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"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).

"THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM"



By President Daniel E. Taylor

In Luke 4:14-21, we read, *"And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to*

the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."

Most churches have some sort of Christmas program. We usually have two or three things going on, but in smaller churches usually they do a Christmas play. Christmas plays can kill people, especially pastors. Actors are so temperamental! We did one at Brother Winstead's church back in 1978. I was chosen to play the part of a pastor. My oldest son was two months old, and he and his mama played Jesus and Mary. The name of the program was "That Stupid Christmas Play." My favorite part was Brother Joe Lowery playing a humbug of a husband. One of his lines was, "Every woman in town is out shopping and learning how to drive at the same time."

The main problem I noticed with a Christmas program is people liked the idea and wanted to **do it**, until it came time to actually **do it!**

In the paper I saw where a church had a marvelous idea. They had a one man dramatization of Dickens, "The Christmas Carol." He played

all fourteen characters: Scrooge, Jacob Marley, the three ghosts, Bob Cratchit, and Tiny Tim. Amazing! No need for any character to have an understudy! With the same person playing every part, either they all show or nobody shows! It was quite a one-man show, but it was nothing compared to the one-man show programmed in our text. That's how the original program was done; one person played all the parts.

Jesus read the list of parts He would play in the salvation drama and then in Luke 4:20-21 it reads: *"And he closed the book, and gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."* Every part of salvation's plan, Jesus stars in that part: Jesus is the lamb, scapegoat, turtle doves, pigeons, the high priest, everything! That's why Paul tells the Colossians in 3:11, *"...Christ is all, and in all."*

Look at Luke 4:18-19 as the inspiration for **The Real Christmas Program.**

SCENE ONE: "PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL TO" (Cont. page 2)



HAPPY THANKSGIVING – MERRY CHRISTMAS

From the Staff and Faculty of Ozark Bible Institute and College



THE POOR."

This is **good—news** in a world where a person's value is measured by material things. How handsome or pretty, their dress size, the value of their car, or the balance in their checkbook. I guess all of us at some point have had a reason to dislike poverty. One day when I was complaining, my Mama said, "Danny, God must love poor folks since He made so many of us." Mama knew what poor really was. My brother-in-law, Wilson, said he was so poor growing up his Mama tied a string to a pork chop so each kid could eat it! The dogs in my neighborhood learned that if someone threw them a bone, they better call for a fair catch or half a dozen of us kids would tackle them!

My father-in-law used to say "it ain't a sin to be poor, but it is very inconvenient." Joe Louis said of his money: "I don't necessarily love it, but it quiets my nerves." There was a picture of a striking factory worker carrying a sign that said: "Time heals all wounds, time and a half heals them faster." **The Good News is that if a poor person gets saved, they won't be poor forever!**

SCENE TWO: "HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED."

Jesus read from Isaiah 61. It says "bind up the brokenhearted." In Luke 4: 18, it says "heal the brokenhearted." The outcome is the same, but the passage in Isaiah reminds us that the healing of a broken heart is a process. I've seen quite a few broken hearts, but I've never seen one instantaneously healed. It always takes time. There are so many heartbreaking experiences in the average life time. It is hard for a young person to grasp, but romantic heartbreak is the easiest for a Christian young person to recover from. You would be surprised how many young people that were so heartbroken when

a relationship fell through, that they thought it is was the end of the world. Actually, it was the beginning of their finding the right one!

Sadly, there are a lot of other heartbreaking experiences that don't heal so quickly. That is why they must be "bound up!" And thank God Jesus knows how. Having a **heart** is a dangerous thing. Why? Because it is going to get broken no matter how much you try to protect it. But the alternative is to be like the Tin Man in the Wizard of Oz who didn't have a heart.

In Dickens' story, *The Chimes*, there is a conversation between Trotty and Jenny Wren. Jenny asked, "Would it be better to never love someone than to have to eventually go through the pain of losing them?" Trotty thinks of his late wife and deceased daughter and says, "No, it is not better to never love. It is better to have loved and lost than to never have loved at all."

Jesus heals the broken heart by binding it up. **And the moment they step through heaven's gate, their broken heart is forever healed.**

SCENE THREE: PREACH DELIVERANCE TO CAPTIVES.

If you ever go to the White House in Washington D.C., don't miss the painting, "Five Minutes To Freedom." It shows a group of Afro-American slaves gathering in a church on December 31, 1862. A white-haired pastor is leaning on the pulpit. Slaves of all ages are standing all around—even a mother with an infant. In the center is the pastor's hand holding a watch and the time is five minutes to midnight—"Five Minutes To Freedom." Because on January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation took effect.

But there is a difference between freedom and deliverance. Imagine

you had been held prisoner in the jungles of the Congo. Suddenly one morning the cell door swings open and they told you, you are free! You walk out with nothing but the clothes on your back. If you were in the jungles of the Congo, you may be free, but you are a long way from being delivered. Try to imagine, you haven't any resources, no food, water, money, map, nor direction, just freedom! If all salvation did was free us from the bondage of our past sin, it wouldn't be long and we would be in worse shape than we were.

There are convicts that get out of jail, and soon they are right back where they came from. Why? They were free but not delivered.

When I got saved, I felt like I was free, but I was like the example of the guy from the Congo—I didn't know if I could make it home. But I learned that Jesus didn't come to just set me free, but He came to accompany me on the journey, and "deliver me from evil."

I shared with my class how that the Lord delivered me from rock music. I threw my eight track tapes in the trash except two or three, just in case I couldn't find my way out of the jungle. Ten years later, I found the old tape case and opened it. Then I remembered! I wasn't just set free, I was delivered!

I want you to understand these three facets of our Lord's program. This is "why" He came to Bethlehem as a baby, and died on Calvary as an offering for your sin. (Cont. on page 3)

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

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

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1) To proclaim the gospel to the poor. 2) To heal the brokenhearted. 3) To preach deliverance to the captives.

Look at the text in Luke 4:20. It tells us what Jesus did after he read from Isaiah 61:20, "And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on Him. And he began to say unto them, *This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*" What does that mean? Jesus is saying, you have heard these verses read by someone all your life. They are in the first person. Well, today you have heard them spoken by the One

who really said them. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

Now look at the next verse, Luke 4:22. It is sad if you think about it. "And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?" These people were so familiar with Jesus that they had lost their awe of him. Then Jesus pointed out the problem, "And he said unto them, *Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, physician heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.*"

Here is how these words apply to

us. You can be so used to church, to Christian teaching, preaching, moves of the Holy Ghost, that you lose **touch with its awesomeness.**

You may be suffering the pain of poverty and not believe that Jesus is your provider. You could have a badly broken heart, but you can't see even Jesus making it better. You could be bound by some addiction or sin, and think, I can't get free, I've tried!

Please, let the last thing Jesus said in Luke 4:20 get into your heart. "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears!" **Believe Jesus to be your all-sufficient Savior!**

Editor's Notes

THE HABIT OF THANKFULNESS



By Editor Wallace E. Joice

Among the exhortations of the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonian Church is, "In everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Dr. John Broadus, famed Southern Baptist preacher and educator, based one of his great sermons on this text. It has been a personal blessing to me. I wish we had space to publish it all, but since we don't, I want to share one of his illustrations.

In order to fully understand the illustration, let me relate that Dr. Broadus said that there are two circumstances in which we should be thankful. **First, we should be thankful to God for everything that is pleasant.** We have Satan to thank for nothing. The unchanging God is the giver of "Every good gift and every perfect gift" (James 1:17). **Second, we should be thankful to God**

for everything that is painful. That pretty well takes in everything. Now see this illustrated in the following story.

"The greatest of early Christian preachers, perhaps the greatest in all Christian history, was Chrysostom. (Editor's Note: He was originally known as John of Antioch. But because of his eloquence, he was called Chrysostom [golden mouth]. This was the ancient equivalent of 'silver tongued orator.') His motto was, 'Glory to God for all things.' He probably derived it from the story of Job, which was his favorite subject of devout meditation, and is mentioned in a large proportion of his eloquent sermons. You might fancy that it was easy for the young man to say, 'Glory to God for all things,' when he was growing up in Antioch, the idol of his widowed mother, with ample means, and the finest instructors of the age. You might think it easy to say this when he was a famous preacher, in Antioch, and afterwards in Constantinople, when ten thousand people crowded the great churches to hear him; though such a preacher could not fail to suffer profoundly through compassion for the perishing,

and anxious effort to reclaim the wandering, and sympathy for all the distressed, as well as with many a pang of grief and shame that he did not preach better. But Chrysostom continued to say this, when the Court at Constantinople turned against him, when the wicked Empress became his enemy, and compassed his banishment again and again. When his friends would go to far Armenia and visit him in exile, he would say to them, 'Glory to God for all things.' When he was sent to more distant and inhospitable regions, so as to be out of reach of such pious visiting, his letters were apt to end, 'Glory to God for all things.' And when the soldiers were dragging him through winter snows, and utterly worn out, he begged to be taken into a little wayside church that he might die, his last words, as he lay on the cold stone floor, were, 'Glory to God for all things.'"

Yes, in the blessings and the buffetings, God is working. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). Therefore, we can, "In everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).



By Gene Canter,
OCM Director
of development

OZARK CHRISTIAN MISSIONS THE PRESSING NEED

There is little question that this old world is in the throes and agony of the end times. One of the most expedient needs in missions is the sending forth of the **true gospel** to counteract the flood of false doctrine that is being propagated around the world. Many innocent, hungry people are being deceived by false doctrine. Jesus said in Matthew 24:5 *"For many shall come in my name . . . and shall deceive many."* Notice the word **"many,"** **"many shall come,"** and **"deceive many."** The deceivers' claim is that they come in the name of Christ, **"my name,"** and that they alone represent Christ's gospel. This intellectual approach to the gospel promises man a personal development that gives full expression to his carnal nature and appetites with little or no physical restrictions; no laws, no rules,

OBI Guatemala Update



**2004-2014
Tenth Anniversary**
*Brother & Sister
Pennington with Ziona*

A TITHE OF THANKSGIVING

"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan" (Luke 17: 15,16).

The story of the ten lepers that begged Jesus to have mercy on them, and followed his direction and were healed is a sad commentary on human nature. Only one of the ten returned to give thanks to the Lord for the miraculous work that happened in his life. Far too often

no requirements. There is a great need for the **true gospel** to be sent to all nations.

MINISTRY INVITATIONS AND STUDENT INFLUENCE

OCM has invitations to send three groups of young people, to three different fields of ministry during the summer of 2015. India, Korea, and Germany have all asked for ministering groups of OBI Students for summer ministry. One of the things we have noticed on the field is the impression that the holiness lifestyle makes on the local people. We preach and teach holiness in life, conduct and dress, but when the people see the message represented in the lives of the students they are drawn to make a personal commitment to a holy life. OBI students are having a great influence on the field; thank you for helping us send them.

STUDENT TRAINING

Part of the training for students in the mission internship program is teaching them how to raise funds to

cover the personal cost of their trip. One of the greatest responsibilities of those in full time missions work is developing a grassroots network of support. Students begin by developing their financial and prayer support groups.

OCM's OBLIGATION

As we have mentioned, students raise finances to cover the costs of their trip; however, there are additional costs to making this opportunity available to the students. One example: OCM had an additional outlay of \$23,000 to cover the cost of ministry to India this summer. The cost included: travel, food and housing for 120 pastors and their wives; the feeding of 400 to 800 people who gathered for the evening services; as well as travel, food and housing for the supervisory and teaching staff.

Would you consider including OCM in your monthly missions budget? Together we can carry on this very important and valuable mission work. God bless you for your prayer and financial support.

we fail to be grateful for the mercy of God in our lives. We should be adamant, vocal, and sincere in our expressions of thanksgiving to God.

This November, 2014, marks the tenth anniversary since Ozark Bible Institute assumed the oversight



**Brother Taylor, Brother Miles, and
Brother Pennington in front of
mission house-November 2004**

and financial responsibility for the mission work in Guatemala. There have been 127 students that have graduated in the last ten years, of which 61% are active in the ministry as pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and church workers. We are very appreciative of our faithful national staff who are (Continued on page 5)



**Graduation Ceremony
November 5, 2004**

dedicated to training young people for the work of the Lord, and for the many churches and individuals who faithfully pray for and support this mission with their contributions.

During the last ten years, we have also been able to be involved in over a dozen church building projects in Guatemala, thanks to the generosity and hard work of several teams of workers who have come down and labored hard, (many times in adverse circumstances), to see them accomplished. God has been good to all of us, and may we take time often to say, **"THANK YOU LORD!"**



**Graduates with Brother and Sister Pennington
October 18, 2014**

From Our Faculty



By David Schminkey
OBI Instructor

WHAT IS LEGALISM HOLINESS?

I've often heard part of First Samuel 16:7 quoted. "...man looketh on the **outward appearance**, but the LORD looketh on the **heart**." While that's true, a misunderstanding of that verse often causes confusion concerning what **true holiness** is (Ephesians 4:24). God wasn't telling Samuel that there is a difference between inward and outward holiness. Neither was He saying that the outward appearance that man can see isn't important (Matthew 5:16). And while it's easy to see the outward difference between worldliness and either holiness or legalism (see illustration at right), those who fail to see the importance of the outward appearance, often confuse holiness for legalism.

Nearly 800 years before the **Holy** Son of God spoke of the straight and narrow way, the **Holy** Spirit moved upon a **holy** man of old to write in the **Holy** Scriptures, describing it this way: "*And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called **The way of holiness**; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err*

therein" (Isaiah 35:8).

On the right side of that path lies the ditch of legalism. Like the Pharisee in Luke 18, travelers here feel they stand righteous before God based upon their works. They fail to understand **Romans 3:20** "*Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*" Often like the Pharisee, they are not only self-righteous, but are also judgmental of others who fail to meet **their** standards (Luke 11:11). Christ made it very clear in Matthew 5:20, "*...except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*"

On the left side of the path lies the ditch of worldliness/liberalism. Here the traveler fails to see the need to "have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts" (Gal 5:24). As they look across the path of holiness, and into the ditch of legalism, they see a similarity in outward appearance, and often **judge** the one believing in holiness as being a legalist (although they are quick to quote Matthew 7:1 to others). They "... *conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law*" (Romans 3:28), but fail to reconcile it with James 2:26 "*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith*

THREE KINDS OF APPLES



The Old Nature outwardly revealed **Worldliness**



The New Nature outwardly revealed **Holiness**



The Old Nature outwardly concealed **Legalism** *without works is dead also.*" And in failing to heed the warning of Romans 6:13 "*... if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds* (Continued on page 6)

of the body, ye shall live," they follow a dangerous path.

Between these two ditches lies **the way of holiness**. Which brings us to the question: What is holiness? Let's go back to the illustration of the apple. I grew up under a holiness preacher who was one of the finest pastors I ever had the privilege of meeting. Brother Booth used to tell the story of a relative he had in northern Missouri that liked hunting deer (but would illegally bait them). A few weeks before deer season opened, that person would buy a few crates of apples. He would scatter a few around on the ground, and then tie the rest to an old elm tree behind his house. The deer would get used to coming to eat the apples from the "apple" tree. And then when deer season would open, the man would walk onto his back porch, pick which deer he wanted, and then shoot it. Was that old **elm** tree an **apple** tree? Your initial response might be no, but what does Matthew 7:20 say? "*Wherefore by their **fruits** ye shall know them.*" The deer saw the apples, and were convinced it **was** an apple tree. Unfortunately for one of them, it **was** dead wrong. Just like the legalist trying to do good works to make himself righteous, tying apples onto the branches of an elm doesn't change what it is. If a person commits one sin, he/she could do a thousand good things that follow, but they are still a sinner, and need Christ.

Let's consider one more apple tree. Once when I was at Walmart's outside nursery, I noticed their apple trees were on sale. My wife is an excellent cook, and I very much like her homemade apple pies, so I decided to buy one. I took it home and followed the instructions very carefully. I dug a hole just the right size. I carefully removed the small plastic container from around the roots and soil. I placed it the ground and added fresh

topsoil as needed. And last of all, I even watered it. But as hard as this may seem to believe, when I came out the next morning, there were no apples on it to be found. What would you think if you worked at Walmart's customer service, and I came in the next morning demanding to return that tree for a refund. Imagine a conversation something like this:

"You sold me the wrong tree! This stupid thing was suppose to be an apple tree, but it's not. It's just a shade tree. I don't want a shade tree, and I don't like leaf pie!"

"But sir, what makes you think it's not an apple tree?"

"Don't you know the difference between a shade tree and an apple tree?" I don't say it out loud, but in my mind I think "Maybe I should be talking to a manager, this person doesn't even know what an apple tree is." After pointing to the picture of an apple tree that is tied to the tree I'm returning, I continue on. "Look at this picture. What do you see?"

"Well sir, that's an apple tree."

"And how do you know it's an apple tree?"

"Well sir, I can see the apples on it."

"My point exactly. Now look very closely. What do you see on this tree?"

"You're right sir, all there is on it is leaves. I'm so sorry. Someone must have packaged it wrong. Here's your refund, and have a good day."

This little story may seem silly, but the truth is, an apple tree is what it is, not because of the fruit it bears, but **because of its Nature**. But it's also true that because of that nature, one of two things must happen. Either that tree will die, or it will mature and bear the fruit that is a reflection of its nature (John 15:2). **Holiness is the Nature of God**. When we are born again, that new nature is instilled within us. "*According as his divine*

*power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of **the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust*" (2 Peter 1:3). I am made righteous before God, not because of my works (Isaiah 64:6), but because Christ's righteousness is both imputed and imparted unto me (1 Corinthians 1:30, Ephesians 2:10, and 4:24). And yet at the same time, I cannot continue to partake of His divine nature and walk after the flesh. Romans 6:6 says, "*For **to be carnally minded is death**; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*"

Paul Harvey used to like to tell: *The Rest of the Story*. A few years ago, I heard the end of the story of the man who used to tie apples onto his Elm tree. There came a day that he met the game warden. Some day, when we reach the end of the path, we are going to meet God. At the end of the straight road is a narrow gate. I don't want to be traveling in a ditch when I arrive there. I want to be walking in **the way of holiness**. But this is not the only reason for walking in this path. As Jeremiah 6:16 expresses, "... *ask for the old paths, where is **the good way**, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls,*" I want to please Him. Colossians 1:10 says, "*That ye might walk worthy of the Lord **unto all pleasing**, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.*"

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Any questions or comments should be directed to:

OBIGlobalRadio@gmail.com



By Academic Dean
Mike Shelton

INVESTING IN ETERNITY

There is a lot of talk about good investments. Some people invest in real estate, the stock market, or retirement plans. There is nothing wrong with making wise investments for the future. The investment that I would like to concentrate on in this article goes beyond the scope of time and enters into the realm of eternity.

Our Lord that purchased us with His own blood had something to say about investing in the true riches. ***"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"*** (Matthew 6:19-21).

These verses tell us where not to lay up our treasure, which is upon the earth, and where to lay up our treasure, which is in heaven. Verse 21 gives us the reason why. Our treasure or our investments will affect our hearts.

We can invest in a number of ways. We can invest our time, our talents, and our treasure.

TIME

How we use our time is very important because it shows ourselves, others and, more importantly, it shows the Lord what is important to us. We may say that the things of eternity are the most important things in our life, but the way we spend our time does not lie.

If we believe that prayer is important, then we will spend time praying. If we believe that the Lord wants us to win souls, then we will spend time trying to see God's kingdom built by actively participating in the great commission by spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We only have a certain amount of time to invest before it runs out. This truth tells me that we need to be about the Master's business. If we spend all of our time on temporal pursuits then we are going to lay

up too much treasure on earth and not enough in heaven.

Are we going to try to spend more time working so that we can live in a little nicer home or drive a classier vehicle, or are we going to spend some of our time on the eternal pursuit of the souls of men? There are people in other countries that walk miles to get to the house of God knowing that they are going to be persecuted for their faith. People that are being tortured and killed because of their Christian testimony and many in America cannot even find time to be in church two or three times per week because they are too busy laying up treasure on this earth.

I have heard people say that it is a waste to set aside time in your life to go to Bible School and learn about the eternal truths of God's Word. There are two things that are going to last when the world is on fire, the souls of men and the Word of God. Any time you are investing in either of those is not wasted.

A powerful verse of Scripture that the Lord has used to direct my heart is found in Second Timothy 2:3,4, *"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."*

TALENTS

What about our talents? The God-given abilities that the Lord has entrusted us with to use for the building of His kingdom. Some have been gifted musically, some mentally, and others have been granted the ability to influence others in a magnetic way. That is a talent given directly from the Lord.

How are we using those talents? Are we using them for temporal gain or eternal profit. If God has called you and given you talents, do not hold back on Him by merely using those talents to further your earthly pursuits.

Get involved in the work of God. Use your talents to build up God's kingdom and you will be laying up treasure in heaven.

The man that buried his talent was judged by the Lord and cast into the outer darkness of the lost souls' eternal destiny.

Our talents need to be developed to

their full potential and used for the work of God. There is no better place to increase your abilities than Bible school. You can exercise them through various ministry opportunities. There is personal prayer and fellowship with other like-minded peers that have a heart for the work of God.

TREASURE

Our treasure is a powerful indicator of what we really believe in. There have been some that have caught the vision to support students that attend OBI through the scholarship fund. There are others that have given towards the mission works of OCM and others that have given sacrificially through the years to the general operating expenses of the school. Our money can be spent on personal pleasure, it can be used to advance political causes, or to be laid up for an inheritance to future generations, but there is a great need to invest in ministries that are on the front lines that are sacrificially doing the work of the Lord at home and on foreign fields. It should be our desire to pray until God gives us a clear direction on how that He wants us to invest our finances so that it will benefit His kingdom. There are proven ministries that are worthy of support.

Some say it costs too much money to go to OBI. There are approximately one hundred days in a semester and the basic charge for a semester is \$2500. That is \$25 a day for food, a room, Brother Snow and Sister Barnes to wake you up in the morning and tuck you into bed at night. This also includes two to three great sermons a week by Brother Taylor, and classes taught by instructors with a heart for ministry. There are all kinds of outside ministry and extra-curricular activities. Let's be honest, you could not hire a baby sitter for that price. It does not cost too much if we set our priorities in order, and want to work toward our spiritual well-being as much as our natural inclination for comfort, gadgets, and personal pleasure.

Time, talents, and treasures are to be invested wisely and the greatest investment that a person can make is in things that are going to make a difference for all eternity.



Alumni In Action



By Alumni President Randy Snow

ACCESS IN A MANGER

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:1-2).

To have access means: a way of getting near to something or someone. As Christmas approaches us this year, I'm always reminded of how God found a way for us to have access to Him and His Kingdom. It's an awesome story that should never lose its joy. God as a fetus, Holiness sleeping in a womb, the Creator of life being created. As His eyebrows, elbows, two kidneys, backbone, and heart matured through each stage of development, Mary would have felt His precious feet kicking and His holy hands pushing inside her womb; born in a messy manger, with stinky shepherds and wrapped in swaddling clothes, heaven

was coming to earth. Why? Because God was making a way for you and I to have access. Love was making a way.

I have a precious lady in our church that has two children, and works three jobs. Yet, she is at every service with hands lifted, rejoicing and receiving strength from above. Why does she make church a priority? Love motivates her! Love makes a way! True love motivates to action. John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the world that He GAVE..." Love makes a way of access by faith.

When I was over the maintenance at OBI, I had many keys to doors all over the campus. However, there was one key that was my favorite it's called the master key. So the Lord has many treasures and secrets all shut up to the carnal man; yet, he who walks in fellowship with Christ possesses the Master key which will give him access to all the blessings of God. We've been granted ACCESS!

Love found a way to give us access. Christmas not only points to the access that was granted us in the past, but

it also points us to that Blessed Hope with which we will be given access to rejoice in. This very well may be our last celebration on this side of heaven!



Rev. Leon Rich
Tulsa, OK

WINTER REVIVAL

January 6-11, 2015

7:30 PM Tues. - Sat.

10:30 AM & 6:30 PM Sun.



DECISION DAYS 2015

March 19-22

A time for you as a prospective student to have a first hand look at OBI. High school juniors and seniors come free.

WONDERFUL CONVOCATION!

Thanks Be Unto God For His Grace To Mankind

On behalf of our entire OBI family, I want to thank you for being with us at Convocation 2014.

As always, I enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones. As the wheels of time bring us closer to the consummation of all things, we never know if this Convocation will be our last. If this was our last, I trust we will meet in Heaven. If it was not I plan to meet you next October 12-15, 2015.

By President Daniel E. Taylor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Births

- ◆ Seth and Anna (Crafton) Hoover are the proud parents of a new baby girl, Layla Grace, born September 10, 2014 weighing 5 lbs., 15 oz.
- ◆ Brad and Bethany (Crafton) Bohon have a new baby boy, Boston Aaron Michael, born October 3, 2014 weighing 6 lbs., 9 oz.
- ◆ Cheyenne and Hope (Harris) Benner have a new baby boy, Wayne Gabriel born November 3, 2014 weighing 8 lbs., 1 oz.

Marriage

- ◆ Anna (Harter) and Patrick Tuter were united in marriage on October 11, 2014.

Death Notice

- ◆ Michael King 1979 OBI graduate, graduated to his eternal home of heaven on October 12, 2014. Our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

EMMANUEL

"God with us"—

Under what disguise—!

A tiny helpless babe

First meets our searching eyes.

"God with us"—

Claiming not a throne—

But in the hearts of unworthy men

He makes His humble home—.

"God with us"—

In the midst of all our cares;

He cares for us so deeply,

We are always in His prayers.

"God with us"—

In that heavenly city;

No more heartaches, sorrows or tears—

"Together," it's glory for eternity!

James D. Martin (OBI graduate 1982)

2014-2015
Officers

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