



# New Hope Newsletter

*A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church*

## Creation - A Fine Teacher

by Elder Dolph Painter

God's children learn through several modes. We learn from preaching, teaching, reading, modeled behavior, and experience. But consider the knowledge we gain from God's creation. Romans 1:20

When I was a very young Christian a wise old brother took me under his wing. He was several decades my senior, quit school at an early age to help run the family farm, yet he was an incredible teacher. The closer we became the more questions I asked, to which he often responded with a walk through his garden.

I remember one particular occasion when I asked a question and we ended up in his garden.

He showed me a plant whose roots spread out, popped up about a foot away, and started a new plant. He showed me another plant whose bended shoot touched the ground and started a new plant. He showed me a plant which dropped fruit, and so on.

I was so green and it usually took me a week or so to figure out how his instruction related to my question, let alone answer it. The older brother taught me, but who taught him? It wasn't a preacher. It wasn't his father. It wasn't his Bible. It was God's creation. I was impatient. I tried to cut corners and would say, "Just tell me, I don't have time to think!" But he usually ignored my

requests.

Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3 Yes, there is learning simultaneous with the gift of sight, but there is also learning by sight. This older brother was blessed with an incredible gift of observation and meditation, which scripture tells us to do when we consider the ant, the lily, sheep behavior... Take a look at the world around you and answer this, "Intelligent Design or Chaos Theory?" Go ahead, use the scientific method. Please use the scientific method, for it will generate but one answer. John 1:3



We enjoyed our fellowship with Elder Mark Wattenbarger and his family during their trip to central Florida. Pictured is Elder Mark and Sister Lyndee along with children Adam, John and Ethan.

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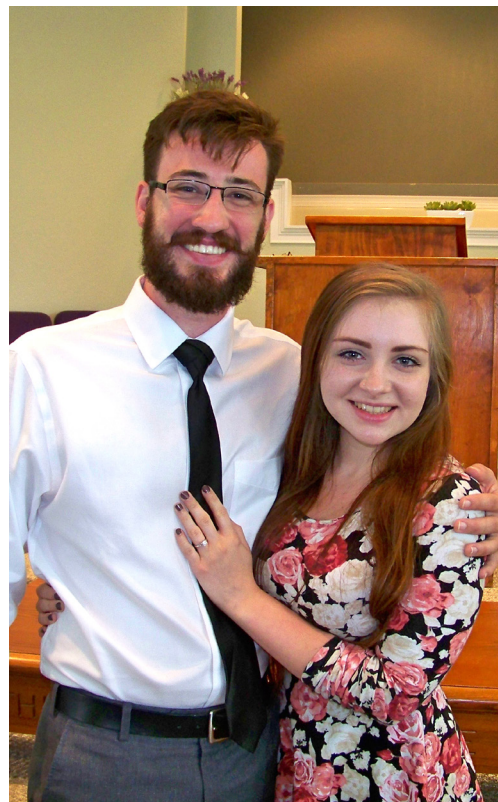
## Pastor's Letter - Elder Glenn Blanchard

The beginning of the year is a good time to assess new goals for the coming year. As we look at our results for 2016 concerning this newsletter we may want to make some changes. Thoughts of going back to once-a-month or going electronic are two that come to mind. We'd love to hear from you. We haven't heard from some of you in quite some time. Please feel free to let us know how you feel.

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We were blessed to have Brother John Harvey's parents, Elder Gary and Becky Harvey, visit. Also pictured is Brother John and Sister Olivia after their engagement announcement. Congratulations to you both!







Sister Leta enjoyed worshipping with her family; niece Becky from Chicago, (left) and daughter Debbie and her husband, Tom Barnstable, also from Chicago. (right)



## The Power of the Tongue

By Elder Sonny Phelan

"A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." Proverbs 18:20-21

Every word that proceeds forth from the mouth is a seed sown in the world in which we live. Our harvest will be according to that in which we sow. It may be poisonous, or wholesome, for the Lord of the harvest will carefully watch over every seed and see to it that we "reap what we sow." Evil words tend to "death" while wholesome words tend to "life." It is from our own mouths that we will discover either the best of blessings or the worst of evils. It is all wrapped up in "The power of the tongue."

The tongue is the most powerful instrument in the world. By the tongue a war may be declared; a relationship may be destroyed; a death may be

commanded; and the whole course of a person's life may be altered. In our experience, we will find this instrument in at least three places: (1) the tongue in our mouth; (2) the tongue in our ear; (3) the tongue in our heart.

### In Our Mouth

When I say the tongue in our mouth I am referring to the way that we use that little member of our body. According to James, the tongue is the instrument that controls the actions of the whole body. He compares it to the bridle in a horse's mouth and the wheel of a great ocean ship (James 3:3, 4). Such a small instrument, yet by a bridle a very strong animal is controlled and a ship laden with cargo can be directed. The whole course of life is charted by the tongue.

On a positive note, Paul encouraged the church of Thessalonica to "Comfort yourselves together, and edify

one another, even as also ye do." The word comfort means to exhort and encourage while the word edify means to build one another up. How would this be accomplished? By the power of the tongue. Everyone needs to be encouraged from time to time. It is by this spirit that the cause will prosper, homes will abound with joy, and friendships will flourish. It does not mean to flatter with untruths, but to look for the good in others and encourage them in a good thing. It is by the tongue that the gospel is preached and Christ is exalted. Much good can come from the tongue. That is why the Lord gave us this little instrument. For Good.

But the tongue may also be used to sow evil. I have never seen a fight that did not first begin with the tongue. As James said, it is a fire, a world of iniquity. It should be handled with more caution than a loaded gun or a stick

## The Power of the Tongue

(Continued from page 3)

of dynamite. When I was a teenager there was a popular song which contained the words, "I fell out of bed hurting my head on things that I said," (I Started a Joke – Bee Gees). How well we sleep; and basically, how we feel about ourselves, is wrapped up in the use of a small member of our body: the tongue. I am convinced that many have been led by the devil to destroy their own lives because they have bent their tongue to destroy another person or spread malicious rumors without form or substance. Handle with caution.

### **In Your Ear**

When I speak of the tongue in our ear I am talking about the effect that the tongues of others have upon us. The devil gets to our hearts through our ear, many times unknowingly. Solomon had lost some precious friends because of the wicked tongues of others so he wrote, "A whisperer separateth chief friends." Proverbs 28 It is by wicked gossip that friends are separated. How we think about another person should be supported by fact and not hear-say. Was not Christ Himself maligned by untruths and rumors to destroy His character? Surely, the devil has not changed his ways! Let not our tongue be an instrument in his cause!

Gossip is like a grass fire. One spark and it is out of control. I recall just a few years ago, when I was burning some leaves in front of my former home to amuse my children, that one tiny spark flew over into my neighbors yard. Before I could reach the spot to stamp out the tiny ember his whole yard was on fire. Thankfully, I had a kind and understanding neighbor. But such is the use of gossip. One spark and the neighborhood is on fire. Oh, that we would spread good in this way! When we listen we should ask this question, "Is this a God-honoring conversation?" Surely, if there were fewer listeners there would be far less gossip. But to some it would not matter. As one person said, "I only gossip to two kinds of people. Those who will listen and those who will not."

### **In Our Heart**

When I say the tongue in our heart I am referring to the pain that is felt when evil words are cast in our direction. Oh, how sad are the children whose parents speak unkindly to them on a daily basis. It was from the tongues of others that Jesus received many a wound. In his 64th division

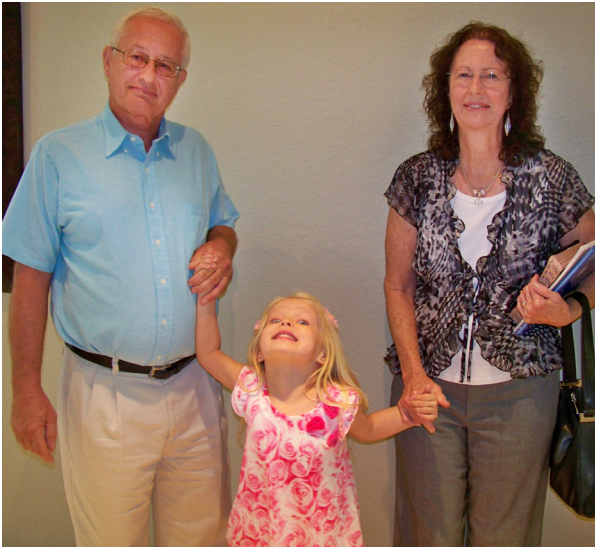
of the Psalms, David spoke of the tongue in his heart. He referred to it as a coward's weapon and he likened it to a sword and an arrow: "Bitter words," that struck his heart and caused him much pain. I am sure that God did not give us our tongue for these purposes.

It is not by wealth, clothes, looks or denomination that God's people are identified. It is by their tongue, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." Lord, bless us to control our tongue that we may be a blessing to others and help us to more fully understand "The power of the tongue."



Sister Rachel Blanchard enjoying a nice visit from her mother, Ginger Sommerer from central Missouri.





It is such a pleasure to worship with like minded believers.

Bruce, Eva and Julienne Gamble. (left)

Elder Adam and Becky Kinsaul, from Jasper, AL. (right)



## Efforts at Las Vegas Primitive Baptist Church

This past July a group of nine elders and about 25 other Primitive Baptists assembled in Las Vegas to constitute the Las Vegas Primitive Baptist Church. I was blessed to baptize nine and we also received one by letter and three by relation. Although we schedule a minister to be with the church each month, I returned for the first time in November. At the conclusion of the Sunday morning service, Sister Lorna Locke asked for a home with the church. She was gladly received and I baptized her that afternoon so she could participate in the communion service which we had already planned for that day. Sister Lorna is the granddaughter of Sister Cheryl McClellan who had been received by letter when the church was constituted. The baptism was special to me because it confirmed that God was pleased with our efforts to constitute a church in Las Vegas.

In Hope,

Buddy Abernathy

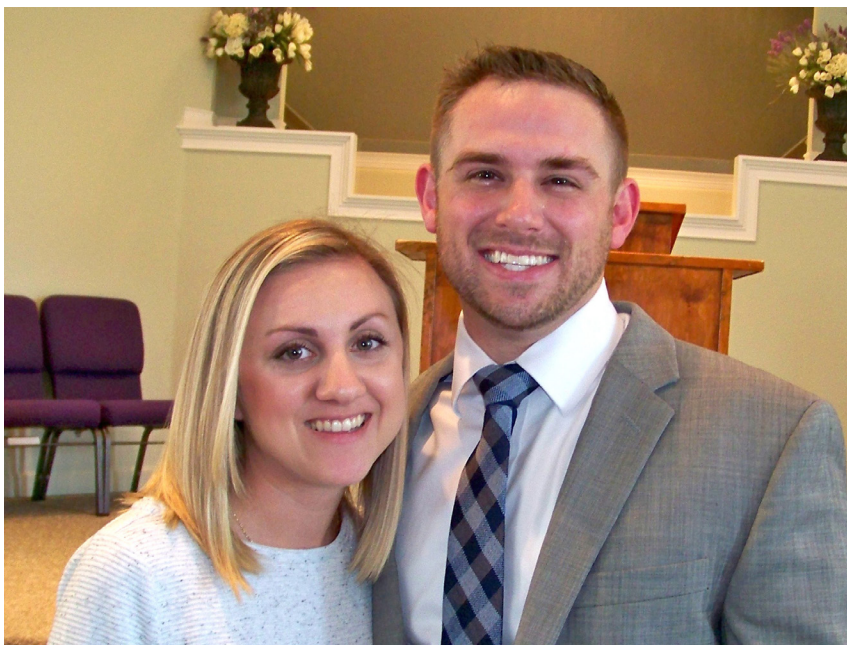


# Zambia Trip Report

## Vernon Johnson

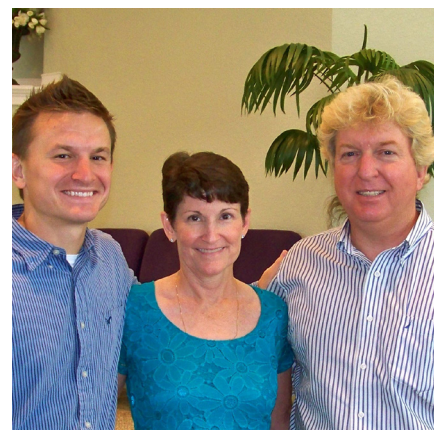
On October 24, 2016 Elder Joe Asbell and I departed DFW airport on our way to Zambia. Our first stop was in Atlanta, where we boarded a Delta plane to Johannesburg, South Africa. This was a 17 hour flight. Upon arriving in Johannesburg, we found a hotel room for the night. Early on Wednesday morning the 26th of October we boarded a South African airways flight to Ndola, Zambia. In Ndola, we were met by Bro. Jeff Chabala, whom I had first met a few years before in Botswana. We then drove to Kitwe, Zambia where we checked into the lodge and rested for the night. We began our Bible studies with about 10 young men who are part of the fellowship led by Bro. Jeff. We would continue to meet with this group of 10 men through the next 7 days.

The topics we covered in our studies included the following: Adam, Federal head of all mankind; Total Depravity; The New Birth; Limited Atonement; Preservation of the Saints; God's Covenants; Covenant of Redemption including Foreknew, Predestination, Calling, Justification, and Glorification; Two Types of Salvation including eternal salvation and timely or temporal salvation; Three types of Justification including justification by grace, justification by faith, and justification by works; Four Callings including effectual call to the new birth,



We were fortunate to hear the preaching of both Elder Buddy Abernathy (above) and then a few weeks later Elder Derrick Kitchens pictured along with his wife, Sister Sami. (Left)

WGPBC member Bill Blanchard pictured with his parents Richard and Laura Blanchard. We always enjoy the frequent visits when they are in the area! (below)





## Zambia Trip Report (continued from page 6)

effectual call in the resurrection, call to repentance and service, and call to the ministry; Four Choosings including Christ the chosen one of God, unconditional covenant election unto glory, many are called but few chosen, and chosen witnesses.

In addition, we entertained and answered a great number of questions about our beliefs and about the false teachings of the Pentecostals that are the dominant religion in Zambia. They seemed very pleased with the answers. These men have a great zeal to serve the Lord.

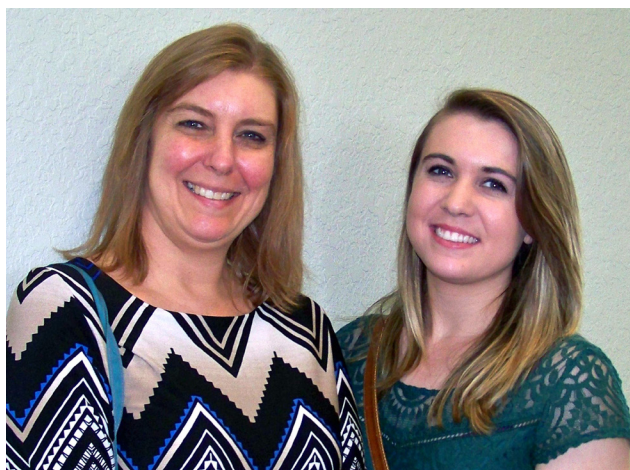
On Sunday we went to the rented meeting place which was in a school room. From the appearance of the facility nearly all the rooms at the school had been rented out for worship services. The problem was the Pentecostal groups all had their musical instruments and were very loud and it was distracting to the worship service we had as we had to bear up under the noise. Bro. Jeff is a strong defender of acapella singing. He had two groups desert him over the issue when he was in Botswana and over half of the congregation he had gathered when he first came to Kitwe left because he insisted that singing should be acapella. There were about 25-30 people who met together on Sunday morning for worship in this fellowship. On Sunday afternoon we had a baptismal service with baptisms in the pool at the lodge where we were staying. We had 12 to come for baptism. On Wednesday we had another young man who submitted to water baptism.

On Thursday we departed Kitwe, headed to Luanshya, Zambia where we were to meet with another group who had expressed an interest in learning more about the doctrines of grace. This group was led by a bro. Anthony Chisanga. We had about 20 who attended the 7 days of studies we had with this group. We studied the same topics that we studied in Kitwe. This group was very fervent in their desire to know the doctrines of grace and asked many questions. One of the men in this group is a pastor of a Church of God church. I will not be surprised that in the future he converts to the Primitive Baptists. We entertained and answered a great number of questions from this group. Many of the questions concerned the false teachings of the Pentecostals including such things as the false prosperity gospel, men claiming to be apostles and prophets, faith healing, speaking in tongues, etc. This group as a whole seemed to embrace our teachings on these subjects as well as the doctrines of grace. On Sunday afternoon after worship service, we had 7 who came forward for baptism. We went to a nearby lodge, where we used a very polluted pool and had baptisms.

Overall, Bro. Joe and I feel the Lord blessed us to lay the foundation for the future establishment of Primitive Baptist Churches in both Kitwe and Luanshya. Also, after long visits with Bro. Jeff Chabala, we feel that he is not too far removed from being ready to be ordained. I have been laboring with him for several years now and he has come a long way from the time I first met him in Botswana.

We departed Zambia on Friday, 11 November and arrived back at DFW on Saturday, 12 November, very tired and feeling very blessed of the Lord.

With sadness we had to say goodbye to Kristin Bullard as she relocated to North Carolina. Pictured with her mother, Tammie Bullard. May God continue to richly bless you, Sister Kristin!





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*New Hope Newsletter*

## The Golden Rule

By Sister Bessie R. Kenamer

How should we treat our fellowman?  
We are not left to guess;  
As we would have them do to us-  
That's it, no more no less.

We're taught it in God's Holy Writ,  
It's called the Golden Rule;  
You'll never learn it in a club,  
Nor in an earthly school.

There are exceptions to most rules,  
But to this one, no!  
For man can never overrule  
And man cannot veto.

If man would live the Golden Rule,  
All crimes and wars would cease,  
And God would bless us with a life  
Of love and joy and peace.

So let us live the Golden Rule  
The very best we can;  
As we would have them do to us,  
Let's treat our fellowman.