

Ozark Christian Schools of Neosho  
PO Box 398, Neosho, MO 64850-0398  
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"A place where God can help Himself  
to young lives." *Founder D. C. Branham*

# The STANDARD BEARER

Volume 46, No. 1

January/February 2015

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

## JOURNEY INTO A NEW YEAR

Seeking His will in His Word,    Telling and singing His praise,    Worthy by His blood alone,  
Feeding on Manna so sweet,    Rejoicing His blessing to share,    I shall rise to be like Him at last.  
Receiving His Spirit outpoured,    Learning to walk in His ways.  
Worshipping low at His feet.    Looking above to His throne,    *By The Late Reverend A. N. Trotter*  
Yearning His likeness to bear,    Sin, sickness, sorrow all past,    (Reprinted with permission)

# 2015 DECISION DAYS MARCH 19-22

**THE FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS OF OZARK BIBLE INSTITUTE AND  
COLLEGE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND AND EXPERIENCE CAMPUS LIFE AT OBI**

- ◆ Sit in college classes
- ◆ Experience dorm life firsthand
- ◆ Allow God some quiet time in your life
- ◆ Hear The Overcomers Choir
- ◆ Attend services planned for you
- ◆ Get to know the instructors
- ◆ Eat in our dining hall
- ◆ Bring bedding, Bible, personals

For more information:

OBI Registrar, Bonnie Stoner  
OBI, 906 Summit St., PO Box 398  
Neosho, MO 64850-0398  
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Special Speaker



Tim, Aimee,  
and Judah Laurito

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Juniors or Seniors & qualifying graduates  
are free; all others are \$35.00





## HOPE AND HELP FOR 2015

By President  
Daniel E. Taylor

*“This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:21-23).*

The main reason God gave us the Bible is so we would have an enduring tangible, written reference to show why a Christian has **hope** as they face the problems of life. *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).*

Chuck Swindoll says a person can live forty days without food, eight days without water, six minutes without air, but they can’t live without hope. A person can exist without hope, but you can’t live!

When it says *“through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope,”* it means when we read of the endurance of people in the Bible and all the help God gave them back then, it encourages us to have hope in the problems we are facing now!

Do you feel like you are facing a hopeless situation? Like Paul and company in Acts 27:20, they were in a storm, and after many dark days all hope that they would be saved was taken away! Luke didn’t say “We thought all hope was gone,” he said emphatically that *“all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.”* What does *“then taken away”* mean? What happened that made Luke so certain “that we won’t survive this?” All the text says is that they didn’t see

a single ray of light for days and the storm just kept beating down on them.

But the next five verses reveal that all hope wasn’t gone. Paul prayed, and God changed things. That story was written in the Scriptures so we might have a reason for hope.

In First Corinthians 15:19 it says, *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable”* and in Colossians 1:5, *“For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;”* What are the three abiding qualities that every Christian needs? Faith, hope, and charity. Which of these is considered the greatest? It is charity or love. Does this mean the other two are unimportant? No, it means that the ability of our **faith** and **hope** to do things in our Christian life depends on the strength of our Christian love, **agape** love. We need all three! If you had faith and hope but no love, you’d be like Jonah. If you had love but no faith or hope you’d be like the woman at Nain. It takes all three, but to function like God desires for us to function, we must have **love**. The right kind of love.

Paul said in Hebrews 11:1, *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* Faith does two essential things:

**First, faith substantiates our hope.** What we believe about God and His power is the substance we build our hope upon. *“Upon this rock I will build my church...”*

**Second, faith believes in unseen events and then receives actual evidence that the unseen event truly happened.** I have never seen the blood of Jesus wash the sin out of a person’s life, nor have I seen his blood blot out all the sins of a person from the record book, nor have I seen the recording angel write down someone’s name in the book of life. But I have seen the change in a

sinner’s life, and I have no doubt at all that it happened.

The Bible says that if a Christian’s hope was all wrapped up in this life, it would be the most miserable life imaginable. **As soon as our hope for something in this life is “really taken away,” then we must immediately change our focus to hope in the next life!**

A good example is David and his dying child. The servants marveled that David got up out of the sackcloth and ashes and moved on! When they asked how he could recover from his grief and go on with life, he explained, *....“and he said, while the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me” (2 Samuel 12:22).*

When the situation David faced in the now couldn’t be changed, he redirected his hope to eternity. (*“I shall go to him.”*)

A Christian’s hope stabilizes their spiritual life and thereby keeps their soul safe and secure during the trials of life! The point is - when we are in the storms of life it is wonderful to be anchored to a **“hope”** that is sure and steadfast.

While studying, I noticed something I had never seen before. **How many times the Bible says that God’s help came to people out of clouds.** Not on a clear day out of a blue sky, but out of clouds. *Cont. on pg 3*

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

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

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When God gave Noah the sign of prayer, anchor of Bible reading, and His promise that He wouldn't destroy the anchor of Holy Ghost Baptism. the world with a flood again, what did he do? He gave a rainbow! But it says specifically, "God put a bow in the clouds" (Genesis 9:13, 14). A sign of hope in the middle of the threat of rain. Christian has because of their faith in Jesus.

When God led his people in the wilderness what did he use? "A pillar of fire by night" and "a pillar of cloud by day." God can use storm clouds to guide us.

When God appeared in the tabernacle on the mercy seat, He was in a cloud. When He spoke to the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration, His voice came out of a cloud. God speaks to us as much when we are under a cloud as he does when we are in the midst of a fire. The last time the disciples saw Jesus, a cloud received him out of their sight. And the next time they see him he will be riding a cloud!

Remember it was after Luke said all hope was taken away and the clouds were so thick nobody saw the sun or stars for days. Then in the midst of the storm clouds God told Paul, "There is still Hope!"

The account of Paul's shipwreck is a great story. I love the part where they cast four anchors out of the back of the boat and wished for daylight. Every preacher worth his salt has probably preached on these four anchors: The anchor of church attendance, anchor of

*being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, **having no hope, and without God in the world.**"*

All of these anchors are important. But it is the fifth anchor that is most important—**Hope!** "Which hope"..... "Aliens" mean they are alienated from God. They don't belong to God by their own choice. So they have no hope in this world or the world to come.

In Proverbs 14:32, it says, "The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death." Robert Ingersoll, the renowned atheist, went all across America speaking out against Christianity. In his funeral notice they printed this instruction, "There will be no singing." I can think of nothing more sad than an atheist's funeral. **No hope!**

Vice president Bush told of going to Russian President Leonid Brezhnev's funeral. Brezhnev's wife, Viktoria Brezhnev, kissed her husband goodbye, and made the sign of the cross on his chest. Even an atheist longs for some glimmer of hope beyond the grave.

The Bible says that the last enemy a Christian has to face is death. A Christian's troubles are all over when death transports them from this life to heaven. But a lost person's troubles have just started. In Ephesians 2:12, Paul describes the terrible condition of someone that is lost: "That at that time ye were **without Christ,**

During a Christian's life time they have many enemies, but the last one we will face is death. After we cross chilly Jordan we won't feel another pain, tears will be wiped away and all worry is gone. Separation is over. No hurry, no worry, no sorrow. That is the **hope** we have!

**I Have Hope**  
(Hebrews 6:19)

I have a hope, serene and sure,  
that anchors past the veil;  
In all the storms it holds secure,  
Nor will it ever fail.

My hope is born of God's own word  
And nourished by His grace,  
His promise true my soul hath heard,  
And hope beholds His face.

I have hope that looks away  
From present woes and tears  
To heaven's bright eternal day,  
Til sorrow disappears.

I have a hope that doth not fear  
The silent grave to view  
Nay, doth not shrink though death appear,  
For I shall live anew.

Charles Naylor, 1911

Editors Notes



By Editor  
Wallace E. Joice

**"THE  
DECEITFULNESS  
OF SIN"**

In the Epistle to the Hebrews, the author writes to discouraged Jews who were in danger of going back to the old Mosaic faith.

In verse 13, he warns them against "the deceitfulness of sin." He admonishes them, "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

If you look at the context of the verse, it harks back to Psalm 81:11, and more especially to Psalm 95:7-11.

We note that Satan, the original sinner, was deceived and practices deception. It has often been said that, "Familiarity breeds contempt." This is true if it is not accompanied by appreciation. However, It is possible to get used to sin. "Familiarity breeds acceptance."

It was possible for me to attend only two night services in the last Holiness Convocation. *Cont. on pg 4*

In it, he shows the superiority of Christ and the Christian faith.

I could not hear anything but the preaching. However, Brother Tim Fouts from Lola, Kentucky, preached wonderful sermons. I asked him to relay a quotation from Jeremy Taylor to me through President Daniel Taylor. This he did as promised.

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667) was an Anglican priest, author, educator, and bishop. He wrote, "A man is first startled by sin. Then it becomes

pleasing, then easy, then delightful then frequent, then habitual, then confirmed. The man is impenitent, then obstinate, and then he is damned."

The great English poet, Alexander Pope (1688-1744), said in one of his immortal poems:

*"Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,  
As to be hated, needs to be seen,  
But seen too oft, familiar with her face,  
We first endure, then pity,  
then embrace."*

One of the greatest safeguards against sin is to be shocked by it. One of the greatest hazards is to get used to sin, to be **"hardened"** by it. Hebrews 3:7, 8 says, *"Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness."* May God ever keep us sensitive to the voice of the Holy Ghost!

## Obi Guatemala Update



### SERVANTS OF THE LORD By Mike Pennington

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2: 8-10).

*"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15).

It is very evident to any casual observer that there is an incredible architect and master craftsman at work in the universe. Whether we consider forces in nature, or our own personal existence, we must logically conclude that a superior intelligent being is at

work. Blind chance and cause and effect could not produce the world as we know it, even if the material were available. God, our Creator, made the universe and ultimately controls its destiny.

The rebellious influence of Lucifer on mankind against God severed the close relationship of moral likeness that humanity had with Him. The results of sin as a principle are apparent in the wickedness, sorrow, sickness and death that has surrounded life on earth for millenniums.

God's great love sent a great Saviour, Jesus Christ, who died for us and returned from death to bring new life and restoration of fellowship with God to anyone who receives Him in saving faith. God recreates His moral likeness through the Spirit of Christ in the inner life of believers, and puts them to work in His kingdom on earth

as a power for good, opposing the forces of evil. Christians work with the Lord of Creation to share His plan of salvation with as many spiritually lost people as possible.

Our national staff at the Bible School in Guatemala is laboring daily in the training of national workers for this great cause. We have 29 students from 6 countries currently enrolled for the spring semester, which began January 12. The staff are "Servants of the Lord," involved in the preparation of those who desire to be used of God in His service.

Please continue to pray for the mission work, and especially for these faithful servants of the Lord, their personal needs and spiritual strength for the tasks they perform. Thank you for your concern and support for this work ordained by God.

*For souls, The Penningtons*



New women's leader, Sister Sonya



Our secretary, Sister Magda



Our director and wife, Brother Juan Carlos & Sister Thelma



Our men's leader, Brother Moises



Maintenance man and driver, Brother Abdiel



Our cook, Sister Maria (with knife cutting vegetables)



By Brother Benjamin Dupte

*English is Brother Dupte's second language, but we felt it best to leave this article with as little editing as possible.*

It is a joy and honor to write about the Pastors training Program run by OBI- USA in partnership with **Beersheba Ministries India, In India.**

**BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF BEERSHEBA MINISTRIES**



Brother and Sister Y.M. Dupte

Brother Y.M. Dupte and his family received a book Gospel according to Luke when someone gave them this book in their house Dupte family thought this is another God has come to us, In India people Worship 330 million gods so Dupte family thought this is one more god and they literally started worshipping the book. They started burning essence before this book, they offered offerings before this book put garlands around it and whole family used to Worship this book gospel according to Luke.

But When Brother Dupte went to school in different city where he came in contact with some Christian and there he came to know who Jesus is.

Brother Dupte came back to home and told his parents and family that this book is not to be worshiped but the God of this book is to be worship who is Jesus. And whole family accepted Jesus and Started following Jesus.

After completing of graduation Brother Dupte decided to go to Bible College he completed his B.Th. and started working in State of Maharashtra, but as he was preaching the gospel in Villages of Maharashtra he felt something is Missing in his Ministry something is not Complete, So one day he went for an Pentecostal Conference in North India, Bible College Where Brother Dupte Studied it was not Pentecostal Bible College and they did not taught him about feeling of the holy Spirit so he was not aware of Feeling of Holy Spirit, So as he was attending the Conference preacher gave altar call and asked who so ever wants to fill with the Holy Spirit come forward. Brother Dupte went forward for Prayer and got filled with Holy Spirit and started speaking in tongues for 3 hours. He thought something is wrong with me as it was first time experience for him to be filled with Holy Spirit. He thought it would be good to go to sleep, As he was trying to sleep and he closed his eyes God gave him Vision and in his Vision he saw Millions of hands raised towards the heaven he asked the Lord who are these people? And God said these are your own people and God gave Brother Dupte Vision from Romans 11:14 *"If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are*

*my flesh, and might save some of them."* According to this Vision Brother Dupte started his Ministry among his own People in State of Maharashtra, India.

As God has given Vision to Brother Y.M.Dupte (Founder and President Beersheba Ministries India) from Romans 11:14, *"If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them"* we are Working in State of Maharashtra, India and reaching out to the 40 thousand Villages of Maharashtra, India As we were reaching these villages and people with gospel of Jesus Christ we found there is a great need of Teaching and training the pastors. So we requested Brother Daniel Taylor and OBI-USA to help our pastors to be trained and equipped so they can be more effective in their respective places and villages. Brother Daniel Taylor and OBI-USA realized the importance of training pastors and leaders in India, Brother Daniel Taylor and OBI-USA understood the vision and started Pastors Training Program in India in Year 2011.

Since 2011 with OBI-USA and Beersheba Ministries India, we were able to train 600 pastors and leaders in different Districts of Maharashtra. Pastors have been blessed by the teaching from OBI Staff: Brother Daniel Taylor, Brother Gene Canter, Brother Ben Baker, Brother David Schminkey and many students.



Pastor Ajay Nirma

One of the pastors shares his testimony after getting trained in Pastors Training Week. Ajay Nirma, Pastor at Arvi Village Church. He says, I have attended all the teaching sessions of "So Great Salvation," "Letter to Romans," and "Principles of Purity" I have never heard such a pure word of God this teaching is a life-changing teaching for us. We were not able to have this wonderful teaching during our Bible college time. After attending the teaching from "Principles of Purity," Holy Spirit spoke to me to present myself more pure and holy before God every day, that my life should be a reflection of Jesus Christ and people should see God and his glory working through me. I thank God for OBI teachers and the wonderful teaching they gave us this is life-changing experience for me. Thank you so much.

We are so much thankful to Brother Daniel Taylor Brother Gene Canter, Brother Ben Baker and Brother David Schminkey & all the OBI Staff for their efforts and vision to train the pastors and leaders in India and all over the World. May God Bless them and all who stand with them for this great work. Thank you so much.

**YES I SEE THE NEED TO TRAIN NATIONAL PASTORS**  
 Here Is My Monthly Pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Please direct all correspondence to:  
 OCM PO Box 398 Neosho, Mo 64850



**WE ARE MOVING FORWARD**

**A place where God is working!**

*By Terry Miles  
Maintenance Director*

The song *“Thank you for giving to the Lord”* keeps coming to my mind. With your help Ozark Bible Institute and College has been able to continue the work that God called us to do. Thank the Lord! Pastors and parents have sacrificed to send the **greatest young people** they have to study and show themselves approved unto God. We want you to know Ozark Bible Institute and College is putting forth our best efforts to position these students to be equipped to move forward in God’s kingdom.

This student body is second to none. They are prepared to work for the Lord in many crucial ministries such as pastors, evangelists, camp speakers, children’s ministers, Sunday School teachers, and missionaries. Thank the Lord they are yielding to the call of God as well as deciding to move forward with action-based ministry. You have been a great part in this ministry as a supporter, financially, and prayerfully. Through your continual encouragement, we keep moving forward with God’s plan and purpose for Ozark Bible Institute and College. We are investing in the present and future work and workers of God’s kingdom, as well as looking for ways to stand with those who are already critically positioned in the work of the Lord.

**Convocation** is intended to be a place you can come and receive encouragement from the Lord. We want every person who has shown interest in the work being done here to attend our October 12-15, 2015

Convocation services. You are invited to be a part of the fellowship and presence of God that is experienced at Convocation.

**Decision Days** is another great time to come and enjoy the encouragement that is experienced through the presence of God and fellowship with the family of God. We want you to come, not only for the hope of future students, but for those who have made Ozark Bible Institute and College possible. May God strengthen our home bases, that is, the home churches who have stood behind Ozark Bible Institute and College throughout the years. We hope to see you at this year’s Decision Days, March 19-22, 2015. *“Thank you for giving to the Lord!”*

**Camp Peniel** is one more place for young people to come and be strengthened in the faith. God is still moving on the hearts of the young to have a “Face to Face” experience with God. With your help we have been able to convert the campus of Ozark Bible Institute and College into a great youth camp facility. This year’s Camp Peniel will be June 29-July 3, 2015. This has been a great blessing in many ways; young people who would have never stepped foot on this campus now know firsthand about the school. We also have been able to put the cost of renting the former camp ground back into our own infrastructure. *“Thank you for giving to the Lord!!!”*

Ozark Bible Institute and College would like to say how much you are appreciated. Thank you for standing with us through the years. **This place is moving forward and God is helping Himself to young lives, and we want each one of you to move forward with us.** *“Thank you for giving to the Lord.”*



School picture April 2014



Wednesday night missions service at Convocation 2014



Some of the young people at Decision Days 2014



Morning breakfast bar at OBI



Student led service at Bible Holiness

## DEAN'S LIST - FALL 2014

*(The following are listed  
in order of hours carried)*

Allison Dixon.....	4.00
Charity Moreino.....	4.00
Jerris Dodson.....	4.00
Rachelle Fouts.....	4.00
Courtney Johnston.....	4.00
Mary Kirkland.....	4.00
Luke Buhrow.....	4.00
Kemberleigh Kimble.....	4.00
Cree Kincaid.....	4.00
Preston Moreino.....	4.00
Jonathan Niswonger.....	4.00
Brittany Frederick.....	4.00
Jeremy Stoughton.....	4.00
Mikayla Johnson.....	4.00
Justin Malone.....	4.00
Janine Niswonger.....	4.00
Ethan Binkley.....	4.00
Jonathan Hutson.....	4.00
Jeron Presley.....	4.00
Alison Bond.....	4.00
Mattie Harris.....	4.00

Nathan Akers.....	4.00
Katie Barros.....	4.00
Charity Benner.....	4.00
Alecia Webb.....	4.00
Janna Blake.....	4.00

## HONOR ROLL - Fall 2014

*(3.50 and above)*

Benjamin Crosser.....	3.944
Trey Lowery.....	3.923
Keilah Hosmon.....	3.897
Kazee Morgan.....	3.897
Ashley Ernest.....	3.889
Lauren Hamel.....	3.889
Darren Moore.....	3.889
Susie Shaffer.....	3.889
Kaitlin Taylor.....	3.889
Hannah Williams.....	3.857
Benjamin Hiles.....	3.854
Seth Zerbel.....	3.854
Sarah Luper.....	3.850
Christin Benner.....	3.846
Preston Moreino.....	3.846
Dakota Stevens.....	3.846

Jeremy Margeson.....	3.846
Benjamin Morris.....	3.842
Amanda Stansbury.....	3.842
Taylor Wilson.....	3.842
Stephanie Seman.....	3.842
Jaqueline Hager.....	3.833
Alyssa Hatley.....	3.833
Ziona Pennington.....	3.826
Hannah McCoy.....	3.818
Dacia Smith.....	3.805
Charity Carr.....	3.758
Joshua Rogers.....	3.758
Hannah Baker.....	3.750
Ezequiel Rosado.....	3.744
Emmie Chupp.....	3.722
Adriene Belt.....	3.707
Jessica Aguirre.....	3.684
Zachary Williams.....	3.684
Suzanna Bradley.....	3.657
Joshua Christopher.....	3.600
Faith Frazier.....	3.586
Tylee Jolley.....	3.526
Alissa Overstreet.....	3.512
Anthony Graham.....	3.500



**D. C. Branham**  
March 14, 1927-  
December 18, 1987

## INVITATION TO JOIN THE STUDENT BODY OF OBI

*A message from our founder, D. C. Branham, in 1977*

We are looking for dedicated young people who can believe God for real miracles in an age of apathy, skepticism, and unbelief. We need young men and women who will join us to help turn the hearts of Pentecostal people back to the "OLD PATH" of righteousness and Bible holiness. The devil has weakened this great cause through man's innovations. We must train young men and women in the Word of God that can result in revival throughout the land. You can be one with us to see a revival of righteousness. *(This is still true today in 2015 and beyond).*

### Servant's Heart Outreach 2014-2015



### Overcomers Choir 2014-2015



The Outreach and Choir schedules for Spring 2015 may each be accessed at our website:

[www.obicollege.com](http://www.obicollege.com)

For Overcomers Choir CD information you may call our offices at 417-451-2057.  
If you would like either of these groups to visit your church, now would be a good time to contact them for the upcoming school year of 2015-2016. Contact at 417-451-2057.



# Alumni In Action



By Mark Lewis  
Pastor of Marionville  
Assembly of God  
Marionville, MO  
OBI Graduate 1987

## LOOKING BACK LOOKING FORWARD

We have come to the end of another year and once again find ourselves at the threshold of a new year. A familiar Scripture that we often use on occasions like this is from Philippians 3:13-14. Paul says, *“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

As we prepare for a new year, Paul encourages us to do three things: 1) *“Forget those things which are behind.”* 2) Reach *“for those things which are before.”* 3) *“Press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

As I look back and review 2014, I see that it was a year filled with both struggle and victory. Some are worth remembering and some are worth forgetting. As I look back, I take note of the things that I did well and I also take note of the things that I could have done better, and yet other things that I could have gotten by without doing at all.

However, we cannot stay focused on the past because there is a reaching forward that is necessary. The tendency in the midst of struggle is to live in the glory of last year’s victories. While that is okay for a while, I cannot stay there lest I forget the reason I am here. I can say as Paul said, I realize that there is a purpose worth reaching for and I have yet to fully understand or arrest it. But I am reaching forward.

The New Year offers us the opportunity for a fresh start. Paul said it this way, *“I press toward the mark...”* I am asking God to help me understand the mark that I should be pressing toward. What is there that God desires to do in 2015 that I need to press toward? What can I do differently that will enable me to reach the mark that God has set for me in 2015? What do I need to keep doing that will enable me to reach the mark that God has set for me in 2015? What do I need to stop doing that will hinder me from reaching that mark?

I have hanging on a bulletin board in my study, a quote from Billy Graham that has personally challenged me. He said, *“The most important characteristic of any pastor is a heart for God – a deep desire to live for Christ and to see others come to know him and serve him.”* What a powerful and challenging statement!

This is certainly a mark worth pressing toward.

My Dad taught me the value of giving everything my best effort. When I would bring a grade card home that brought into question my diligence, he always wanted to know if I had done my best. If I answered I had, he would tell me that he was proud of me and that was all he expected. If I answered that I had not, he would express his disappointment and encourage me that he expected nothing less than my best effort. In this New Year a mark worth pressing toward is to do your best for the Lord. He expects nothing less.

It is easy to become frustrated when things do not happen as quickly as I would like. The writer of Hebrews said in 12:1, *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”* Let us take this admonition to heart as we go into 2015. Running with patience will make it easier to prioritize the things we need to forget. Running with patience will give us the needed resolve to reach for the things which are before. Running with patience will give us the purpose to reach the mark that God has set for us.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Births

- Peter and Hannah (Royal) Metzger** welcomed Elizabeth Nicole on July 3.
- Cheyenne and Hope (Harris) Benner-** Wayne Gabriel on November 3.
- Caleb and Hannah (Hurst) Dowdy-** Alexander Levoy on November 25.
- Tim and Aimee (Snow) Laurito-** Judah Timothy on December 7.
- Kayla (Brimm) and Joshua Thomas-** Kelsey Linnea on December 9.
- Gavin and Ashlynn (Hurst) Edwards-** Troy Gregory on December 22.
- Anson and Tabitha (Riggs) Miller-** Lucas Rey on December 23.
- Michael and Mandy (Johnson) Brannon-** Lincoln Oliver on December 26.

## OBI

### COMMENCEMENT

April 24, 2015 6:00 pm

BIBLE HOLINESS ASSEMBLY

614 N High St, Neosho, MO

2014-2015  
Officers

Randy Snow, President  
dsnows@msn.com

Mark Hutson, Vice-President  
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