

NEW HOPE NEWSLETTER

Volume 21, Issue 2, March/April 2015

The Goodness of the Lord

By Elder Neil Phelan

— reprinted from Elder Phelan's book "The Daily Record" The First Year in Retrospect —

"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living"
 — Psalm 27:13

Faintness of heart is a common infirmity. He who slew Goliath was subject to its attack. It is that time in which we are ready to give up. Everywhere we look, we see evil and fear has gripped our hearts. The straw that broke the Camel's back is added to our affliction and we are inclined to say, "Woe is me that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!"-Psalm 120:5. Let us be honest. We all walk through the dark valley and have depressed spirits from time to time. This is nothing to be ashamed of. But let us not dwell there. Let us rise once again with renewed freshness, with hope in our hearts, believing that we shall "see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." This was David's hope. Let it be ours.

God's goodness has always been strength to His own [children]. With a view of His goodness, Moses received strength to go on. Described as the "friend of God", Moses first knew
(Cont'd on pg. 3)

Winter Garden Primitive
 Baptist Church
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www.wintergardenpbc.com

Worship Service
 Sunday 10:30am
 Bible Study
 Wednesday 7:30pm

Elder Glenn Blanchard
 771 Bending Oak Trail
 Winter Garden, FL 34787
 407-905-5627
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Tapes (subscription or
 address information):
tapes@wintergardenpbc.com



We felt tremendously blessed with the Lord's abundance of gifts
 at the Defense of the Faith Seminar. Many of these able ministers
 offered valuable lessons on our precious doctrine.

Volume 21, Issue 2

Pastor's Letter

Elder Glenn Blanchard

I am thrilled to report that the Defense of the Faith Seminar, held here at Winter Garden Church at the end of December, was a rousing success. The Lord blessed us with a good congregation of young folks and adults. The presenters were exemplary. Each one came forward with the anointing of the Holy Spirit and taught in a manner that must have been reminiscent of the teaching of the gospel in the 1st century church. All were well reasoned, fully documented and filled with enthusiasm.

The congregation was given a grueling schedule with short breaks in-between. All of our Articles of Faith were covered in detail, along with subjects on A Cappella singing, Sunday Schools, Witnessing and Marriage. We also included a panel discussion with eleven ministers, seated up front, answering questions from the audience.

Ministers present included yours truly, Elders Buddy Abernathy, Charlie Dennis, Joel Fuller, Gus Harter, Gary Harvey, Charles Kitchens, John Melvin, Marty Smith, Chris Taylor and Jeff Winfrey.

The audio and video of the presentations are available on the internet at our website. We are trying to make them available in some

sort of album. If you would be interested, just let us know.

I hope that when God's children want to know more about what we believe that these presentations will be standards referrals for our people.

Special thanks to all of you that sent a monetary gift. You were an invaluable part of this project.

The Lord continues to bless Winter Garden Church in abundant measure. Each Sunday we have between 72 and 90 people who attend services. After service some of us fellowship or sing hymns until early evening. We have all ages who attend and belong to the church, for which we are truly thankful. Recently, we had a sister come forward and present a plan for re-decorating the gathering area/entrance foyer of our church, at her expense. Sister Regina Constantino did a beautiful job of making our foyer a comfortable and beautiful area in which to gather and fellowship.

We cannot extol God's goodness to us enough. His blessings upon us are beyond words!



Elder Charles Dennis enjoyed the Defense of the Faith at Winter Garden PBC in Dec. (photo on left) along with Derrick Kitchens, John Harvey, and Andrew Herrin. (below)



Elder Gus Harter and daughter, Elizabeth, look on during discussions at the Defense of the Faith seminar.

Defense of the Faith Seminar

(The Goodness, Cont'd from page 1)

God as the great "I AM", the self-sustaining, self-existing, everlasting God who has no beginning or end. He witnessed God's power in their deliverance from Pharaoh as well as God's wrath in their disobedience. But that was not the end of his experience. Let it not be ours. For the journey before him, Moses must see God in more intimate terms. He must see God's glory: he must see God's "goodness".

The only way that sinful man may gain a glimpse of this goodness is through Christ. In a figure, that is how God revealed His glory to Moses, for His goodness, His Holiness, is His glory. When Moses asked the Lord to "shew me thy glory", the Lord told Moses, "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee..." Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by." Has He revealed His goodness to you?

In another psalm, we are reminded that "the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord". Yes, in the midst of the tragedies, the heartaches, the sufferings, the earth remains to be "Full of the goodness of the Lord". The showers from above sustain us; the earth brings forth the bountiful harvest for our food. Even the air we breathe is a product of His grace. Must we go on? But why do we hear so little about it? Because man is not inclined to publish "the goodness of the Lord". The headlines are full of evil tidings and events. Surely, this is an evil in our day and is designed to turn our eye away from "the goodness of the Lord". Since we are told, "It is a shame even to speak of those things (works of darkness) which are done of them in secret" (Ephesians 5:12) we see the ultimate publisher of evil tidings. Oh, that the headlines would read, "NOTE TODAY, THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD"!

Since man is not naturally inclined to see, or acknowledge, "the goodness of the Lord", His goodness is most commonly veiled in terms of "lucky" and "good break". This is a mark of our depravity. Credit should be given where it is due. Let us join our voices with the psalmist and say, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of man!"-Ps. 107. Without an eye to His goodness, man will naturally be inclined

to misjudge God and the events which surround him. If they can, the wicked will hide His goodness from the eyes of His children. They will present Him in rough terms. Thus, the heart will become discouraged: we will faint in this wilderness. Fainting Christians are easily captured! Therefore, those who truly know Him must look for His goodness and acknowledge Him as good.

Though there are evil workers in every society, God will outlive them for "the goodness of God endureth continually" Ps. 52:1. An eye to His goodness will make the rough places smooth and the crooked straight. Blindness to His goodness causes us to groan: our faith is dead; our hope is stagnant; the future looks doubtful; and the present is disturbing. If HE never did another good thing for us in this life should we not continue to boast in "the goodness of the Lord"!! "Come thou fount of every blessing, teach my heart to sing thy praise."



Many young folk were a delight to see at the Defense of the Faith, including Hannah Abernathy from AL.

Meeting Notices

Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting, St. Andrew PBC, Panama City, FL

2100 Michigan Ave.

Panama City, Florida 32405; 850-872-2146

Standrewprimitivebaptistchurch.com

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our Church family and friends, to join us in the 2015 Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting, hosted by St. Andrew Primitive Baptist Church. It is our sincere prayer that the Lord will bless us with His presence during the meeting and He will inspire His Ministers to come with God-honoring and edifying messages.

Services: Thursday, April 16 - Sandwich supper at 5:30, Services at 6:30

Friday, April 17 - 10:00 AM, Lunch, Services after lunch, Supper at 5:30 PM, Services at 6:30.

Saturday, April 18 - 10:00 AM, Lunch, Services after lunch, Supper at 5:30 PM, Services at 6:30.

Sunday, April 19 - 10:00 AM, Lunch.



Young couple, Sammie and Derrick Kitchens were among the many guests in December.

The Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting will conclude at noon Sunday

Contact: Website: standrewprimitivebaptistchurch.com
•Elder J.C. Stanaland – Home 850-773-9942, Cell 850-624-7124. Email jcstanaland1951@yahoo.com

- Bro. Terry Sesco 850-722-6558
- Brother Rick Howell 890-8289
- Bro. Larry Stephens 850-784-6397
- Bro. Jim Wells 850-769-7457
- Bro. Lynn Braswell 850-874-9515

Accommodations: Please call the motels for exact rates.

Quality Inn, 3602 West Hwy 98; 850-522-5200 – ¼ mile from Church. Estimated rates: Two Queen Beds or a King Bed \$89:99.

Best Western, 1025 E. 23rd Str.; 850-784-7700 – 4.1 miles from Church. Two Queen Beds \$81.59. Tell them Niema gave us the “manager’s rate”!

Comfort Inn, 1013 E. 23rd Str.; 850-769-6969 – 4 miles from Church. Estimated rate: \$160.00 per night.

LaQuinta Inn, 1030 E. 23rd Str.; 850-914-0022 - 4 miles from Church. Estimated rates: Thursday night \$109.00, Friday and Saturday nights \$119.00 per night.

Days Inn, 4111 W. Hwy. 98, 850-784-1777 – 2 miles from Church. Estimated Rates: King bed \$128.00, two queen beds \$153.00.

Palmetto Inn & Suites Motel, 17255 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, 32413. 850-234-2121 - 13 miles from the Church. Estimated rates: Beach Side \$110.00 per night; across the street from the beach \$85.00 per night.

Nebraska Fellowship Meeting, Mt. Zion PBC, Cozad, NE

The 2015 Nebraska Fellowship Meeting will be held at Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church in Cozad, Nebraska June 11, 12, 13 & 14. Schedule of services will be as follows:

Thursday at 7:30 PM: Singing & Prayer
 Friday at 10:00 AM; 1:30 PM & 7:30 PM
 Saturday at 10:00 AM; 1:30 PM & 7:30 PM
 Sunday at 10:00 AM
 [Lunch will be served Friday, Saturday and Sunday following morning services; Supper will be served Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 6:00 PM prior to evening services.]

Contact Info:

Elder Thomas E. Bond
 P. O. Box 303
 Cozad, NE 69130
 308-784-5518 Home
 308-325-3957 Cell
thomasbond13@yahoo.com
 308-784-2441 Church
 Deacon Howard Halbgewachs
 75851 Road 419
 Cozad, NE 69130
 308-784-4320 home or 308-325-3302 cell



Richard Blanchard is joined by his sons, David and Bill, and friend, Dylan Walton.

Our desire is to accommodate as many of our guests in our homes as we can. There are two motels in Cozad. The two motels in Cozad offer a discount for the Fellowship meeting. Please be sure and ask for the discount when you make your reservation. Also, more motels are located in nearby Lexington and Gothenburg.

Rodeway Inn

809 S. Meridian
 Cozad, NE
 308-784-4900
www.rodewayinn.com

Americas Best Value Inn

440 S. Meridian
 Cozad, NE
 308-784-2290 or 308-784-2297

We also have some camper hook-ups available at the church.

Annual Meeting, Antioch PBC, Vero Beach, FL

Please be in prayer for our church flock as we prepare to gather for worship in our annual meeting. All are invited to attend these services Friday, May 8, 2015 through Sunday, May 10, 2015, according to the following schedule:

Friday, May 8, 2015 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 9, 2015 10:30 A.M.

Lunch and Fellowship Noon

Preaching and Communion Service
2:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 20, 2015 10:30 A.M.

Regular Weekly Service

Elder Buddy Abernathy of Gordo, Alabama will be with us during our meeting.

If you need information or need further assistance, please contact Elder Chris Taylor at 772-201-1244.

We sincerely invite each of you to visit and worship with us whenever you are in our area. May the Lord bless us all to grow in faith and sing praises to His Holy Name.



We were pleased to welcome Tiffany and Victoria Sisk at the seminar in Dec.

Spoken Sins

by Elder Dolph Painter

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient – Rom 1:28. A list of 23 sins follow this verse. Hmmm, 23 sins of a reprobate mind. Most of us would expect to find adultery and idolatry in such a list, but this list includes a fair amount of spoken sins.

We may consider drunkenness and murder 1st tier sins, whispering and backbiting 2nd tier sins, but the Lord does not. He says those who commit either is worthy of death – Rom 1:32.

The Bible has much to say about spoken sins. Those specifically named by scripture include:

Answer again

Backbite

Boast

Clamor

Complain

Debate

Disputing

Evil surmising

False accusers

False witnesses

Foolish talk

Froward mouth

Gainsay

Malice

Murmur

Prate

Rail

Reville

Scorn

Slander

Swelling words

Tale bearing

Vain jangling

Whisper



Frequent visitors, Janice and Gavin Newman from Orange City, were accompanied by their daughters, Denise and Sherry.

To find more about spoken offences, perform a word search on tongue, lips, mouth, spoken... Psalms and Proverbs are replete with exhortations on speech.

Our tendency is to discount spoken sins, but in reality spoken sins are very dangerous. When was the last time a church split over whether or not to place a golden calf in the foyer? Or the appropriateness of six packs in the church? Now, consider how many church divisions were ignited or fueled by whispering and backbiting. Considerable, huh?

We all commit spoken sins – Jam 3:8, 1Cor 10:12. And spoken sins are not limited to oration, the written is included – 2 Pet 1:20-21. E-mails whisper and backbite as well. May God help us glorify our Lord and Savior in word and in e-mail.



From GA, Peyton Downs is joined by her parents, Douglas and Jaqueline, and sister, Cayton.

Enjoying fine fellowship are Elder Charles and Doris Kitchens, Elder Gary and Becky Harvey, and Elder Marty and Sandy Smith.



Autobiography- Elder Guy Hunt

Elder Guy Hunt – I was born in Cullman County, Ala., on June 17, 1933. My parents were Elder and Mrs. W.O. Hunt. In August of 1946, I united with Mt. Vernon Church. In February of 1951, I married Helen Chambers. We have four children. I began taking part in the service at Mt. Vernon in 1953. I entered the U.S. Army in 1954 and served until 1956. I was ordained in September 1958 to the work of the ministry.

Like many others, I cannot tell the time I first realized I had a love for the Lord. My first notice was a dear love of the church. I do not know when I first began to note a fear that I was called to preach. I do recall a time at the age of 15 when one of our elders was left by himself on a Saturday. He asked several of the brethren to introduce service for him. He did not ask me. I was very glad he did not, for I found at that time my thought was, if he called on me, I must get up and do the best I can. From that time forward, I carried a heavy burden until Elder E.B. Watts asked me to take a part in the service when I was 19.

Since that time I have tried to do what I was called upon to do in serving God's people. I find there to be a fire shut up within me, from which I find no relief except in the service of God's people and in praising Him. I hope I am not deceived in the entire matter. The Lord has been so good to me. Note: The preceding was taken from Identity of the True Baptist Church, published by Elder Wiley Sammons. Elder Hunt served for many years as the moderator of the Mt. Zion Association, has traveled widely among our people and dearly loved and respected by them. He served as Probate Judge of his home county of Cullman, and was twice elected Governor of the State of Alabama.

Obituary for Elder Bob Mitchell

Elder Bob Mitchell passed away suddenly on December 16, 2014. Elder Mitchell was only 47 years old and leaves a wife and 6 children. Needless-to-say, they were not prepared for Brother Bob's sudden passing. If you would like to help the family financially, please send your contributions to: Dallas PBC, P. O. Box 924, Dallas, GA 30132. This family truly needs our assistance.

Harmony Highlands Singing School

Save the Date for Harmony Highlands Singing School. Mark your calendars for June 21st to June 26th, 2015 and start planning vacations. More details will follow.

A Testimony of Change

By Bro. Marlon Dunn

In the year 2014 my wife and I have become believers of the truth of salvation by grace alone. Through the teachings of the “Old Baptist” or Primitive Baptists and through the Holy Spirit, this has been revealed to us! My background of 52 years before this time was all spent in one Southern Baptist Church where I professed the belief of Jesus Christ as my Lord and eternal salvation at a young age.

Growing from a young child to a worker in this church, I was a leader of younger children up to high school age. This was my passion. I led Sunday school, R.A. programs, small groups, bible studies, etc., and also served on committees that helped run the church.

Through this work I was trying to instruct these young people and others on eternal salvation. My thinking was that the gospel of Jesus Christ was for the unbeliever and the eternally lost. I have been married 30 years and raised a family of two children under the doctrine of the Southern Baptists. The years pressed on in my life and many times I searched the scriptures for answers to thoughts that would come to me, sometimes as I woke from sleep in the early morning.

I will give a few examples of these thoughts:

1. What is the responsibility of a deacon to the church?
2. What is the teaching about stewardship and debt with regard to church finances?
3. What programs should be initiated and supported by the church?

These are examples where I could not find scripture to support the way that things were handled and, after 52 years, I decided that my family should search outside of this church for answers. My wife and I began to visit many other churches and denominations. We found that basically all of these were operated the same way as what we were accustomed to. I had a discussion on this with an old friend. We were asked to visit with the Primitive Baptists.

From the first visit I heard God’s word preached and simply explained. The preacher would make a point that was no more than the scripture said. This was a draw to me. It was a big change and it came to me as a shock and awakening. I took the teaching and doctrines each week and studied over them, over and over and over! Through this I found them scripturally correct in my own studies. This was not quick and easy, as much of this was strange to me.

The teachings on the doctrines of grace became understandable to me when I was able to see a true difference in eternal salvation and timely salvation throughout the scriptures. This has taken place in about an 8 month period of time before we joined the Primitive Baptist Church.

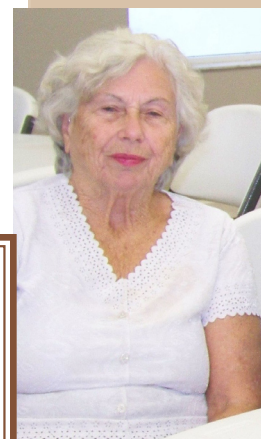
I must say that this doctrine and truth in the scriptures is a treasure to me. I thank my Lord Jesus Christ for enabling me to see, understand and be a part of it. My brothers and sisters of the Primitive Baptists are of the most compassionate and loving people that I have ever been around. The fellowship with them is a great thing!

Brother Marlon Dunn, author of the article above, is a new member at Bethlehem PBC in Gordo, AL. Besides his gift for writing, we are thankful for his zeal for the message of salvation by grace.



Jonathan and Hannah Lindsey enjoyed the lessons the seminar offered.

Sister Margery Taylor(below), and her daughter, Terry with grandson, Sammy, (bottom left) took time to join us for the Dec. meeting.



Church News

Bethlehem PBC in Gordo, AL. was blessed to worship in their new building in October of 2014. (See photos on right)

In the Lord's outpouring, seven new members were received during the week of the first meeting. Elder Tim McCool is the pastor at Bethlehem.

New Sanctuary at Bethlehem PBC, Gordo, AL



Letters

To our dear brothers and sisters of Winter Garden Church:

"I/we thank our God upon every remembrance of you". (Philippians 1:3). We were all richly blessed in attending the "Defense of the Faith" meeting. We cherish your loving kindness and fellowship in the gospel. Thank you for all the hard labor and financial sacrifice you made to bless us in such a special way.

It has now been over 20 years since I first visited among you. Now my children are enjoying what I have enjoyed for so long. As a family, we can all say that you are considered

our second church home. We feel that you will always love us in spite of our many faults and failures. I'm almost brought to tears as I write this, but I don't want my co-workers to think I'm having a break down. Tears of joy are unusual in today's world.

With many thanks to you for your kindness.

May God be with you till we meet again,

[Elder] Buddy Abernathy & family



Many visitors have joined us for worship services in Jan. Among them are (left to right), Mary Beth and Lester Seay, Donnie and Beverly Riddell and Sister Rachel's grandparents, Dave and Lois Metternich.



(Brother Buddy, we feel the same about you and your family. Our many faults and failures plague us on a regular basis. We are blessed to call you and your family "our friends and 'distant' members." Sister Pat Blanchard)

Wednesday, January 7, 2015
Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church
C/O Elder Glenn Blanchard
771 Bending Oak Trail
Winter Garden, FL 34787

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I just had to send you a note and commend you and thank you for doing such a fabulous job of hosting this year's Defense of the Faith meeting. Becky and I agree that it was one of the best ones yet!

The thing that amazed us the most was the fact that the young folks did so much of the work! Thank God for the young folks at Winter Garden Church! We hope and pray that you will keep up the good work in God's kingdom.

And I also want to commend your precious and able pastor. He did a fabulous job of moderating the meeting. He kept the ball rolling

and with just the right amount of teaching and Godly humor. I hope and pray that the entire church at Winter Garden will never take your Godly pastor for granted. He is a precious gift and I know that you all will esteem him as such!

Thanks, one and all, for a job well done! Please accept this small financial gift to defray some of the expenses of the meeting. We love you all. Pray for us and come see us when you can.

Your Servant in Christ,
[Elder] Gary Harvey

The Melvin family added to the Defense of the Faith in many ways: (L to R) Joshua, Olivia, Caleb, Julia, Maria, and Elder John Melvin.



Elder Marty and Sandy Smith enjoy time with Sister Martha Wills, (left) while young folks, Aiden Taffe and Chloe Abernathy prepare for services.

Contributions

John & Vera Stone
Elder Gary & Becky Harvey

The future looks bright, for which we are grateful. The photo on the back cover shows most of the young folk attending the Defense of the Faith seminar.

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New Hope Newsletter

