

Ozark Christian Schools of Neosho
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The STANDARD BEARER

Volume 48, No. 5

“A place where God can help Himself to young lives.”
 Founder D. C. Branham

Sept./Oct. 2017

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

Bible Holiness Convocation October 16-19, 2017

Kesler Auditorium, 906 Summit Street, Neosho, MO (417-451-2057 www.obicollege.com)



Daniel E. Taylor
 Monday
 Evening Service
 7:00 PM



Eddie Godbey
 Tues. & Thurs.
 Evening Service
 7:00 PM



Tim Fouts
 Tues. & Thurs.
 Morning Service
 10:30 AM



Randy Snow
 Wednesday
 Communion
 10:30 AM



Doug Presley
 Wednesday
 Missions
 7:00 PM



Gene Canter
 Tue.- Thurs.
 Prayer
 9:30 AM



Mike Shelton
 Tue.- Thurs.
 Prayer
 6:30 PM



SEEK Team
 Tue.- Thur.
 Children's Service
 10:30 AM



By President
Daniel E. Taylor

“HEAVEN KNOWS”

“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his

house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. He saw in a vision evidently, about the ninth hour of the day, an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send

men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do. And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually; And when he had declared (Cont. on pg. 2)

all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa” (Acts 10:1-8).

There is a passage in the Bible that talks about Jesus in the storm. He had fallen asleep in the bottom of the ship, and His disciples came to Him and asked Him, “*Master, carest thou not that we perish?*” (Mark 4:38). It was almost as if they had the feeling that somehow or another Jesus was sleeping through their dilemma, and was not aware of what they were going through. Have you ever been there? The disciples were assuming that Jesus was not aware of their situation. But I read in Psalm 121:4, “*he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*” William M. Taylor makes this statement: “Though His humanity was asleep, His deity was awake.” Jesus was aware of the situation that His followers were in. So I would like to talk to you about something that I think you should be aware of, and that is, “**Heaven Knows.**”

The first eight verses of the text talk about four particular things that God tells Cornelius that He knows. It says in the 3rd verse: “*...and saying unto him, Cornelius.*” **This testifies to me of the fact that the Lord knows who I am.** He didn’t say, “Hey you with the face,” or “What’s your name?” or “Hey you over there.” No, He called him by name, “*Cornelius.*” The angel had every intention of speaking to him. There was no question of who God had sent the message to because He had called him by name, “*Cornelius.*” **Heaven knows who you are, and knowing this, you should be able to trust God.**

I remember hearing a preacher tell about an experience he had when his mother was in the

hospital. He related that he was sitting there in the room, and a nurse came in with medication in her hand, and was going to give his mother an injection. He asked the nurse, “What is that you’re going to give her?” She told him that it was insulin. He said, “My mother isn’t a diabetic.” So the nurse went and checked the charts, and sure enough, she had almost given insulin to the wrong patient. **A mistake like that can kill a person!** But unlike that nurse, Heaven knows who you are. Jesus doesn’t come to the wrong room with the wrong prescription, and suddenly you find out that he killed you by mistake! Heaven knows who you are, and so Heaven knows just how much you can take. Paul makes a statement when writing to the Corinthians about how he was “*pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life*” (2 Corinthians 1:8). Here he was literally saying “*beyond strength.*” In other words, he felt like he was past the breaking point, but he didn’t break. And the reason was that Heaven knew just how much he could stand. The Bible says that there won’t be any temptation take you but that which is common to man. With every temptation there is a means of escape that He has provided for us (1 Corinthians 10:13). So God knows what we can stand, and what we can tolerate. I know you may be saying, “But brother, you don’t know what I’m going through.” No, I don’t, but **Heaven does.** I take great consolation in the fact that Heaven knows. And when people begin to get a little too critical of me, I’m glad to know that **Heaven knows.**

You need to understand that Heaven knows all about you. He’s watching you everywhere you go. “*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord*” (Psalm 37:23). **Heaven knows where you’re going, and He’ll take you in a direction that He wants you to go, if you yield to Him and allow Him to direct your life.** Sometimes when I thought I was headed to one particular place, I wound up somewhere else, because Heaven knew

where I needed to be. A long time ago, I decided I was going to give the power of attorney over to the Lord. Because He knows exactly where I need to be, and when I need to be there.

Once I was out with a few other gentlemen in the highways and hedges, inviting people to church. I recognized the area, and thought I remembered where a young boy lived down on the bad side of town. It was a run-down apartment building, and I wanted to find him and invite him to the house of God. I found the building: and assumed he lived in the downstairs apartment, because I saw his truck sitting out front. So I walked up to the door and knocked. An older man came to the door and asked, “Can I help you?” I told him the boy’s name and he informed me that he didn’t live there. About that time I heard a voice from inside asking who was at the door. I leaned my head in the door and said, “It’s the preacher.” “Come in here,” the voice beckoned. As I entered the old, shabby apartment, my eyes beheld the most destitute sight I had ever seen. In front of me was an old lady who had scars all over her forehead and her nose was laying over on the side of her face. She just stared at me through blind eyes. She began to cry and asked, “Are you a preacher?” I assured her that I was, and as I looked at her, I could hardly believe my eyes. I had never seen anybody that looked quite as abused as she did. She said, “I’ve been beat blind by my husband.” She reached out her hand to me and asked, “Would you help me?” The Lord knew right where this old woman was, and when I wasn’t intending to go and visit her, God ordered my steps. I may have been trying to get to another place, but the Lord intervened and said, “No, I have another place for you to go.” **Heaven knows!**

A lot of times, when the wind and snow and rain are blowing, and every kind of circumstance that you can imagine is happening, we fail to realize that He has it all under His control. I’ve been through some hard places, and so (Cont. on pg.3)

have you. But I'm not going to go around singing a sad song, because I'm not looking for a reason to quit. I'm looking for a reason to go on. I know that there has been nothing that has happened to me, nothing in the cup I've had to drink, but what would have been left out, if He could have left it out. **Because Heaven knows.**

It says in the fourth verse, "...thy prayers..." **Notice that God not only knew his name, but He also knew he'd been praying.** We've got a lot of folks that think prayer is just an extra-curricular activity that saints are just supposed to do. But somehow it doesn't seem like it avails very much. He said, "thy prayers." At this point Cornelius wasn't even saved, at least from what I gather from Scripture. He was a devout man, he feared God, but he didn't know the Lord, or about the remission of sins. Yet, God knew him, and heard his prayers. So seeing this, that Heaven knows that I pray, do you know what I'm going to do? **I'm going to keep on praying.** If the throne room of heaven is receiving a message from me, I think I'll pray. I may not ever get a chance to talk to the President of the United States, but I can go over his head and get a prayer through to God. **Since Heaven knows that I pray, I'm going to continue to pray.** I read in the book of Exodus where it says, "*And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows*" (Exodus 3:7).

There was an invalid lady I used to visit that had endured several operations, and was unable to make it to church very often. So I visited her and her elderly husband at their house on different occasions. I would go and sit on their couch, and listen as the lady explained to me how she had "got religion" back in the early 50's. I could tell, however, by the way

things were, she had not kept it up to-date. Now I am nobody's judge, but you don't have to be around someone very long before you can figure out that there is a lack of close-knit fellowship between them and God. Well, eventually this woman became very sick, and they admitted her to the hospital. While she was there, she sent word that she wanted me to come and see her. I went up to her room and stood by the bed talking to her, when finally she broke out in tears. She looked at me and said, "I've been praying, and you know preacher, I lied to you. I did get saved at an Oral Roberts meeting back in 1950, but I've been backslidden for over twenty years. I haven't had a relationship with God, and I don't know the Lord, and I need some help!" I told her, "If you'll just pray, and start calling on God now, He'll wipe your slate clean and forgive your sins by the blood of the Lamb." So she started praying, and I started praying. She prayed right on through until she started speaking in tongues. **Heaven knows when you pray, and you can touch God if you want to.**

Once I was hitting some "low spots," and I needed help. We were in a revival with a fellow who got to preaching on prayer one night. So I decided that I was going to hit the altar, and I didn't care that I was the pastor. I was going to set my "drilling rig" up, and get down until I struck some water. I needed help, and I needed it then. Have you ever been there? When the only way you're ever going to get it is to get ahold of God for yourself. You can beg everybody in the country to pray for you. You can get all the mourners out of Jerusalem to come down and help you cry about Lazarus, but it's not going to help until you pray yourself. Well, I was down there praying, and the next thing I knew the Spirit of the Lord started coming down. The

evangelist got down beside me, and started praying and prophesying in my ear. The Lord spoke to me and said, "I know your troubles, I have seen what you've been going through, I've heard you pray, and I'm going to help you!" Hallelujah! **Heaven knows what you're going through!** You may be in trouble, or you may have heartache, but Heaven knows it all.

It says in the text, "*Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God*" (verse 4). **Heaven knew what he had been giving.** Heaven knows what we give, so we can afford to wait. In Hebrews it says, "*Ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise*" (Hebrews 10:36). Have the efforts that we've put forth, and the struggles that we've been through, somehow gone unnoticed by God? No, a thousand times no! I know that waiting is rough, especially when you've given the best of your labour and you're waiting for something to come back, and you've cast your bread upon the waters but it's been a few days. **Don't worry, because Heaven knows all about it!**

I remember one time when I had a fellow preaching for me, and we just had a small church at the time. The man was a good friend of mine, and he was preaching a good revival so, of course, I wanted to give him a good offering. I was the pastor, so I knew how much money was coming in, and it wasn't a whole lot. The revival was being held in March, and on Saturday I had to go down to talk with the fellow who filled out my taxes. I had \$1,326.00 saved up to buy myself a car, but when I was finished talking with my tax man, I was \$27.00 in the hole. I came out of there and got in my old car that I was hoping to get rid of, and made my way back home feeling pretty sorry for myself. I had a \$50 bill in my pocket that my wife had given me for my birthday, and I was hoping to buy some clothes with it. But the Lord was dealing with me to put it in the (Cont. on pg. 4)

offering. I started laughing, thinking that's crazy, "Here I am down to my last \$50, and Lord, you want me to put it in the offering?" The Lord said, "Yes, that's what I want you to do." He wouldn't come to terms, so I just laughed and told him, "Well, Lord, it's just you and me." I continued on down the road with my heart as light as my pocket book. When I got to church that night and took up the offering, I put in my \$50. The next day, when I counted it, I was tickled to death because I had him a pretty nice offering. I sat down in my office and got the checkbook out to start writing, when a man walked up to me and said, "Preacher, I felt like giving you this," and he handed me a check. After that, I went to pay the preacher, and he in turn paid me the tithes from the offering. Another brother ran into me and handed me some more money, just said he felt like giving it to me. On my way home, I found out Sister Taylor had also been given some money. When everything was said and done, I had more money than the preacher. Do you know why? **Because Heaven knows!**

When Ezekiel stood surveying the valley of dry bones, the Lord asked, "can these bones live?" Ezekiel said, "O LORD, thou knowest" (Ezekiel 37:3). And the Lord does know. **He doesn't leave it up to us to fret over things, because He already knows.**

Most holiness preachers could always use a little money, especially if they're going from church to church, and are preaching in several different places. This was my fate one Christmas season, and I was trying to figure out what I was going to do. I knew I had to do something immediately, so at one church where I was holding a revival, I got down at the altar and started talking to God about it. I began to think of all that I needed money for. It wasn't for personal needs, but for bills of the church that

needed to be paid. I started trying to think of what I could say that would get folks to give in the offering that night. **After I had prayed like that for awhile I stopped and said, "You know Lord, I don't trust these folks, but I do trust you. So I'm just going to leave it right here, and sink or swim, I believe that you're going to help me." After that, I was standing at the back of the church, when a man walked up and handed me some money. I stuck it in my pocket and didn't know how much it was until I stepped outside, but Heaven knew.**

I've preached on the subject of "Heaven Knows" before. I was over at the church one Saturday night, praying about what I was going to preach in the morning, when a certain fellow's name came to my mind, so I started praying for him. If the Lord impresses someone on my heart, I like to pray for them. I feel that He trusts me by laying them on my heart, so I pray. After I prayed for a while, I realized that this man had church on Saturday night. I thought maybe the Lord wanted me to go up there. Now I knew that the service started at seven-thirty, and it was already five minutes till seven. It would take me at least a half hour, and I wouldn't have time to go home and change clothes or anything. I began to make excuses to the Lord. I had a lot to do, and I had to prepare for church in the morning. So I asked, "Lord, are you sure that's what you want me to do?" But He kept dealing with me, so at about fifteen minutes after seven, I got in my car and drove up to the church. I arrived late, right in the middle of the song service, so I slipped into a pew not far from the back. I was carrying my Bible, but I had no idea if I was supposed to preach, or if he was going to preach something that I needed to hear. I didn't know why I was there; I just knew that God had sent me. After he was finished playing his

guitar, he turned around and saw me. He asked, "Brother Taylor, are you ready to preach?" I told him I could preach if I needed to. He said, "You need to." Well, now I was in a fine fix, so I began to pray, "Lord, you brought me up here, now what do you want me to preach?" I turned to the passage in Acts, chapter ten, and preached, "**Heaven Knows.**" I preached with all the fervency that I could muster, noticing how the preacher and his wife wept throughout the whole service. After the service was over, and everyone had gone home, the pastor came and shook my hand and said, "Brother Taylor, you don't know. My wife and I were sitting on the couch tonight before service. Nothing was particularly wrong, we were just fed up, and couldn't take it anymore, and decided we were going to quit. The last words I said to my wife before we left the house were, 'I don't even know if God hears me.'" **But, Heaven knew! Glory to God!**

My last point is found in the sixth verse, "*He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.*" **Heaven knows your name, Heaven knows you pray, Heaven knows you gave, and Heaven knows what you need to do.** There may be a situation that you find yourself in right now, and you don't know what to do, but Heaven knows exactly what you need to do. I was reading the other day where the Lord asked Philip where they were going to get the bread to feed the multitude. The Lord asked this question to prove Philip, because he already knew what he was going to do (John 6:5,6). Jesus knew what kind of man Cornelius was, and He also knew that he had a need, so He sent a man that could tell him what he needed to do.

In October of 1976, the Lord began to deal with me. I was twenty-two years old. It was the type of conviction that you could slip out from under if you're not careful. I've seen a lot of people that God had the hook in, and they (Cont. on pg.5

got off. Well, God was dealing with me, and I had only been to church a couple of times. He was also prying at my wife's heart. On a Sunday evening, October 17, 1976 I was out working on my old '60 Chevrolet. I think now how that when Nathaniel was under the fig tree, the Lord saw him, and when I was under that old car, the Lord saw me. Down at my brother's church, there was a revival going on with Sister Nancy Marler. My brother had come to our apartment that evening to take me and my wife to church. He wanted us to get saved. My wife had been under conviction, so she called down to my dad's house where I was working, and asked my momma to get me to come home so I could go to church. Now I probably wouldn't have gone to church for anybody except momma. And I never will forget that day when momma came out there where another fellow and I were working. She didn't want to talk to me in front of him, so she called me over to where she was. She said, "Danny, Brenda called and she's real upset. Ken's over there at the house, and she wants you to go to church with her tonight." My momma wasn't saved, but she could see what was happening to her boy, and she didn't like it. I said, "Momma, I don't have time to go to church." She looked up at me with tears in her eyes and said, "Danny, would you do it for me?" She took my face in her hands, and I said, "Yeah Momma, I'll do it for you." So, I went to church that night and got saved, and it was my unsaved mother that got me to go. I think Heaven knew I wouldn't do it for anybody else except my momma. **Heaven knows what you need.**

On the fifteenth day of January, 1990, I was in a mess. We had been having some problems in our church, and I was trying to help some friends that had fallen into sin. They thought the kind of help they needed was to

just let them do what they wanted to do, and I wasn't in a position to do that. It was one of those times when everybody was losing their head and blaming it on me. I went to church that Sunday night. My momma had had a stroke the night before, so I had spent all day in the hospital with her, but she wanted me to go home that evening and go to church. That night was when everything finally blew up, and how sad it was. It hurts even now when I think about it, though it has been a long time ago. **My wife and I had never been discouraged at the same time until then. I was sitting in my office with my wife, and I told her that I'd had it and couldn't take it anymore. I wasn't aiming to backslide, but I had made up my mind that I was going to quit preaching. I just didn't want to fight it anymore. I had already decided that I was going to resign the church the next service. I was giving up and that was it for me.**

While my wife and I were sitting there talking, the telephone rang. It was my dad, and he told us that my momma had just had a cardiac arrest. The devil fought us even further, and my old car broke down. Brother Akers' car was there, but it had a flat tire. I finally got something going, and drove the forty miles to the hospital as fast as I could. When we arrived at the hospital, I ran upstairs to the intensive care unit and called on the little phone. The nurse said the doctor was coming right out to talk to me. When the doctor came out, he asked me to sit down and then he began speaking. He explained how there was something wrong going on in my mother's chest. He said he couldn't get her blood pressure up, even with all the machines they had available. He went on with this news for a couple of minutes when finally he said, "What I'm trying to tell you is that in about thirty minutes your mother is going to die." I asked him

if I could see her. I loved my momma, and I had always been a momma's boy. It was she who took care of me when I was sick as a boy, and even though she wasn't saved, she prayed for me the best she knew how. I went into the room where she was and held her hand. I said, "Momma, Momma, Momma, I would to God that I could die for you."

That night, I went back to my dad's house. I was sitting at the table talking to pop when I finally got up to lay down on the bed at about 3:00 a.m. Later on, it must have been about five o'clock in the morning, the Lord woke me up. He said, "Danny, your momma needs you." I said, "What Lord? Momma? What can I do for her now?" He said, "Preach her funeral." I had already decided earlier that night that I wasn't going to preach anymore. I said, "Lord I can't do that." And it was almost as if I heard my mother's voice saying, "Danny, would you do it for me?" And I answered, "Yeah, Momma, I'll do it for you."

Now, I had not preached very well before, but at my momma's funeral, I preached good. You know why? Because Heaven knew that if I didn't have some reason to grab myself by the bootstraps and pull myself up and go on, that I would have laid down and given up. Many of you are in the same situation, and you have been entertaining a lot of the same thoughts, and you've said to yourself, "I don't know if God even cares anymore. My situation is so messed up; I don't even know if God's watching out for me anymore." **But I am here to tell you that HEAVEN KNOWS what you need, and you can trust Him because He'll help you. Thank God, HEAVEN KNOWS!**

This is a revised version of a sermon preached at Bible Holiness Assembly of God, January, 1993 and again in July 2017. For information on obtaining a CD of the complete message write to: Ozark Bible Institute & College, PO Box 398, Neosho, MO 64850-0398, or call 417-451-2057.



By Mike Pennington
OBI Guatemala
Field Director

PREPARING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE WORK OF THE LORD

“And David said,

Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the Lord must be exceeding magnificent...I will therefore make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death” (1 Chronicles 22:5).

David realized that his son Solomon’s age and inexperience could be a hindrance to the great responsibility that was about to be placed upon his shoulders. He prepared materials abundantly for the temple that Solomon was to build, so that Solomon could concentrate on the mobilization of laborers, and the actual construction process. Solomon accomplished the task and became a great king because he asked God for wisdom in his youth. An older, unwise Solomon became an idolater and forsook his own council. David also *“behaved himself wisely”* when he was young, but made some terribly destructive choices as an older adult.

We need God’s guidance from the cradle to the grave.

Training young people for the Lord’s work has two bad opposing approaches that can leave them unable to perform in the building up of the Kingdom of God: denigration and idolization.

Denigration demoralizes young people with belittlement, ridicules them for lack of experience, squelches their enthusiasm and doesn’t give them a chance to try. When Paul wrote *“let no man despise thy youth,”* he meant don’t let anyone think slightly of or look past you because you are young. Young people have played a vital role in church history, especially in the area of spiritual renewals. We must never negate their potential by denigration.

Idolization means to love or admire to excess. False or excessive praise inflates egos, creates social imbalance among age groups, and inhibits young people from reaching their full capability because they think they have arrived and will stop depending on God as much as their elated talents. Gradual, constructive instruction can bring young people to maturity and develop them into Godly sensible workers in the church.

Encouragement and counsel with some discipline worked in is

the proper way to train young people for God’s work. In the sequel to the above text, David proceeds to encourage Solomon toward obedience, industry, cooperation with others, and reliance on God.

OBI Guatemala has the privilege of preparing young people for the work of the Lord by providing an atmosphere where they can obtain the tools and materials to build life changing ministries. Through much prayer, Bible study, evangelism engagement, hands on physical labor, and exposure to the insights of seasoned wise Godly counsel of our leaders, they can become future leaders in the work of God throughout Central America.

The average age of the populace of Guatemala is 19. Most of the other Central American countries are around the same average age. We surely need your prayers for the wisdom and guidance of God to keep training these young people effectively. Thanks for what you do for missions!

“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:29-31).

For Souls, The Penningtons



Bible School Students Enjoying Fresh Coconut After Evangelism



Young People Of Congregation In Guacamayitis, Jalapa



Pastors Teenage Daughters Zacapa, Los Vados



Young Boys From Various Churches In Guatemala



"And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved" (Genesis 32:30).

By Kenny Daugherty
OBI Grad 2017

This year Camp Peniel was a "Life-Preserving" experience for many. From Monday night all the way through Friday morning, young people were having their very own "face to face" experience with God. All the speakers and workers did a marvelous job in seeing this happen.

Something that has stuck in my mind since camp was seeing young

people from different youth groups, and different states, coming together in the altar services seeking a move of the Holy Ghost. I truly believe the last days in which we are living, God still has a remnant of young people that He is breathing life into. Not only is He breathing life into young people, but He is using those young people to, in turn, breathe life into their homes, families, and communities. I have heard the statement many times "our young people are the church of tomorrow," but then I heard a pastor say, "this is true, but they are also the church of today." In conclusion, I can truly say, "Life is Preserved!"



By Callie Crafton
OBI Grad 2015

I can truly report that we experienced revival at Camp Peniel this year. God met with us in a great and mighty way. From every sermon that Brother Jeremy Spurlock and Brother Dathan Tucker preached, to the kid's camp workers, Brother and Sister Lonny Adams, to the hours spent in the altar services while campers and workers met God "Face to Face."

We had 320 plus campers at Camp Peniel this year and several stood and acknowledged they had been saved and filled with the Holy Ghost.

On Tuesday night, Brother Spurlock preached on "A Great Night for A Fight," from Ephesians 6:12. *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against spiritual wickedness in high places."* We do wrestle in this Christian life, but we do not have to be defeated. The devil is the defeated foe. and in the end, we win! The problem is, we are often fighting the wrong enemy. We fight our pastors, parents, spouses, and everyone else besides the one who is out to destroy us. I would like to challenge you to not give up when the fight gets hard and it feels like you are losing, and to ultimately fight the **real** enemy. In 1 Peter 5:8 it says, *"Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."*

We do wrestle in this Christian life, but we do not have to be defeated.





Alumni In Action



"I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT I SIMPLY TRUST YOU"

Whoosh! The stinging rain made me flinch as I followed James Miles out of the Overcomers choir practice room.

It was raining hard in Neosho, and the wind was blowing.

It may have been raining on the outside, but all was right in my world! It was September 17, 2011, and I had been in OBI for nearly a month! I had made the Overcomers choir and was thoroughly loving Bible School life. I was enjoying my classes, making friends and playing basketball! Also, I had just got back from a fun-filled weekend at Youth Xtreme in Granite City, Illinois where the Lord really helped me in the altars. What more could I want?

These were the thoughts running through my mind on that rainy Saturday in September, but I was also slightly worried. My father, who had diabetes and other problems, had been admitted into the hospital by his physician because he was having trouble with his kidneys.

I had gone to choir practice and was planning on going to see him afterward. My phone was on silent and I was alarmed when my friend, James, came and got me out of choir practice because my mom was trying to get hold of me. My father had taken a turn for the worse. A few hours later I was standing in the hospital and my world was crashing around me. My dad, my hero, and the man who I could always depend on, was gone.

Memories of Brother Miles hugging me in the ER that night, at the funeral, and the days after are running through my mind. I remember

wondering what I was going to do. Would I return to OBI? Should I get a job and help pay the bills? Wouldn't it be easier to not go back? I struggled long and hard with the decision.

I went back to Bible School and I can say it has been the best decision of my life so far! God truly changed my life there and I am so proud to be an alumni of OBI.

I learned the valuable lesson that when hard things happen in life you don't run from them, but instead turn to God and put your hand in His and say, "I don't understand but I simply trust you." Some of you may be going through things you don't understand and you're not sure what to do. Remember we have a Father in Heaven who does know and understands, even when we don't. Don't ever let go of Him! **One day you will make it through this storm, and you will understand that He was with you every step of the way.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please continue to pray for Brother and Sister Don Snow.

BIRTHS

Jeremy and Susanna (Shaffer) Stoughton welcomed their new baby boy, Daniel Zann, on July 4, 2017.

Ben and Brittany (Frederick) Crosser welcomed their new baby girl, Esther Pearl, on July 9, 2017.

Kenneth and Katie Crews welcomed their new baby girl, Leah, on July 17, 2017.

Blake and Amanda (Schmid) Long welcomed their new baby boy, Christopher Ryder, August 1, 2017.

Gavin and Ashlyn (Hurst) Edwards welcomed their new baby boy, Taner Scott, August 1, 2017.

Brandon and Ashley (Hedgespeth) Chan welcomed their new baby girl, Raelyn Brooke, August 2, 2017.

David and Kasey (Carpenter) Hilton welcomed their new baby boy, Atticus Rhys, August 6, 2017.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:28,29).

CALENDAR OF OBI EVENTS

Fall Term- First Semester 2017

September 1, 2017	Friday (8:00 a.m.)	Residence Halls Open
September 2 & 4	Saturday & Monday	Registration Days
September 4	Monday (7:00 p.m.)	Fellowship Hour
September 5	Tuesday	Classes Begin
September 5-10	Tuesday - Sunday	Back-To-School Revival
October 10-13	Tuesday-Friday	Midterm Exams
October 16-19	Monday-Thursday	Annual Convocation
October 20-23	Friday-Monday	Midterm Break
October 24	Tuesday	Classes Reconvene
November 22-27	Wednesday-Monday	Thanksgiving Break
November 28	Tuesday	Classes Reconvene
December 11-14	Monday-Thursday	Final Exams
December 14	Thursday	Fall Term Ends

Spring Term - Second Semester 2018

January 6	Saturday (8:00 a.m.)	Residence Halls Open
January 8-9	Monday & Tuesday	Registration Days
January 10	Wednesday	Classes Begin
January 9-14	Tuesday - Sunday	Back-To-School Revival
February 12-15	Monday-Thursday	Midterm Exams
February 16-26	Friday-Monday	Midterm Break
February 27	Tuesday	Classes Reconvene
March 22-25	Thursday-Sunday	Decision Days
April 24-26	Tuesday -Thursday	Final Week (Exams)
April 27	Friday	Commencement

2016-2017
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