



From Pastor Baughman's Desk...



What About the Altar?

Public Response to the Public Invitation Part II

"Pastor, after that sermon, the altar should have been filled." How many times I have heard this or similar expressions. So, what do you think about public response to public invitations?

We considered this Scripturally in the last edition of *Connections*. In this edition we will consider it functionally: What the invitation is.

- The altar is a time and a place to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Any time God speaks to your heart is significant, and He has chosen this time and place to speak to you in this way. Respond to Him.
- The altar is a time and a place to seal decisions. God is dealing with you, so the altar is a great time and place to acknowledge your yieldedness to Him.
- The altar is a time and place to step up. God is calling to you, step up and be counted as one who needs Him and is submitted to His will.
- The altar is a time and place to specify the next step. God may have made the next step clear, so you can acknowledge that at the altar. You may not know what it is, but you are seeking it and your response to the Lord is a declaration of your faith. You may ask an attendant at the altar for input or to pray with you about it. The Lord will show you!
- The altar is a time and a place to seek the Lord in prayer. The prayer may be for you or others, but the altar is your place to pray and for others to pray with you.
- The altar is a time and place to be humbly submissive. This is always the bottom line: Am I submissive to the Lord? When He leads you, follow.

That's what the altar is. In the next edition we will consider what it is not. For now, are you responsive to the Lord?

Summer Ministry Fellowships

This summer, for four weeks (July 18, 25, August 1, 8), SHBC is excited to present Summer Ministry Fellowships. Each Wednesday evening, an intentional effort will be made to grow each other through Bible study, prayer and fellowship in one another's homes and at the church.

Make this time in the summer a priority for you and your family as we seek to learn and serve our God more passionately!

Welcoming Ben Muldoon



Our Ministry Apprenticeship Program (MAP) is a ten-month internship for men who have completed their education, yet desire additional hands-on training and experience before launching into vocational ministry. Ben Muldoon is such a person and we welcome him as our MAP resident starting on August 23.

Ben grew up out West where his father was a pastor. His parents are now serving in Papua New Guinea. He has a Bachelor of Science in Business and Aircraft Maintenance Management, Bob Jones University, and a Master of Arts in Bible Exposition, Pensacola Theological Seminary. Ben's burden is for Romania with a focus on deaf ministry and training deaf men.

It is our pleasure to partner with Ben's home church, Cumberland Hills Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and Pastor Richard Cole on this appointment. Matters for Prayer: Completion of Elijah's Place housing unit; and the Lord to prepare the SHBC family and Ben for a great year of growth through this partnership in his life and development.

Baptist College of Ministry Team

We will have the Summer Ensemble, Baptist College of Ministry, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, join us for the Wednesday evening service. This summer traveling team will present Christ-honoring music and preaching from the Word of God.



INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 1 • What About the Altar?
 - Condolences
 - Welcome New Members
 - Summer Ministry Fellowships
 - Baptist College of Ministry
 - Welcoming Ben Muldoon
- 2 • Life and Times as a Pastor's Wife
- 3 • Holocaust Denier's Unusual Punishment
 - The Fast of Tisha B'Av
 - Previous Semester With the Teens
 - A Picture of Forgiveness
- 4 • Event Photos

CONDOLENCES to:

- Janet Grisso in the loss of her Mother
- Cathy Savelle in the loss of her Father

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Samantha Harris
- Natalie Mims

Life and Times as a Pastor's Wife

This edition of *Connections* features our pastor's wives, Mrs. Baughman, Mrs. Alexander, and Mrs. Basinger. We are thankful that God's plan for their lives brought them this way and for their many contributions at Stanley Heights.

Mary Basinger



I have learned much the past 13 years of marriage and ministry, but I do not feel different than any other woman who strives to be, and sometimes fails at being, a godly wife and mother. I have struggles and need to depend on my relationship with God for strength to make right minute by minute choices just like any other woman. There have been times in my life where my faith is stronger than others. God has used trials to grow my faith in recent years.

One thing that sometimes may be difficult in ministry is the expectations that others may have of you and your family. I regularly must remind myself of my responsibilities to God as a wife and mother regardless of where He has put me. I know that neither my husband, nor myself, nor my children are perfect and never will be on this earth. It is easy to be discouraged when a child "messes up" instead of being deeply concerned about how their actions have affected their relationship with God... making sure they know what the difference is between living a pharisaical lifestyle and having a true relationship with God and letting the Holy Spirit lead.

Another difficult thing for me, having a husband that is up on the platform, is not being able to worship in song next to him over the years. Recently, there was a service where Chase and I were able to stand next to one another. Chase looked at me and smiled and said it was so nice being able to sing and harmonize together. One day we will be able to worship at Jesus feet together. This is just a season.

Despite the difficulties in ministry, there are many blessings. One of the blessings of ministry is the people. We both love serving and desire to serve God and use the talents He has given us alongside others, in whatever way He sees fit. God has provided all our needs throughout these years in miraculous ways and we have received blessings uncountable through the encouragement of His people and through His Word. God is good all the time!

Vicki Baughman

What are the unique challenges of being a pastor's wife? That is a difficult question, because we all have challenges. We all have things that God calls us to do that aren't easy. I am called to do some of the same things you are. The unique thing, I get to do them in front of everyone.

I have the same responsibility as you to obey the greatest command - to love God and others. Just like you, when I neglect the most important relationship, I cannot be who God wants me to be.

I am to be the helper God made me to be for my husband. As wives, we all have unique ways of serving our husbands. Sometimes the biggest thing I can do is have clean, ironed dress shirts for Pastor.

I am to help bear burdens. So are you. God created us to help, encourage and edify one another. This is one of the most difficult aspects for me - to know so many burdens. Some are public, but many are private. While it is difficult, it is a great joy to be used by God to be an encouragement to those who are struggling.

I, like you, am called to be a servant. This is probably the easiest one for me. I love serving, and I truly enjoy serving our great God with you all.

In the end, we all answer to God for how we steward the life He gives us. "We were made to be spent, used, consumed - for the glory of God and the good of others. Our greatest glory is not holding on to our life, but in losing it - for Christ's sake and the gospel." - Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

Danielle Alexander

I'm a Michigander by birth and am one of 5 siblings. My dad was a printer by trade and also taught printing, drafting and woodshop for many years. My mom was a stay at home mom, for which I'm grateful! After graduating from my Christian school, I attended Bob Jones University and majored in English. It wasn't



until my junior year in college when I met Ed. We were both regular attendees to a prayer meeting on campus for missions, and I remember admiring him from afar as he regularly led songs at the beginning of the meetings. It wasn't until the very last couple weeks of Ed's senior year when we had our first real date. I remember calling my brother after that date and telling him that I was going to marry Ed someday (2 ½ years later!).

It was always our plan to be in the ministry, although the process of getting there had a slow start as we followed God's lead from Greenville, SC to Lakeport, CA, then to Chattanooga, TN to participate in our church's MAP program, through which God led us to stay here in a more permanent position.

One word of wisdom that I have tried to continually recall in the past few years is that whatever expectations others may have of me as a pastor's wife, my real job is to please the Lord and follow His job description for me—and really, the Bible has no description for the "office" of pastor's wife. ☺ God's job description for me is simple and the same as any wife—to be a help for my husband in his life and ministry and to take care of my family well. I like how Claudia Barba words it in her book "The Monday Morning Club" when she says, "So I just ask my husband what I can do to help him and let him write my job description. He's the best one to do it because he knows my skills, my energy level, and my season of life. And he loves me. Whenever I please him, I please the Lord." That is just a helpful thought to remember when I am tempted to compare myself to other pastor's wives I've met along the way or when I think of how others view me. Keeping my eyes fixed on pleasing the Lord instead of the fear of man has never steered me wrong. I enjoy serving in our church and am thankful for how God is teaching and growing me through our church body.



Holocaust Denier's Unusual Punishment

In a case illustrating growing worries about anti-Semitism, Laurent Louis, former Belgian lawmaker and far-right politician, was sentenced to six-months in jail and fined over \$20,000 in 2015 for making inflammatory statements about Jews. More than a dozen European countries, including France, Germany, Belgium and Poland, have made it a criminal offense to express vocal support for Nazism and denial or expressions of doubt about the Holocaust. In sharp contrast, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects expression of far-right views including neo-Nazi beliefs and white supremacy.

The Brussels Court of Appeal overturned Louis' sentence in September 2017. He was given a reduced sentence directing him to visit one Nazi concentration camp a year for the next five years and write about his experiences. He took to Facebook to celebrate and to extend an apology to anyone who was hurt by his comments questioning the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust. Mr. Louis further said the he would obey the ruling and "repent every year in a death camp."

—Excerpt from the New York Times – Holocaust Denier's Sentence, www.nytimes.com – Sept. 22, 2017

The Fast of Tisha B'Av

By Mark Oshman



In B.C. 587, Babylonian armies broke into Jerusalem and burned down the Temple. The Jewish people commemorate this event every year, during the fast day known as Tish'a B'Av (that is, the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av). This year, Tish'a B'Av will fall on July 22.

The book of Lamentations described the devastation which the Babylonian forces brought to Jerusalem, when they captured the city. It combined the elements of a dirge (mourning for the sufferings of Jerusalem) and a prayer for Divine restoration of the Jewish nation.

Though the book of Lamentations and the book of Job both dealt with the subject of suffering, they differed significantly in their approach. Job appealed to God's justice, saying, "I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments" (Job 23:4). The author of Lamentations sought for God's mercy, affirming that "(t)he LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him" (Lamentations 3:24).

What can Christians learn from Tish'a B'Av? Even when dispensing judgment on men, God remains merciful. Thus, His people can "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb.4:16).

Previous Semester With the Teens

By Pastor Alexander



Teens to the Wilds



Nerf Wars

We had a great semester including the 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament with over 90 young people that came and heard the Gospel. We also had a terrific turnout for our Nerf Wars activity where we met a lot of new people as well. Our Teen Leadership Day with very practical and helpful teaching by men in our church was very well attended.

Our fundraisers were a success. We raised a lot of money to help our teens attend the Wilds Christian Camp where the Lord used His Word to work in many hearts! We are looking forward to beginning fund-raising soon for our missions trip to South Africa in August of 2019. Make plans to join us!

A Picture of Forgiveness

By Rachael Denhollander



Rachael Denhollander was the first of over 160 women to publicly accuse Larry Nassar, the former sports medicine doctor at Michigan State University, of sexual abuse. Fifteen then, she is now in her 30's. When allowed to address the defendant in open court on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 shortly before he was sentenced, she delivered a long speech to Nassar (see Read Rachael Denhollander's full victim impact statement about Larry Nassar, www.cnn.com.) This young woman painted a most powerful picture of grace, hope, and mercy through the gospel of Christ. Part of what she had to say was so profound that it bears printing here.

"You have become a man ruled by selfish and perverted desires, a man defined by his daily choices repeatedly to feed that selfishness and perversion. You chose to pursue your wickedness no matter what it cost others and the opposite of what you have done is for me to choose to love sacrificially, no matter what it costs me.

In our early hearings, you brought your Bible into the courtroom and you have spoken of praying for forgiveness. And so it is on that basis that I appeal to you. If you have read the Bible you carry, you know the definition of sacrificial love portrayed is of God himself loving so sacrificially that he gave up everything to pay a penalty for the sin he did not commit. By his grace, I, too, choose to love this way.

You spoke of praying for forgiveness. But Larry, if you have read the Bible you carry, you know forgiveness does not come from doing good things, as if good deeds can erase what you have done. It comes from repentance which requires facing and acknowledging the truth about what you have done in all of its utter depravity and horror without mitigation, without excuse, without acting as if good deeds can erase what you have seen [in] this courtroom today.

...the Bible you carry says it is better for a stone to be thrown around your neck and you throw(n) into a lake than for you to make even one child stumble. And you have damaged hundreds.

The Bible you speak [of] carries a final judgment where all of God's wrath and eternal terror is poured out on men like you. Should you ever reach the point of truly facing what you have done, the guilt will be crushing. And that is what makes the gospel of Christ so sweet. Because it extends grace and hope and mercy where none should be found. And it will be there for you.

I pray you experience the soul crushing weight of guilt so you may someday experience true repentance and true forgiveness from God, which you need far more than forgiveness from me ~ though I extend that to you as well."

VBS Prep Work



Easter Distribution Prep



Teen Fundraiser Meal



Nerf Wars



To the Wilds



Work Day



Father's Day Choir



Graduates



Teen Leadership Day



Ladies Hike



Cochran Family Easter Music

