

CONNECTIONS

*at Stanley Heights
BAPTIST CHURCH*

From Pastor Baughman's Desk...



What About the Altar?

Public Response to the Public Invitation Part III

"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 and functionally considering what the invitation altar is. In this edition of Connections, we will consider what the invitation altar is not. The invitation is not:

- A Time and a place of manipulation

This means it is not a time for the preacher to manipulate people or individuals in the congregation. Nor is it a time for people to respond to manipulate the Lord into getting what the individual wants. The altar is a place of submission to the Lord and is not to be used for manipulation.

- A substitute for progressive sanctification

The altar is a place for a decision point. Don't expect it to be a magical place of transformation, expect it to be the place where the real work begins as the Lord transforms your life into Christlikeness.

- A measure of ministry effectiveness

It is an erroneous view of the preacher, the people, and sanctification to think that what happens at the altar publicly is the absolute measure of effectiveness. No wonder there is such a manipulation motivation if one views the altar as the sole measure of success. No wonder there is limited view of the long-term growth of people if the altar response is the measure of success.

- A time and a place to win the argument with God

You always lose when you win the argument with God. On the contrary, you always win when you lose the argument with God. The altar is not the time to argue with God, but the time to yield your will to God. This is a sacrifice that pleases God.

- A place of weakness

In reality, it is a place of seeking the Lord's strength for yourself and for others. To think of it otherwise is arrogant, judgmental, and possibly a sign of one's true weakness and pride.

- A religious ritual

The times God deals with you in specific ways for specific purposes are sacred moments. Don't make the altar another meaningless ritual.

So, Pastor, when should I respond? You should respond every time God's truth is proclaimed. In fact, you do respond to it! When God the Spirit moves in your heart to respond publicly – for yourself or for others – you should respond in obedience to Him.



Coffey Team

ReFocus Week - October 7-12

This is a wonderful time to focus on what matters most. Aaron Coffey and his team will minister to our hearts through song, testimony, and the preaching of the Word. Thursday night is Teen and Family Fun Night. Friday night is an Irish concert.

Plan to join us and pray for God to work!

Night of the Father's Love - December 16

All of the mystery, the awe, and the palpable excitement of that night are imaginatively captured in a Christmas mosaic that combines fragments of the familiar with a unique perspective in word and music.

"Night of the Father's Love" skillfully guides the listener through the Christmas story, as though hearing it again for the first time. Three narrators interject with familiar scripture passages and personal reflections, while an intriguing array of musical styles that range from an energetic Celtic style to a simple folk melody and the lush imagery of a ballad all beautifully express the essence of Christmas: the gift of the Father's love.

Please join us at Stanley Heights Baptist Church, Sunday December 16th at 8:15 or 10:30 am for this Christmas Music Presentation!

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 2 • An Exciting Meeting
- Taking the Gospel to the Deaf in Africa
- Teen Fall Retreat
- Dale Grisso's Retirement
- 3 • Youth Focus - 2018 Graduate Spotlight
- To the Jew First
- Missions Trip 2019
- The Spirit of the Antichrist in the World
- 4 • Event Photos

CONDOLENCES to:

- Samantha Smith in the loss of her Mother
- The Tucker family in the loss of John's Mother
- June Wilkinson in the loss of her husband Les Wilkinson

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Jaber Hasbestan
- Emily Hill
- Ben Muldoon
- Don & Tammi Potter
- Bill Squires
- Brent & Kathryn Wigginton
- Daniel Wigginton
- Lauren Wigginton

Teen Rake-a-Difference- December 1st

This is a wonderful service opportunity for our teens, as we seek to serve members of our church by helping with their leaves. We will meet at church, go out and work, and then meet for lunch afterwards. Teens, please bring money for a fast-food lunch, and a rake if you have one. Questions? See Pastor Alexander.

An Exciting Meeting with Vice President Pence

By Ron Bennecke

The Lord has blessed Jennifer and me with two great children. Our son, Paul is the Executive Director of the Washington D.C.-based Republican Governor's Association. Nick, one of his best friends from college, is Chief of Staff for Vice President Mike Pence.

Since the vice president was coming to town on July 21, we thought it would be nice to meet him. So I called Paul; he called Nick; and Jennifer and I were invited to come to the airport. We were escorted to a room filled with politicians and dignitaries to wait for Pence's arrival.

You can imagine our surprise when we were singled out to greet Mr. Pence at the bottom of the stairs to Air Force II. We introduced ourselves and told him we were Paul's parents and were so glad to finally meet him.

 @News Channel 9
He told us how he loved Paul and how wonderful a Christian man he was. (We wanted to meet the "voice in the President's ear", because Paul told us that he was the "salt of the earth", a real Christian.)

Bennecke, Mike Pence, Marcia Blackburn
The big surprise came when he said, "come here mom, give me a hug." I'm sure everyone at the airport and on TV were wondering who we were. We are only the parents who raised a son in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. That's what moved Vice President Pence to congratulate us. Wow, we were humbled and excited to have that honor.

Then, as we left, we talked about how wonderful our experience was. Thanking the Lord for that time, we thought of another time that we would feel even more excited. Some day we will all meet "The King of Kings and The Lord of Lords." How much more would we be humbled and excited? Then, would He be able to say: "well done thou good and faithful servant?"

Teen Fall Retreat - October 19-20

By Pastor Alexander

We are once again having our Fall Retreat at Sand Mountain Bible Camp up on Sand Mountain. This is an overnight, one day retreat. We will meet at church around dinner time on Friday, October 19th, and return in the afternoon on Saturday, October 20th. The cost for the retreat is \$55 and includes dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

Plan to join us for this retreat!

Dale Grisso's Retirement from the Chattanooga Rescue Mission



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Dale Grisso on Dale's retirement from the Chattanooga Rescue Mission. He retired from the Mission on September 13 (his 67th birthday) after 13 years of continuous service. Adding one year for his time there in 1994 brings the total to 14 years of service. Mr. Grisso began in 2005 as a supervisor and became a director in March of 2006. He has directed the year-long alcohol and drug rehabilitation program, the Christian Life Program, since that time. Future plans include returning to the writing projects that were in the works 10 years prior to his work at the Mission and were superseded by the responsibilities of his position.

Of his experiences he says, "The greatest satisfaction is when I see a person who has been set free from the terrible binding power of sin. What a joy to see them drive up in their own car and find out they are in their own place...and clean. Many of them did not even have a valid driver's license when they were here, and had no hope of things ever going good. Then, when they pull you aside and say, "Thanks Brother Dale, you made a difference in my life." On retiring, he says, "What I will miss most is the camaraderie with the CLPs in the things of God. Then there is all the "trash talk" in football. It is never dull here during the football season."

Ben Condra is Dale's replacement. He has served as a part-time supervisor at the Mission for several years. Ben and siblings were part of the Stanley Heights family at one time and his parents are long-time missionaries with Silent Word Ministries.

Taking the Gospel to the Deaf in Africa

By Ben Muldoon

Is it possible to sum up five weeks in two countries in a few words? Perhaps I can sum it up in ten: "To God be the glory, great things he hath done!"

It was a privilege to work with David Bennett and the team in Africa. Teaching doctrine to the deaf men was a wonderful opportunity, as well as preaching in multiple locations. The deaf are hungry! At the end of one day, after about 9 hours together, the deaf were still expecting another lesson!


Deaf Leaders in Liberia
In both countries the Lord allowed us to meet and begin teaching many deaf that had never learned sign language! Ultimately, we are giving them the ability to learn what the Bible says about God and salvation.

The week of camp in the Ivory Coast went very well. The team was given the privilege of teaching two to three times per day. Without a doubt the major highlight of the week was Thursday when all 93 of the deaf and some hearing workers passed out gospel tracts for nearly two hours in the city near the camp. Several thousand tracts were handed out by the deaf throughout the town of Dabou!

The Lord also allowed us to minister to many hearing through the preaching of the word, a teaching seminar, and a seminar on deaf ministry. Between the two countries, there were around 60 professions of faith of deaf and hearing people, and many had a greater burden for reaching the deaf! I know that this trip has impacted my own life, broadened my vision, and increased my desire to train men, deaf and hearing, to know God and make Him known throughout the world.



David Bennett and Ben having fun in Ivory Coast

The need for laborers everywhere is great! Maybe YOU are the laborer that God is leading to the ripe fields of Africa!



Youth Focus - 2018 Graduate Spotlight

By Michael Divakar



I am Michael Divakar; I was born in November of 1999 and consider myself one of the last to be born in a very interesting millennium. I accepted the Lord as my personal Savior when I was five years old. I have the privilege

of serving the Lord along with my parents: David and Joanne Divakar, and my brother Stephen in India.

I started out going to school with my grandmother (my Mom's mother)...she taught K4 in a little school in Mysore, India. From third grade on I was home schooled. I really enjoyed the many experiences God has allowed me to have in living in different countries, experience different cultures, and meet a variety of people. As a homeschooler, I was under the "umbrella" of Temple Baptist Academy in Powell, TN. I had the privilege to be able to walk with the graduating class of 2018.

From a young age my parents taught me, and are continuing to remind me, that learning is a lifelong privilege. I believe God would have me serve in full time ministry and I would like to go back to India with my parents to study in the Bible institute there. I really appreciate my church family at Stanley Heights.

Missions Trip 2019



We are looking forward to a missions trip to South Africa in late summer 2019. We plan to partner with David and Julie McCrum (missionaries sent from Stanley Heights) and Faith Baptist Church in Emalahleni, South Africa where they serve. We do not yet know all the ways that the Lord will allow us to serve on this trip, but our goals are: to serve the local church; edify and encourage believers; and to evangelize the lost. Pray with us about this opportunity, and see Pastor Alexander if you have questions.



Faith kids

The Spirit of the Antichrist in the World

Even as 1 John 4:3 tells us that the spirit of the antichrist is already in the world, an Internet search produces a long list of names of those who believe that they are the Savior of the World. Since the 20th century, more than 30 Antichrists claiming to be the reincarnation of Jesus have been identified. Jim Jones, Sun Myung Moon and Charles Manson are among the infamous. The following is a selection of recent Antichrists:

Sergey Anatolyevitch Torop, also known as Vissarion or the Teacher, says he received a revelation from God in 1990. He lives in Siberia Russia as do 4,000 of his 10,000 followers who believe in his teachings that include principles from Hinduism, Buddhism, paganism, collectivism, apocalypticism, and the Russian Orthodox Church. It is no surprise that his church, The Church of the Last Testament, also believes in aliens.



Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda not only claimed from 1973 to be the Messiah but also believed that he was the Antichrist while teaching that sin and Satan doesn't exist. He started a trend among his followers that led to 30 members of the Growing in Grace Church in Miami, Florida to have the number 666 (a symbol of the Antichrist) tattooed on their bodies signifying love and devotion to Miranda. In 2013, his wife revealed that he had died due to liver cirrhosis.

Apollo Quiboloy, charismatic founder/leader of The Kingdom of Jesus Christ The Name Above Every Name based in Davao City, Philippines, has attracted six-million followers (four-million in the Philippines; two-million living abroad.) He claims to be the Appointed Son of God and Savior of the Gentiles by revelation in 2005. Because of his many followers, he is sought out by many Filipino politicians.

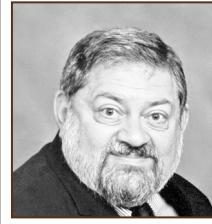
Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez believed his mission was to stop the Antichrist from ruling the world. He believed that Obama was the Antichrist and tried to assassinate him by firing nine shots at the White House in 2011. He was later arrested in Pennsylvania.

Given the number of those willing to follow false prophets, it is most urgent that we use our leadership abilities to make known the truth of Jesus to the lost. Jesus (who was God) appeared on this earth only once; He died only once for the sins of those living and yet to come; He arose from the grave after three days to ascend into heaven and sits on the right hand of God; and He promised to come again for those given to Him by the Father. None other is given the authority from heaven to be the Savior of the World!

Editor's Note: For more on this topic, see websites such as www.wikipedia.org or nationalgeographic.org.

TO THE JEW FIRST... The Feast of Tabernacles

By Mark Oshman



God commanded the Israelites, "The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD" (Leviticus 23:34). The holiday, also known as Sukkoth, received its name from the booths (or sukkoth) that God required them to build.

Jews needed to construct their sukkahs from "boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook" (Leviticus 23:40). According to Jewish tradition, family members living in these booths must be able to see the sky above them.

Many Jews celebrate Sukkoth by welcoming Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Joseph, and David into their sukkah as ushpizin, or 'guests.' Note that all of these men (except Aaron) appeared in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, as heroes of faith.

Jews believe that a different ushpizin enters a family's sukkah each night, followed by the other six individuals. Each of them teaches the host family a unique lesson, relating to the spiritual focus of the day when he visits.

Whenever the Israelites celebrated Sukkoth, it would remind them that they were strangers and pilgrims. Christians likewise need to remember that "our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven" (Philippians 3:20).

VACATION



SUMMER FELLOWSHIP AT THE CROSBY'S



CILDREN'S MESSAGE Box Grows Pastor's Hair OPEN CHOIR DAY FILLS CHOIR LOFT



CHATTANOOGA RESCUE MISSION CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM GRADUATION



CELEBRATE!



MR. ALLIGOOD 100 YEARS!



STUDENTS



FINE ARTS ACADEMY



CAPTURE THE FLAG at the Cochran's



Brent Baughman,
Pastor