



# CONNECTED

January—March 2015

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Thank God for New Years and new opportunities. I hope to serve the Lord better in 2015 than I ever have in my life. Lord willing on the 2nd Sunday of January I'll be with [New Hope Baptist Church](#) in Gloucester, Virginia. That night I move to Faith Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, North Carolina. The annual *Missions Conference* at [Northwest Baptist](#) in Houston where I serve as Associate Pastor is January 21-25. I think you'll find it to be a blessing.

February 8-11 I'm looking forward to a great time of challenge and revival with [Lukfata Baptist Church](#) in Broken Bow, Oklahoma. The last half of February Pastor Dulany will be in Ecuador; I have the privilege of attending the pastoral responsibilities here at Northwest. On February 26-28 I will attend the workshops at [Lake Worth Baptist Church](#) in Fort Worth and assist with the

ordination of Zack Hatton on Saturday. The next day I will preach both services for Pastor Ed Neal at [Midway Baptist Church](#) in McKinney, Texas. On Monday and Tuesday I plan to attend the *Expository Preaching* workshop at [Southwest Theological Seminary](#) in Fort Worth. God forbid that any of us ever take our preaching for granted. May we ever remain students!

March 15-18 I have the privilege of leading the *Missions Conference* at [Temple Baptist Church](#) in New Iberia, Louisiana. Bro. Aaron Weido is pastor there. April 16-19 I will conduct a seminar on how the Scriptures came to us at Midway Baptist Church in McKinney, Texas. God's transmission and preservation of His Word is a fascinating story. Later in April (26-29) I am blessed to return to [Highland Missionary Baptist Church](#) in Dublin, Texas. We

will major on crucial and pivotal doctrinal positions in the Bible.

Lord willing, I will begin June with [Lighthouse Baptist Church](#) in Dickinson, Texas and lead their family camp. Toward the end of June I will be with Bro. Don McFarland at Parkview Baptist Church in Childress, Texas. In July I'll preach for Calvary Chapel in South Fork, Colorado before attending the annual *Missions Conference* at [Rodgers Baptist Church](#) in Garland. Pastor Dulany will be on vacation in early August and again I will attend the work here at Northwest in Houston. In October I will fly to Ohio for a weekend with my dear friend Aaron Samples at [Grace Baptist Church](#) in Urbana. I will conduct a marriage seminar on Saturday morning, October 3. While there I will attend the Men's Conference at [Dearborn Baptist Church](#) in Aurora, IN.



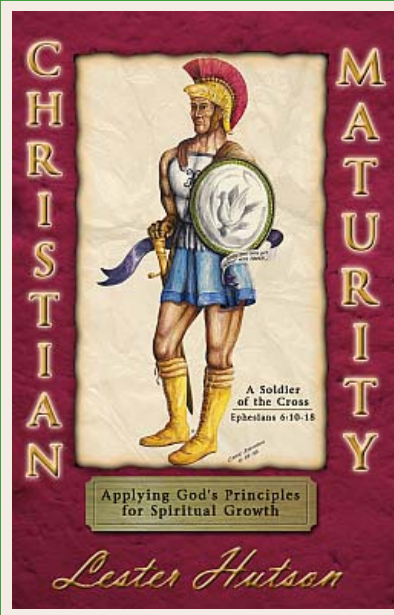
**I STILL SALUTE HER PROUDLY!**



Our daughter, son-in-law & grandsons. Cody Hutson in the center.

From left to right: Scott, Adam, Nathan & Dena Shugart.

## IT'S DONE



## MY NEWEST BOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE

How happy I am to announce that *Christian Maturity: Applying God's Principles for Spiritual Growth* is now available. This book will challenge you. It's about growing up in the Lord, and presents specific characteristics which measure maturity. It is very practical and designed to help you grow.

This book consists of 14 chapters in three sections. Section one deals with the substance of spiritual maturity: faith, hope and charity. It also deals with imitations, things that many mistake for marks of maturity. Section two looks at manifestations of true spiritual maturity: fundamental honesty, humility, personal discipline, wisdom, proper response to criticism, proper response to adversity and reproduction. The final section looks at obstacles to growth and concludes with growth stimulators.

*Christian Maturity: Applying God's Principles for Spiritual Growth* is available from [Amazon](#) in eBook format. Paper copies should be available within the next couple of weeks. I will update this [page](#) when it is ready. As soon as it becomes available on Amazon, paper copies may also be ordered from me for \$9.99 per copy plus shipping costs at [lesterhutson@gmail.com](mailto:lesterhutson@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support of those of us who write Christian books.



### DO NOT TAKE PEOPLE FOR GRANTED

Just one generation ago the pastors below & their wives were major leaders among Independent Baptists in the Texas area. Earnest Rippetoe was pastor of Washington Street Baptist Church in Stephenville. Al Locke was pastor of Lake Worth Baptist Church in Ft. Worth & H. Frank Fort was pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Houston.

### Notice in a farmer's field:

The farmer allows walkers to cross the field, but the bull charges.

### ONE OF THOSE PIN-DROP MOMENTS

Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry-on luggage.

"You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically. Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. "Then you should know to have your passport ready."

The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it." "Impossible. Americans always have to show their passports upon arrival in France!"

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long, hard look. Then he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchman to show a passport to."

You could have heard a pin drop.

### OUR 2015 PRAYER LIST

- ◇ Consistently glorify God in every facet of our lives
- ◇ Better use & management of our time & other resources
- ◇ Personally win more souls to Jesus Christ
- ◇ Better learn to say "No" & not undertake too much
- ◇ Better personal habits especially with health
- ◇ A consistently closer & more fruitful walk with God



Top row: H. Frank Fort with Mary & Al Locke

Bottom; Bro. & Mrs. Earnest Rippetoe

## THANKS

Many of you continue to use our books and other printed materials. I want to take this means of offering you a very sincere thanks. Your kind words of appreciation and your use of the materials are truly encouraging.

Most of my books are available in both paperback and electronic formats from [Amazon](#) and [Barnes and Noble](#). Some paperbacks are available only from me. You may not be aware that I have acquired the inventory of my books that are not available elsewhere. For a list of these books and prices, contact me at [lesterhutson@gmail.com](mailto:lesterhutson@gmail.com). This information along with a short descriptions can be found on my [website](#). Books are great resource tools and keep on speaking even when you cannot.

**Sign in a Laundromat:** Automatic washing machines: Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out

## SOMETHING VERY PERSONAL

In November I did something very personal and physically demanding. I joined my son, son-in-law and a close friend on an elk hunt in the high and rugged mountains of southwestern Colorado. Talk about a man's man thing; elk hunting on public land at over 10,000 feet is not for the faint-hearted. Long horse rides in the dark over narrow, precipitous trails frozen solid and covered with snow, a close encounter with a mountain lion and lots of walking are great experiences, but they take lots of true grit and stamina.

My son took a great bull elk. Out of the four of us, three saw and got shots at good bulls; I was not one of them. Possibly when I get old I'll quit doing things like this. Right now I'm thinking about another elk hunt in two years. I have no intentions of becoming an old fossil before I die.



My son Mark & his 360 class bull elk

## HOW TO CATCH WILD PIGS

Find a suitable place in the woods and putting corn on the ground. The pigs find it and begin to come every day to eat the free corn. When they are accustomed to coming for the corn put a fence down one side of the place.

When they get used to the fence put up another side of the fence. Continue until all four sides of the fence up with a gate in the last side.

The pigs will start to come through the gate to eat that free corn again. Slam shut the gate and catch the whole herd. The wild pigs have lost their freedom.

For a while they panic and run around inside the fence, but they are caught. Soon they go back to eating the free corn. They are used to it and accept their captivity.

Wake up America! There is no free lunch.

*"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... And we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."*

Theodore Roosevelt 1907

There are new sermons on my website. They are changed approximately four times a year. I appreciate your visits to my site & want the sermons to always be helpful & refreshing.

[Listen to Sermons](#)

**GOD IS LOVE**



[www.lesterhutson.org](http://www.lesterhutson.org)

## OH BOY!

The new Preacher was visiting the homes of his congregation. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. He took out a card, wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back and stuck it in the door. When the offering was passed and processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10." Upon reaching for his Bible and turning to Genesis, he burst into laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock."

### MAY YOU BE BLESSED!

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents. We believed they would always travel on our side; however, at some station our parents will step down from the train leaving us on this journey alone. As time goes by other people will board the train and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum, while others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is that we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way: love, forgive and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train.

I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More important, thank God for the journey. Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train.

# A BOOK I HAVE READ AND HIGHLY RECOMMEND

## *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It)*

Robert D. Lupton  
HarperOne  
New York  
ISBN 978 - 0- 06-207621 – 2

It is likely that you have a sizeable number of bubbles in your head. This book will likely burst many of them. It is another one of those *ouch, I don't like that* books, but the truth of it is highly convicting. If you truly care about helping hurting people, you need to read this book. With an open mind! You cannot be Christ-like and ignore people in need. Like most Christians, I have spent a lifetime doing my sincerest best to be a true helper. I wish I had read this book when I was young. It enunciates what I have painfully come to realize through many (and mostly) futile efforts.

Lupton neither discourages helping the needy nor does he question the motives of those who give. He does take a critical look at the way it's generally done: by governments, by foundations, by people with means and by churches. In the long-run, the standard *top down* approach rarely helps. When it comes to aid, *dependency* and *the destruction of personal initiative* are always lurking nearby. Lupton states it well, "When we do for those in need what they have the capacity to do for themselves, we disempower them." He goes on to say, "When relief does not transition to development in a timely way, compassion becomes toxic."

Lupton speaks from a lifetime of experience. The book is not *religious* per se, although Christians are the most deeply compassionate of all earth's people. The book deals at length with churches and other religious charities, but it deals with charitable help whether the help is from a church or a government. Regardless of who is attempting the help, there are many common denominators as well as some things that work and some that don't. This book is full of wisdom and sound advice.

*Toxic Charity* will cause you to take a second look at what you are doing to help the needy and how you are doing it. Lupton does not have the final answer on charity, but he does have much to say. Few books have shaken me as deeply as this one. It is concise, well-written, authoritative and less than 200 pages. You owe it to yourself to read this book.

At Northwest we are currently engaged in a serious search for a man to come & assume the fulltime leadership of our youth ministry. We have budgeted the necessary funds. Contact us at 1710 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Houston 77018. Send a resume' or contact us at [odulany@hotmail.com](mailto:odulany@hotmail.com).

YOU MAY CONTACT US AT  
[lesterhutson@gmail.com](mailto:lesterhutson@gmail.com).

*You can be saved today.*  
**Acts 16:31**