



# CONNECTED

July—September 2015

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## GOD AT WORK IN OUR LIVES

I do not feel adequately qualified to describe the blessings the last three months have been to me. Seldom in my life have I worked harder to be ready for an event than I did in preparation for *The Reliability of Your Bible Seminar* at [Midway Baptist Church](#) in McKinney, Texas. I worked and read and researched for months. Talk about *labor-intensive*; it was. But, what a blessing! All of the study and research gave me an appreciation for my Bible greater than I've ever had; and my appreciation was already sky-high. I was there with Midway, April 15-19. If you'd like to know how it went, contact Pastor Ed Neal (214-232-3038).

For a week in April I went back to my roots. Back in the 1960s and 70s I spent many wonderful weeks with the [Highland Missionary Baptist Church](#) near Dublin, Texas. Some of the finest people I have ever known live there and are a part of that church. Yes, salt of the earth people! God

allowed me to go back for a good, old-fashioned, week-long revival. Revivals are almost extinct, but we had a really good time in the Lord. It was not all about emotion and cheer-leading; this revival got into some pretty heavy stuff. The Lord greatly blessed. Pastor Burt Atkins is truly suited for this great ole church.

During these last three months God has privileged me to preach four times and teach three Sundays at my home church ([Northwest BC](#) in Houston). He also let me lead a family camp in Luling, Texas for [Lighthouse Baptist Church](#) in Dickinson. What a privilege to assist Dr. David Gibbs (CLA) at the Spiritual Leadership Conference in Lancaster, California in mid-June; and to preach for Bro. Don McFarland at Parkview Baptist Church in Childress, Texas! He also allowed me to represent Him on *Church and State*

with host Nathan Curtis on KELB Radio in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

I'm especially thankful that God allowed me to spend a week in Branson, Missouri with my dear wife Margaret. August 3 we will celebrate our 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary. What a blessing to share quality time with three other dear Christian couples! Really high on our list of blessings was the graduation of our precious granddaughter, Megan Hutson. On May 30 she was graduated from Bullard High School (near Tyler) as valedictorian of her class. It is truly a gift from God to have a lovely, caring family.



**Megan Hutson**

Our lovely granddaughter



*Megan Hutson*  
*Valedictorian speech*

*"Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards; if you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book."*

# I CAN IDENTIFY WITH THIS STORY

One day I had lunch with some friends. Jim, a short, balding golfer type about 85-years old, came along with them; all in all, a pleasant bunch. When the menus were presented, we ordered salads, sandwiches, and soups, except for Jim who said, "Ice Cream, please. Two scoops, chocolate. I wasn't sure my ears heard right, and the others were aghast. "Along with heated apple pie," Jim added, completely unabashed.

We tried to act quite nonchalant, as if people did this all the time. But when our orders were brought out, I didn't enjoy mine. I couldn't take my eyes off Jim as his pie a-la-mode went down. The other guys couldn't believe it. They ate their lunches silently and grinned.

The next time I went out to eat, I called and invited Jim. I lunched on white meat tuna. He ordered a parfait. I smiled. He asked if he amused me. I answered, "Yes, you do, but also you confuse me. How come you order rich desserts, while I feel I must be sensible?" He laughed and said "I'm tasting all that is possible. I try to eat the food I need, and do the things I should. But life's so short, my friend, I hate missing out on something good. This year I realized how old I was. (He grinned) I haven't been this old before. So, before I die, I've got to try those things that for years I had ignored. I haven't smelled all the flowers yet. There are too many trout streams I haven't fished. There's more fudge sundaes to wolf down and kites to be flown overhead. There are too many golf courses I haven't played. I've not laughed at all the jokes. I've missed a lot of sporting events and potato chips and cokes. I want to wade again in water and feel ocean spray on my face. I want to sit in a country church once more and thank God for His grace. I want peanut butter every day spread on my morning toast. I want un-timed long distance calls to the folks I love the most. I haven't cried at all the movies yet, or walked in the morning rain. I need to feel wind on my face. I want to be in love again. So, if I choose to have dessert, instead of having dinner, then should I die before night fall, I'd say I died a winner, because I missed out on nothing. I filled my heart's desire. I had that final chocolate mousse before my life expired."

With that, I called the waitress over... "I've changed my mind," I said. "I want what he is having, only add some more whipped cream!"

Live well, love much and laugh often - Be happy. Be mindful that happiness isn't based on possessions, power, or prestige, but on relationships with people we like and respect. Remember that while money talks, CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM SINGS!

Last of all, never forget that we all will eventually die from something -- it might as well be something we like!

PS. For those who understand, no explanation is needed. For those who do not understand, no explanation is possible.

Many years ago a missionary who was very proficient in Spanish translate both volumes of *What We Believe and Why* into Spanish, 104 outlined teaching/preaching lessons in all. Over the years many have found them very beneficial. To some they are quite provocative. These books are for Christians who are searching for answers to serious Bible questions.

With many of the ups and downs that have transpired in my life over the last few years, it appeared that these excellent translations were lost forever. Praise our great God that was not the case. A few days ago they surfaced. We now have digital copies of these study books and are working to make them available in paperback and electronic formats through Amazon. We will let you know when that happens; it may be early 2016.

A wise soul has said, "It's bad to be silent and be thought a fool; it's worse to open your mouth and remove all doubt." It's not a bad idea to think and get the facts before you make up your mind and act.

A steel company, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers.

On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business. He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?" A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make \$400 a week. Why?" The CEO said, "Wait right here." He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back."

Feeling pretty good about himself the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goofball did here?" From across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's."



R O N A L D  
R E A G A N

## A HISTORY OF CHURCHES SEMINAR AT NORHTWEST BAPTIST

Several of our readers have expressed interest in attending one of my *History of Churches Seminars*. Mark your calendar: November 9-10 and 12-14, 2015. The schedule has been tailored to allow friends from other churches to attend without missing any regular services at their own church. The seminar begins Monday night, November 9 at 7:00 PM. There will be a one-hour session each night (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). The seminar will conclude on Saturday with sessions from 8:30-12:30.

This is a good opportunity for you to learn your spiritual heritage. Each session will be accompanied with a Power Point presentation, and each person who attends will receive a seminar notebook.

## MY HEART IS FOR LASTING FRUIT

With every passing year my focus is more and more on my eternal home and producing lasting fruit while I'm still enjoying this pilgrimage here on earth. Looking around I see that most of what is done by most of us is quite temporal and fleeting. Most people leave very little evidence that they've ever been here; within a few months or years of their passing almost no one knows they were ever here.

I've preached my fair share of sermons, spent thousands of hours taking care of church administration and business, written enough Sunday bulletins and memos to fill a large room, been to more church *fellowships* and other social events than you'd probably believe, conducted enough committee and other church meetings to tire a veteran congressman and talked the horns off a few human Billy-goats. I doubt that most folks could remember my text from last Sunday, much less last year. Yes. Most of what we do is pretty fleeting.

I am convinced that every soul we win will be in heaven. Forever! Yes, and the lives we mentor and influence for the better are eternal investments. Talking about eternal things, the money and time invested in one of the Lord's churches and in missionary work counts with God. Most of what I have done in life will perish when I leave for heaven, but not all. Some fruit is more than a flash-in-the-pan; it is lasting fruit.

It is becoming increasingly obvious to me that the pen is still mightier than the sword. Yes. What you write goes where you cannot go, lingers in hearts and minds and keeps living when you are dead. "*He being dead yet speaketh.*" That realization drives me to write and to put what I write into a state of perpetuity. I am working to put as much of my written material on Amazon as I possibly can. I realize that unless I do so, it will become extinct once I'm gone. Please pray for me as I work with the help of dear and competent yoke-fellows to make what God has allowed me to write permanently available through the Internet. In both English and Spanish! Much is already there, but I have a ways to go.

## GOD LOVES YOU

### ANOTHER MILESTONE

How thankful I am to be healthy and active at 74 years old! Yes. On May 30 my odometer rolled over again. I was so blessed by the multitude of cards, calls, emails and other expressions of love and support. Thank you dear friends. My heart is to be faithful and fruitful as long as I live on this earth. I consider it a tremendous privilege to serve the King of kings. And to have so many dear friends!

## A BOOK I HAVE RECENTLY READ & HIGHLY RECOMMEND

*Power in the Pulpit: How to Prepare and Deliver Expository Sermons*, Jerry Vines and Jim Shaddix

Moody Press, Chicago, ISBN 0- 8024-7740-2

How I wish I had encountered this book when I was young in the ministry! For preachers of God's Word, this is truly among the best of the best resources.

This is a *how to* book to the core. The first section consists of 90 powerful pages focused on the preacher. It is a certain fact that if the preacher is not right, neither will the sermon be right. Section two is 110 pages on how to glean the great truths from God's Word and convert them into a clear and powerful sermon. Good preaching does not consist of a great number of truths (however good they are) heaped like hash on a plate. The Scriptures are not a jumbled up mess, and neither should be sermons. The Bible teaches that all things are to be done decently and in order. Good sermons have structure. They are organized. They are going somewhere. They start at a point (in Scripture) and develop and build a powerful message. From God! They bring people to the bar, face to face with the truths of God's eternal Word. If a sermon is what God intended it to be, the listener will be brought to the bar, to a place of decision in his heart. Good preaching never leaves you where you were. The final 112 pages of this book are a section on the actual delivery of the message from God. The message must connect, reach the heart. My, this is really good material!

There are gifted speakers, but good preachers are the ones who study (correctly), dig out and prepare well-organized and tailored message and who deliver them well. No man is a good preacher because he's a charmer with the gift of gab. Good sermons have substance, depth and are true to the Word of God. Furthermore, they are delivered well. They are crisp, concise and articulate. It has well been said that "*If you don't strike oil in 30 minutes, stop boring.*" A good sermon starts well, builds, flows, gets somewhere and stops. Oh my! How many times have you heard preachers blow right through two or three excellent stopping-places? The sermon was done 10 or 15 minutes before they quit.

If heeded, *Power in the Pulpit* would greatly help most preachers. I am keenly aware that if the Spirit of God is not in a sermon, all is vain; but I am also aware that *the Spirit of God* seems to empower and use best those who prepare themselves, prepare good and fundamentally sound messages and who deliberately prepare to deliver them well. For those who are serious about doing a good job preaching God's Word, I heartily recommend *Power in the Pulpit*. The book is mainly for preachers, but it would be a blessing to anyone who loves the Word of God and those who preach it.

The sermons on my website are changed approximately four times a year. I appreciate very much your visits and attention to the sermons I preach. Thank you for the kind and encouraging feedback. I intend to keep preaching till Jesus comes for me.

[Listen to Sermons](#)

## OUR *BEYOND THE GRAVE* IS AGAIN AVAILABLE

Many of you have asked how to get copies of my tract, *Beyond the Grave*. Due to circumstances beyond my control, for all practical purposes the tract became extinct. I am happy to announce that the tract has been reprinted and is again available.

Several pastors and churches saw the need for a strong, straight-forward salvation tract professionally prepared in an appealing full color format. A dozen of them banded together making it possible to reprint at an affordable price. For me it was especially gratifying to see brethren cooperate together in a common cause. King Solomon said, "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor," Ecclesiastes 4:9. We saw it in the revival of this tract.

Over the years there have been repeated requests for copies. This tract is a straightforward presentation of the gospel in succinct form. The artwork was originally done professionally, and the tract looks very nice and appealing. It is full, 4-color separation printing. It folds well to fit neatly into a shirt, coat pocket or purse. So many tracts are polluted with prayer or Lordship salvation or some other superfluous, confusing baggage. I wanted a tract in the marketplace that simply laid the message of salvation on the line without distortion.

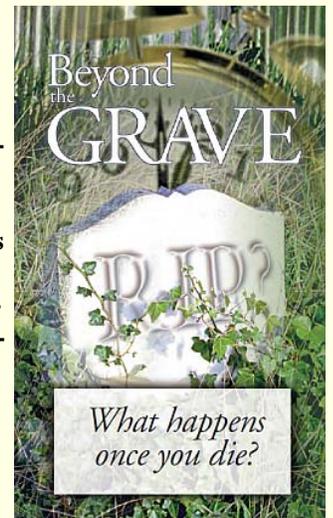
A tract is like a seed. Many seeds never take root and produce a plant, but some do. Praise God; some do! There are plenty of notable cases of people who got saved by reading a gospel tract. All of us ought to make better use of good tracts. Keep a supply in the glove box of your car, in your purse and in your pocket. Leave one with your waitress, your cashier or with your friend. It may accomplish more good than you suspect. One thing is certain, if you don't plant a seed, you are guaranteed a zero harvest.

You can now order non-personalized *Beyond the Grave* tracts from me in lots of 25, 50 and 100. They are available in either English or Spanish. Email me at [lesterhutson@gmail.com](mailto:lesterhutson@gmail.com). Postage and the cost of a mailer are added to all mail orders. (Those interested in personalized tracts should contact me for details.)

25 for \$5.00—50 for \$8.00—100 for \$15.00—1,000 for \$140.00.

### *BEYOND THE GRAVE* IN SPANISH TOO

A special praise to the Lord for another bright spot in this tract picture. We still had the translation and artwork for *Beyond the Grave* in Spanish. For our Spanish-speaking friends we have generated a limited supply. They too are available in bundles of 25, 50 and 100. (See prices above.) We have also made provisions for those wanting larger quantities. One of our Spanish-speaking brothers in Panama has requested and received permission to print 20,000 of these tracts down there.



Some years ago, there was a MENSA convention in San Francisco. MENSA is a national organization for people who have an IQ of 140 or higher.

Several of the Mensa members went out for lunch at a local cafe. When they sat down, one of them discovered that their salt shaker contained pepper, and their pepper shaker was full of salt.

How could they swap the contents of the two bottles without spilling any, and using only the implements at hand? Clearly --this was a job for MENSA minds.

The group debated the problem, and presented ideas and finally, came up with a brilliant solution involving a napkin, a straw, and an empty saucer. They called the waitress over, ready to dazzle her with their solution.

"Ma'am," they said, "we couldn't help but notice that the pepper shaker contains salt and the salt shaker has pepper."

But before they could finish, the waitress interrupted. "Oh -- sorry about that."

She leaned over the table, unscrewed the caps of both bottles, and switched them. There was dead silence at the MENSA table.

*"I don't have enough faith to be an atheist,"*

Norman Geisler

YOU MAY CONTACT US AT  
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### AT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN ATHENS, TEXAS

Mark this date: August 15, 2015. [Calvary Baptist Church](#) in Athens, Texas will host its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual *Defending the Faith* Conference. This year's conference will deal with the End Times. It will be a scholarly look where our world is in the great scheme of God. Bible scholars and world observers alike agree that the world as it is today cannot continue much longer. It is on a collision course with disaster, a total meltdown.

This is obviously an apologetics conference. It is not a rebel-rousing, lots of speculation and emotion-without-substance approach. Solid evidence will be presented. You will see how current world happenings are in lock-step with the predictions of the Bible.

The conference speaker is Dr. Wayne Dartz pastor of [Victory Baptist Church](#) in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Dr. Dartz is a very astute scholar with great expertise in prophecy. August 15 is on a Saturday. The conference begins at 10:00 AM and concludes at 3:00. Lunch will be served by the church which is located at 1125 East Corsicana Street, Athens, Texas 75751. Call Nathan Bragdon for more details. 903-780-0427.