

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

LESSONS

— *from the book of* —

JUDGES



from the

# editor

## GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

Cover Photo by Andrea George

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## LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Have you ever started to follow God's instructions, but not all of them? How did that end up for you? If you would be honest, you would say that not following all of God's instructions leads to defeat.

As you read through the book of Judges, there is a clear cycle of destruction that Israel goes through several different times.

1. They do evil in the eyes of God.
2. God sends judgment usually the form of military defeat or famine.
3. Eventually Israel would cry out to God.
4. God would send a judge, someone who would rescue them.
5. Israel would have peace.
6. But eventually, the cycle would be repeated.

In Judges 1:1, the children of Israel were concerned. Joshua was dead, and they still had work to do to get enemies out of the land that God had given them. God told them to go and fight, for God would lead them to victory. And verses 2 - 26 of chapter 1, we see Israel driving their enemies out of Canaan.

Then in verse 27 we see a shift and Israel fails to complete the task that God gave them. And sadly, the rest of the book of Judges has multiple examples of God telling them that He would be with them and He would empower them to drive out the enemies. They would start, but never finish. They would win, but not occupy. They followed some of God's instructions, but not all of them.

The book of Judges provides us with some clear lessons for our lives. Here are four simple lessons that we can learn.

1. The Israelites didn't teach their children who God was and what He required. Judges 2:10 says, "And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel." As a father of three little girls, I do not want to fail in this important area. Not only must I serve God entirely, I must teach my girls how to do this.

2. The Israelites absorbed the culture around them. Judges 2:11 states: "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim." This didn't happen overnight. There was a slow turning from the ways and obedience of God. God help us to stay on the course and follow Him in all areas of our lives.



ROBERT BOOTH

continued on **page 7**

# Gideon

a case study in weakness



NATHAN PURDY



I first fastened an airplane seat belt in January 2006. The definite click of the buckle signaled a dividing point in my life. It had the finality of a period at the end of a chapter. It also marked the moment when a point of no return had been passed — a new chapter was beginning. I was leaving home and family to go to a new country, meet new people, and study at a new college. I knew that God called me to go, which should be enough. However, thoughts like: God could use me so much more if only my IQ were higher or if my personality were different, sat heavily in my heart. As the plane was climbing over the Atlantic, my heart was sinking — maybe I should have stayed home?! Thankfully, God has taught me that it’s not about me. It’s about Him. Weakness does not disqualify us from ministry, it qualifies us. As He puts it, “My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

This principle is woven throughout the Bible. It’s the way God works. Few examples illustrate it more clearly than Gideon. In Judges 6, the people of Israel have pushed God away by their sins. When they come under attack from the Midianites, God keeps His distance. Consequently, Israel reaches a low ebb. Each year before harvest, their enemies pour over the horizon like a swarm of locusts, descending on Israel’s lush valleys and wreaking havoc by destroying crops and stealing animals. In their wake, they leave empty fields, empty

barns, and people with empty stomachs. It was a perfect metaphor for the emptiness of life without God. Finally, seeing the utter impoverishment of life without God, Israel cries for help. In His mercy, God intervenes to rescue them. Who will He choose to lead His people to freedom?

He chooses neither the smartest, the wealthiest, the most charismatic, nor the most credentialed. He chooses Gideon, whose riposte to God is that he comes from the weakest clan, and is the weakest in his clan! God has chosen the weakest. In Gideon’s mind, there is no one more unfitted to this task. How deep was this conviction in Gideon’s heart? Deep enough that after he sees an angel, flames engulf meat, and a fleece is dripping while the ground is bone dry – he still wants another sign! This doesn’t represent doubt in Gideon’s mind about God. It

represents a tidal wave of doubts about himself. He is utterly convinced of his weakness. Why did God choose Gideon? Because when God brings deliverance, Gideon won’t take the glory – he’ll give it to God. Gideon is nothing without God, and he knows it.

In fact, God is systematically clearing away everything that could be misconstrued as being behind this rescue. God asks Gideon to destroy a public altar to Baal – the idol that the people of Israel were turning to. The devotion of Gideon’s compatriots to Baal, including that of his own family, was deeply and intensely real. *continued on page 10*

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## JUDGES ARE MENTIONED BY NAME IN THE BOOK JUDGES

OTHNIEL
EHUD
SHAMMER

DEBORAH (WITH BARAK)

GIDEON
ABIMELECH
TOLA

JAIR
JEPHTHAH
IBIZA

ELON
ABODE
SAMSON

ELI
SAMUEL
JOEL
ABIJAH

4

## JUDGES ARE MENTIONED IN I SAMUEL

# OUT OF WEAKNESS WERE MADE STRONG

DEBORAH, BARAK, Jael



TIMOTHY COOLEY, SR.

**D**eborah sat patiently under the palm tree that was her office. Dozens and dozens of people lined up every day. Every person had his or her own complaint. Each wanted somebody else straightened out. Wearily she listened to their cases. She must often have felt like Moses, so weary she could not bear the load, but someone had to

teach these people the ways of the Lord. Deborah lived in the southern hill country, far away from the recent attacks in the north, but she was aware of her whole nation, Israel, whom God had called to be His people. Many of them were not living like His people. As she studied the requirements for judges (see Deuteronomy 16:18-20) to understand how to administer justice among her people, she saw the bigger vision of how the Lord wanted them to live together in pure devotion to Him (Deuteronomy 16:21-22) and to witness to all the nations around what it is like to live in the presence of the Lord (Deuteronomy 28:10). How could she get her people to see their mission?

One hundred years earlier, the oppression had been from Moab (to the southeast). Ehud had arisen, struck down the enemy, and set their people free—free to worship the Lord,

ISRAEL  PASS  FAIL

ISRAEL FAILED during the period of the Judges  
*many times because of not having faith in God*  
and not COMPLETELY OBEYING GOD.

free to raise their own families, and free to harvest their own gardens! For a time, many people followed the Lord. They stopped worshipping at the pagan altars.

But as the years passed people began to drift—again. “They chose new gods” (Judges 5:8), and lived selfish, wicked lives. They had forsaken their God and their calling.

Deborah wanted to see their nation steadfast in the worship of the Lord, but Israel kept up the same cycle of backsliding, suffering, repenting, reviving, then backsliding again! Their weakened culture invited enemy attacks. Their intermarriage with pagan wives compromised devotion to the One True God. They fell into taking selfish advantage, even of fellow Israelites!

The current enemy was King Jabin, whose capital city was Hazor, far to the north. Joshua had burned it to the ground 170 years earlier! Now an old conquered enemy rose again from the ashes to terrify them.

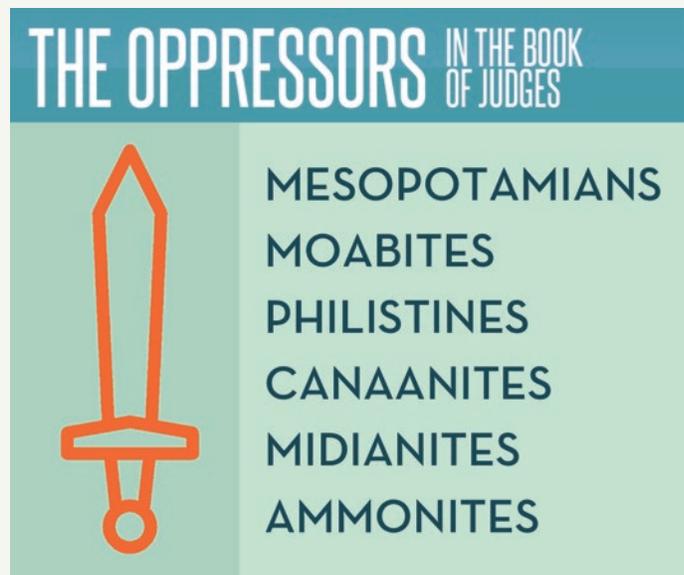
Israelis were forced into slavery timbering for the foreign king and into military service. Judges 5:6 records, “The highways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked through byways.” With the special part women played in the deliverance and with the expression of Judges 5:30 where Deborah’s song has Sisera’s mother chanting, “Every man a damsel or two,” there must have been severe oppression of Israeli women! The enemies referred to the Israeli girls coarsely as “wombs”—slaves to satisfy passion, do their hard work, and bear more sons, who would be taught to hate Israel.

For 20 years, the people cried out in anguish under foreign oppression. Not one in 40,000 Israelites had a shield or spear (Judges 5:8). The enemy had disarmed them! The bottom fell out of the Israeli economy. Attendance at the Lord’s house slumped ever lower. A military comeback seemed impossible. But God intervened through three “weaklings”!

Deborah patiently taught and encouraged the people that God could deliver them. If they would repent, the Lord would remember His people! Like many women through history, she rose to the challenge of a crisis, and God used what men considered weak instruments to bring an incredible victory.

Deborah must have exerted considerable authority. She sent a message to Barak, a known military leader, that he should muster 10,000 troops and plan to attack the enemy forces. She described where the battle would take place and how he should position his army on the top of Mount Tabor to draw the enemy to attack them uphill. He would overcome them and pursue them down into the Kishon Valley where their chariots would be at a disadvantage. She promised the Lord would give him the victory.

Barak declined. He knew, if he lost the battle, he would pay with his life and maybe with a torturous death. He may have seemed weak in faith, but he was shrewd. Barak sought not



Deborah’s physical strength, but her companionship and her faith. If Deborah would put herself into the battle, her presence would inspire the soldiers. She announced that because of his fearfulness, the credit for the victory would not go to him, but would be given to a woman. Barak wanted success, not fame. He would do his part, and Deborah would do hers. In that day of emphasis on physical strength, women were looked on as weaker, but this did not dissuade Deborah from leading the army into war. She was a “mother in Israel” with all the duties of marriage, family, and children. This was an emergency, and she risked all for God.

Barak followed the prescribed battle plan, and the Lord sent an unseasonable storm to flood the Kishon and cripple Sisera’s undefeatable chariots! After the battle, Deborah composed a song and led the women in celebrating.

Deborah contrasted Barak’s courage with the fearfulness of the Benjamites and Reubenites. Barak and his men charged into the battle while they shrank back (Judges 5:14-18). The Reubenites had “great thoughts of heart”—they were paralyzed by indecision.

Jael’s husband, Heber, was a Kenite, a descendant of Moses’ in-laws (Judges 4:11). He had betrayed the people that had adopted him and made a league with these Canaanites. Unexpectedly, Jael used her double relationship to cut down the enemy of Israel.

God delights in using weak instruments so that He receives the glory (I Corinthians 9:27-29). He worked a marvelous deliverance through Deborah, a Female, whom God used to inspire an entire army; Barak, a Fearful General, who at the call of Deborah, marched into action, and Jael, a Foreigner, who took her stand with the people of God. The Hebrews 11:34 celebration of heroes who “out of weakness, were made strong,” always reminds me of Deborah, Barak, and Jael. ❏



RANDALL MCELWAIN



# Othniel

THE “LION OF GOD”

The story of Othniel, the first judge of Israel, contains few heroic details. There is little of the drama of Gideon or Samson, but Othniel was a man who saw a job to be done, and did it. He saw a city to be conquered, and he conquered it. He saw a people to be delivered, and he delivered them. Othniel was God’s man for the hour.

The book of Judges shows Israel’s propensity for turning from Jehovah to other gods. After Joshua’s death, a generation arose “which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel” (Judges 2:10). As a result, Israel turned to the worship of Baal and the Asherah. The people chosen by God as His special possession turned to gods of wood and stone.

But one family did not forget God. Othniel was Caleb’s nephew. As the family gathered around the Passover meal, you can be sure that Caleb retold the stories of God’s faithfulness to Israel. Young Othniel would have been spellbound as his uncle told of his trip to spy out the land of Canaan forty years earlier. Othniel would have heard his uncle rage against Israel’s lack of faith. He would have listened as Caleb recounted the crossing of Jordan on dry land. Other Israelites may have forgotten God, but Othniel never forgot what God had done for His people.

Eventually, Israel’s sin caused God to sell them into the hand of Chushan-rishathaim. For eight years, they

suffered bondage until God heard their cry and raised up a deliverer. Through Othniel's leadership, Israel was freed from bondage and had forty years of peace.

Three things strike me as keys to Othniel's leadership. First, Othniel knew God. While others had forgotten Joshua's God, Othniel knew Jehovah. In the Old Testament, to "know" is much more than to be aware of a fact; to "know" is to act on that awareness. The generation after Joshua had a mental awareness of God, but they no longer allowed that knowledge to guide their lives. When our actions and attitudes are no longer controlled by our awareness of God, we no longer "know" God.

Othniel knew God; his actions were controlled by his knowledge of God. Ironically, Othniel was not from a native Israelite family. His uncle, Caleb, was a Kenezite from Midian (Num 32:12). Othniel's family had been adopted into the tribe of Judah (Num 34:19). While native Israelites forgot God, a man from a Midianite family remembered God and was controlled by his faith in God's promises.

Second, Othniel was a man of courage. His name means "Lion of God." Othniel lived up to his name. We first meet Othniel when Caleb is looking for a warrior to fight the inhabitants of Kirjathsepher. Othniel volunteers and wins the battle (Josh 15:16-17; Judges 1:12-13).

Othniel then fought against Chushan-rishathaim, the king of Mesopotamia. Rishathaim means "double-evil." The "Lion of God" faced "Double Evil" with confidence because Othniel knew God and what God had done for Israel.

Othniel was not afraid to fight for right. His uncle had stood against the ten spies who doubted God's promises. Now the nephew stood for God when the rest of the nation had forgotten God. Othniel was a man of courage.

Third, Othniel was filled with God's Spirit. The "Spirit of the Lord came upon Him." Othniel did not act in his own power. He relied on God's power for service. He was chosen by God for a purpose, and the God who chooses a man will empower that man to fulfill his calling. God empowered Othniel to accomplish the task that God had set before him.

What does the story of Othniel teach us? It isn't hard to see parallels between the Israel of Judges and the church of today. Much of the evangelical church seems to have forgotten what God has done for our forefathers. Much of the church has turned to the twenty-first century idols of money and pleasure. Much of the church accepts bondage to sin as the normal Christian life.

Is it possible that God is calling some Othniels today? Is it possible that God wants to raise up a twenty-first century "Lion of God" to deliver His people?

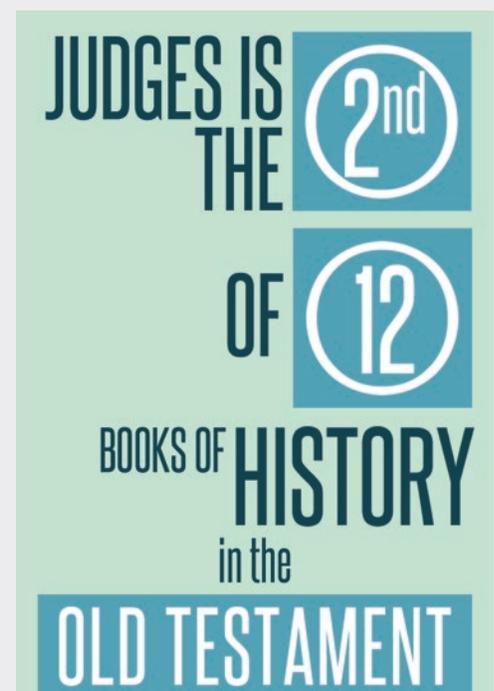
If so, Othniel models some characteristics that God is seeking. God is looking for men who are controlled by their knowledge of God. God is looking for men of courage who aren't afraid to stand against the sins of our day. God is looking for men who are filled with the Holy Spirit. Are you available if God calls you to be today's Othniel? 📌

continued from **page 2**

3. They only called on God when they needed Him. Throughout the book of Judges, we read accounts of the Israelites worshipping pagan gods, and crying out to God when they were in desperate situations. Its easy to point critical fingers at them, but how often are we guilty of this? We hear people say often, "well there is nothing left to do but pray." Prayer must be our first course of action, not our last resort.

4. Some of the most haunting words found in Judges is the phrase that "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6; 21:25). In other words, they were living in complete disregard to what God had told them to do. Why these words are troubling to me is because this is a mirrored image of our world today. Our society often completely disregards what God has told us is truth. Truth has become relative. Truth is whatever you want it to be. In Judges, God's response to this was judgement. How can we expect any less?

This issue of the *God's Missionary Standard* focuses on the book of Judges. Some say these are the darkest days in history. I say these are the greatest days of opportunity! Our prayer is that we may learn these and other lessons from Judges, and offer our society the hope of the world, Jesus Christ. 📌



# lessons from the life of **ABIMELECH**



JEFFREY STRATTON

Photo by Andrea George

**E**very man did that which was right in his own eyes.” Those closing words of the book of Judges accurately describe the life of Abimelech, a power-hungry, ruthless murderer who destroyed everything and everyone who got in his way.

The story of Abimelech opens in Judges 8:31, where we learn that he was born a son of Gideon and his concubine, a woman from the city of Shechem. The short narrative of his rise to power and eventual demise is contained in Judges 9—and none of it is good.

Many of the judges of Israel were men whom God sent to lead and deliver His people, but such was not the case with Abimelech. Some judges, such as Gideon and Barak, had to be prodded and persuaded into leadership. But power-hun-

gry Abimelech killed everyone else, just so he could be in charge. So why is this man listed in the Bible as a judge of Israel? What lessons can we learn from such a wicked, wasted life?



## JUDGES

THE TITLE **JUDGES** MEANS  
**RULERS OR SAVIORS**

## **LESSON 1: Godly parents do not automatically produce godly children.**

Abimelech's father, Gideon (also called Jerubbaal in this story), is remembered for leading a small group of 300 men to victory over an army of 135,000 Midianites. He was a man who obeyed God in the face of danger—whether tearing down his father's idols, or leading his tiny band of troops into battle. But Abimelech didn't even try to serve the God of his father. In fact, there is not one single good thing said about Abimelech. He was a man who served only himself. We are reminded by his story that no one will get to heaven on his parents' merits.

## **LESSON 2: Even godly parents can make mistakes.**

Gideon, though remembered for his humble, godly leadership, did some things wrong. Judges 8:27 tells of an ephod that Gideon made, and how it became a "snare unto Gideon, and to his house." Furthermore, Judges 8:30-31 tells us of how Gideon had many wives and at least one concubine—certainly not a picture of God's ordained plan of marriage between one man and one woman. Abimelech was born as a result of that ungodly union between Gideon and his concubine.

## **LESSON 3: Lust for power makes a person destructive.**

Gideon, his father, had refused to serve as king, but Abimelech aspired to be king, and wouldn't settle for anything halfway. He fought his way into leadership, killing all but one of his 69 brothers. He was certainly not a divinely ordained judge who loved and honored God. Rather, he was a despot in every sense of the word.

## **LESSON 4: God will bring justice on His own time schedule.**

Fleeing from the bloodthirsty Abimelech, his one surviving brother, Jotham, spoke a parable of doom on Abimelech and the men of Shechem, who had helped him to the throne. Abimelech's reign of terror did eventually come to an end, after three years. But I wonder how many times during those years Jotham wondered if God would ever bring judgment. Surely it seemed unjust for God to allow such a wicked man to rule! But though wickedness may prosper for a while, it will not prosper always.

## **LESSON 5: What goes around comes around.**

Abimelech rose to power by violence, convincing the men of Shechem to rally around him and make him the leader. But it was not long until those same people wanted rid of him, and

tried to destroy him. According to Judges 9:23, God actually brought this about by sending "an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem..." Abimelech destroyed the people of Shechem... and in the end was destroyed himself. He had fought his way into power, but in the end was humiliated by a woman, a symbol of "weakness" in his mind. As he and his men attacked the tower in which the townspeople of nearby Thebez had sought refuge, a woman threw a piece of a millstone on Abimelech's head. It did not kill him instantly, and he begged his armor bearer to finish him off quickly so it could not be said that he was killed by a woman.

## **Lesson 6: The wages of sin is death.**

Evil breeds more evil, and pursues the sinner to his final ruin. This is no more obvious than in the life of Abimelech. Here was a man who through no fault of his own was born a product of sin, but who then took the sin he was handed and chose to multiply it many times over. He destroyed all but one of his sixty-nine brothers... ruled with a hand of iron... destroyed those who opposed him... and was finally destroyed himself.



## **LESSON 7: Our destination in life is determined by our choices.**

This final lesson from the life of Abimelech is perhaps the most important one for us to learn, and certainly the most sobering. Though Abimelech was born into a sinful situation as a result of someone else's sinful choice, what he made of his life from that point forward was his own choice. He chose to allow the lust for power to take over his life. He chose to kill his brothers. He chose to rule as a tyrant. He chose to destroy those in his way. And ultimately, he chose his eventual destruction and his final destination: the eternal fires of hell.

No human throughout history has ever wanted to go to hell. But countless have selected that final destination through everyday choices. None of us are responsible for our beginning... but each of us is responsible for our final outcome. Every decision we make every day, whether large or small, will take us closer to God or drive us further from him. What choice will you make today? 📌

# news

## Passing

MARJORIE M. KETNER, 91, of Belleville, PA passed into the



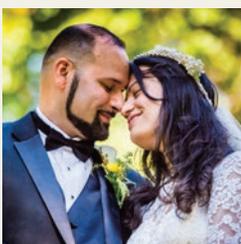
presence of her Lord on Saturday, December 19, 2015. She was born October 03, 1924 to Cloyd Lester and Mary Elda (Smith) Worthing at their home in Saxton, PA. She was married to David Elwood Ketner of Henrietta on July 26, 1941 in

Winchester, VA, at the United Brethren in Christ parsonage. God blessed their home with one son and seven daughters.

“Mother Ketner” as she was affectionately known by the family, gave her heart and life to the Lord Jesus Christ in 1947 after experiencing deep soul hunger. She and husband David became acquainted with people from the Saxton Brethren in Christ Church where they later became members. Marjorie was soon active in the church, teaching in the Sunday School, in Vacation Bible School, in Children’s Bible Hour, in the home visitation department, and in other church ministries. David was chosen as a deacon, so Marjorie accepted responsibilities in that new role as well. Later, a move to Allensville, PA brought them to the Big Valley Brethren in Christ Church, where Marjorie continued teaching children, and also became the chairperson of the Sewing Circle. She continued those activities until caring for her parents and later her husband caused her to relinquish them. She will long be remembered as a person of prayer, and as one to whom others often came for prayer and advice. 

*submitted by Rev. Arlan Kratz*

## Wedding



**Congratulations to Edwin and Roberta (Gantea) Santiago on their marriage! They were married on October 10, 2015.**

continued from **page 3** When they discover that Gideon has broken the altar, they want to kill him! How dare he insult the one they trusted would help them! God, however, was ensuring that when the victory came – no one could live under the illusion that Baal was behind it. Baal was on his face, broken, and in pieces. Unable to get up. He couldn’t defend himself, never mind fight off the Midianites!

Finally, God painstakingly removes the subtle things the people of Israel might trust in or credit with securing their freedom. Gideon gathers a 33,000 strong army. Only God thinks it’s too big. Why? He knows that when deliverance comes, the army will strut home with a lot of backslapping about what a great job they’d done, and how great they were as soldiers. So, this army is trimmed to 300. When Gideon follows God’s “weak” and “foolish” instruction of trumpet blowing and pitcher smashing, God steps in with deliverance! Who gets the glory? Gideon? No. Baal? No. The army? No. It’s God. The glory belongs to Him.

God’s uses weakness. When He calls Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt, Moses protests on the basis of his weakness. Jesse doesn’t even bring David to audition for king! Paul writes, “God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty” (1 Corinthians 1:27). Why? “That no flesh should glory in his presence” (1 Corinthians 1:29). Moses, Gideon, and David all point us to the ultimate illustration – Jesus. We pushed God away by our sin and stood at the mercy of enemies we could never conquer – sin, death, and hell. Thankfully, in His mercy, God didn’t keep His distance! His arrival to rescue us was hardly a show of shock and awe – it was in the weakness of a baby. God’s method of defeating our enemies was no show of strength - Jesus was pinned to a cross to suffer an excruciating death, a quintessential spectacle of shame and weakness. It was through this “weakness” and “foolishness” that He slew our enemies! And for those who have been rescued by this King, whose hearts beat with love for Him, and whom He calls to serve Him – weakness does not disqualify, it qualifies. Why? There’s only one Hero. And it’s not you, me, or Gideon. It’s God. To Him be the glory! 

# president

**Oct. 2:** Conference Youth Rally: I appreciated the Convention Quartet explaining the great plan of salvation in their program.

**Oct. 5:** I harvested a nice doe. The preparation, practice and plan worked. May God help all of us to pray, participate in sowing the seed and be part of the harvest of souls.

**Oct. 6, 8:** Penn View Revival: Bro. McCarty did an outstanding job and many young people received spiritual victory.

**Oct. 7:** We were privileged to hear the Spangler's minister at the Milesburg Church.

**Oct. 9-10:** I was involved in the wedding of Matthew & Rachel Jones. Congratulations! They attend the Sunbury Church.

**Oct. 11:** Lebanon (Harvest Home): It was great to greet those coming off the buses, preach in the chapel during Sunday School and preach twice more that day. Thank you Bro. & Sis Walter for your great hospitality.

**Oct. 15:** Penn View Board Meeting: I was impressed by how the board analyzed some past decisions and then looked at how that should guide them in the future.

**Oct. 18:** Lehighon – They had 31 in attendance for Harvest Home to honor the Mosley family. A wonderful meal was prepared and shared in the parsonage basement.

**Oct. 18:** Duncannon — Our four year old granddaughter, Lily, sang for the first time with her parents, "He's Still Lord" for the special. Pastor Jeremy Fuller preached on "Lovest thou me, more than these? Feed my sheep." If we love Jesus, we will care for his people.

**Oct. 20-25:** I preached a Revival in southern Ohio where my relatives attend church. I was honored to have 21 of my family from my Dad's side come hear me preach.

**Oct. 28:** Beavertown — Bro. Darrell Stetler preached an excellent revival message.

**Nov. 01:** Beavertown — Bro. Stetler told the story of catching a stray little kitten for his children under their shed, then made a powerful and spiritual application.

**Nov. 01:** Millmont — Bro. Harry Plank preached a serious truth out of God's Word on eternity. God's spirit was there in a powerful way and people sought God.

**Nov. 02:** General Board meeting, this included meeting with some of the leaders from the Gospel Center. Their passion and devotion to God's work is greatly appreciated.

**Nov. 04:** I visited Bro. Andrew Cooley in Geisinger Hospital. The doctors gave a good report.

**Nov. 04:** Met with New York Pilgrim Conference President Rev. John Peabody to discuss God's work. Bro. Peabody is a good friend from Penn View days.

**Nov. 08:** Berwick and Jackson — Bro. David Wise and his family are being a blessing at both of these churches. We were also blessed to visit and have a meal with Bro. & Sis. Majors.

**Nov. 11-15:** Rhoda and I were privileged to minister at Danville. There were 24 different adults, 3 teens and several children from the



JACOB MARTIN

community that came out to the revival meeting. Many sought God at the altar.

**Nov. 16:** I visited and had prayer with Bro. Ramsay at the hospital in Allentown.

We had a number of Penn View Bible Institute ministerial students at our house for the evening meal and a time of fellowship. Pray for them that they will enter the Harvest field for life.

**Nov. 18:** Mountain Road Revival — Bro and Sis Tillis sang "I Met the Master" and Bro. Harry Plank preached on "Follow Me". Follow me always starts with repentance. This leads us to be "fishers of men."

**Nov. 19:** Chambersburg — Bro. Jeremy Fuller and I conducted a profitable business meeting.

**Nov. 22:** Beavertown — The choir for Penn View did an excellent job.

**Nov. 27:** The General Board met and accepted Rev. Paul Bigger as a new minister in our conference.

**Nov. 29:** Blossville — I preached in the morning service. The pastor and people are to be commended for all the work done to the church. They also have a beautiful fellowship hall in the basement of the parsonage.

**Dec. 03:** Tonight was the Christmas Banquet honoring the Penn View Bible Institute staff.

**Dec. 06:** Richfield Evangelical Methodist Church — The children sang "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" and Bro. McCarty preached a good message on Matt 1:21.

**Dec. 06:** Danville — Wish you could have been there for the excellent Candlelight service with the Derek McIntire family. What a privilege to fellowship in the home of Bro. John & Cora Knight after the service.

**Dec. 07:** Enjoyed the Christmas Banquet honoring the Home Mission pastors and board members. Thanks Bro. Jeremy and Faith Fuller for putting together a great evening.

**Dec. 12:** The Penn View Businessman's Banquet and Christmas Musical were a personal blessing.

**Dec. 13:** Beavertown — The Christmas Program was used of God to speak to all who attended.

**Dec. 16:** Rhoda and I were privileged to visit Rev. & Mrs. Marlin Crock, Rev. Gene Engel and Rev. & Mrs. Russell Witmer. 

# July 29–August 7, 2016

**EVANGELISTIC SERVICES: 10:30 AM, 2:30 PM, and 7:30 PM** each day in the **George I. Straub Memorial Tabernacle**

**SUNDAY SERVICES: 9:15 AM** (Sunday School), **10:00 AM, 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM**

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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PERMIT NO 18

GOD'S MISSIONARY CHURCH

## Penys Creek CAMP MEETING

DISCOVER  
A SPECIAL PLACE

DISCOVER  
A FAMILY CAMP

PENNS CREEK, PENNSYLVANIA

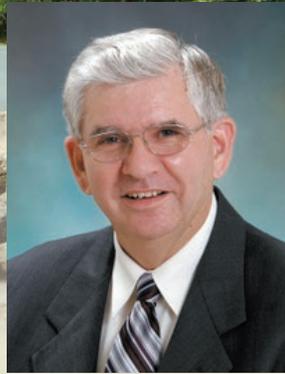
PENN VIEW BIBLE INSTITUTE  
GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD  
P.O. BOX 970  
PENNS CREEK, PA 17862



**Daniel Stetler**  
Hobe Sound, Florida  
EVANGELIST



**James Southerland**  
Anderson, Indiana  
EVANGELIST



**John Case**  
New Castle, Indiana  
EVANGELIST



**The Cassidy Family**  
Washington, Indiana  
SPECIAL MUSIC



**Jacob Martin**  
Conference President  
PLATFORM DIRECTOR

**Directions:** Follow Route 104 to village of Penns Creek. Turn on Raspberry Street. Follow to George I. Straub Tabernacle on right (on the campus of Penn View Bible Institute). For GPS devices, use the following address: 405 Raspberry Street, Middleburg, PA

**81<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference—God's Missionary Church:** Thursday and Friday, July 28 and 29

**Penn View Bible Institute School Service:** Sunday, July 31—2:30 PM

**GMC Ordination Service:** Sunday, August 7, 2:30 PM

**Missions:** 7:00 PM—weeknights

**Fort Myers Rescue Mission:** Saturday, August 6, 7:00 PM

**Lebanon Valley Gospel Band:** Sunday, August 7, 6:30 PM

**Vacation Bible School:** Held each day at the camp at 10:30 AM. Sunday Schedule: 9:15 AM.

**Crusader's Youth Program:** A full schedule of youth activities is provided. Youth services are held August 1–6 at 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM in the Mountain Road Church under the direction of Youth President Solomon Shaffer. Sunday services are at 9:15 AM. Minors staying without an adult chaperon must register in advance at [www.godsmissionarychurch.org/pccyouth](http://www.godsmissionarychurch.org/pccyouth)

**Accommodations:** We welcome you and your family to stay with us for all or part of the camp meeting. Meals, rooms and RV sites are available on a free-will offering basis. Limited rooms are available with air conditioning, all others are suitable for you to bring a small window air conditioning unit. For room reservations write: Penns Creek Camp Meeting, PO Box 970, Penns Creek, PA 17862 or call 570-837-3083. You may also email [holliness@icloud.com](mailto:holliness@icloud.com)

**Penns Creek Camp Meeting—Board of Directors:** Jacob Martin *President*, Jeremy Fuller *Vice President*, James Plank *Secretary*, Darvin Donahey *Treasurer*, Fred Bennett, Phillip Brenizer, Matt Ellison, John Zechman, Mike Wetherald *Advisory*