continue their Bible classes and are constantly asking when the team from O.B.I. will come again. We want to continue this ministry as long as the Lord keeps the door open.

a pastors' school in Latur, India in mid February, 2014. Brother Benjamin Dupte is excitedly making arrangements to transport and house 100 pastors for this meeting. Brother Yohan and Benjamin Dupte have expressed their appreciation for all you (supporters and prayer partners) do to help them reach these pastors. Thank you for being faithful in prayer and giving.

In August, we will have a team, including O.B.I. students, fly to Hoyerverde, Germany to conduct street evangelism and tent meetings. Brother and Sister Doug Presley have asked for a team of 10 to 12 people to assist in

this evangelistic outreach. This is a great opportunity for young people to experience foreign mission ministry.

Recently an invitation has arrived from Pastor Choe in South Korea. You will remember that Brother Taylor and a team from O.B.I. ministered in South Korea in the summer of 2013. Brother Choe is asking for a team to conduct evangelistic meetings and children outreach.

Please join us in prayer that the Lord will give guidance and wisdom in responding to the many invitations for ministry being received.



*By Gene Canter  
OCM Director of  
development*

asking when the team from O.B.I. will come again. We want to continue this ministry as long as the Lord keeps the door open.

We would also like to ask you to pray for the instructors who are scheduled to conduct

## A Voice From The Past

### THE LIVING WORD



*By W. H. Kesler  
(First Academic Dean  
of Ozark Bible Institute)*

*Reprinted from March 1970 issue of  
The Standard Bearer*

Psalm 119 presents a great exaltation of the Word of God. Many

other Scriptures in both Testaments magnify the spoken word, the Living Word, and the written Word. **We think of words as being a means of communication.** This is no less true of the Word of God. In the world's early ages God communicated with His people through the spoken Word. In due time the "Word was made flesh" and dwelt among the early disciples (John 1:14). And so it was that "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets"

came to speak unto His people by His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2). A few centuries later, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, God completed His written Word through which He has communicated with His people unto this very day.

**Not only is the Word of God communicative but it is also creative.** All things were made by the Word (John 1:3). "He was in the world and the world was made by Him" (John 1:10). The first recorded

*(Continued on page 6)*

words of God were creative words, "Let there be light and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). At least seven times in the first chapter of Genesis God spoke creative words and creation sprang into being. The Word of God is still creative. Every truly born again person is a new creation of the Word. "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature (Creation); old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. And all things are of God" (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). "Being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the Word of God which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:23). "Of His own will begat He us with the Word of Truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures" (James 1:18). Perhaps we are making too little these days of the mighty, up-to-date creative work of the Word of God. Likely, there are many in our churches who are not really born again. **The Word is also cleansing** "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy Word" (Psalm 119:9). "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee" (Psalm 119:11). "Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3). "Sanctify them through Thy Truth Thy Word is Truth" (John 17:17). "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious

church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:25-27). Since His church is made up of individuals I like to quote this passage as follows, "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved me and gave Himself for me, that He might sanctify and cleanse me with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present me unto Himself, a glorious person, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that I might be holy and without blemish." From these and other scriptures it is apparent that God has provided a powerful cleansing detergent for His church in the Word. He demands a holy, spotless bride for His Son and He has provided the means for her to be so. **The world defiles, but the Word cleanses.** In these days of apostasy the Christian must take care "to keep himself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1). "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Yes the requirement is high but the provision is ample.

**Lastly, we would call attention to the fact that the Word is healing.** "He sent His Word and healed them" (Psalms 107:20). In the story of the healing of the centurion's servant we find that

Jesus offered to come and heal him. The centurion, after pleading his unworthiness, said to Jesus. "Speak the Word only and my servant shall be healed" (Matthew 8:8). This remarkable faith touched the heart of Jesus and He answered, "Go thy way; as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour" (Matthew 8:13). In the case of the nobleman's son, the urgent request of the nobleman prompted this healing remark by Jesus. "Go thy way thy son liveth" (John 4:50). The Nobleman believed Jesus and, after confirmation it was found that the son was healed at the very moment Jesus spoke the Word. To the deaf man Jesus simply said, "Be opened" and immediately he could hear (Mark 7:34). To the leper who said, "if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean" Jesus answered "I will be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him" (Luke 5:12-13). The healing power of the Word is effective today. Jesus is still saying, "Be thou made whole." Some years ago we heard of a woman who had been trusting God for healing for some time. Finally in desperation she laid her Bible on the floor, got out of bed and stood on the Bible exclaiming, "Lord, I am standing on your promises." Immediately she was healed.

May we be so saturated with the living Word and the written Word that this creative, cleansing, and healing power may be continuously at work within our lives.

## Editors Notes



**RIGHTEOUS  
RESOLUTIONS  
FOR 2014**  
By Editor  
Wallace E. Joice

In Luke 16:1-9, we have the parable of the unjust steward. In many ways it is one

of the most difficult of the Lord's parables to interpret. Certainly, the Lord did not commend all of the unjust steward's actions. For instance, He did not commend his wastefulness; neither could He commend his unfaithfulness or dishonesty.

However, the unjust steward does have some lessons to teach us. He teaches us the

value of foresight, the wise use of money, and the power of resolution. It is upon the last mentioned lesson that I wish to focus. The unjust steward said, "I am resolved what to do, ..." (Luke 16:4). He was faced with a crisis and he met it with resolution.

People of resolution are the ones who accomplish things in (Continued on page 7)

this world. This is true in the secular realm. We have all heard of the persistence of Thomas Edison in inventing the light bulb. He refused to give up or admit failure, so we enjoy the benefit of his labor to this day.

Those, too, who have accomplished things in the spiritual realm have been people of resolution. Joseph resolved to stay true to his dreams. Moses chose to cast his lot with "the Lord's despised few." Daniel *"purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself"* (Daniel 1:8). These are just a few of the many who could be named.

It has long been a custom to make resolutions for the better at the beginning of a new year. This is not a bad practice, especially if the help of God is invoked. I would like to suggest some resolutions that all of us should make.

**WE SHOULD RESOLVE TO BE SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS**

What are the marks of true spirituality? Humility would certainly be one. Like Paul of old, those who are truly humble know that anything they are, and anything that they have accomplished is due to the grace of God. *"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain: but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me"* (1 Corinthians 15:10).

Another mark of spirituality is spiritual desire. Paul expresses the passion of his great life thusly, *"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death"* (Philippians 3:10).

Unworldliness is yet another mark of spirituality. Again Paul says *"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth"* (Colossians 3:2).

How can we be spiritual? There are no shortcuts to true spirituality. We must feed our souls with God's Word. We must breathe deeply of the celestial atmosphere through prayer. We must exercise our spiritual man through obedience.

**WE SHOULD RESOLVE TO BE STUDIOUS CHRISTIANS**

Paul admonishes us to *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that*

*needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). The only way to know God's Word is to study it. The only way to gain God's approval is to *"rightly divide"* the Word; that is, correctly interpret it. If we are to correctly interpret God's Word, we must study it diligently and carefully.

Much comment has been made concerning the poor workmanship of today. This carries over to the spiritual realm. There is much shoddy workmanship in the areas of Bible teaching and preaching today. Let us then strive to meet God's approval, and hear His *"well done."*

**WE SHOULD RESOLVE TO BE SUPPLICATING CHRISTIANS**

We should pray for ourselves. This is not necessarily selfish praying, for we cannot help others unless the Lord helps us. The disciples had nothing to give to the multitude until they received the bread and fish from the Lord's hands.

We must pray for our fellow Christians. Paul tells us that we should be *"praying always . . . for all saints"* (Ephesians 6:18). How easy it is to criticize our brothers and sisters in the Lord. The devil likes nothing better than to cause us to shoot our own soldiers. How much better to pray for them than to prey upon them.

How needful it is to pray for the lost. Hear the prayer of Paul: *"And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will"* (2 Timothy 2:26). Prayer is one of the most potent means by which we can rescue men from the power of Satan.

**WE SHOULD RESOLVE TO BE SANCTIFIED CHRISTIANS**

Positionally, this is already true of all real Christians. *"We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Christ once for all"* (Hebrews 10:14). Christ *"is made unto us . . . sanctification"* (1 Corinthians 1:30). We are *"made the righteousness of God in him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Practically, most Christians are not as sanctified as they ought to be. Paul indicated that the Corinthian believers were *"sanctified"* (1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:11), yet rebuked them for their carnality (1 Corinthians 3). In view

of the fact that God wills our sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3), how we ought to strive to *"cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"* (2 Corinthians 7:1).

**WE SHOULD RESOLVE TO BE SOUL-WINNING CHRISTIANS**

Though the Lord has not called all of us to be preachers and teachers, surely the Great Commission enjoins upon all of us to be witnesses and soul-winners. Surely, time is short and the need is great. Many are lost, and their peril is terrible. Let us not forget *"that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins"* (James 5:20).

**WE SHOULD RESOLVE TO BE SERVING CHRISTIANS**

In view of all that God has done for us, we owe Him our service. Gratitude demands it. Our best is not really good enough (Luke 17:10).

Jesus, our great example, *"came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:28). By example and precept, Jesus taught us that service, not station, is God's measurement of greatness. His Word says *"whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant"* (Matthew 20:26,27). Not many aspire to be servants, but servants we must be if we are to *"be great in the sight of the Lord"* (Luke 1:15).

**WE SHOULD RESOLVE TO BE STEADFAST CHRISTIANS**

Paul enjoined the Corinthians to *"be stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 15:58). We are living in times of great instability. Many are being *"tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine"* (Ephesians 4:14). Like ships without a pilot or an anchor, they drift in eminent peril of spiritual shipwreck. How we need to be grounded in the Word of God! How we need to *"earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"* (Jude 3). (Reprint from Jan/Feb 1994)



# Alumni In Action

## 2013/2014



By Dathan Tucker  
OBI Graduate 2010

The holidays are over, 2013 is past, and 2014 is already a few days old. As I write this article, I think to myself, "Where did last year go?" For many, 2013 was a year of tears and sorrows. There were losses felt, tears shed, and burdens carried, but yet, we say with the prophet Samuel, *"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."* Sometimes it feels like things are only taken from us, but in spite of losses, I believe that God has given some things. He has given healing to the hurting, encouragement to the discouraged, and strength to the weak. No matter how you boil down the year 2013, it must be said that God has been faithful. The enemy has fought our churches, our pastors, and our lives tooth and nail, but yet we're still here. He has tried to destroy the fruit that we've cultivated for God, but yet, still it grows. He has sought to minimize our prayers, but yet, we pray on. He has harassed the saints and tried to get us to abandon the work of the Lord, but yet, we work on. We are determined, we are steadfast, and we are committed to seeing a move of God and

a harvest in 2014. We expect the attacks of the enemy this year, for he *"as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."* We know that the enemy of our soul, the devil, is going to try to make 2014 another year of sorrow for the people of God. He's going to try to make it another year of pain. He's going to try to leave a path of destruction thru the year 2014, just like he did thru 2013. We are not ignorant of his devices. We know that he is up to something, but we also know that God is up to something. The prophet tells us in Malachi 3:11, *"And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts."* Oh, what a promise to hold onto, that God said He would rebuke the devourer for His people's sake. Not for the angels' sake, not for the prophets' sake, and not for the patriarchs' sake, but for **YOUR** sake. So when you hear the roar of the enemy and he tries to paralyze you with fear of the unknown, just remember that God said that He would rebuke the enemy. Brother or Sister, lift up your head and be encouraged, for we are closer now to the coming of the Lord than we have ever been. Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

- Sarei JoLene McDaniels born to Shawn and Reitha (Johnson) McDaniels 11/21/13, 7 lbs. 15 oz.
- Marianna Colette Henley born to Donald and Sara (Pennington) Henley 12/1/13, 6 lbs. 14 oz.
- Anna Hope Ritchie born to Josh and Amanda Ritchie 12/19/13, 6 lbs. 12 oz.
- Anna Elizabeth Thomas born to Jon and Sara (Brown) Thomas 12/19/13, 5 lbs. 6 oz.

DEANS LIST FALL 2013 3.90 and above		Honor Roll Fall 2013 3.50 and above	
Martin, Judson..... 4.00	Binkley, Ethan ..... 4.00	Hensley, Andrew ..... 3.889	Benner, Charity ..... 3.829
Martin, Jamin ..... 4.00	Hutson, Jonathan..... 4.00	Jackson, Ryan..... 3.889	Boyer, Bethany..... 3.813
Moreino, Charity..... 4.00	Presley, Jeron..... 4.00	Fouts, Rachelle ..... 3.897	Ennis, Jonathan ..... 3.811
Rogers, Joshua ..... 4.00	Johnston, Courtney.... 4.00	Blair, Shae..... 3.889	McLarty, Christi..... 3.793
Heath, Matthew ..... 4.00	Carlisle, Angela ..... 4.00	Cole, Faith ..... 3.889	Barros, Katie ..... 3.769
Hiles, Benjamin ..... 4.00	Rice, Maria ..... 4.00	Embry, Jackson ..... 3.889	Richardson, Allison ..... 3.769
Hooper, Keirstan ..... 4.00	Bradley, Suzanna ..... 4.00	Monday, Makayla ..... 3.889	Hensley, Emily ..... 3.769
Dodson, Jerris ..... 4.00	Hamill, Atalie ..... 4.00	Malone, Justin ..... 3.873	Lindenborn, Joey ..... 3.769
Seman, Stephanie ..... 4.00	Stoughton, Jeremy ..... 4.00	Boggs, Deidre ..... 3.872	Burns, Andrew..... 3.722
Benner, Ceslie..... 4.00	Webb, Alecia..... 4.00	Frazier, Faith..... 3.854	Satterwhite, Jordan ..... 3.722
Bernard, Sarah ..... 4.00	Fiocoprile, Justin ..... 4.00	Belt, Adriene ..... 3.846	Daugherty, Kenny..... 3.722
Brock, Rachel ..... 4.00	Brown, Tyler ..... 4.00	Overstreet, Alissa..... 3.842	Ison, Caleb..... 3.667
Cornett, Chelsea..... 4.00	Chan, Brittney ..... 4.00	Funck, Lisa ..... 3.833	Urban, Luke..... 3.667
Cravett, Colton..... 4.00	Bradley, Ben..... 4.00	Mazac, Trevor ..... 3.833	Driscoll, Caleb ..... 3.659
Rice, Keith..... 4.00	Gaines, Megan ..... 4.00	Romero, Chris ..... 3.833	Johnson, Mikayla ..... 3.657
Shoemaker, Ben..... 4.00	Miles, James..... 4.00	Carr, Charity..... 3.829	Gabbard, Darla ..... 3.625
Swanson, Lana..... 4.00	Miles, Timothy ..... 3.949	Derr, Bethany ..... 3.829	Wilson, Tayler ..... 3.625
Parker, Jessica..... 4.00	Rapp, Davey ..... 3.949	Margeson, Jeremy ..... 3.829	Shumpert, Daniel ..... 3.625
Akers, Nathan..... 4.00	Shelton, Kristin ..... 3.938	Zerbel, Seth ..... 3.829	Dixon, Allison ..... 3.561
Smith, Dacia..... 4.00	Martin, Cindra ..... 3.931	Lowery, Trey ..... 3.829	Crafton, Callie..... 3.561
	The above are listed in order of hours carried.		Escalante, Joaquin..... 3.556
			Benner, Hope..... 3.538

**2013-2014  
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