

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



"A place where God can help Himself to young lives." *Founder D. C. Branham*

The STANDARD BEARER

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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
Fall Semester Registration
August 30 and September 1, 2014



For more information visit: www.obicollege.com or call (417) 451-2057
 Application should be made 30 days prior to registration dates

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"
 (Romans 6:16).



BACK TO SCHOOL REVIVAL
 September 2-7, 2014
 Special Speaker
 Stacey Floyd
 Gable, SC

Want to receive the Standard Bearer by e-mail? Simply send an e-mail to: psobi@hotmail.com and request to be added to the Standard Bearer mailing list for e-mail.

BIBLE HOLINESS CONVOCATION

October 13 - 16, 2014

906 Summit Street, Neosho, Mo

Monday
7:00 P.M.

Evening Prayer
6:30 P.M.

Tues. & Thurs.
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday
7:00 P.M.

Morning Prayer
9:30 A.M.

Morning Speaker
10:30 A.M.



Daniel E. Taylor
Neosho, MO



Mike Shelton
Neosho, MO



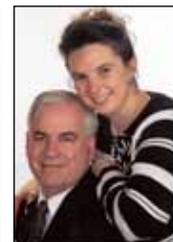
Tim Fouts
Salem, KY



Doug Presley
Sand Springs, OK



Gene Canter
Neosho, MO



Doug Webb
Brooks, KY

Children's
Service
10:30 A.M.

Youth
Service
Tue. & Thur.
2:30 P.M.
Speakers
TBA

HOW TO ESCAPE BEING LOST FOR ETERNITY!



By President Daniel E. Taylor

“Ye serpents, ye generations of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell” (Matthew 23:33).

The first six words of verse 33 are “a form of address.” It is a little more potent than for instance, “Dear Pharisee.” But it is a description of who Jesus was talking to in Matthew 23. But I am not speaking of that Pharisaical crowd, nor am I here to elaborate on serpents or vipers. **What I want us to do is consider the seriousness of the question Jesus asked the Pharisees.** When the word “damnation” is used to refer to a future state as in our text, the word means eternal separation from God with accompanying awful punishment. So the phrase, “damnation of hell” means: (1) Eternal separation from God. And, (2) awful, terrible punishment in hell!

Over the years people have tagged many places with the descriptive name “hell.” Such as concentration camps, prisons, boot camp, and even a difficult relationship. **But only the real hell lives up to its name—“everlasting punishment.”**

“Damnation” comes in degrees. The severity of the punishment is determined by the degree of the sin. *“And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of*

him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more” (Luke 12:47-48).

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation” (Matthew 23:14).

But damnation is not the theme of this message, neither is hell. The Holy Ghost impressed me to preach to you about **escape**. How can you “**escape the damnation of hell?**” The danger I want to warn you about is that sin leads to “bondage,” then “enslavement,” then “eternal hell.”

First, sin leads to bondage! It gets hold of you with addictions to tobacco, drugs, alcohol, pornography, or just plain worldliness. **Second, sin leads to enslavement.** After it binds you, then it makes you work for it. Like a heroin addict trying to get a fix. Many people are living a life of enslavement to the devil and they have to do what he says. **Third, if the bondage and enslavement of sin is not somehow broken, sin eventually leads to eternal hell!**

The most terrible thing about hell is the fact that once there, you can’t get out! You can escape bondage and enslavement, but not hell. The Bible has a lot to say about the subject of *how shall (we) escape the damnation of hell?* Let me ask three pointed questions.

I. ARE WE CARELESS?

Do we realize how precious our salvation is? *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”* (Hebrews 2:3). This is a rhetorical question meaning the answer should be obvious. Paul asked this question of a group of Hebrew Christians that were drifting back in to Judaism. But the same question

applies to anyone that embraces faith in Jesus, and then starts to drift back into their old way of life.

My former pastor, Brother Winstead, often pointed out, **“A sinner rejects salvation, but a saint neglects it.”** The most dangerous sort of carelessness is carelessness with your salvation. It was asked in a Sunday School class, “What is the first consideration you should make when making a new decision in your life?” I said, “for example a new job?” The visiting preacher said, “The money.” The sad thing was that he was serious. The first questions you ask before you make any move in your life is, **“How will this affect my spiritual life? How will this affect my relationship with Jesus?”**

Let me ask all of us a question, but especially young people and young married couples: **What is the most precious possession that you have?** If you said anything other than your salvation, you are not thinking clearly. Jesus does not insist on being first in your life because He is selfish, but because He loves you! Your born-again experience and what the Lord does for you through that experience is what gives you hope of a happy and meaningful life! We have seen what happens to young people that get out of church. It is not pretty. Are you being careless with your salvation? **How shall we escape disaster in this life and hell in the next if you neglect your salvation?** Another thing we should consider *(Continued on page 3)*

Daniel E. Taylor, *Editor-in-Chief*

Wallace E. Joice, *Editor* Carol J. Joice, *Graphic Art*

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when we ask ourselves, **“How shall (we) escape the damnation of hell?”**

II. ARE WE ALERT?

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety: then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (I Thessalonians 5:2-3).

The rapture will happen so quickly that no one will have time to change their spiritual status. As we see the end times unfold, I can now see how that this generation can be so oblivious to what these things mean. People that have attended a Bible-believing church all their life are ignoring **“the signs of the times.”** It is no surprise that the world is oblivious. **The great falling away is now in progress, so that means the great tribulation is not far away.**

We tend to think that the signs of the times ought to cause people to repent and turn to God. But the **“strong delusion”** that gets them to believe a lie and be damned is now in effect. There have been earthquakes in divers places, but the newspapers have played it down. Why? Because of **“strong delusion.”** Oceans turn to blood and fish die because of all the oil rigs, nuclear plants, etc. So we can see how the plagues or vials will happen. But many are oblivious.

Even if you exclude the rapture, life itself is uncertain. When I was in Virginia, I talked to an old acquaintance at a church. His dad was a preacher and he worked at a factory for thirty-plus years to supplement his income. The day after he retired, he had a massive heart attack and died. He didn’t suspect he had heart problems. Thank God, he was saved and faithful in his walk with the Lord, but many are not. And we have no promise that we will spend tomorrow

in this world. So be alert. **“The Lord so cometh as a thief in the night,” which means sudden and unexpected!**

Another question we should consider when we ask ourselves, *“How shall (we) escape the damnation of hell”* is:

III. ARE WE DECEIVING OURSELVES?

“But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things, And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?” (Romans 2:2-3).

Do we realize how easy it is for us to focus on other people’s problems and not take care of our own? We know that the judgment of God will be assessed accordingly to all sins which I have thus far mentioned. I am sure you denounced these sins when you saw someone doing **“such things,”** but my question is, “How can you do the same things yet think you will escape the judgment of God? Are we deceiving ourselves?”

King David wasn’t the last one to get irate about what he heard someone else had done, yet didn’t recognize the horrible thing he had done to Uriah. The way a person can condemn someone of **“such things”** and then do the same **“such things”** is that they **deceive themselves!** One of the most dangerous things that a serious-minded Christian needs to watch out for is “watching out for other people’s mistakes so much you fail to notice your own.”

Now let me ask you this question. If I told you how to escape being condemned for sin at the judgment, would you be willing to do it? I hope your decision is yes. If so, **here is how to escape being lost for eternity.**

I. The first escape is salvation, where we escape the consequence of sins of the past! Everybody has

sinned to some degree or another and needs salvation. A man named Chuck stopped at a traffic light. The jolt and crunching sound let him know he had been hit. The driver in the car behind him decided he would **escape** dealing with the police so he backed up and left. But the fleeing driver left something behind—his front license plate. When the policeman came he picked up the plate, and walked to the patrol car to use his radio. He said to Chuck, “Someone will be waiting for this guy when he gets home. He won’t get away with this.” That’s the way it is with sin. We won’t get away with it. We must be saved!

So the first thing all of us must do is confess our sins to God, and ask Jesus to be our Savior and believe that He has saved us. Brenda and I did that on October 17, 1976 on a Sunday night at Bristow Assembly of God Church. Many of you are like me, you have made that decision already. There are some of you that need to make that decision today.

II. The second step is Holy Ghost power that enables you to recognize and resist the temptation to become entangled in sin again. For all of us that are saved and know that we are, this point applies to us. We need to take advantage of the God-given power of the Holy Ghost that enables us to continue serving the Lord. First Peter 1:5 says, *“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”* Which means, the power of God is available to guard and keep you saved. It operates through your faith, until you enter fully into salvation which will take place in the end.

The Holy Ghost is the power sent from God to help us live out our earthly life in the will of God. **After you are saved, you need Divine help to stay saved!** (Continued on page 4)

The Holy Ghost is sent from God to provide you with all the help you need to successfully reach heaven. The reason it is so important for you to stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit is: **First, the Holy Spirit enables you to recognize when something comes along that is dangerous to your spiritual life.** It can be many different things. A certain job, a relationship, an amusement, music or entertainment.

Secondly, the Holy Spirit enables you to resist the temptation to start doing things again from which you have once been delivered. The devil often tries to reintroduce us to things from which God has saved us. And he doesn't do it all at once! So let the Holy Ghost help you escape temptation to go back on God.

The third step is the residual power of the blood of Jesus that makes revival possible. Let me tell a little story that will help you understand what I mean by "residual power." When I worked for Jess Poe, I ran the lumber yard and we carried a lot of hardware store items. One day I was delivering some things to the job and the customer wanted some bee spray. We carried several so I asked Mr. Poe which would be the best. He said, "Raid, it's residual." He could see the confused look on my face so he explained, "It means not only will it kill bees on contact but residual means it will kill bees that try to return to the nest."

This is the principle John is teaching in First John 1: 6, 7, that the blood is residual if we walk in the light that the Holy Ghost sheds on the things in our life. Notice how John says it works. *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,*

and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." If we ignore the Holy Ghost and do sinful things again, we may say that we are still saved and that we are still living right. But the truth that is proven by our conduct says, "you're lying." On the other hand if we make a mistake and sin, then immediately the Holy Ghost sheds light on our sin. And remember, He is able to do this if we are in fellowship with Him. Then we turn around right then and repent and the blood is residual, meaning it takes care of sins that come back after the first ones were killed.

I hope I am clear about the residual power of the blood. I am not saying like an eternal securitist that after you are saved, the blood automatically takes care of all your current sins whether you confess them or not. That is not what is being said in First John 1:7. Neither am I saying that every time you make a mistake you have to get saved all over again.

I find in First John 1:6-10 the scripture reads like this: *"If we say we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:"* (If we start sinning again and blow it off and insist we are still saved and walking with the Lord, we are lying), *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."* (If we sin and the Spirit reveals it to us, and we repent, the blood covers it and we move on.) *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."* (If we say that our sin is not a sin, then we deceive ourselves and we no longer know the truth that sets us free.) *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all*

unrighteousness." (On the other hand, if we acknowledge the truth and confess our sins, Jesus is faithful to forgive us and He is justified in doing so because the blood still has power.) *"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."* (But if we say we didn't sin when God knows we did, then we are calling God a liar. So, it is obvious His Word is not in our heart.) In John 2:1-2, *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: "* (The best case scenario is—don't sin. But if you mess up and sin, remember your Savior is alive and well and in the perfect position to help you.) *"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."* (He is still the one that can pay the price for your sins as well as He can pay for the sins of all the lost in the world.)

Here is the sum of what you have heard in this sermon. I have told every person regardless of spiritual classification how to escape being lost for eternity. Whether you are completely unsaved or you are a devout Christian or anything in between.

Now I want you to answer my question, "If I told you how to escape being condemned for sin when you get to the judgment, would you be willing to do it?" I have answered the question, *"How can ye escape the damnation of hell?"* If you have sinned, then you need to start by praying and asking God to forgive you, for Jesus' sake. I don't know who needed to read this message today, but you and God know. Making a definite decision at an altar call is the best way to make a definite change in your life, so **now** is your opportunity.

Just a little while to stay here, Just a little while to wait, Just a little while to labor, In the path that's always straight.

OZARK CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

By Daniel E. Taylor



Recently I received a visit from a foreign pastor. He is the leader of a Pentecostal fellowship in his native land. A team from Ozark Christian Missions comprised of staff and Ozark Bible Institute students had ministered in their annual camp meeting a while back. There was such a powerful presence of the Holy Ghost in those services that the national pastors recognized their need of a deeper Pentecostal experience.

Over the years, Pentecostal people have tried academics and degrees as a means of improving their ministry. Some have mixed new fads with old traditions, all to no avail. What impressed those pastors so much was the sovereign moves of God. They said, "We want that! How can we get it?"

The answer to these pastors is this, "You need the power of God that accompanies a sanctified life. If you want the spirit to move in your churches you must open up and welcome the holiness of the Holy Ghost. A desire for God's holiness is the only way to create an environment where the Holy Spirit can move and

work. Education, tradition, new fads, or gimmicks, won't produce real spiritual power in the church, but a desire for God's holiness will."

The Lord is giving us opportunities worldwide to make a difference. The doors are opening faster than we can step through them. Please pray that God will provide the resources necessary for us to finance this work.

This summer Ozark Christian Missions has two missions intern trips scheduled. Approximately twenty students will participate. Joshua Ritchie will lead a group of students going to work with Brother Doug and Sister Anna Presley in Germany. Brother Canter and myself will take a group to Latur, India to work with Brother Benjamin Dupte and his father, Brother Y. M. Dupte.

The students raise money to cover their personal expenses such as airfare, food, and lodging. The rest of the expenses are covered by Ozark Christian Missions.

- This includes instructor's airfare and lodging.
- The material used in the pastor's school and children's work.
- The food, lodging and travel expense for the pastors that attend the classes.

Ozark Christian Missions will spend roughly \$25,000.00 to sponsor two missions experiences for the

students. It is the opportunity of a life time for some of these kids. But we need your help! I've been in the ministry a long time and I have never seen a mission's endeavor with more potential than what Ozark Christian Missions is doing now. Training national pastors, training OBI students, ministering to children, and conducting an evangelistic campaign all in one thrust, is truly maximizing time and resources!

Already we are planning for the summer of 2015. We are looking at trips to South Korea, Africa, and India, along with other venues that appear to be opening. If you feel the Lord would want you to help us, send your offering to Ozark Christian Missions, P. O. Box 398, Neosho, MO 64850 and designate it for the Mission Intern Program. It would be a tremendous blessing to these young people and it will be an experience that will change people's eternal destiny. Pray about helping Ozark Christian Missions.

If you would be interested in having a representative from Ozark Christian Missions come to your church for a service and present our vision, please contact our director, Brother Gene Canter at 417-592-6743 or: genecanter@gmail.com

OBI Guatemala Update

THE TIMELESSNESS OF THE GREAT COMMISSION



Mike & Eilzabeth Pennington with Ziona

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

The only time that Jesus left the border of Palestine was when

his parents fled with him as a child into Egypt to escape the brutality of a jealous king Herod. Despite not

having traveled far from His earthly birthplace, the vision and hope that Jesus cast for mankind covers the globe with all of its people groups. He excluded no one from the tremendous blessing of hearing and believing His message of salvation.

There is a universality and timelessness about the teachings of Jesus that spans the centuries

and touches the problems and circumstances of each successive contemporary generation. His parables and the vital spiritual information that He shared are as relevant now as when He first uttered them. Though the external conditions of life have changed vastly, human depravity and our need for redemption are as evident *(Continued on page 6)*

today as when the master physically walked on the planet. God's truth and love remain the only foundation upon which a decent orderly society can be structured in our time, just as in the first century A. D.

The students attending the Bible school in Guatemala are preparing to help fulfill the command that Jesus gave to His disciples. The dedicated faculty and staff that are involved in this training have this high purpose in focus as they labor for the Lord. Our pastors in the churches connected with the mission minister to their congregations with this commission in mind. Every Christian who prays for and financially gives to responsible missionary endeavors contributes to the ultimate fulfillment of the plan of God for the ages of time, and for eternity.

Times change, but the Word that Christ brought abides. May God grant that it may capture and claim our minds and hearts for the healing of the nations. Thank you for your prayers for this mission work.

For souls, The Penningtons



Current staff at Bible school left to right: Director - Juan Carlos, Secretary - Ediberta, Women's supervisor - Magda, Cook - Maria, Maintenance/men's supervisor - Abdiel



Children in service at La Cuchilla, Guatemala



Brother Pennington playing the harmonica prior to preaching at minister's conference in Santa Anna, El Salvador



Current student from Costa Rica ministering to children at a church in Atraz Cerco, El Salvador



Congregation worshipping at outreach service in Santa Rita, Guatemala



Pastor Ramirez with member in our church at Prados

Editor's Notes



THE POWER OF JOHN 3:16

By Editor Wallace E. Joice

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *the following story was told by Assembly of God missionary, Dean Galyen, at the 1995 Light-for-the-Lost Banquet. I was so impressed by the story that I had Sister Joice buy the tape and transcribe it. I have since told it several times, always with telling effect.)*

About twenty years ago, a man walked into the capitol of Zimbabwe, then called Rhodesia. He was handing out free New Testaments to those he felt led to hand them to. And if you know Africans, you know that they are

going to accept that very readily.

He approached a certain young man on the street corner and the man's very stance spoke of rebellion. He offered him the free New Testament and the young man said, "No, I don't want the thing."

The one offering the Bible said, "You don't understand. I am giving this to you free. It's a gift. You don't pay a thing for it. Here it is."

And the young man said, "You don't understand. I don't want that thing even if it is free."

The one offering the New Testament said, "But maybe you don't understand fully yet. I am offering you the Bible. This is the Word of God.

It's changed hundreds of lives. It's really something that you want."

And the young man said, "I don't want it."

The one offering it pressed even further, "You've got to have this. I mean this is a significant book."

The young man said, "I'll tell you what. I'll take it, but I want you to know this. I am gonna roll up every page, one at a time. I'm gonna roll my cigarette tobacco in it, and I'm gonna smoke that book."

The man who was handing him the Bible said, "alright, I'll give this to you. You can smoke it if you'll just make this deal with me, if you promise to read the page before you *(Continued on page 7)*

smoke it." And the young man agreed and took the Bible.

That was the end of the story for near twenty years. The man who handed out the Bible is now the head of the American Bible Society in Zimbabwe. He was in a certain meeting and a man was preaching. Halfway through the sermon, he turned around and pointed at the Bible man, and said, "you don't recognize me. You don't remember me, but 19 years ago I was a rebellious

young man standing on a street corner. You approached me, and you gave me a New Testament. We struck a deal. I was gonna smoke that book, but you made me promise to read each page before I smoked it, and I want you to know something. **I smoked my way through Matthew. I smoked my way through Mark. I smoked my way through Luke. But when I got to John 3:16, I read about a God who loved me so much that He gave His only**

begotten Son. I couldn't smoke any further, but I fell to my knees and I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, and today I am a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

This is the power of the printed page and this is the power of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Dean's List and Honor Roll Spring 2014

DEAN'S LIST SPRING 2014		HONOR ROLL (3.50 and above)	
Rachelle Fouts4.00	Justin Fioccoprile.....4.00	Candace Smith3.860	Timothy Miles3.707
Jamin Martin.....4.00	Courtney Johnston ...4.00	Hannah Baker3.842	Thomas Hammond.....3.706
Charity Moreino4.00	Trey Lowery4.00	Jackson Embry3.842	Brittany Frederick.....3.684
Seth Zerbel.....4.00	Justin Malone4.00	Jordan Satterwhite.....3.842	Deidre Boggs.....3.684
Joshua Rogers4.00	Jeremy Margeson.....4.00	Lana Swanson3.842	Faith Frazier3.657
Ethan Binkley.....4.00	Cindra Martin4.00	Brittney Chan.....3.829	Hannah McCoy3.657
Rachel Brock4.00	Jonathan Hutson4.00	Allison Dixon3.829	Stephanie Toro3.657
Jerris Dodson.....4.00	Angela Carlisle4.00	Charity Benner3.829	Charity Carr3.657
Keith Rice.....4.00	Maria Rice.....4.00	Megan Gaines3.829	Bethany Derr3.657
Stephanie Seman4.00	Jeremy Stoughton4.00	Mikayla Johnson.....3.829	Trevor Mazac.....3.632
Bethany Boyer4.00	Katie Barros.....4.00	Zachary Williams.....3.829	Forrest Switzer3.632
Karla Bragg4.00	Mary Kirkland.....4.00	Andrew Burns3.813	Ryan Jackson3.625
Rebecca Coffey.....4.00	Sarah Luper.....4.00	Chelsea Cornett3.813	Zachary Jackson3.625
Jeron Presley4.00	Taylor Wilson.....4.00	Darla Gabbard.....3.813	Alissa Overstreet3.625
Ben Hiles.....4.00	Alecia Webb4.00	Andrea Patton3.813	Caleb Bontrager3.586
Jessica Parker4.00	Janine Niswonger4.00	Christi McLarty3.778	Adrienne Belt3.561
Davey Rapp4.00	Ben Bradley.....4.00	Judson Martin3.771	Colton Cravatt3.526
Nathan Akers4.00	James Miles4.00	Brandi McLarty3.771	Keirsten Hooper.....3.513
	* The above are listed in order of hours carried.	Suzanna Bradley.....3.750	Honor Roll is based on 12 hours or more and is listed according to GPA.
		Allison Richardson3.727	

CAMP PENIEL REPORT 2014

By Camp Director Terry Miles

Thank God for Camp Peniel! We want to say "thank you" for all your investments in keeping Camp Peniel a place where young people can meet God "Face to Face." The benefits of Camp Peniel are long lasting.

God visiting His people with His presence is of utmost importance. Today, July 8, 2014, I received a text from Brother Micah Perry. It read, "Fifteen years ago today I had my Camp Peniel! I have never been the same! So thankful!"

Rebecca had been praying that those attending camp this year would receive an

experience like Micah Perry did. That same spirit of 'consecration' that was at camp in 1999 is the same spirit that was here in 2014. We look forward to hearing and seeing the results of God meeting young people face to face. God bless each of you with the spirit of consecration.



Best Campers Of The Year
 Youth boy- Nathaniel Harris
 Youth girl- Kemberleigh Kimble
 Children's boy-Joshua Sampson
 Children's girl-Giovanna Riggs



Water Slide



Altar Time



By Lonny Adams
OBI graduate 2006

ENCOURAGEMENT

Summer break for students seems to be shorter now than ever. By now, youth camp is in the books, and it's time for school supplies, clothes, and schedules to change again. Any students returning to a public school, or young people living in a difficult circumstance, or, for that matter, anyone who is trying to live for Christ in a fallen world, can find needed encouragement in the familiar old story from *Daniel Chapter 6*.

Daniel Prayed

Daniel loved God with his whole heart, but he was living in a place and time when that was not popular, or really, even safe! Daniel remained faithful to God in prayer, and risked his life to do so. You see, Daniel had a God-given spirit of excellence that showed in all that he did. He also had character and faithfulness. Those who grew jealous of him or hated him, searched hard to find something to use against Daniel (they always will), but couldn't. So, they made it wrong for him to do the very thing that made him find favor with God and the king. ***Daniel could no longer pray.*** Make no mistake, we are living in a time when they call evil good, and good evil. Satan is doing his best to break your resolve to stand for God. Daniel's resolve was unbroken. Daniel prayed. No matter what, he stayed faithful. Let the same be said of us!

God Protected

The law was sealed with the king's own authority. As badly as he wanted to change the result of all of this, King Darius was bound by his own law to throw Daniel into the den of Lions. Daniel's character and his faithfulness seemed to be the things that brought on the trial. It still seems that way sometimes, but I'll tell you how I feel about that. I'd rather have my life in danger because I was faithful to God than to feel safe in this world because I folded to the pressure. Just before Daniel faced the lions, the king said something about God that he must have learned from Daniel's devotion. ***"He will deliver thee."*** That's just what God did. He turned Daniel's doom into a miracle. He protected faithful Daniel. No doubt, many people had died in the den, but not Daniel!

The King Praised

King Darius, after a restless night, without food, or entertainment, came to the den where Daniel was supposed to die, and asked this question: ***"Is thy God ... able to deliver thee?"*** The answer? "YES!" Daniel was able to say that because he served God and honored the king, God DID deliver him. So, to the most powerful king known to man at that time, the answer was clear - Daniel's God is the living God. Those who had it out for Daniel received the judgment after all, and the king gave honor to Daniel, and to God. Friend, stay faithful to God, and in due time he will exalt you, and those around you will know, YOUR God is the true and living God!



THANK YOU

Thank you doesn't seem to be enough to express our gratitude for the thoughtfulness expressed in the recognition we received for the commemoration of our fortieth year of directing the Overcomer's choir here at Ozark Bible Institute and College.

We were truly overwhelmed by the generosity of the Alumni, and the many friends and acquaintances we've made over these many years!

God has been good to help us throughout our years of labor here, so that it seems but just a few years, and not nearly so many! If God judges us faithful, maybe He will allow us to serve Him in this manner till He comes! We trust that won't be long now!

David and Lorraine Branham

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Births

Gene and Amy (Thomas) Garcia welcomed Daniel Luis on January 4, 2014. He weighed in at 5 pounds 6 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Aaron and Jackie Gilpin are the proud parents of a little boy, Lincoln Ezekiel. Lincoln was born on April 29. He weighed 9 pounds 11 ounces.

Jeremy and **Laura (Kaser) Heath** welcomed a little girl, Amelia Damaris, on May 28. She weighed 8 pounds 1 ½ ounces and was 19 ½ inches long.

Wedding

Matthias DeMent and Nicole King were united in marriage on May 23, 2014. Congratulations.