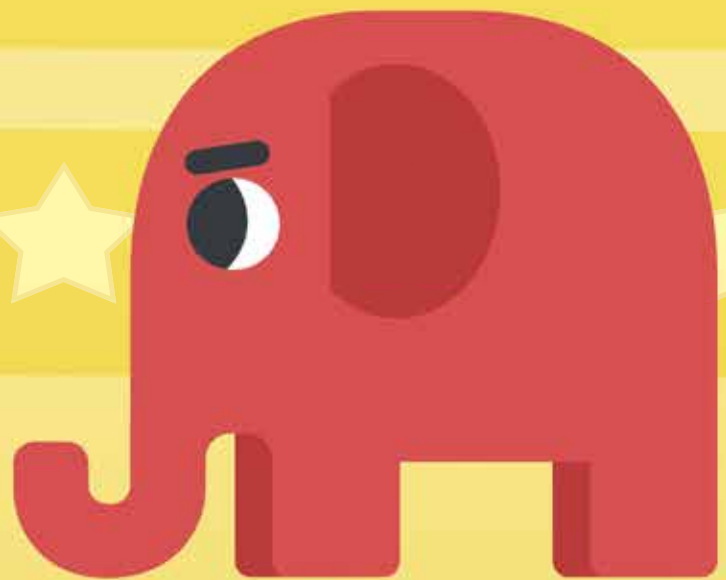


# B A P T I S T B I B L E T R I B U N E

OCTOBER 2016

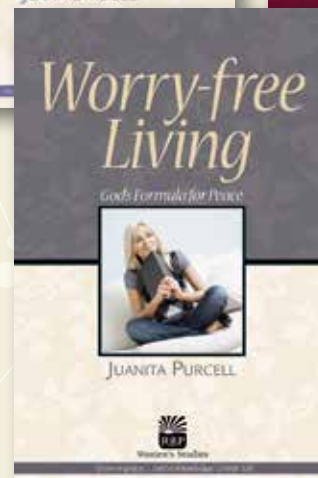
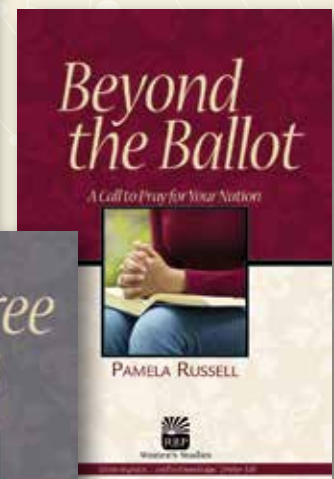
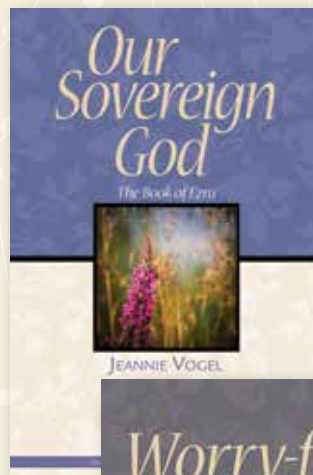


## — WHAT'S A CHRISTIAN TO DO? —

- p.9 Of Preaching and Politics
- p.13 Religion and Politics
- p.15 40-Day Election Prayer Calendar
- p.17 The Christian and Citizenship

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## ON THE TABLE Praying for our country

by Randy Harp | Editor

On November 8, 2016, millions of Americans will turn out to the election booth to cast their vote. This is one of the greatest privileges of being a citizen of the United States of America. Our 30th president, Calvin Coolidge, said, "The whole system of American Government rests on the ballot box. Unless citizens perform their duties, such a system of government is doomed to fail." Not only is it a privilege as an American citizen, it is our responsibility as Christians.

According to the National Day of Prayer organization, of the 52 million voter-eligible Christians in America, 10 million are not registered to vote, and over 20 million who were registered did not vote in the previous election cycle. In other words, over 60 percent of all eligible-to-vote Christians in America did not vote. We need this oftentimes silent majority to make a significant impact in this election.

There are two primary ways for this to happen. The first is for every American Christian to vote. There is an advertisement on page 25 for the Jonathan Project and their "Defending My Table" campaign. I encourage you to take a look at their values-based principles to guide you in the election process.

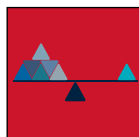
The second way for Christians to make a significant impact in this election is to commit to praying for the election. There is a 40-day prayer calendar found on page 15 to assist in praying from September 30 through the election on November 8. Visit our website to download a PDF of this page to distribute freely in your church. If you have "liked" the *Tribune* on Facebook, we will also be sharing this guide each day. Help us spread the word by "sharing" on your personal Facebook page.

This issue of the *Tribune* includes two features from individuals from within our Fellowship who have firsthand experience in the political realm. David Stokes, a *Wall Street Journal* best-selling author, pastors a church in the Washington, D.C. metro and has hosted his own national satellite radio talk show on politics. Char Pelfrey, wife of BBFI pastor Jerry Pelfrey, has served on the Mason, OH, city council since 1999. She was also mayor of Mason for two years and vice mayor for two years. Mike Moon, an elected member of the Missouri House of Representatives and member of a BBFI church, gives his perspective in "In the Trenches." You will also want to prioritize reading through our normal columns, "Urban Current" and "The Right Angle." Both provide great information on politics and the upcoming election.

One other important thing to remember in October is that it is Pastor Appreciation Month. The AfterWords on page 30 gives a top ten list of ways to honor your pastor this month.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ as I serve you in the ministry of communication. If there is ever anything I can do for you please let me know.

## POLITICS



**Of Preaching and Politics** 9  
Finding the balance between what cannot be ignored and what must always be said.



**Religion and Politics** 13  
When Char Pelfrey got involved in local politics, she assumed being a pastor's wife had prepared her for what she would face.



**The Christian and Citizenship** 17  
This excerpt from Noel Smith's 1966 message is timely, relevant, and directly to the point.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:



**8** Specific Election Prayer Points  
**15** 40-Day Election Prayer Calendar



Don't miss any of the *Tribune's* digital offerings on our website [www.tribune.org](http://www.tribune.org). You can find old articles, a digital page-turn version of this month's magazine, and a link to sign up for the *Tribune* Update email.

### COLUMNS AND DEPARTMENTS

**4** BBFI Leadership Perspectives  
**6** The Right Angle: How to interact in a political season  
**7** Urban Current: One voter's view  
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**21** BBC: A Family Legacy  
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Executive Editor: Randy Harp  
Assistant Editor: Rob Walker  
Director of Office Services: Karri Joy Perry  
Email address: [editors@tribune.org](mailto:editors@tribune.org)  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

As Christians, we have a responsibility to stand for Biblical truths in the face of a culture resistant to hearing what the Bible has to say about many of the issues of our day.

But going against the power of political correctness can be intimidating. People are quick to stop listening and label us old-fashioned, out-of-touch, and irrelevant. As church leaders, we know only truth sets people free. So how can we, in this rancorous election season, best declare truth vital to the well-being of our listeners and the culture at large?

First, we must remember Jesus told us to shine as lights in the darkness and to be the salt of the earth — not run for the hills or circle the wagons. Our calling is to influence people around us and to stand for biblical truth. What society believes to be true will shape the future of our nation. We must remember our biblical influence is for the good of the nation.

Second, we must not fall into the trap of party politics. The greatest tragedy is not losing an election but losing the opportunity to share the Gospel with everyone in our city. Long after polls close and winners are sworn in, our mission will remain; share the Gospel.

Lastly, we must not villainize those we disagree with. We must never forget all people are made in the image of God. Jesus instructs us to love, to bless, and to do good to our enemies. As we stand for truth we must follow this path. To speak strong truth in love is not easy. But unless we do, we become part of the noise. Merely sounding brass and clanging cymbals.



**Eddie Lyons**  
BBFI PRESIDENT

## WORLD MISSIONS THE EFFECTS OF POLITICS WORLDWIDE

Across parts of Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America, missionaries are experiencing the results of government actions against immigration and religion. Governments are not renewing work visas, requiring means to provide social assistance to their people, or regarding missionaries as taking jobs away from their people. Some countries are making it illegal to share your faith outside of the church or to distribute material to someone not of your faith. Christian organizations are losing their government registrations.

Elections in our country can influence the climate of missionary activity worldwide.

Should things move forward with the border to our south, we could see our missionaries impacted. If economies in Southeast Asia continue to suffer and employment opportunities decline, missionaries in creative access nations will also likely struggle to maintain their platforms and visas. Our military activities in regions like Syria could result in a more hostile reception to visas for our people there and in areas that support opposing sides (Russia).

In the midst of difficult circumstances, we are thankful the same God who was faithful in calling each of these missionaries is the same God who is seated on the throne

today! What men will do to stop the spread of God's Word will not stop the work of God.

Pray for our missionaries in these changing times and pray God would make a way for them to remain in their countries and supply all their needs. Pray for believers and leaders in these countries around the world to remain strong, especially when the missionary has to leave.

Someone said, "The Great Commission is not just for a time of freedom."



**Jon Konnerup**  
BBFI MISSION DIRECTOR

# BBFI LEADERSHIP

## CHURCH PLANTING DEVELOPING PROPER PERSPECTIVE

Church planters must gain a proper perspective of where they are in relation to their field of service — understanding the social dynamics and the general demographics of the area.

Every city, town, or state has its own unique characteristics. Learning the habits, traits, and culture within a particular area is time consuming. To gain a perspective, you need to ask questions such as: What are the needs in this area? What are the main concerns confronting the people living in this area? What type of work do these people do? What is their educational background?

Economic and social backgrounds enter into the

dynamics of the area. Getting a proper view of the spirit and attitude found among the people is one of your great challenges. This type of survey can only be done by developing a personal touch — visiting homes, places of business, schools, and such.

Trying to develop a plan or process without first understanding the culture and people with whom you are working can prove to be futile. We all know Jesus spent almost 30 years of preparation for three years of ministry, but somehow we tend to think we can prepare in three years for 30 years of ministry. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of understanding the people and

needs of your area. Gaining perspective takes time.

But, there is a warning here to be heeded: the culture, the needs, the habits, the environment in which you minister should in no way alter the message of God's Word. The Gospel must be presented in its purest sense. We must always address the sinner's need for Jesus Christ as Savior. Evangelism is our method and the Gospel is our message.



**John Gross**  
BBFI CHURCH PLANTING (APEX)

## BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE LEADERSHIP NEEDED

**M**y name is Mark and I am a conservative. I am an unashamed believer in Jesus Christ. I believe the Bible is the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God that teaches us how to live and how to get to heaven. This is what I believe and this is what we teach at Baptist Bible College, and I approve this message.

I am also an American — a proud American who believes our country is the greatest nation in the history of the world. America was founded by men seeking a country where they could worship and serve Jesus Christ. BBC was founded by men who believed in the American right of religious freedom and built a

college to train people to take the Gospel around the world.

But today, we find ourselves at a critical point in our history. We are facing a presidential election that will affect the direction of our country. The leadership of our country will affect our judicial system as Supreme Court Justices are appointed, it will affect our legislative system as immoral laws are proposed and imposed, and it will affect our churches and colleges which are under pressure to succumb to very unbiblical laws and regulations.

Yet we are to stand true to God's law over and above man's laws.

Every day as I look at

students who have come to BBC, I wonder what God will do with them in the future. Which one of them will lead a church, which one will run for office, which one will go to the darkest corner of the earth and share the light.

This next generation of leaders must engage this world with all the wisdom of Solomon, with all the doctrinal and communication abilities of Paul, and most of all, with the compassion of Jesus.



**Mark Milioni**  
BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

# PERSPECTIVES POLITICS

## BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE SELLING SEASON

**C**hristmas is coming soon! In a presidential election year with the full fury of the final autumn campaign beating down on us, we need to rekindle our joy. We can't make it to the season of joy without first passing through the season of "selling." Selling. That's what American politicians do. As a guy who enjoys eating, I liken it to figuring out which restaurant to choose! One will tell you they have "the best burger in town," another will claim "world-famous apple pie." All over our city I see eating spots advertise "voted best in Boston!" I always wonder ... who decided? And why the fame? Who voted?

Now let me be sure to say that in a representative

democracy, the people of the Lord should certainly vote. Vote smart, vote with biblical values, and vote after you've done your homework. But don't "buy." Save the buying for your Christmas shopping.

What do I mean when I say don't "buy?" Politicians are salespeople. The mistake often made by biblical Christians is to buy into the political process. Politics is a compromise game. It only works when there is either national unanimity (almost never happens) or strategic "settling" of both sides on some kind of middle ground. That's what is sold. In a society as fragmented, diverse, and devoid of biblical conviction as this nation, we dare

not trust any political solution.

We should vote, and we should vote for the best option (or least awful). I will vote to reduce the speed of virtuous decay. I will vote to get whatever fragment of principle that seems reasonably possible. But I will not buy what any of them are selling. I will not jump for joy at anything that happens on November 8. I'm hoping to just breathe a sigh of relief. Joy will come in December.



**David Melton**  
BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE PRESIDENT

## BBFI CONTACT POINTS

### Baptist Bible Fellowship Int'l.

bbfi.org  
info@bbfi.org  
facebook.com/bbfi.org

### Mission Office

bbfmissions.com  
info@bbfmissions.com  
(417) 862-5001  
facebook.com/BBFIMissions

### APEX (church planting)

apexnetwork.tv  
info@apexnetwork.tv  
(417) 536-8826

### Baptist Bible Tribune

tribune.org  
editors@tribune.org  
(417) 831-3996  
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### Baptist Bible College

gobbc.edu  
info@gobbc.edu  
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# THE RIGHT ANGLE

BIBLICAL WISDOM FOR A CONTEMPORARY WORLD

# Q.

How do we respond to each other in this election season?

By Kevin Carson

**A.** Just in case you have not noticed, election season is here. To add to the confusion, many thoughtful Christians are helping you choose or not to choose in the voting booth. Good men oppose each other in terms of the advice they share, such as Wayne Grudem versus Al Mohler and Russell Moore.

Bottom line, every Christian is responsible to make a personal, informed, thoughtful choice this November.

Until then, how are we to engage each other in these matters? Let me offer some biblical and practical advice — regardless of your November choices — on how to interact with each other on social media, in personal conversations, and at community gatherings.

Ephesians 4:1-6 provides a good backdrop:

*“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism;”*

The primary command — walk or live worthy of our position in Jesus Christ. As followers of Christ, God expects our attitudes and behaviors to be consistent with what God has done for us in salvation. For by grace we have been saved through faith. As such, we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ to walk in good works (Ephesians 2:8-10). So how do we do this?

Paul identifies five key attitudes that enable us to walk worthy on a daily basis for Christ. In regard to politics this election season, these attitudes help us engage each other in a worthy manner of our position in Christ.

- 1. ENGAGE HUMBLY.** Humility is the opposite of pride and arrogance. Essentially, it means to make the concerns of others more important than your own, as exemplified in the life of Jesus (Philippians 2:1-11). So, as you engage others about their political opinions, choose to respect them and appreciate that they care and want to help. Humility does not mean you have to agree with what is said; it does, however, demonstrate concern for the other person. Humility refrains from seeing the other person as stupid or insulting him because of his opinion.
- 2. ENGAGE GENTLY.** Gentleness as expressed here means to exercise self-control. This is a fruit of the Spirit and another characteristic of Jesus. As you determine how to respond to another person’s opinion, consider how to use your words with restraint and discipline. Be intentional to produce amiable conversation. Especially on social media, wait for a period of time before responding to give yourself time to think through what to say and how to say it, or you may choose not to comment at all.
- 3. ENGAGE PATIENTLY.** Patience implies you are long-tempered or slow to get angry. If you are passionate about the future, concerned for your children and grandchildren, and recognize the significance of this election, it is easy to get angry with someone who has an opposing opinion. You may be scratching your head and wondering how someone can have that viewpoint. In these moments, patience compliments humility and gentleness.
- 4. ENGAGE WITH FORBEARANCE IN LOVE.** Essentially, Paul challenges us to put up with each other in love. There are opinions, ideas, personality quirks, likes, dislikes, and other matters like voting preferences that you just do not appreciate about another person. You should expect not to agree with everyone in your family or church, much less your workplace or community. In those instances, because of your love of Christ and each other, choose to overlook it. This is only possible as you choose humility, gentleness, and patience.
- 5. ENGAGE SEEKING TO PROTECT UNITY.** The final exhortation is to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Essentially, God expects the unity of believers that Jesus provided through the cross to demonstrate Christ to a lost world (John 17:20-23). This does not mean Christians cannot disagree with one another; however, Christians must disagree in a way that protects the unity we have in Christ through the Spirit. He demands we “make every effort.” This requires us to do our very best.

## Have a question?

Submit your question to [TheRightAngle@Tribune.org](mailto:TheRightAngle@Tribune.org). Due to space limitations, not all questions may be answered in print. Questions that do appear in this section will have all personal identification removed. For questions requiring answers beyond the scope of a simple Q&A forum such as this, the Tribune recommends you contact a local biblical counselor. The advice given here is not a substitute for a personal conversation with your local biblical counselor.

Kevin Carson serves as department chair of Biblical Counseling at Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary in Springfield, MO. He is the pastor of Sunrise Baptist Church in Ozark, MO.

# URBAN CURRENT

## A voter's view from the Windy City

I am not claiming to be an expert in these matters. However, as a lifelong voter in Chicago and the state of Illinois, I have learned a thing or two about terrible choices when it comes to elections. I'm just sayin' ...

There have been elections I felt slightly better about in terms of the choices. Those would be exceptions to the rule. Most often my trip to the poll is dreaded. I feel like my best option or my best hope is to cast a vote that might, just might, move the mud around in a way that challenges the status quo. At least that's what I tell myself.

You must vote. Bad choices do not let you opt out. The blood of every soldier in every land, of every war and every battle under the red, white, and blue, cries out to you. Too many people have sacrificed too much to preserve our right to go to the polls for you to say, "I'm staying home." Americans facing murderous fire on a foreign battlefield, confronted with snarling dogs handled by our neighbors, and fire hoses wielded by our own civil servants ought to speak deeply to us about the privilege and practice of voting, even if it is only a ritual.

I'm not saying failure to vote is like Colin Kaepernick sitting down during the "Star Spangled Banner," but it is something to think about.

Yes, you must vote.

Then there is the matter of the stewardship of your ballot. Certainly this involves utilizing the privilege. Of course, managing this sacred trust as a believer must be done with scripture, prayer, and reverence.

Is my vote counting in the actual contest? In the spirit of transparency, yes, I have written in candidates. That was many years ago. Maybe I was more stubborn then. Maybe I was more arrogant. I don't know. Now, I want to cast a ballot that counts in the real contest.

No, there is no parallel in scripture. There are some pretty strong principles. Joseph didn't get to vote. He didn't just serve Pharaoh, he served Pharaoh with a great attitude. He

didn't go on Facebook and rant about Pharaoh's unsuitability, moral failures, or bloodletting. He knew God placed him when and where he found himself.

Moses' parents returned him to Pharaoh's house to be raised and educated. Moses didn't get a vote. Moses served Pharaoh, the king who was enslaving his own people.

Nebuchadnezzar would make us happy for Clinton or Trump. Talk about hubris and arrogance! Daniel didn't get a vote. He had no say. Daniel served the king, and yes, with a great attitude. He understood he was where God wanted him doing what God desired.

Oh. Then there's Ahasuerus. A king typical in the ancient world, who withheld from himself no vice or whim, who wielded power out of an unfettered, depraved ego. Esther had no vote. Shall we say euphemistically, Esther served and she did so with a great attitude.

Does it need to be said? This election highlights our social decay and cultural rot. This election serves up exactly what we deserve. Never mind the 1800s. The better part of the 1900s churches ignored Jim Crow and many bashed those who tried to address injustice. Great attention, energy, and money was given to "reach the world" while ignoring people of color and cities in the U.S. The American dream seemed to be equated with the Kingdom of God when it came to "seeking it first." Pulpits across our country have gone soft and silent. We do not tolerate prophets. Churches have become religious, feel-good clubs. We are not very salty and we seemingly have not "let our little light shine."

I know you didn't ask ... but my opinion? We are in the middle of what we helped create.

One of our global partners, Paul Hagelgans, Executive Director of Bible Mission International serving local churches in numerous countries, most of which are in the nations of the former Soviet Union, dropped in unexpectedly to pay us a visit a few weeks

THIS ELECTION HIGHLIGHTS OUR SOCIAL DECAY AND CULTURAL ROT. **THIS ELECTION SERVES UP EXACTLY WHAT WE DESERVE.**

ago. He lovingly laughed at us referencing what he hears overseas of our consternation over the Trump/Clinton choice. He grew up under communism in the USSR. He is now navigating the reality of the new Russian legal restriction on evangelism. Yes, he laughed at us, saying in his thick Russian accent, "You Americans need to remember, God is in control."

A few thoughts.

1. **God owns the world.** Psalm 24:1
2. **God rules the world.** Psalm 103:19
3. **God manages the world.** Daniel 5:21-23
4. **God works through rulers He chooses.** Romans 13:1-7
5. **God gets done what God wants done,** whether through Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Ahasuerus, Caesar Augustus, Herod, as well as Darius and Cyrus.

So, more often than not, I go to my neighborhood polling place trying to strike a blow against what I discern to be the worse evil. As the cities go, so goes the nation.

In times like these, with choices like these, I read a fascinating perspective. In front of you are two doors. You must choose a door. Behind door number one is a man-eating lion. Behind door number 2 *may* be a man-eating lion.

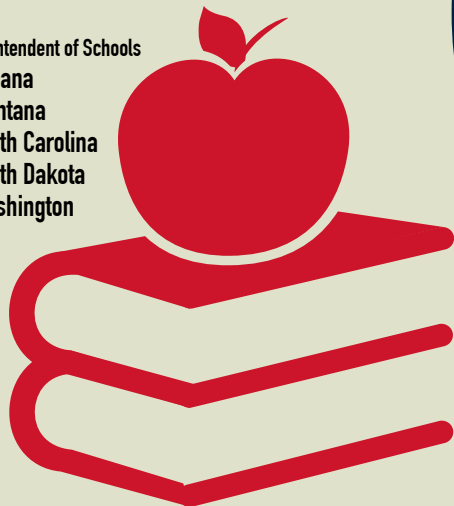
by Charles Lyons, Pastor  
Armitage Baptist Church,  
Chicago, Illinois  
[charles.lyons@armitagechurch.org](mailto:charles.lyons@armitagechurch.org)



# STATE EDUCATION ELECTIONS

Public Education Commissioner  
New Mexico

Superintendent of Schools  
Indiana  
Montana  
North Carolina  
North Dakota  
Washington



# 643

of America's largest school districts by enrollment are holding elections for 2,041 seats. These elections will take place in 38 states. These districts collectively educated a total of 16,965,635 students during the 2013-2014 school year.



## MAYORAL ELECTIONS

46 of the top 100 largest cities are holding mayoral elections

## MARIJUANA MEASURES ON BALLOT

Arizona  
Arkansas  
California  
Florida  
Maine  
Massachusetts  
Montana  
Nevada  
North Dakota



## STATE JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

Alabama	3 seats
Alaska	3 seats
Arizona	7 seats
Arkansas	6 seats
Colorado	11 seats
Florida	30 seats
Georgia	3 seats
Idaho	3 seats
Illinois	9 seats
Indiana	4 seats
Iowa	7 seats
Kansas	11 seats
Kentucky	1 seat
Louisiana	6 seats
Maryland	5 seats
Michigan	8 seats
Minnesota	10 seats
Mississippi	8 seats
Missouri	3 seats
Montana	3 seats
Nebraska	7 seats
Nevada	5 seats
New Mexico	6 seats
North Carolina	6 seats
North Dakota	2 seats
Ohio	30 seats
Oklahoma	6 seats
Oregon	8 seats
Tennessee	10 seats
Texas	26 seats
Washington	9 seats
West Virginia	1 seat
Wisconsin	5 seats
Wyoming	3 seats

## STATE EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

Governor

Delaware  
Indiana  
Missouri  
Montana  
New Hampshire  
North Carolina  
North Dakota  
Oregon  
Utah  
Vermont  
Washington  
West Virginia

Lieutenant Governor

Delaware  
Indiana  
Missouri  
Montana  
North Carolina  
North Dakota  
Utah  
Vermont  
Washington

Attorney General

Indiana  
Missouri  
Montana  
North Carolina  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Utah  
Vermont  
Washington  
West Virginia

## VOTER TURNOUT

Of the

# 52 million

voter-eligible Christians in America, 10 million are not registered to vote for the elections, and **over 20 million who were registered, did not vote in the previous election cycle.** Quite simply, less than 40 percent of all eligible-to-vote Christians in America ... voted.

-nationaldayofprayer.org



# 34

U.S. Senate seats up for election

# 435

U.S. House seats up for election

# 1,210

State Senate seats up for election

# 4,710

State House seats up for election





# OF PREACHING **AND** POLITICS

BY DAVID R. STOKES

**The challenge for today's American preacher is to find the balance between what cannot be ignored and what must always be said.**



Those of us who purport to proclaim the Word of the Lord and implant its principles in the lives of those who listen to us week after week, never need more in-the-moment discernment and wisdom than when we either deliberately depart, or carelessly wander, from the sacred text into the realm of political issues and personalities. Yet, there are occasions when such a rhetorical journey must be seriously considered. It is somewhat like a football quarterback's relationship with "the pocket." There are times when a wise playmaker will find a way to scramble effectively to make an important play.

But there are risks.

Preaching has played a positive role during many periods of unrest and transition in American history. From the Puritans, with their vision of a great "city on a hill," to preachers who cried out against the

ungodliness of slavery in the years before the Civil War, to members of the clergy who galvanized and energized the civil rights movement 50 years ago, voices have cried out in the wilderness of American politics for righteousness and justice.

In December 1955, a few days after Rosa Parks sparked the beginning of a constructive cultural flame by simply refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery, AL, city bus, a small group of like-minded preachers called a mass meeting at a local church. They chose a young local pastor as their leader and spokesman — Martin Luther King, Jr. His first assignment was to speak to a group assembled at that city's Holt Street Baptist Church. He was excited about the opportunity, but had less than an hour to prepare. He later recalled what was on his mind as he gathered his thoughts and prepared his remarks:

*"How could I make a speech that would be militant enough to keep my people aroused to positive action and yet moderate enough to keep this fervor within controllable and Christian bounds? I knew that many of the Negro people were victims of bitterness that could easily rise to flood proportions. What could I say to keep them courageous and prepared for positive action and yet devoid of hate and resentment? Could the militant and the moderate be combined in a single speech?"*

King described one of the most important things a preacher should bear in mind when moving from a message rooted in the eternal and toward one focused on the temporal: Find the balance.

Preacher King faced his largest audience to date that evening. There were loudspeakers outside the church for hundreds who could

not get inside to join the standing-room-only crowd. Using a device he would come to rely on so many times in his eloquent career, he savored a repeated phrase:

*“My friends, there comes a time when people get tired of being trampled over by the iron feet of oppression. There comes a time, my friends, when people get tired of being plunged across the abyss of humiliation, where they experience the bleakness of nagging despair. There comes a time when people get tired of being pushed out of the glittering sunlight of life’s July and left standing amid the piercing chill of an alpine November. There comes a time ....”*

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) described preaching as “truth communicated through personality.” The main responsibility of the preacher is to proclaim the Word of God. Day

in, day out — “in season, out of season.” But along the way, as Dr. King said, “there comes a time” when we face a compelling situation that begs for a perspective from the pulpit.

“There comes a time” when we cannot ignore the elephant — or the donkey — in the room.

Politics are in season right now. This poses a particular cluster of challenges for the preacher. The 19th century German chancellor Otto Von Bismarck famously observed: “Laws are like sausages. It is better not to see them being made.” This analogy easily applies to partisan politics, as well. Mr. Smith will usually find himself disillusioned when he comes to Washington, just as the Apostle Paul’s spirit was “stirred” in Athens when he saw the once-great city’s ubiquitous idolatry.

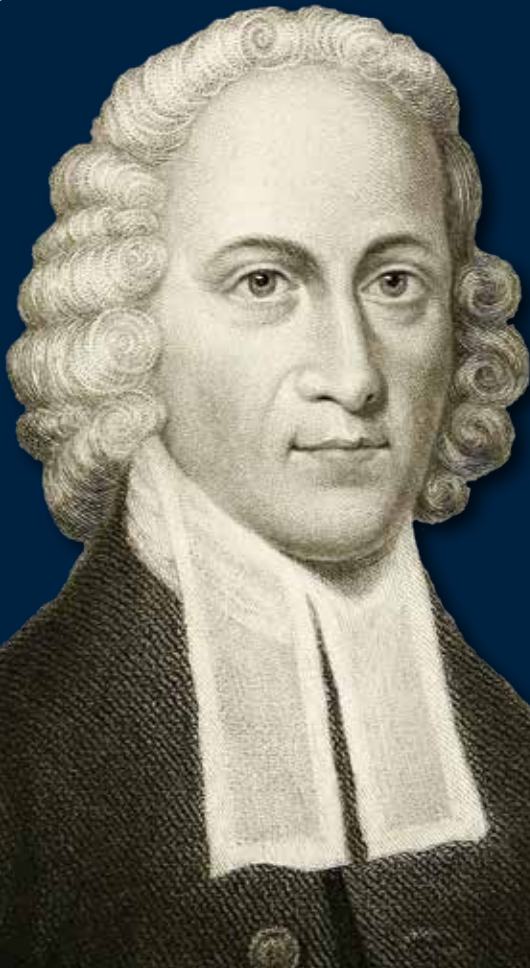
During the waning days of World War I, British Prime Minister David Lloyd George remarked, “When the chariot of humanity

gets stuck, nothing will lift it out of the mud better than great preaching that goes to the heart.” That observation from 1916 still resonates in 2016. The challenge for today’s American preacher is to find the balance between what cannot be ignored and what must always be said. There are several factors for the preacher to consider when discussing politics from the pulpit.

### THE GREAT FACTOR

Preaching the sacred text keeps us in the realm of the profound. Preaching anything else tempts us toward the realm of petty. Foundational to all effective preaching is the great commandment — to love God with all that we are and all that we have. This means that our hearts must always be focused on affection for the Lord Himself. Preaching is a form of worship, and we must have “no other gods” before us when we speak.

*Jonathan Edwards*



Long before men named Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Hancock, and Franklin became notable and influential, there were a few preachers who meteorically blazed across the colonial sky. Men like George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards preached the Gospel with power. And by the time the fires of revolution began to burn in the hearts of the colonists, those embers were tempered by the enduring effects of the Great Awakening.

*George Whitefield*



Flowing from the great commandment to love God completely is another: to love our neighbor. Our ultimate passion for God will inevitably lead to compassion for others. But to approach the horizontal without first focusing on the vertical is a slippery slope — one that takes the preacher and pulpit away from the proclamation of ultimate truth and reality, and toward the merely human. There is a difference between preaching the Gospel and having it come to bear on social issues, and preaching a purely social Gospel. The latter focuses on love for neighbor at the expense of love for God. Or worse, the preacher begins to assume that love for neighbor is, in effect, love for God. The two are related — but they are not the same.

We must never lose sight of another vital priority: the Great Commission. Our Lord's mandate was for us to be witnesses unto Him in the world. Centuries before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah forecast a great messianic forerunner. Ultimately fulfilled in the person of John the Baptist, this promised personality would emerge as a "voice crying in the wilderness."

*"A voice says, 'Cry!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." Isaiah 40:6-8 (ESV)*

The preaching that will impact politics the most will not be over-focused on issues and personalities, because they will ultimately wither and fade. Instead, a redoubled focus on the Gospel itself is the only way to have an enduring influence.

At the close of the 18th century, western civilization was experiencing the turbulence of revolution. Our nation was born out of this travail. Other nations also struggled to cast off the old monarchical model for something more democratic. But have you ever wondered why the American Revolution and its European contemporary, the French Revolution, turned out so different? While talking about "liberty, equality, and fraternity," the French wound up with terror and eventual despotism via

**The preaching that will impact politics the most will not be over-focused on issues and personalities, because they will ultimately wither and fade. Instead, a redoubled focus on the Gospel itself is the only way to have an enduring influence.**

Napoleon Bonaparte. He, by the way, provided the political DNA for infamous despots to come.

If America was born 240 years ago this year, the case can be made that she was conceived several decades earlier. Long before men named Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Hancock, and Franklin became notable and influential, there were a few preachers who meteorically blazed across the colonial sky. Men like George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards preached the Gospel with power. And by the time the fires of revolution began to burn in the hearts of the colonists, those embers were tempered by the enduring effects of the Great Awakening. But France had no such awakening. And their experience was ancestor to all subsequent revolutions that have wreaked havoc on so many nations and the world.

### THE DISPOSITION FACTOR

Americans are angry. From the "tea party" on the right, to "occupy Wall Street" on the left, there is a pervasive spirit of discontent. But as Winston Churchill once observed, "anger can make a good starter, but it becomes a bad sticker." In other words, while some constructive social change has been effectuated starting with anger, lasting change cannot be driven by human wrath. The biblical writer James reminded us that "wrath of man" does not accomplish God's purposes. One of the primary roles for the preacher in this political year is to be a voice of reason when surrounded by the unreasonable.

Anger is a gateway sin. Spiritual leaders

are painfully aware of how the poisonous fruit of personal bitterness can destroy people and relationships. But are we fully aware of how even a small amount of political indignation — even when the issues feel justified — can spark a cultural firestorm? The Scriptures talk about the power of the tongue to build up or tear down. Nowhere is this lingual potential more powerful than in the political realm.

When the Apostle Paul was urging members of the church at Philippi to learn how to get along, he called for "moderation" (Philippians 4:4). Our "moderation" (Greek, *epieike*, meaning gentleness, fair minded, and reasonable) should be well known. And when our nation is inundated with vitriolic politic speech, we must contrast this with megadoses of "sweet reasonableness."

### THE COSMIC FACTOR

The Apostle John wrote about God's love for the world: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 ESV). He also wrote that followers of Jesus should not love the world: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life — is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:15-17 ESV).

The first passage is a reminder about God's great grace and mercy. The second

passage is a warning about placing our trust in material and temporal things. The “world” is a planet. The “world” is humanity. And the “world” is also a sinful system. The earth may be orbiting the Sun, but the world system is in a deadly trajectory moving away from God — what the Apostle Paul referred to as “the course of this world” (Ephesians 2:2). As preachers, we must never lose sight of the fact that drawing too close to the politics of the world system is a slippery slope. The Scriptures are filled with warnings about this: “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” James 4:4 (ESV). Even when the times are urgent and the issues compelling, we must be careful because power is very seductive.

When I was a young pastor in the early 1980s, I attended a regional meeting of ministers in the state where I served. After the preaching and worship was done, we were asked to stay for a presentation. This was when the movement called the Moral Majority was at the peak of its influence. A young politico — armed with charts, graphs, and obvious passion — laid out a strategy for organizing local chapters of the movement, with preachers occupying the top positions. It was quite impressive. The guy was an organizational whiz kid. But something he kept repeating bothered me: “And, pastor, if you do this, you can become the most powerful man in your town.”

It was all very compelling, not to mention completely wrong.

When the Apostle Paul wrote his first epistle to Pastor Timothy, he minced no words reminding the younger preacher about the perils of loving money and seeking wealth. He even went so far as to insist that there was

something about the love for material things that connected with all kinds of evil. The same can be said about the love of power — for wealth and power are flip sides of the same corrupt coin.

*“I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession...” 1 Timothy 6:13 (ESV).*

*“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.’” John 18:36 (ESV)*

### THE FIDDLER FACTOR

One of my favorite moments from *The Fiddler on the Roof* illustrates an interesting biblical idea related to our relationship with political people and processes:

Lebisch: *Rabbi! May I ask you a question?*

Rabbi: *Certainly, Lebisch!*

Lebisch: *Is there a proper blessing ... for the Tsar?*


Rabbi: *A blessing for the Tsar? Of course! May God bless and keep the Tsar ... far away from us!*

Preaching and politics tend toward the toxic when we fall prey to the idea that somehow political parties, powerful personalities, and various changes in public policy can become sanctified delivery mechanisms for ultimate hope. Yes, “there comes a time” when we must speak up — and out. But we must never forget that our best efforts are spent using spiritual weapons. Like Sean Connery’s mockery in the movie *The*

*Untouchables*, about how dumb it was for an enemy to bring a knife to a gunfight, when we fail to show up in the church or marketplace of ideas with anything less than the Word of God, we will be ineffectual and frustrated.

Paul reminded Pastor Timothy that we must pray for leaders — all those in authority — but not because they are the most effective agents for cultural change. Instead he said that the focus and motivation for such “political” praying was: “that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way” (1 Timothy 2:2 ESV). In other words, “May God bless and keep the Tsar... far away from us!”

The stubborn strongholds of this world — political or otherwise — cannot be effectively countered by merely human methods and power: “For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but have divine power to destroy strongholds” (2 Corinthians 10:3-4 ESV).

It may be that 2016 is one of those moments when “... there comes a time ...” for preachers to step out of the pocket and scramble a bit, but we must never lose sight of the line of scrimmage, not to mention the ultimate glorious goal line. 

*David R. Stokes has been in pastoral ministry for nearly 40 years and has served as the senior pastor of Expectation Church in Fairfax, VA, since 1998. His tenth book, a thriller set against the backdrop of Winston Churchill’s funeral in 1965, will be published later this year. David’s personal website is: [www.davidrstokes.com](http://www.davidrstokes.com).*

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... when we fail to show up in the church or marketplace of ideas with anything less than the Word of God, we will be ineffectual and frustrated.





# RELIGION—AND—POLITICS



BY CHAR PELFREY

**I thought I was ready to step into the political world because I'd been in church all my life. I thought I'd seen it all and survived. *I was wrong.***

About 20 years ago, God challenged my husband, Jerry (lead pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Mason, OH, for 31 years), and me through Matthew 5 to get involved in our community. We were definitely stepping out of our comfort zones. We joined the local Kiwanis Club and I volunteered in various community and school projects. Not long after, Jerry became a chaplain for Mason's police and fire department and has served in that capacity to the present. In 1999, the Lord nudged me once again and my mind and heart were turned to Mason's city council. After getting an exuberant "yes!" from my husband, and as an admitted political novice with a great passion to serve the Lord through my community, I ran my first city-wide race for council and won, topping in vote count all other candidates except one seasoned incumbent. We worked hard on that campaign. Everything that had my name

on it was done with class, excellence, and the latest technology — or it wasn't done at all. Since that time, the Lord has allowed me to successfully win all four elections to council, twice receiving top vote count. I'm in my 15th year and have served as mayor and vice mayor of Mason. I am currently the longest-seated council member.

I thought I was ready to step into the political world because I'd been in church all my life. I thought I'd seen it all and survived. I was wrong.

We knew the Lord had impressed His plan upon me to step into a new realm of being light and salt. I had support from Mason's residents, and I was brimming with energy and ideas. What we were not prepared for was the instant exposure to behind-the-scenes unethical behavior by an established few. I was driven to my knees in prayer like never before, begging God for His wisdom, protection, and strength. My verse for this

journey came from Matthew 10:16, "behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be therefore wise as servants and harmless as doves." The book of Proverbs became a daily manual. I was now in the public eye, on camera, and quotable at any time. I was outside the haven and refuge of His church, where at least the understood premise was an acknowledgement of and obedience to God and His Word.

Mason, OH, is a beautiful city. We have great parks, above-average incomes, churches on many corners, excellent police, fire/EMS, and city services, and great amenities that offer a comfortable life for its residents. Along the way, I've worked with many who love their country and their community, who have moral values, strong work ethic, and common sense. I've served beside Christians who've been a tremendous source of encouragement and stability, who love the Lord, and put His principles first. But, I've also worked with

those capable and willing to do whatever it takes to see their agendas pushed through. I've been viciously and unjustly slandered by other elected officials in the media, threatened, lied to, ganged up on, ignored, misquoted, and harassed — often by those who rarely miss a Sunday at their local church.

We've had some tremendous wins over the years. Jerry and I have met and developed lasting relationships with so many people we never would have known had we stayed within our church. Many of those people have called upon us in their time of need because they know us and have come to trust us. We've never claimed to have it all together, but we've been willing to expose our humanity (often with humor) and utter dependence on Christ. We chose to stay connected long term, not sharing our faith with a hit-and-run mentality. Jerry is well respected in Mason, not just because he's a minister, but because he loves people and is willing to roll up his sleeves and work alongside them. He is invited to pray at many city events, gently infusing the Gospel and biblical principles along with the blessing for the day. I've had the privilege to serve a large and diverse cross-section of people in our city, county, and beyond. Through it all, the Lord has blessed us, protected us, and guided us. Our church caught the same vision along with us years ago and we are known in the city for our generous extension of community service.

The Apostle Peter, who certainly had his fair share of governmental interaction, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, had much to say on the subject.

*... that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

- 1 Peter 1:7

*... having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

- 1 Peter 2:12

*... even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.*

- 1 Peter 3:14-17

It's easy to get discouraged as we witness the deterioration of our nation's moral values from the top down. Sadly, we're not shocked anymore when another politician is exposed for lies and corruption. The term politician practically implies misconduct. We, as Christ-followers, must constantly remind ourselves this is not the time to retreat into the church and throw out verbal hand grenades of warning! May we willingly and creatively look for everyday ways to saturate our communities with Christ's salt and light — us!



BEHOLD I SEND YOU FORTH AS SHEEP IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES; BE THEREFORE WISE AS SERVANTS AND HARMLESS AS DOVES."

WE, AS CHRIST-FOLLOWERS, MUST CONSTANTLY REMIND OURSELVES: **THIS IS NOT TIME TO RETREAT...**



# PRAYER



# CALENDAR

IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND.

— 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

## SEPTEMBER 30

**Yourself:** Pray that over the next 40 days you will seek God and His will during this election season.

## OCTOBER 1

**Our Country:** Pray that as a country we will turn back to God.

## OCTOBER 2

**The Church:** Pray the church will lift high the name of Jesus Christ and keep its focus where it needs to be.

## OCTOBER 3

**Pray for** Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia.

## OCTOBER 4

**Vice Presidential Candidates:** Tonight is the only VP debate. Pray for nominees Mike Pence and Tim Kaine.

## OCTOBER 5

**News Media:** Pray those reporting on the election would be fair, accurate, and honest.

## OCTOBER 6

**Supreme Court:** Pray for the decisions they make and the future of who may serve in this capacity.

## OCTOBER 7

**Registered Voters:** Many states require non-registered voters to register 30 days prior to an election. Pray all Christians would register to vote.

## OCTOBER 8

**The Economy:** Pray the U.S. economy remains strong regardless of who wins the election.

## OCTOBER 9

**Presidential Candidates:** Both candidates are made in the image of God and Jesus died for both. Pray they would each find and follow Jesus Christ.

## OCTOBER 10

**Pray for** Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland

## OCTOBER 11

**Educators:** Pray for those who invest in our children on a daily basis. Ask God to give them wisdom and discernment in teaching truth.

## OCTOBER 12

**Civil Leaders:** Pray for those who are in positions of leadership locally, statewide, and nationally.

## OCTOBER 13

**Senate:** There are 34 seats in the U.S. Senate up for election. Pray for those campaigning for these seats.

## OCTOBER 14

**Police:** Pray for the safety of our police officers. Pray they would have wisdom in their quick responses.

## OCTOBER 15

**Absentee/Early Voters:** Each state varies as to when early voting begins. Pray for those who decide to vote early.

## OCTOBER 16

**Christians:** Pray for Christians all throughout our country to be good ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

## OCTOBER 17

**Pray for** Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey.

## OCTOBER 18

**Wisdom:** Scripture says if anyone lacks wisdom to ask for it. Pray for wisdom for our entire country.

## OCTOBER 19

**Presidential Candidates:** Tonight will be the last of the presidential debates. Pray for each as they share their vision for America.

(continued)

# PRAYER



# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER 20

House of Representatives: All 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are up for election. Pray for those campaigning for these seats.

## OCTOBER 21

Children: Pray God would protect them from much of the ugliness of the election process. Pray they would have strong mentors to learn from.

## OCTOBER 22

Professional Athletes: Pray they would use their influence for the good of our country.

## OCTOBER 23

Christian Politicians: Pray they would stand strong on their convictions and make decisions on what God would want rather than man.

## OCTOBER 24

Pray for New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina

## OCTOBER 25

Third-Party Candidates: These candidates have the potential to impact the election. Pray for each third-party candidate by name.

## OCTOBER 26

Social Media: Social media's influence in this election is stronger than ever. Pray for those who use social media.

## OCTOBER 27

Gubernatorial Races: There are 12 states holding gubernatorial elections. Pray for these states and the men campaigning for governor.

## OCTOBER 28

Immigrants: Pray for legal immigrants who may be voting for the first time.

## OCTOBER 29

Entertainment Industry: Pray they would use their influence for the good of our country.

## OCTOBER 30

Pastors: Ask God to help them understand their influence, to be godly leaders, and to lead by example.

## OCTOBER 31

Pray for South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

## NOVEMBER 1

Fasting: Commit this day to fasting for the election one week from today.

## NOVEMBER 2

Health Care: This is a topic of division in our country. Pray for unity and pray for wisdom.

## NOVEMBER 3

Mayoral Races: 46 of the country's 100 largest cities will have mayoral elections this year. Pray for these influential cities of America.

## NOVEMBER 4

Millennials: Many millennials will have their first opportunity to vote in a national election. Pray they would understand the importance of their vote.

## NOVEMBER 5

Military: Ask God to protect our military as they fight to protect us and our freedom.

## NOVEMBER 6

Our Country: Pray 2 Chronicles 7:14 for our country. Ask your church to pray with you for our country.

## NOVEMBER 7

Polling Places: Pray all polling locations would be operated in an organized and ethical fashion.

## NOVEMBER 8

Yourself: As you enter the polling booth today, ask yourself, "What will most glorify God?" Pray, "Thy will be done."





# THE CHRISTIAN —AND— CITIZENSHIP



BY NOEL SMITH

**“Seventy-five percent of the corruption in this country today is due to the practical indifference of lazy, cowardly, flabby, “built-up” saints who don’t want to risk soiling their soft white hands by getting into politics and taking a practical stand for what is decent and right.”**

The following is excerpted from a sermon preached by *Tribune* founding editor Noel Smith at the 1966 Fundamental Baptist Congress of North America. The sermon is published in *The Biblical Faith of Baptists: Book II*, Regular Baptist Press, 1966.

**A**s a Christian citizen of the United States I not only have privileges, I have obligations. I have the obligation to take as active and intelligent and practical a part in government as any other citizen. I have the obligation, constitutional and moral, to get “mixed up” in politics. I have the obligation to get out where there is cursing and drinking and gambling and do my duty as a citizen. Seventy-five percent of the corruption in this country today is due to the practical indifference of lazy, cowardly, flabby, “built-up” saints who don’t want to risk soiling their soft white hands by getting into politics and taking a practical stand for what is decent and right. Half of them don’t even vote. They say they are waiting for the Lord to come and

“clean up the mess.” They conveniently forget that the Lord taught that they should be busy while He was away, and when He came. And if we shouldn’t be busy about our citizenship, upon which depends the very foundation of civilization and the future of our children and grandchildren, what should we be busy about?

... And on this basic and decisive issue, if Christian citizens do not exercise in every practical way their privileges and obligations of citizenship, then they should be decent enough to keep their mouths shut about the religious, moral, and political depravity and degeneracy that surrounds them.

Christian citizens should be both thinkers and doers. This country was founded and constitutionally established by men who were both thinkers and doers. To think without doing is worthless, and to act without first thinking is to make the condition worse.

... at the same time, Christians have the obligation to be intelligent participants. They have the obligation to be versed in the philosophy of civil government. They have the obligation to understand and appreciate the distinction between civil government and Christianity.

But again, such knowledge and intelligence is completely worthless unless the Christian citizen gets into the main stream of the life of his country and plays a practical part in government. This means, again, that the Christian citizen has got to get out in the mud and dirt, in an atmosphere of cursing and gambling and drunkenness, and do battle with the forces that are destroying the very foundations of the institution of civil government. I don’t mind smelling like the Devil’s crowd if I get the smell by fighting them. I had rather have that smell on me than the smell of a theological beauty shop.



# IN THE TRENCHES

## COMMUNITY AND POLITICS

### Pastor

Don Elmore  
Pastor | Temple Baptist Church | Springdale, AR

#### BE VISIBLE IN THE COMMUNITY

**A**ugust is always a busy month as summer is closing, school starts, and we gear up for the new school year. Being an ambassador for the Springdale Chamber of Commerce gives us a wonderful opportunity to be involved in many activities. The Chamber sponsors an appreciation breakfast and lunch for all teachers in the school district, over 2,000 teachers and over 23,000 students in our district, and we get to help with all this. As a member of the Chamber, we get to wear our church shirts and serve breakfast and lunch.

Also, we have adopted two public grade schools and take donuts to teachers, offer them prayer partners for the year, and pray with them

to get the year started off right. This year we were blessed to do a walk-through prayer time for each school in our district. Last Sunday afternoon, schools were open and we were all welcome to walk through praying for students, teachers, and administrators for the new year.

For our other partner school, we participate in Community Kids Closet. The school will send us sizes of children who need clothing and coats and we furnish clothing for these children. We also read to the children and listen to them read (you can't imagine what a blessing this is), and we partner with a couple of food banks.

Being a part of the Chamber, we attend ribbon cuttings for the opening of new

businesses, serve hot dogs to our new schools opening up, attend a weekly morning brew where we are served coffee and snacks while networking with 150 business people, have a monthly luncheon for all Chamber ambassadors, and are involved in many community projects.

There is no joy like the joy of connecting with our community and having a platform to live Jesus Christ in front of them. Through this process, we get to meet and visit with politicians in the area, including our governor who was at our teacher appreciation lunch. We are invited to all events the Chamber is involved in and are often invited to pray at the opening of those events. Only God can do something like this and it is fun to be part of what He is doing here.

### Youth Pastor

Ben Schenk  
Youth Pastor | High Street Baptist Church | Springfield, MO

#### BE HELPFUL IN THE COMMUNITY

**A**s American youth pastors, we all want to see God change lives of students in our local schools, but the hassle and pushback from many school administrations can seem daunting. It's easy to just throw your hands up in despair and say it's too hard.

Recently, the following verse in Jeremiah spoke to me: "... seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Too many youth pastors today want to use local schools to make a great youth group when they should want their youth group to make great schools. What if we weren't just seeking to grow our gatherings, but desired to make our schools flourish through an influx of Gospel-driven students?

Let me give you some practical ways to get into your local school.

#### Find your passion

Are you an out-of-shape joke? Maybe a band nerd? Or perhaps a washed-up thespian? Use the gifts and passions God has given you to engage the schools in the neighborhood God has entrusted to you. Just because someone else has an incredible ministry working with a football team doesn't mean you should try to imitate that person's calling and passion. Find your own passion. Find that thing that makes you tick. If you want to be effective for God's kingdom, you have to know who God made you to be.

#### Leverage your passion

Once you've found your passion, leverage it. There are teachers and coaches begging for help from parents and citizens within the community. Call up a teacher or administrator and let them know you are willing and available to help. Nothing is above you when it comes to getting your foot in the door. I've driven kids home after practice so the coach could get home to his family. I've been

drenched in sweat after picking up equipment from a football field on a hot day.

Buy lunch for teachers or coaches. Drop off Starbucks! Your willingness to make a relationship and showing you are there to give will go a long way in allowing access to the students you are called to reach.

#### Invest through your passion

Use your connections to bring the Gospel to bear on students' hearts. Start a Bible study before practice, purchase food and have devotions for anyone interested, go to team workouts and practices, drop off Gatorade for the team. Show students you are there for them. Our Gospel opportunities will be in direct proportion to the consistency of our service. If we are a regular and stable influence in students' lives, we will have an opportunity to speak into their lives.

When we utilize the passion God has placed in us to see those far from God experience the life-changing presence of God, we find our purpose, our joy, and our fulfillment.

## Missionary

Dwight Billingsley  
Arabic Christian Ministries | Dearborn, MI

### BE SENSITIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

Working with Arabic-speaking people in the Detroit area, and in particular, Dearborn, is like walking a tightrope across Niagara Falls. It is one of the most politically sensitive cities in America and has representatives from all factions found in the Arabic Middle East. After 50 years of working with Arabic speakers and understanding their culture, we must carefully measure our conversations with them. It requires sensitive awareness of the roots of those with whom we speak. Every country from which our contacts immigrate has a political element, and to reach their people with the good news of Jesus requires

being “wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove.”

We went to Lebanon in 1966 where we studied Arabic intensively for two years. At that time, Lebanon was a robust city and banking capital of the Middle East oil money. Lebanese ladies copied styles from French magazines and only an occasional *hijab* was seen on the streets. A young person who studied English at our Baptist Student Center wore one. This was before the *hijab* became a political statement worldwide; now it is almost mandatory for women, as the old ways are back in fashion. This “statement” is now in Dearborn and is definitely “politically correct.”

One of our Moroccan English students in Dearborn showed Jeanne and me a picture of herself driving a convertible in Morocco and she wasn't wearing a *hijab*. She said, “We don't have to wear one there, but I do have to here in Dearborn.” She said “political peer pressure” required it. The Arabs in Dearborn are not monolithic. Their home countries range from modern Lebanon to the ultraconservative Saudi Arabia. All have a political perspective, and most have satellite TV to keep up with happenings in their former countries.

Many times people looking at Dearborn from a distance have the idea all of its people are the same. It's true it is considered the “capital” of Islam in America, but not all Muslims are the same. They range from nominal to radical. Sometimes well-meaning pastors decide to come to Dearborn on a one-day blitz and convert Muslims to Christianity. This naivety brings headlines, but leaves in its wake tragic consequences.

Those of us who work here day in and day out, and understand the politics and the people, try to pick up the pieces, live down the indignities, and rebuild the trust that is so important in this politically charged atmosphere.

## Missionary

Tarl Reeves  
BBFI Missionary | London, England

### CHALLENGES IN THE COMMUNITY

Every missionary strives to work with and under the government of his or her host country. Overall, our experience with the U.K. government has been positive. That is, until our family was on the verge of getting kicked out of the country.

Beginning in 2013, after being in England for two years, our family started helping a church that was over 175 years old, without a pastor for four years, and on the brink of closing its doors.

In the summer of 2013, I began pastoring the church. We immediately saw God blessing throughout the church. Many accepted Christ, discipleship increased, church attendance grew, and we had multiple baptism services. Within eight months, the church grew from less than 20 on a Sunday morning to running over 80.

However, one member, a deacon before we arrived, didn't like the ministry changes, church growth, or loss of control over the church. Starting in 2014, he erupted with a series of personal attacks on our family. He didn't just want

us out of the church, but out of the country.

As we approached the end of our three-year ministry worker's visa, it was time for us to renew. What normally is a simple process, turned into a 14-month ordeal. After we reluctantly stepped away from this church (a story within itself), this deacon hired a lawyer, without the church's knowledge, and sent incorrect and maligning information about our family to the U.K. Border Agency. We discovered this when we started receiving letters from their lawyer. After a few months of not hearing anything from the Border Agency, we tried to contact them about the status of our visa renewal. The holdup was directly attributed to this deacon's actions.

Since we were required to submit our passports for the visa renewal, we were basically held captive in the U.K. for 14 months. Adrienne's grandparents were in poor health and my grandfather passed away halfway through our wait. Still, we couldn't leave the U.K.

Adrienne began calling the Border Agency, but they offered no help contacting our caseworker. There was no email address provided

other than for complaints. We contacted our local MP (member of parliament) to help. He contacted the U.K. Border Agency on our behalf and, after months of waiting, he received the same answer we had – our case was still pending. We called once a week and sent in letters every other week asking about our case. We met with three different immigration consultants, but they couldn't do anything until a final answer from the government was reached.

After 14 months, the answer came. Our visas weren't renewed. We had to leave the U.K. We broke no laws or rules, but because it was made to look like we weren't in compliance with the U.K.'s immigration regulations, we had to go. Our immigration consultant suggested we leave the U.K. for one year, after which the government would view us as new applicants.

So, after four years in London, we came back for furlough to the U.S. to refresh and reconnect with our supporting churches. Even though we were sad to go, we are excited to return to the U.K. and see what God will do.

## Law Enforcement

Rob McClarty  
Chief of Police | McPherson, KS

I believe our nation is and has gone through considerable change over the last decade — change that has affected our lives and challenged our safety ever too often. The news media covers it daily and social media explodes with it. We have seen it in Texas, Florida, California, France, and elsewhere this year alone.

The first recognizable change I believe has occurred is segments of our country turning away from and/or even against God — a personal decision each of us must examine.

Second, we all too often see law enforcement being diminished, rarely respected, and certainly not considered a priority — until the wolf is at the door.

Understandably, most Americans no longer want nor would they ever consider being a police officer defending the line. I will never apologize for defending this line — the thin blue line that stands between good and evil.

This is where I believe we have failed in almost all our communities and across our nation. All too often, officers receive poor wages and only minimal funding for equipment needs. Most agencies are far understaffed, with little hope of ever being fully staffed again! Officers become burned out from overwork and resign, thus continuing the spiral downward and placing our communities even further in danger.

God and law enforcement provide us the

safety and security we want for our families and ourselves. My officers and I, along with all law enforcement, have sworn to protect our citizens from evil, the evil most Americans want to pretend does not exist.

I believe it will take making both God and law enforcement priorities again to fix the safety and security issues facing our country and cities.

*Rob McClarty is an active member of Westside Baptist Church (Pastor Tim Adrian) and is the chief of police for McPherson, KS. He also is on the Anti-Terrorist Task Force for the state of Kansas.*

## State Representative

Mike Moon  
District 157 | Missouri House of Representatives

Following my first run for Missouri's 7th Congressional seat in 2010, a number of people asked me to summarize my experience. One glaring thought seemed to outweigh all others: How encouraged I was to find many believers in Christ involved and engaged in the political process (at least in southwest Missouri). That comment often brought a follow-up question: "What do you find most discouraging?" My answer: The realization that many believers in Christ are not involved and engaged in the political process!

Often, a politician invoking the name of God offends churchgoers. On the other hand, many politicians are offended by the mention of His name! These thoughts, though, are inconsistent in the life of a true believer. An individual, no matter the occupation, who seeks to follow Christ and apply scriptural principles, will do so (or should) to each and every one of life's decisions. An individual should not be expected to set aside his faith (or in the case of an unbeliever, long-held beliefs) to satisfy a secular fallacy that

God and faith cannot be mixed with politics and government affairs.

Looking at it another way, when elected officials (or anyone else for that matter) make decisions, they will typically call upon past experiences and observations as a guide. People who claim a particular faith will include their beliefs in the decision-making process in much the same way people who claim to have no belief (in an Intelligent Designer, specifically, Jehovah) will fall back on what they've been taught and ultimately believe as fact.

It seems many, whether Christian or not, place an enormous amount of weight on elections — to save our nation, to fix our economy, etc. When we have the opportunity to elect Christians to office, we should do so. However, when we elect leaders who are faithful followers of Christ, should our hope rest in them to fix the cultural and moral woes in our society? Not on your life. Although cultural and religious issues are fast becoming a political hotbed and elected leaders must stand against evil in the capitols across the nation and world, the church bears the responsibility to defend, advance, and guard Biblical truths and Christian values.

That's right! Pastors are called to preach the

Gospel of Christ. That includes, in my opinion, revealing what the Bible says about present-day sins. Pastors who may be a bit squeamish about speaking against what is taking place in our country are encouraged to take a look at the Black Robe Regiment ([www.blackrobereg.org](http://www.blackrobereg.org)). Our nation has a rich history of preachers involved in politics and war.

Since Scripture admonishes believers to be "subject to governmental authorities" (Romans 13:1-7), it seems to make sense that, if given the opportunity to participate in the process of who governs, we should wholeheartedly participate. Some say, "It really doesn't matter whether or not I vote because my vote doesn't count." These folks should read the story of Tennessee State Representative Harry Burn and how his vote ratified Women's Suffrage.

Finally, Proverbs 29:2 says, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked rule, the people mourn." We all want to live peaceably, under the leadership of those who believe the same as we do. Since that is the case, you are encouraged to get involved politically: help with a campaign, run for office, stay in touch with the elected, become a citizen-lobbyist, and at the very least — vote!



# A family legacy

I.

Bill Sears went out from BBC to become a pastor. He served with his wife, Lorraine, at churches in Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Michigan, as the dean of students at BBC, and held several offices in the BBFI. Both of their children, Charlotte and Ron, attended BBC. Charlotte married Bill Bales who is now a pastor in Port Charlotte, FL.

II.

Ron met his wife, Marilyn (Lamb), in 1968 while attending BBC. Ron and Marilyn went on to serve the Lord in Iowa, Michigan, Florida, Colorado, and Delaware. Ron is the executive pastor at East Side Baptist Church in Independence, MO, has been a trustee of BBC, and was the interim president in 2012. He has hosted two BBFI national meetings and held many positions within the BBFI. Two of Ron and Marilyn's three children (Sean and Misti) attended BBC. Sean married Billie Richardson and they are church planters at Grace Church in Boston, MA.

III.

Misti married Michael Haley, Jr., who also attended Baptist Bible College. Michael and his twin brother, Jon, both graduated from BBC in 1995. Their mom and dad, Mike and Diane (Elbe) Haley, graduated from BBC in 1969 and 1970 and worked in churches in Kansas and Texas, recently retiring from Hallmark Baptist Church in Fort Worth after 22 years of service.

IV.

Derek Haley is now a freshman at BBC. He is learning to share the same Gospel message and is developing the same passion for winning the lost that his parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents had. Derek says, "At first, I felt pressure to continue the [family] tradition, but then in 2014, I attended College Days and was impacted by a message I still remember to this day. President Milioni spoke on leaving your mark, being purposeful in your decision-making, and how to leave a legacy. At that moment, I realized BBC was more than just a safe option for me, it was where I knew God needed me."

**O**n May 24, 1950, a document was signed at the Texas Hotel Ball Room that began a great movement and a great college. One name on what can be considered Baptist Bible College's birth certificate was Bill Sears. He went on to become one of the college's first students and graduated in 1951 as president of the class.

A few years later, in 1954, Jeff and Maudie Meek entered the halls of BBC. They kept true to the motto of the school, "Enter to learn, go forth to serve" as they became veteran missionaries to the country of Costa Rica.

On August 20, 2016, two freshmen were welcomed to the campus of BBC. As we looked at their history, we saw some very familiar names, and began to do some research. These two freshmen, Derek Haley and Karly Weed, represent the fourth generation of their families to attend BBC.



Blake Haley (Derek Haley's cousin) is a third generation student, son of Jon and Joy (Dunn) Haley and grandson of Mike and Diane Haley. His maternal great-grandfather was Raymond Dunn, who attended Bible Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth and was present at the Texas Hotel. (Although he never attended BBC, he was a great supporter of the college and the BBFI.)

Derek and Blake have a rich spiritual legacy and are excited to continue that for the next generation.

I.

Jeff and Maudie Meek left BBC and became Baptist Bible Fellowship missionaries in 1956. They served in Costa Rica where they planted four churches, started a seminary to train national pastors, missionaries, and church planters, ran a correspondence school, and established an outreach to Nicaraguan refugees.

II.

The Meek's daughter, Karry, became the second generation of their family to attend BBC. She married John Barnes and they became BBFI missionaries in 1970 to Costa Rica.

III.

The Barnes's daughter, Rachael, became the third generation to attend BBC. While at BBC, she met and married Brian Weed. They are currently missionaries to Nicaragua and are seeing the Lord do an amazing work.

IV.

Karly Weed is now the fourth generation of this family to attend BBC. Karly said, "I have watched my parents and grandparents reach their hands into countries that were practically untouched and bring them to life through Christ. They learned so much from BBC that helped them reach this level of significance for our Lord. I want to have the same impact as they have. I have a strong feeling the BBC Missions major will help me achieve my goal."

*One generation  
shall praise thy  
works to another,  
and shall declare  
thy mighty acts.*

*Psalms 145:4*

FT. WORTH, TX

**NORTH TEXAS FELLOWSHIP MEETING**

The North Texas Fellowship Meeting, hosted by Pastor Kyle Densmore and Trinity Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX, met August 12 for a panel discussion on the Great Commission



vs. The Great Omission. Panelists Kyle Densmore (host church), J. T. Riley (Providence Baptist Church, Aubrey, TX), Philip Hickman (Northwest Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX), and Terry Kizer (Alliance Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX) shared effective ways their churches accomplish the Great Commission in their communities.

GUYTON, GA

**BRADLEY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AT FAITH BAPTIST**

Pastor Calvin Bradley celebrated 30 years at Faith Baptist Church, Guyton, GA, September 11. The theme "United We Stand" was reinforced by special speaker Johnny King admonishing the church to be "united in prayer, united in Spirit, united in love, united in fellowship."

Bradley graduated from Baptist Bible College in 1976. He later moved to Effingham where he organized Faith Baptist Church. The church looks forward to what God has in store for years to come.



WICHITA, KS

**IN CHURCH MERGER, CHURCH'S SECOND PASTOR BECOMES THE FOURTH PASTOR**

In a historical church vote, the membership of Friendship Baptist Church, Wichita, KS, and South Gate Country Baptist, a few miles south of Wichita, voted to merge June 19. Ray Melugin was the second pastor of Friendship Baptist (formerly Wichita's Baptist Tabernacle) from 1969-1993. He became pastor as the church accepted Art Wilson's resignation and Melugin as pastor in the same vote. In June, he once again became pastor without candidating in the vote accepting the merger. Steve Day, Friendship's previous pastor from 1993 until the merger, served with Melugin for 17 years during his tenure as pastor. Day remains on staff with preaching and music responsibilities.



SPRINGDALE, AR

**TEMPLE BAPTIST CELEBRATES 66 YEARS**

Temple Baptist Church, Springdale, AR, and Pastor Don Elmore celebrated the church's 66th anniversary August 20 and 21 with the theme "Connecting with Our Community." Special guests included Springdale's mayor Doug Sprouse, Chamber of Commerce President Perry Webb, BBC's Breakaway worship team, and BBFI Communication Director Randy Harp.



Don Elmore welcomes Springdale mayor Doug Sprouse.

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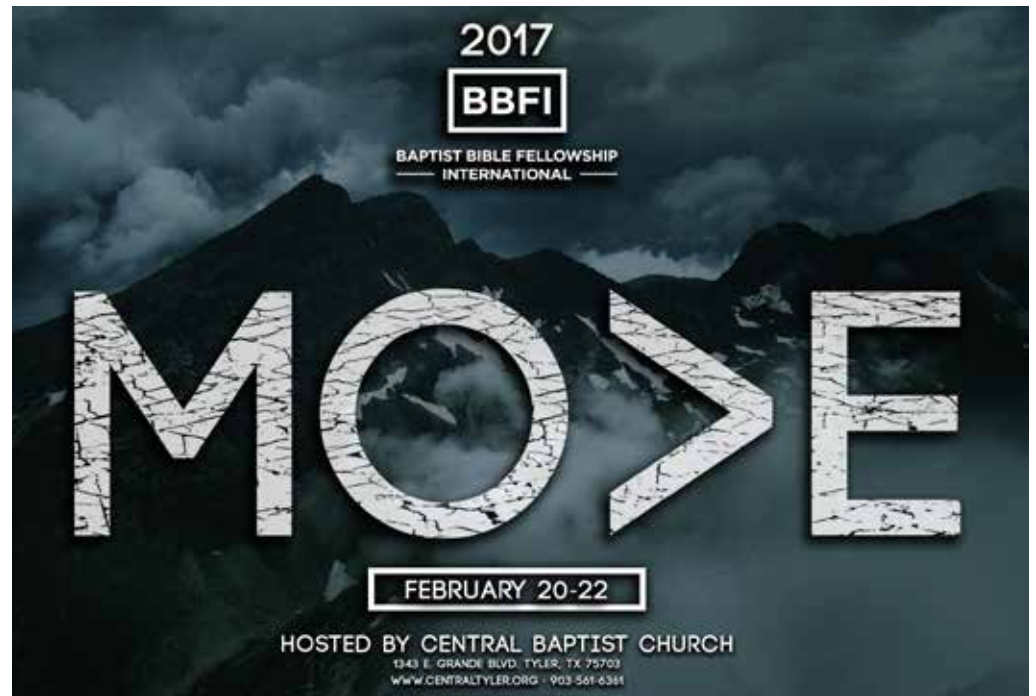
**BBC OPENING WEEK**

A new group of students arrived on the campus of Baptist Bible College/Life Change U to begin training ministry August 20. They were greeted by BBC upperclassmen, staff, faculty, and over 50 churches, groups, and organizations from the city of Springfield.

John Decker, Director of Recruiting, challenged those on hand to welcome the new students saying, "We get the opportunity to impact lives as we greet people and help them. These students are here for a reason, God called them here. We get to welcome them to their new home God has called them to for the next four years. There are some who have never been away from home before. They might be on the fence over whether or not they want to stay. How you talk to them and treat them might make a difference in their being able to finish what God has called them to do."

The BBC/Life Chang U student body is composed of people from all over the world. This year's class boasts two students who represent the fourth generation of their families to attend BBC/Life Change U. (See page 21). These students bring an excitement and passion for the Lord to the campus.

Welcome Week continued with student orientation and special activities to unite the group and acclimate them to the BBC/Life Change U and Springfield communities. President Mark Milioni addressed parents during a special session and they were honored at a candlelight worship service on the Quad. Opening chapel was well attended by local alumni and pastors. Doug Cox, BBFI Vice President of Education, challenged students to recognize the importance of faith and to keep trusting Christ. A link to this message is available at [www.gobbbc.edu](http://www.gobbbc.edu).



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ST. LOUIS, MO

## NEXT STEP UP CONFERENCE HELD AT LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST

Pastor Keith Gillming reports there were over 130 in attendance for this year's Next Step Up conference hosted by Lighthouse Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO, August 29 and 30. Gillming secured two nationally known speakers, Jonathan Falwell of Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, VA, and David Gibbs, founder and president of the Christian Law Association, for the two-day church growth conference. Falwell spoke on how Moses left a legacy and how to cast vision and hope in a pagan society. Gibbs held the session "Legalities of Hot Topics Within the Church"



and preached on America's solution from 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Other breakout session speakers were Ken Braddy, production manager for Lifeway, and Chris Highfill, pastor and church planter of Grace River Church in O'Fallon, MO. Breakout topics included marketing church ministries, implementing church discipline, understanding ministry is war, and making discipleship a driving force in the church.

Lighthouse Baptist Church has hosted Next Step Up since 2009 with the goal of helping pastors, staff, and laymen take the next



step with their churches. This year's conference was offered at no charge to attendees and included five meals.

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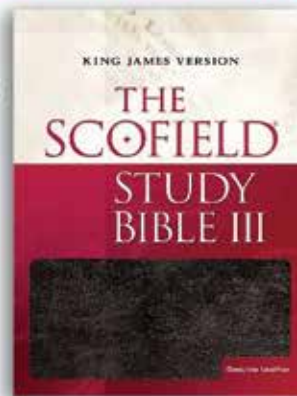
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6000 West Colonial Dr • Orlando, FL 32808  
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2050 South Belcher Rd • Largo, FL 33771  
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**First Coast Baptist Church**

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5100 W Hillsboro Blvd., Coconut Creek, FL 33073  
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Pastor George Mulford III

**Orlando Baptist Church**

500 S. Semoran Blvd • Orlando, FL 32807  
(407)277-8671 • www.worldchangingchurch.com  
Pastor Dustin Janney

**Spring Hill Baptist Church**

3140 Mariner Blvd. • Spring Hill, FL 34609  
(352)683-5685 • www.springhillbc.com  
Pastor Raymond Rouse

**HAWAII****Lanakila Baptist Church**

94-1250 Waipahu St • Waipahu, HI 96797  
(808)677-0731 • Pastor Steven C. Wygle

**ILLINOIS****Sauk Trail Baptist Temple**

4411 Sauk Trail • PO Box 347 • Richton Park, IL 60471  
(708)481-1490 • Pastor Bruce Humbert

**IOWA****Heartland Baptist Church**

3504 N. Grand Ave • Ames, IA 50010  
(515)268-1721 • www.heartlandbaptistames.com  
Pastor Randy Abell

**Albia Baptist Temple**

624 A Avenue W • Albia, Iowa 52531  
Pastor Brian Harris

**Mark Baptist Church**

16011 276th St. • Bloomfield, Iowa 52537  
Pastor Gary Axtell

**Bible Community Baptist Church**

1085 Sawyer Rd • Central City, Iowa 52214  
Pastor Robert Pate

**Calvary Baptist Church**

PO Box 131 - 107 3rd St. • Onslow, Iowa 52321  
Pastor Matt Read

**Bible Baptist Church**

944 W Williams St. • Ottumwa, Iowa 52501  
Pastor Ed Matthews

**Faith Baptist Church**

8280 105th Ave. - 73rd St. Frontage Rd  
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501  
Pastor Phil Griffith  
**Westwood Baptist Church**  
895 S. 60th St. • West Des Moines, Iowa 50266  
Pastor Pat Nath

**Hillcrest Baptist Church**

1613 Didwell Rd. • Muscatine, Iowa 52761  
Pastor Dave McIntosh

**Bethel Baptist Church**

23899 Hwy 30 • Carroll, Iowa 51401  
Pastor Mike Salati

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1304 Millington St • Winfield, KS 67156  
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540 Manley St • West Bridgewater, MA 02379  
(508)583-5190 • www.templebaptist.info  
Pastor Bill Smith

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(704)596-4856 • Pastor Brian Boyles

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(919)772-5864 • Pastor James L. Upchurch

**Trinity Baptist Church**

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Pastor Tom Wagoner

**Berean Baptist Church & Academy**

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Pastor Sean Harris

**OHIO****Ashland Ave. Baptist Church**

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Norwood, OH 45212  
(513)531-3626 • Pastor Jerry E. Jones

**First Baptist Church**

1233 US Rt. 42 • Ashland, OH 44805  
(419)289-3636 • Pastor F. R. "Butch" White

**OREGON****Tri-City Baptist Temple**

18025 S. E. Webster Rd • Gladstone, OR 97027  
(503)655-9326 • Pastor Ken McCormick

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600 Douglas Pike • Smithfield, RI 02917  
(401)231-1980 • Pastor Archie Emerson

**TEXAS****Central Baptist Church**

2855 Greenhouse Rd • Houston, TX 77084  
(281)492-2689 • Pastor Larry Maddox

**First Baptist Church of Meadowview**

4346 N. Galloway Ave • Mesquite, TX 75150  
(214)391-7176 • Pastor Jack Alumbaugh

**First Baptist Church**

Hwy 64 • Wright City, TX 75750  
(903)839-2700 • www.firstbaptistwrightcity.com  
Pastor Rohn M. Boone

**North Park Baptist Church**

4401 Theiss Rd • Humble, TX 77338  
(281)821-2258

**Cypress Creek Baptist Church**

21870 Northwest Freeway • Houston, TX 77429  
(281)469-6089 • Pastor Carl Hughes

**Talley Rd. Baptist Church**

3120 Talley Rd • San Antonio, TX 78253  
(210)675-3154 • www.talleyroadbaptistchurch.org  
trbc@satx.rr.com • Pastor Myres Drew

**VIRGINIA****Faith Baptist Church**

3768 S. Amherst Hwy • Madison Heights, VA 24572  
(434)929-1430 • Pastor Brian Hudson

**Central Baptist Church**

13910 Minnieville Rd • Woodbridge, VA 22193  
(703)583-1717 • office@cbcwoodbridge.org  
Pastor Brad Weniger

**WEST VIRGINIA****Fellowship Baptist Church**

Rt 60 E. at Huntington Mall • Barboursville, WV 25504  
(304)736-8006 • Pastor Jerry Warren

**INTERNATIONAL****BELGIUM****Grace International Baptist Church**

Bruges, Belgium 8200  
(913)871-8901 VOIP • www.gibc.be  
Pastor Tim J. Downs

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# Pastor Appreciation Month

By Randy Harp

**P**astoring a group of people known as a church is a great honor. The majority of pastors I know love their jobs. Yes, some joke ministry would be great if it wasn't for people, and others may continue to pastor not knowing what else to do with their lives, but most serve because they love people and they love seeing lives changed by the power of the Gospel.

Though pastoring a church can be one of the most rewarding experiences, it can also be one of the most challenging. In a recent *CNN Money* report, senior pastor and worship pastor are in the top ten most stressful and underpaid jobs. According to *Lifeway*, more than half of pastors agree with the statement, "I find it is easy to get discouraged," and 55 percent say being in pastoral ministry makes them feel lonely at times.

I am reminded of the help Moses needed in Exodus 17:8-13. Joshua's battle with Amalek was successful so long as Moses held the rod of God up high. As Moses' arms became tired, Aaron and Hur supported him and helped hold up his arms. In the same way, pastors need others as a source of help and encouragement. October, Pastor Appreciation Month, is a great time to do this (October 9 is Pastor Appreciation Sunday). First Timothy 5:17 says an elder (pastor) who serves well is worthy of double honor. Consider these options as you decide how to honor your pastor this month. (Make sure to also honor your entire pastoral team.)

## Pray for him and with him

This is the most important thing you can do for your pastor on a regular basis. Pray for his walk with Christ, his family, and God's leadership through him. Let him know you are praying for him. When possible, pray with him. Before you read anything else, stop and pray for your pastor now.

## Write him an encouraging note

Very few people know all a pastor does, and most of his work is overlooked. When someone takes the time to handwrite a note, often it is the highlight of a pastor's day. I personally have shoeboxes full of notes I received during my years as a pastor. When I needed a little extra encouragement, I would typically find myself perusing that box.

THANK  
YOU

## Make a video presentation to show in church and on social media

This will take some organization, but the video doesn't have to be long to be impacting. Encourage those sharing to tell a story of how the pastor has impacted their lives.

## Purchase a gift card to his favorite restaurant

You likely know where your pastor likes to eat. Purchase a gift card that allows him to take his family out to eat.

## Purchase a gift card to a Christian bookstore or Amazon

Most pastors love to read, but few have a large enough library budget to purchase all the books they would like.

## Send him on a fully-paid, all-inclusive weekend getaway

Yes, this is an expensive idea and not necessarily an idea for every year, but it could be exactly the thing your pastor and his family need.

## Have his vehicle professionally detailed

If your pastor isn't in a position to purchase a new vehicle any time soon, help the one he currently has look as good as new.

## With his input, give his office a makeover

The key in this one is "with his input." Few things will perk up an office like a fresh coat of paint. Make sure he is comfortable in the place where so much of his work takes place.

## Love on his wife

Many reports state the most difficult job in the country is that of a pastor's wife. By far, one of the most encouraging

things you can do for your pastor is to take good care of his wife. Make sure to include the pastor's wife during Pastor Appreciation Month.

## Love on his kids

According to a Focus on the Family survey, four out of five pastors feel their children have been negatively impacted by their ministry. There is a lot more to loving on the pastor's kids than simply keeping them away from the deacons' kids.

## BONUS

Yes, it is a good there is a month set aside each year to recognize and appreciate our pastors, but we are not limited to this month. It should occur all throughout the year. There are a number of ways to do this, but the most practical may be to encourage lay leadership at church to establish a pastoral care team tasked with overseeing the wellbeing of your pastors and their families.

OCTOBER 2016

# PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Tom &amp; Gail Gritts</b> <i>England</i>
<b>2</b>  <small>CHAPLAIN</small> <b>Maj. Herman &amp; Audrey Cheatham</b> <i>US Army</i>	<b>3</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Tom &amp; Carol Wallace</b> <i>Ireland</i>	<b>4</b>  <small>T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY</small> <b>Justin &amp; Jessica Anderson</b> <i>Philippines</i>	<b>5</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Randy &amp; Phyllis Stirewalt</b> <i>Kenya</i>	<b>6</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Karen Kolb</b> <i>Guatemala</i>	<b>7</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Damien &amp; Ruth Ann Pickett</b> <i>England</i>	<b>8</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Daniel &amp; Laura Duke</b> <i>Peru</i>
<b>9</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Frank &amp; Finetta Howell</b> <i>Retired</i>	<b>10</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Bob &amp; Janice Marshall</b> <i>Wales</i>	<b>11</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Louise Warner</b> <i>Philippines</i>	<b>12</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Frank &amp; Mary Bosler</b> <i>Korea</i>	<b>13</b>  <b>Workers in Restricted Countries</b>	<b>14</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Phil &amp; Melody Stephens</b> <i>Zambia</i>	<b>15</b>  <small>BBFI MISSION OFFICE</small> <b>Mailroom Staff</b> <i>Springfield, MO</i>
<b>16</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>James &amp; Dana Kastl</b> <i>New Zealand</i>	<b>17</b>  <small>T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY</small> <b>Jeremy &amp; Andrea Eulberg</b> <i>Bolivia</i>	<b>18</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Keith &amp; Debra Gandy</b> <i>Germany</i>	<b>19</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Maudie Meek</b> <i>Costa Rica</i>	<b>20</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Dennis &amp; Janette Horn</b> <i>Bolivia</i>	<b>21</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Michael &amp; Cristy Wyatt</b> <i>Japan</i>	<b>22</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Paul &amp; Ellen Byars</b> <i>Philippines</i>
<b>23</b>  <b>Boston Baptist College</b> <i>Boston, MA</i>	<b>24</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Andrew &amp; Lisa Simpson</b> <i>Taiwan</i>	<b>25</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>George &amp; Betty Lewis</b> <i>Canada</i>	<b>26</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Georgia Webb</b> <i>Mexico</i>	<b>27</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Jonathan &amp; Natalie Perry</b> <i>Australia</i>	<b>28</b>  <b>Baptist Bible Tribune</b>	<b>29</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Joe &amp; Sherran Flippin</b> <i>Brazil</i>
<b>30</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Steve &amp; Kelli Mowery</b> <i>Spain</i>	<b>31</b>  <small>MISSIONARY</small> <b>Nathan &amp; Tiffany Foltz</b> <i>Tanzania</i>					

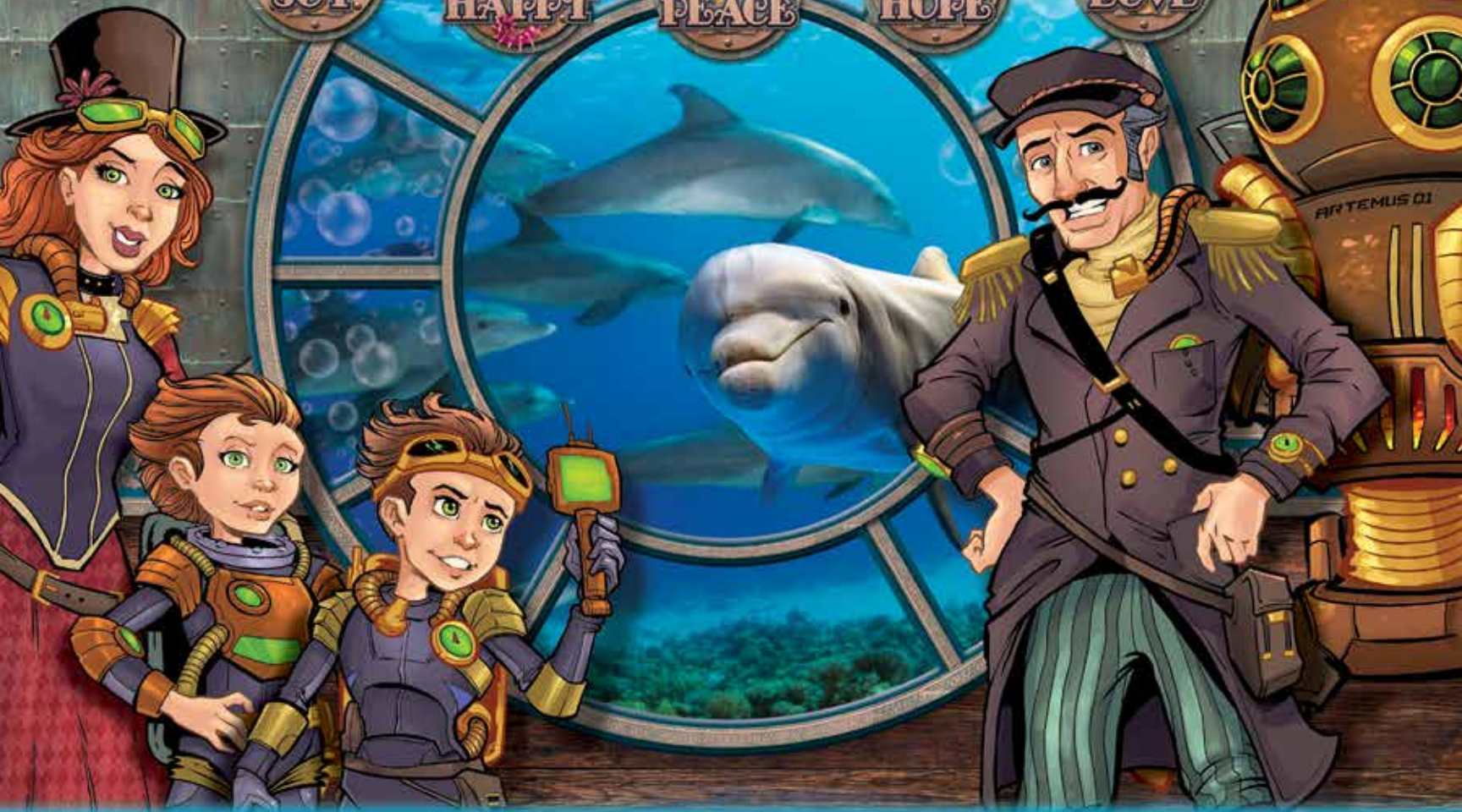
As is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.  
*Martin Luther*



VBS  
2017

DR. VANGUARD'S VOYAGES

# THE REDEEMER



I KNOW *THAT* MY REDEEMER LIVETH.

JOB 19:25



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