

G O D ' S M I S S I O N A R Y
STANDARD

Pastor,
WE HONOR YOU



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from the

editor

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ROBERT BOOTH

In America, October is designated as Pastor Appreciation Month. We have dedicated the 2014 issue of the Standard to our faithful pastors.

A few years ago I read an article that cited Peter Drucker, who was an expert in leadership. When asked what he thought the hardest jobs in America were, he suggested that the President of the United States, a university president, being a CEO of a hospital and being a pastor were the four toughest jobs in America.

Wow. But if you are a pastor, you already know that being a pastor is hard work. It's not for the cowardly. Pastors are usually on call 24 hours a day. We hear of rampant burnout and crises happening to pastors. In many churches, pastors carry what seems to be the weight of the world on their shoulders. Being a pastor requires facing unique problems that no one else has to face.

If you are a Christian and a church attender, do your best to encourage them! Regardless of the size of the church, they face incredible challenges daily. And the enemy of our soul would like nothing better than to discourage pastors. Make sure you pray for your pastor. Pray for anointing, protection, wisdom and guidance. When you hear gossip about your pastor, don't participate in it, and do your best to combat it.

In this issue, we applaud our pastors. Rowan Fay, one of the greatest encouragers I know, wrote an upbeat article for pastors. Dr. Tim Cooley tackled the tough subject of pastors and their spiritual life. Dr. Andrew Graham wrote a timely article on pastors and depression. And I wrote about what taking a Sabbath may look like for pastors. We wanted this issue to be positive and practical for pastors. And it is the editorial staff's prayer that it is a blessing to you. 🙏

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PASTORS ARE PEOPLE TOO



ROWAN FAY

Isaw a button that said, “WAITRESSES ARE PEOPLE TOO!” I want to make one that says, “PASTORS ARE PEOPLE TOO.” That means, they are not perfect, and they have needs just like everyone else.

Pastoring is both very rewarding and very demanding. The nature of this calling calls for continual giving out. As in everything where there is giving out, there soon must be a taking in. Pastoral burnout has become a national plague. No one can run on empty for long. We all have emotional tanks that need refilling and your pastor could use a deposit in his emotional tank today.

Think about it! What can you do that would make a deposit in his emotional tank? Let me suggest a few things. Take the parsonage family out to eat, invite them to your home for a meal, send him a gratitude card; give him a green handshake, mow his lawn or wash his car. Probably most powerful of all are words of appreciation. I suggest words like: “I love you, pastor” and “I appreciate your preaching” or “I’m glad you are my pastor” or “I hope you stay here forever,” or “That sermon really helped me” or “thank you for all you do as our pastor.” As always a “Thank you” is a powerful thing, and we should share it often.

Become a person who can spot something good better than you can spot something bad. Even if something negative needs to be addressed, remember criticism is a huge withdrawal from a person’s emotional bank account. It’s devastating to make a withdrawal when no deposits have been made. Just try it with your checkbook! And remember, his wife and children have “emotional bank accounts” too!

The “Emotional Bank Accounts” of the parsonage family are all tied together... When one is low, it affects the rest. So show love and appreciation for them all.

1 Peter 2:17, “Honor all men, love the brotherhood, fear God, Honor the king.”

Prov. 25:11, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”

1 Samuel 2:30, “...them that honor me, I will honor.” It honors God when we honor God’s man.

John 13:20, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.” Wow! What a statement!

It’s difficult to lead a church; but it’s almost impossible when the pastor is running on empty! Living up to the expectations of a congregation can lead to this empty tank syndrome; and sadly even some victories are not appreciated by some.

For example, Elijah won a great victory over the false prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18. But then look what happened in 1 Kings 19:2, “Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, so let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.” Not everyone approves of a pastor’s successes. Even the great leader Moses faced discouragement from his flock!

Don’t be one of those who support the pastor for a while then turns on him. Be loyal and never discourage your encourager.

Pastor Appreciation Month is a very good thing; but it needs to be practiced all year long. 📌

THE PASTOR'S SPIRITUAL LIFE

TIMOTHY L. COOLEY, EdD



Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do" (Philippians 4:9). How do we ourselves live in such a way as to be able to lead others to grow spiritually? What is true for every Christian is especially critical for the pastor; otherwise his whole flock is at risk.

Spiritual growth is change, governed by Christ, accomplished through disciplined cooperation with the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:3, II Corinthians 3:18). It involves the whole person, occurring sometimes in big shifts but often in tiny changes. Those changes come through our loving, our knowing, our choosing, and our doing.

"*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might*" (Deuteronomy 6:5). God is to be the Magnetic Center of all Relating. All other relationships flow out of our love for God. Because God is a Trinity, no person has ever existed without being in relationship. Fundamental to knowing ourselves is seeing our reflection in a relationship with someone else. Our relationships change us! We become like those with whom we spend the most time.

We are made to be filled with God! The image of God in us is like a glove, made to be filled with a hand. When humans resist or neglect the filling of the Spirit, we are like a useless glove lying on the highway, powerless to do anything, vulnerable to corruption and destruction. That is why God wants to fill us and why we ourselves should seek to live always “filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).

We are made to love and be loved! When you love another person, it changes you and it changes that person. Love carefully, discerningly, intentionally! Loving is risky, but incredibly powerful—radically transforming!

Love is not just about warm or tender feelings. Love is about intentional commitment, usually evoking powerful emotions. The feelings are important and often pleasurable, but the commitment carries us when the feelings fade and even when feelings are negative. Loving God involves focusing our attention on His Character as revealed by Himself in His Word, especially as revealed in His Son.

This is why God is so concerned about our love life. We are to love God with everything in us and our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). We are instructed, “Love not the world” (I John 2:15). Our relationships change us!

God is to be the Anchor Point of all Knowing. In Christ “are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3). When we think about His creation, whether in science, politics, economics, mechanics, history, or sociology, those thoughts all bear some relation to God Himself. Everything we know must be integrated with the truth about God.

Philippians 4:8 gives us a filter for all our thoughts. Romans 12:3 says we are transformed by our thinking. God is concerned with what we think about, how well we think, and where we focus our attention. Godliness is wrapped up in controlling our thinking! Worship is an intentional focus on God, His character, His righteousness, His promises, His grace, and His steadfast love.

Everything we think changes us. “As [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7). In II Corinthians 10:5, Paul explains that we must bring “into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” Take charge of what you think, discipline your thoughts! Let the knowledge of God be the anchor point, “the beginning of all wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10, Psalm 111:10).

God is to be the Foundation of all Choosing. Being able to choose is a wonderfully human thing to do, and our choices change us!

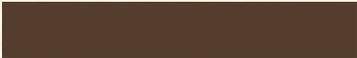
Controlling your attention is basic to controlling your intention. Resisting temptation depends on your ability to redirect your attention! If you keep staring or thinking about that source of wrong desire, you will fall, no matter how loudly you shout, “No, I will not do this!” The Christian cannot afford to be passively pushed around by media, sloshed to and fro by background noise, mind wandering—moonstruck by whatever pops up on his horizon. He must be proactively choosing the things that are excellent (Philippians 1:10).

God is to be the Focal Point of all Doing. We can easily fall into the trap of doing to be busy, doing to be successful, doing to be noticed, doing to feel needed, even doing to feel approved. This is the trap of legalism—doing for its own sake. Some people are so worried about legalism that if we require any specific obedience, they call us legalists! Rightly understood, holiness teaching is not legalism. If we do things (or refrain from doing them) for the love of Jesus, we fulfill John 14:15. If doing becomes an end in itself, then it is idolatry. I Corinthians 10:31 admonishes us, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” Don’t forget the focal point of doing!

Spiritual disciplines provide patterns of intentional cooperation with the Holy Spirit in changing us to be more like Christ. They bring our lives into alignment with the purpose we have chosen under God. The goal is not the exercise, but rather the disposition to pursue the excellent. Exercise is not an end in itself, so we can boast how many pushups we can do! It is to focus our lives on the kind of victory Christ intends for us to have.

What you do changes you. Choosing is important, and at times simply having settled a matter in our heart is enough, like Abraham sacrificing Isaac. But sometimes the change does not come until we actually perform the deed! Spirituality is more than doing, but it does involve doing!

For better or for worse, we are changed by our loving, our knowing, our choosing, and our doing. We cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He works to transform us into the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). Pastors and leaders have the humbling experience of modeling how that looks in the press and the grit of daily living! 



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

IS CHANGE,

GOVERNED BY CHRIST,

ACCOMPLISHED

THROUGH DISCIPLINED

COOPERATION WITH

THE HOLY SPIRIT.



DEPRESSION and PASTORS



ANDREW GRAHAM, PhD

He was perhaps the preeminent evangelist of his era. He had interacted with political and religious leaders with integrity; even those of other faiths recognized his impact. His walk with God and effectiveness in ministry was never called into question—even when he faced significant challenges. His prayers were answered in ways deemed miraculous both then and now. But he struggled with depression. He had trouble eating, sleeping and connecting with others. Burdened by a loss of energy and motivation to press on, he left ministry. He abandoned relationships. His mood was low; he believed that his days of making a significant contribution, of having any value to God or His people, had come to an end. He was hopeless. He wanted to die.

This story doesn't come from my clinical files. It comes from the 19th chapter of 1 Kings. The evangelist described above was Elijah. And he is not alone.

After Nineveh was spared, Jonah stated "It is better for me to die than to live" (Jonah 4:8). Jeremiah mourned "cursed be the day when I was born" (Jeremiah 20:14). Many of the Psalms recount the emotional struggles of King David. From more recent history, we have stories of Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill, penultimate leaders who struggled through significant bouts of depression when they questioned their abilities, their effectiveness—even their will to live.

WHAT IS DEPRESSION?

Depression is a term that has been around for a long time; it has been back in the news in recent weeks—but it is still largely misunderstood as to what it is and what should be done about it.

In an effort to establish standardized care, the American Psychiatric Association established diagnostic criteria for a "major depressive episode." A major depressive episode is characterized by a cluster of at least 5 of 9 symptoms. These symptoms include depressed mood ("most of the day, nearly every day"), diminished interest in activities, significant changes in weight, significant changes in sleep patterns, psychomotor agitation, loss of energy, feelings of worthlessness, diminished ability to concentrate, and recurrent thoughts of death. These symptoms (at least 5 of them) need to be present for at least 2 weeks. Once three such separate episodes occur, the individual meets criteria for "major depressive disorder."

While some—including conservative Christians—have criticized this system of "labeling," the purpose of establishing specific criteria is so that we can identify what works to help those with that specific collection of symptoms so that we can more accurately provide services to others.

Stop hiding.
Stop pretending
that you can
push through
on your own.

Some, under the guise of being sensitive to the complicated nature of emotional distress and those who are afflicted, have referred to depression as a disease. This is an inaccurate way of looking at depression—in fact, an inaccurate way of looking at most mental disorders.

The term that best fits is in fact the one most often used by mental health professionals: disorder. Such a term acknowledges that there is something out of the ordinary without inappropriately implying what isn't entirely known to us. For while there are physical symptoms consistent with depression, that doesn't mean that depression can be reduced to a biological disease.

Rather than viewing depression solely through the lens of a medical model, mental health professionals use what is called the biopsychosocial model. This framework is a more holistic way of looking at all behavioral and emotional distress.

Yes, biology is a key domain. The physical chemistry of the brain and inherited genetic coding should be acknowledged as contributing to the predisposition toward symptoms of depression. But predisposition is not causation. While modern psychiatric medications can be prescribed to help alleviate some of the symptoms of depression, there are other factors necessary to “trigger” depression.

The second domain is psychological. In this category, we include an individual's personality, temperament, self-esteem, stress management and coping skills. These characteristics often relate to an individual's upbringing and previous experiences—both nurturing as well as traumatic. Counseling can help individuals to understand how these impact their behavior and emotions and how to identify and strengthen appropriate coping strategies.

The third domain is social. As individuals created in the image of a relational Triune Godhead, we are created for relationships. Interactions with family, friends, and colleagues all work to build us up (or tear us down). The most current literature includes spirituality in this category. Intervention in this domain focuses on helping to strengthen relationships and social interactions as well as building faith and connection to God and His people.

Comparing depression to diseases like cancer or diabetes does a disservice to those afflicted with those diseases—and to those who need intervention for depression as well. Depression cannot be reduced to a simple lack of faith, nor can it be reduced to what some refer to as “chemical imbalance.”

PASTORS

The US Department of Health and Human Services, through the National Institute of Mental Health, estimates that 6.7% of US adults experience symptoms of depression that warrant intervention. A recent report issued by the Clergy Health Initiative

noted even higher rates in pastors. A high-profile Christian neuroscientist recently proposed that one out of every four pastors struggles with depression.

The research that I conducted at the Interchurch Holiness Convention in 2011 indicated that pastors who identify themselves as part of the Conservative Holiness Movement were able to assess depression in others with accuracy. They indicated a willingness to refer those in their congregation with depression to mental health professionals. However, when it came to pastors' willingness to seek intervention themselves, the numbers indicated some additional hesitation.

While there's no shame in acknowledging a physical disease, because of the complex nature of depression and other mental health disorders, there remains a stigma about seeking intervention from a mental health professional. Sometimes medical treatment will be sought for the specific physical symptoms but then other contributing factors are overlooked.

Pastors—like Elijah—are in high-profile, high-stress positions. Many consider themselves “always on call” to the congregants they serve. Due to financial pressures, a number of pastors are required to engage in secondary employment in order to make ends meet. Depressive thoughts may lead to guilt over not being able to live up to the high standards they've set for themselves.

What can we learn from the account of Elijah's depression? That running and hiding doesn't work. Elijah was physically afflicted. Physical exhaustion often leads to discouragement and irritability. Proper rest, diet, and exercise are protective factors against depression and can help to alleviate some symptoms. Neglecting your calling and isolation from others only makes the problem worse. Not only did God provide for Elijah's physical needs, He got Elijah active in the ministry again—and provided him with a companion in Elisha.

Intervention for depression has a high success rate. Those who address each of these three domains—biological, psychological, and social—have a 90% success rate according to one recent study.

If the story of Elijah resonates with you, seek help. Stop over-working. Take care of your physical body. Foster relationships within your family. Reconnect with friends and fellow pastors for edifying and encouraging support and accountability. Find a credentialed Christian counselor in your area. Talk to your primary care physician.

Stop hiding. Stop pretending that you can push through on your own. ❏

Dr. Graham is licensed as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and certified as a National Certified Counselor and Board-Certified Professional Christian Counselor. He lives in Hobe Sound, Florida with his wife of 15 years and their 6 children.



ROBERT BOOTH

Pastors, Sabbaths and Burnout

A few years ago, I took a class at seminary called Spiritual Formation in Ministry. One of the main requirements of this class was to do an engaged learning project on what the Sabbath was for Christian leaders. My immediate reaction was, “God, I honor Sunday. I try to honor you by keeping that day sacred and holy.” However, the more I thought about it, the more I realized that Sunday was one of my busiest days. I preached multiple times, interacted with those who attend, and would often have spontaneous counseling moments that usually left me exhausted. I realized that my energy was at an all-time low. I had too many things on my plate. I began to realize that perhaps God was inviting me to practice the Sabbath in my life.

As I prepared to start this practice of Sabbath keeping, the first thing that I did was to talk to my wife. If I was going to take a day to practice the Sabbath, I would need her support and her willingness to do this journey together. She agreed that we would do this together. And if it worked, we would implement it in our lives as we attempt to raise our family to be like Jesus. We had several obstacles that needed to be removed. The first obstacle was psychological. What would people think about us taking a Sabbath? Would they think that we were being lazy? Wasn't Sunday the day of Sabbath? Once we decided that taking a Sabbath in our lives was more important than what people thought, the next obstacle was to figure out what day. Sunday was obviously out, as was Saturday, because we had an evening service on Saturday. We also had activities planned for every day and evening. When we looked at our calendars, we began to realize that we were probably too busy. After we rearranged our calendar, we chose Thursday to be our Sabbath.

The next actions to decide was what to do and not do on our Sabbath. We looked at several books and articles together and formed a plan. Rather than just “taking a day off”, we wanted it to mean something more. We decided that the primary focus for our Sabbath was to get physical and spiritual rest. We began to realize through our reading that we needed to be still and that the heart of the Sabbath is stopping, not finding more things to do. Ministry takes a toll on families, and it became our desire to spend as much of our Sabbath together as possible. We decided that we would disconnect from our ministry world as much as we could.

My wife and I decided that implementing a semi-routine would work for us best as we implemented the Sabbath. So we slept in a little bit and I got up before anyone



else. The writer of Hebrews suggests that the Sabbath is to be a time of rest for God's people (Heb. 4:9-11), so we made sure that we incorporated that into our Sabbath! We usually had a leisurely breakfast together and a time of devotions. We spent time together, perhaps reading or doing things with Kalena, who at that time was eight-months-old. Towards the afternoon, we would leave town. The main reason we left was that our door was frequently knocked on in the afternoon and evening. We lived above our church, and the entire community knew that! Rather than growing frustrated with that, we chose to just leave town for the afternoon and early evening. Our main desire was to be together and rest. We didn't have an agenda and we didn't have a list of things that needed to be accomplished. We tried our best to refrain from talking about ministry stuff. We also tried to turn off our phones, or at least simply monitor the calls.

There were several additional things that I needed to put down on paper as I finished up my plan for my Sabbath. One was to untether myself from technology on my Sabbath. As modern-day Americans, we live in a fast-paced, inter-connected world and, with the advancement of technology, it is easier to stay connected twenty-four hours a day. It seems like spiritual vitality has taken a backseat to media saturation. Communion with God is challenged with checking email, staying glued to cell phones, and staying in touch with hundreds of people via social networking. While all of this isn't necessarily evil, it can and has become a distraction away from the life to which God has invited us.

Richard Swenson in *Restoring Margin to Overloaded Lives* explains that many individuals currently suffer from what he terms Information Fatigue Syndrome. When I read that, I could immediately identify with it. I felt God directing me that I needed to set technology aside as much as possible on my Sabbath. I decided that on my Sabbath I would untie myself from my Mac and not get on Facebook, Twitter or even the internet. In essence I would go on a media fast. I also needed additional time of spiritual refreshing on my Sabbath; therefore, I decided to get up before my family and spend a few hours with God by myself.

As our first Sabbath approached, I was excited and a little anxious. I didn't realize how much I would have to work to protect my Sabbath. As soon as we decided that Thursdays would be our Sabbath, it seemed that we had picked the worst day possible. I was asked to join a group that met on Thursdays; a couple needing counseling could only meet on Thursdays; and even the phone seemed to ring more often on Thursdays. And of course, when I tried to explain that Thursdays was our Sabbath, I was met with a blank stare. The insinuation seemed to be "What planet did you come from?"

That first Thursday morning, my Sabbath, I got up early and took my Bible and newly purchased journal and went to my quiet spot where I spent some much-needed time with God. I poured my heart out to Him and I spent a significant amount of time of just trying to listen to Him. He showed me things of which I was unaware. I was too focused on ministry. That was something that I didn't realize was bad until that moment. God showed me that I was to the point where I was burned out. I walked away from my time with God discouraged and defeated. Here I was pouring out my life to my needy community and I was almost to the point of breaking. It just didn't seem right. Apparently, I needed a Sabbath more than I realized.

That day, I contacted one of my mentors/accountability partners and after we prayed and talked together he recommended that I read two books. One was titled *Mad Church Disease: Overcoming the Burnout Epidemic* by Anne Jackson and the other was *Leading on Empty: Refilling Your Tank and Renewing Your Passion* by Wayne Cordeiro. Through these books, I came to the realization that I exhibited many of the symptoms of burnout in my physical, emotional, and spiritual continued on **page 9**



Congratulations to Rev. & Mrs. Brian Fuller on the birth of Caleb Jefferson! Caleb was born on July 15, 2014.

Congratulations to Rev. & Mrs. Nathanael Mowery on the birth of Asher Thomas! Asher was born on July 21, 2014.

Sun City Camp Painting Project

Special thanks to the Lutz family from Pennsylvania for doing a family missions trip. One of their projects was to paint the three main buildings at the Sun City camp. They just finished the project in August.



continued from **page 10** health. My mentor recommended that I begin to make drastic changes in all facets of my life. Through prayer and communication with my wife and ministry team I have reduced my ministry workload, implemented a diet and exercise program, and am openly pursuing what else I need to stop doing. I never dreamed that the first direct result of keeping the Sabbath in my personal life would be the very thing that would save my life.

Some other results of intentionally practicing the discipline of the Sabbath were less anxiety producing but very needed. I began to sense peace in my life, a peace that I can't even begin to explain and understand. When Thursdays ended and I knew that ministry would kick in full throttle, I was not as anxious as I was before.

My level of communication increased, first of all with my wife. I was too busy and was giving her the impression that I was too busy to hear her struggles. When I discovered this, I began to cry from the depths of my soul. I never meant for that to happen.

My level of communication with God increased. He showed me things and gave me insights about Scripture like I have never experienced.

My level of joy increased. My heart was filled with more joy toward my wife as was hers toward me. We spent most of our Sabbath just enjoying our time together - emotionally and physically. We intentionally laughed together, laughed with our little girl as she did new things. And we would dream together. We dreamed of places we wanted to go and things we wanted to accomplish, things we wanted our little girl to know. Thursdays were filled with joy because we made it happen.

Six years later, I wish I could tell you that I kept on track with this. But I failed repeatedly in this area. And I believe that it led to many physical complications in my life. God designed humanity to have a Sabbath. And while a typical Sabbath is different for ministers, I believe that it is paramount for those in ministry to set aside a day other than a Sunday to restore one's soul with God. ■

president

June 11: We attended the God's Missionary Youth Camp today. We appreciate the dedication of many of our ministers who invest in our young people. God helped evangelist Jeremy Fuller preach. Many teenagers came to pray at the altar.

June 12: I caught a flight to Orlando and traveled on down to Hobe Sound for the viewing of Mrs. Jacob (Ruth) Miller. I also learned that Rev. Edwin Mays was very low, so I stopped in for a visit and prayed with the family. Bro. Mays passed away later that evening.

June 13: I flew back to Charlotte, NC, where Rachel had traveled down to pick me up. Due to several flight delays, we stayed the night in the Charlotte area.

June 14: Rachel and I traveled to Columbia, SC to the Ebenezer Baptist Holiness Camp, where Rev. Kenneth Walter is now the president and also pastor to the local church.

June 15: We enjoyed the morning service and the noon meal on this Father's Day at the camp here in Columbia. We appreciated the singing by Rev. & Mrs. Alan Walter. The evangelists were Rev. Roger Hatfield and Rev. Mark Hunter. In the afternoon, we made our way on to Harkers Island, NC.

June 17-19: We attended the Harker's Island InterChurch Holiness Convention. It was good to be with Rachel's parents and also to enjoy fellowship with both the Lighthouse Chapel and Grace Holiness Church families, along with people from several other churches. As usual, we were treated with wonderful southern hospitality. We enjoyed the preaching by Revs. Jacob Martin, James Plank, Dearly Hunt and singing by the Barry Whitaker family and the Harker's Island Trio.

June 22: I conducted the pastoral election for the Coopersburg congregation. Rev. Van Dorman was elected as new pastor.

June 23: Our granddaughter, eight-year-old Lauren, came to stay with us for several days while the rest of her family, along with a youth missions group from the Beavertown Church made a trip to where the Eric Kuhns family serve as missionaries in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and Nicaragua.

June 28: It was good to hear the preaching of Rev. Dan Stetler in the morning service at Mount of Blessing Camp. He was the evangelist along with Rev. Adam Buckler and the Don Quales family were the special singers. We had a little excitement when the camp president's son, Justin Ellison, was taken to the hospital. We were glad to learn that his injuries were not serious. We made a quick stop to visit the Mike Mayhle family who were in our area over the weekend. Mike has been battling with Leukemia. In the evening we drove on down to Hanover Fellowship Camp. The evangelists were Rev. Randy Neville, Rev. David Fulton and singers were the Derek McIntire family

June 29: We attended the morning service at Hanover Camp and enjoyed a lovely Sunday dinner prepared by camp cook, Linda Paulus.

July 1-6: I was honored to serve as camp evangelist at the Bible Methodist Camp at Pell City, AL. My co-worker was our son James, a first for us. I was very frustrated when I realized that I had left my preaching Bible at home! I was able to purchase one and Rachel sent needed notes and information via text message.

June 7: We stopped for a quick meal at the Perkins Restaurant in Williamsport, and were pleasantly surprised to find Mr. & Mrs. James Glick. They were traveling from Ohio to visit family members in Pennsylvania, including their son Jerald and family who were serving as singers at the Beulah Camp.

July 10-12: These days were spent mostly helping the work crew to update the R V parking area at Penns Creek Camp; the Gary Bills family volunteered to do the tree removal. Thank you to the Mahaffey Church for their contribution, and the volunteers that assisted us: Gordon Kincaid, Philip Brenizer, John Zechman, the Dwight Rine family, Darvin Donahey and any others that I have missed. Thank you to Jason Snook and helpers for excavating.



HARRY PLANK

July 13: Rachel and I enjoyed the good message by evangelist Frank Heidler and singing by the Jerry Glicks and also the wonderful hospitality of the Straight family. We traveled on to Ono Camp for the afternoon service where Rev. Brian Spangler was the evangelist; he and his wife, Cheri, were the singers. The Sunday afternoon service was the Evangelistic Faith Mission's service. Rev. Marc Sankey was the speaker.

July 18: This was Penns Creek camp clean-up day. Although a nice number of people came and worked hard, there was always plenty more to do. Some of us took a short break from the clean-up day to attend the wedding of Chantel Walters to Josh Tomek. May God give them a wonderful life together as they stay in the center of His will.

July 20: We attended the Oakland Mills Camp in the evening where we were privileged to hear evangelist Matthew Ellison preach and the Mowery family sing.

July 21: I conducted a joint meeting of the General Board and the World Mission's department. Rev. Wilmer Paulus was voted to serve as World Mission's leader. Thank you to Rev. Dwight Rine who has served as director for the past several years. Rev. Randy Neville was also interviewed and accepted as a minister with God's Missionary conference.

July 24: The 79th annual God's Missionary Conference was held as usual at Penns Creek in the G. I. Straub Memorial Tabernacle. We were saddened that Conference Vice President, Barry Arnold withheld his name from both his current position and the General Board, due to personal reasons and caring for his wife who has been ill. Rev. Jacob Martin is now serving as Vice President and Rev. Jeremy Fuller was added to the General Board.

July 25-Aug. 3: Penns Creek Camp Meeting. We heard some wonderful messages from evangelists Marc Sankey, Mark Mowery and Randy Neville, who alternated preaching with Youth Evangelist, Adam Buckler in the main services. We appreciated the singing of the Durkee family.

Aug. 4: Thank you to each one who stayed to help for the Monday morning after-camp clean-up when you (like everyone) were so anxious to return home. Thank you to Jeremy Fuller, Chad Martin, Greg Hobelman and the General Board for making it possible to remodel the conference cabin for our use when we are in the Penns Creek area. Thank you to our son and daughter-in-law, Jon and Alicia for allowing us to use their camping trailer to live in for the past four months. 📌

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produced and directed by **Lucas Shrout**

