

"Politician Verses Statesman"

In today's society we often have very little regard for politicians. At one time, members of clergy and the local politician was held in high regard. Now days they are being lumped together because their actions mirror one another.

Wikipedia gives us this regarding a statesman: "A statesman is someone who does everything for the common good of the people he or she represents. To call a person a statesman is a mark of high regard for that person's integrity. To call someone a politician usually implies the person is worthy of very little esteem."

In general, people today do not care about one another. The idea of helping our fellow man, or our neighbor, is usually an afterthought. If by helping others it makes us look good, or maybe receive some other benefit, then it is worth our efforts.

To help random strangers is rapidly becoming a lost art. It is easy to judge others based on their actions, while we piously consider our intentions as our excuse for bad behavior.

Instead of considering service an opportunity, we make it become a burden that anchors us.

Our efficiency and our efforts are continually hindered because we have

such terrible perspectives on life.

I went home for the holidays to visit my family, siblings, children, mother, grands...etc. and had to stop at a local grocery to pick up seasoning for a brisket I wanted to cook.

As I was crisscrossing the unfamiliar grocery trying to find what I needed I noticed a cashier working her register. She was treating her customer very well and maintained a smile. I thought to myself I hope she rings my purchase when I am ready.

I was disappointed when I saw her away from the registers a few minutes later. I finished my shopping and guess who was back at her register. So I went to her line and sure enough she was very nice and smiled.

This was very refreshing, and she made my day better just by being in her presence.

The next day I was back looking for certain items to bring to Oklahoma that I couldn't find easily in Oklahoma. I asked to speak to a manager and related my pleasant experience from the day before.

She asked me her name and I told her. Her response, "oh, we just love

"God saves us and leaves us on the earth so that we can minister to others. Is our ministering and service to help other or is it to help ourselves?" her! She will do anything she is asked to do!"

I found out she goes to college and only works there one day a week, except she was working extra during the holidays. As I am working on this article, I cannot help but wonder if public servants and pastors had the same attitude, what would be the outcome.

We can all recall times that we were mistreated and the negative impact that it had on our lives. Then we remember the times someone just made our day and the encouragement it brought to us. This should not be limited to just pastors and public servants.

All believers should have the drive and desire to serve others, after all, where would we be if not for God?

Some of us are in positions of authority and sometimes we forget how our actions affect others. We could be boss, manager, supervisor, pastor, parent, husband, or any other label you wish to choose.

Some of us are caregivers or maybe work in the medical field. Maybe we are the receptionist or simply work in food service.

Today I was getting something to eat, and I was heavy of heart and had things on my mind. I didn't really want to cook and clean so I stopped to grab a burger and fries.

I am somewhat of a regular, and the cashier was very nice as usual. When my food was ready, she brought it to me, and she stayed to chat a bit. They were not busy, so she had a few minutes.

She talked until my son called, but she made the experience very pleasant. As I was leaving, I teased her about being on her phone, again they were not busy, and found out she was reading her Bible on her phone.

I wonder how often we blow opportunities by being cynical and needlessly hateful toward others. Older Christians should have a better understanding, but yet we can often have

("Politician vs Statesman," cont on pg 7)

"From the Pastor's Pen

By Wearthy Shank

"Philip & The Eunuch"

"And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert." Acts 8:26 [read vs. 26-40]

This is a beautiful story about a man of God going to a man in need. Philip has been called out of a great spiritual meeting in Samaria to go to a desert to meet with one individual who was in search of the truth.

There in the desert of Gaza, he met an Ethiopian man of great authority, a treasurer with Candace, queen of the Ethiopians.

Philip, being led by the Holy Spirit came upon this man as he was reading from the Prophet, Isaiah.

Like any other lost soul, this man did not understand what he was reading and asked Philip for some direction in the Word of God.

This was the "open door" for Philip to enter in and share the Gospel of God's



amazing saving grace in Christ Jesus.

There are several things to learn from this event.

First, is that when God lays a burden on our heart to go for Him, we should be ready and willing to go. Had Philip rejected God's call, he would have missed this great event.

He was already experiencing a tremendous evangelistic meeting with souls being saved.

Learn this: if God wants you to go, He has a plan for you and He will fill the void you may leave by departing circumstances you are in.

Secondly, Philip was in Samaria, a region known to be disliked by the Jews, and he was going to an Ethiopian. Philip was definitely "out of his comfort zone."

I dare say that we many times fail to get out of our comfort zone to share the Gospel with someone who is searching.

I don't recall too many incidents in my almost 50 years of Christian service when a lost person came to me seeking Jesus. That's why Jesus said, "Go ye…"

Also, we can learn from this that ONE SOUL is as valuable to God as a whole bunch of souls.

Paraphrasing a Scripture, we could say, "For God so loved that Ethiopian, that He gave His only begotten Son, that if he will believe on Him, he should not perish but have everlasting life."

Oklahoma WMA 2023 State Project



We are asking anyone who can help lower the cost for each camper to give \$1 each week for the next 26 weeks. (Starting January 1 through June 25)

Send money to: Gail Kendrick 4862 Rock Creek Road McAlester, Oklahoma 74501 (Please send monthly, or on June 26 in time for Camp)

That's only 0.14364641 cents a day!

"Thank YOU!" for supporting our Youth!

"? Was Just Thinkin

By Narita Roady

"DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL!!

In the days before television, radio was king, and it was an exciting thing to be the proud owner of such magic box. Nowadays, even the poorest of American families possess one or more televisions.

We once visited a home where there was not a shred of furniture in the living room or dining room save a television and dirty, worn chair in front of it. How different in years past, when radio ownership was a privilege almost exclusive to the upper class.

In those days there was a man who dreamed of having his own. He was not a wealthy man, so after much scrimping and saving, he purchased his first radio.

As soon as he got home, he placed in a spot for all to see, on top of the old refrigerator.

Anxiously he plugged it in, turned it to his favorite station, WSM in Nashville, home of the Grand Ole Opry and then removed all the knobs!!

He had tuned into all he ever wanted to hear, and had no desire to listen to anything else

I fear many Christians have pulled the knobs off of their spiritual radios. They have taken it upon themselves to tune into their own personal station, fixed firmly on Satan's frequency. Instead of station W T L W (What The L o r d W a n t s), their dial is forever on W E I W (What Ever I Want).



As we

enter into the New Year 2023, this is the state of a vast majority of bornagain, children of God, and church members.

How can we ever make it through another year without listening to His guidance and counsel for our lives?

The Great Deceiver tells us we are self-sufficient and have no need of God; one of his countless lies.

Much like the man with the new radio, some of God's children don't want to hear anything from Him, choosing only to listen to their own fleshly desires.

What a pity, by tuning out God's instructions we also miss the benefits He has for us. God is broadcasting many wonderful things for us. Tune in with me for a bit and let's listen to what He has to say.

I have known teenagers that leave

"By cutting off our ability to receive the Holy Spirit's daily broadcasts we will, over a period of time, cease to remember vital spiritual truths. This is exactly what Satan wants; then he can rake us over the coals." their radio on every waking hour. Their favorite station is the last thing they hear when retiring and the first when they arise.

> By fine-tuning our minds and hearts to His Word 24-7, He guarantees we will prosper in whatever we do. Who wouldn't like that?!

> But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. . . and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalm 1:2-3

The pharmacy shelves and magazines are flooded with medications and

advice to help people sleep. The remedy varies from prescription drugs, to counting sheep, to drinking warm milk or eating onions.

Restful slumber seems to be in short supply for folks in the 21st century. The most common reason sited is worrying over problems.

This is unnecessary for God's children. He assures He will lovingly take care of all our troubles. We simply have to share them with Him and leave them in His capable hands. How easy can it get?

And best of all your breath won't stink in the morning. . . well not too badly.

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. Psalm 55:22

Relationships in this day and age are very fleeting. People's hearts are constantly broken and their spirits crushed by those they thought could always be depended upon.

Loneliness is an epidemic in our country today. Jesus promises us we will never have to be lonely; He will never leave our side.

. . for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Hebrews 13:5b

("Don't touch that dial," cont on pg 7)

"Giving the Gift of Education"

Looking back on 2022, I see God's hand and provision on this campus unlike any other time in my presidency. What man meant for evil, God has used to bring about good.

The cyber-attack we experienced was designed to leave us with "no hope." We, however, know the author of all hope and we are leaning on and trusting in Him as we move into the new year.

The theme of our weekly chapel services this year is Ephesians 3:20, "He is Able." We will not operate from a position of fear. We know God has plans "to give us a hope and a future."

We believe that. Central Baptist College was founded, and continues to exist, to spread God's truth.

I can tell you without reservation that Central Baptist College is at a pivotal time in our history. I am finding increasing pressure to conform to issues that would potentially compromise our mission. You have my word — we will protect our mission. But we need your help!

There are some things that must occur for us to not just survive, but to thrive. To continue in our mission of transforming lives by integrating Christian faith and academic excellence, we need you!

I've often said, "I think everyone who has been touched in a positive way by this place can and should be giving to CBC." I really believe that!

But I don't think we have done the best job of challenging our alumni and friends to give. I'm asking you to do just that! Give a gift to CBC this holiday season and know that every single contribution helps us continue our mission of "transforming lives."

Our annual fund program is called "Gifts that Transform." With nine focus areas (listed at cbc.edu/transform), you can direct your gift to the fund where you would like to see the greatest impact.

This Christmas season, as you reflect

on the many gifts you have received from God, please consider a "Christmas" or "End of Year" gift to Central Baptist College.

Every contribution is a "transformational gift" because it is used to further the mission and ministry of Central Baptist College.

Many people also consider a memorial or honor gift this time of year. When you give this way, a note will be sent acknowledging that you have given a donation (without revealing the dollar amount of the gift) to the family of the person you want to remember or to the person you want to honor.

To give online, visit cbc.edu/give. If you prefer to pay by check, please make your check payable to Central Baptist College and include the name of the fund you wish to support or the person you wish to honor or memorialize on the memo line. Checks may be mailed to Central Baptist College 1501 College Avenue Conway, AR 72034.

To enjoy a tax credit, checks must be postmarked, or online payments must be made by 11:59 p.m., on December 31.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Amy Reed, Director of Development, at areed@cbc.edu or 501.205.8934.

4th Annual Scholarship Gala

Save the date for our Fourth Annual Scholarship Gala. The event will take place on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 6:00pm at the Conway Expo Center. The black-tie optional event will be a celebration of "Fearless Faith."

The proceeds from the event will benefit the Central Baptist College Scholarship Fund which supports all institutionally funds scholarships.

Stay tuned for more details on our big night!



CBC Ransomware Update

I recently shared a detailed account of the cyber incident that crippled CBC for five weeks early this year. You can read the complete story in our newsletter at http://cbc.edu/newsletter.

Jeff Herring, Editor of the Baptist Trumpet, was kind enough to reprint the story in the October 12 issue of the Baptist Trumpet.

The ransomware attack occurred in the prime student recruiting period for 2022-23 students. Without access to our systems, recruiters could not effectively do their jobs.

That was even more pronounced in the PACE/Online program where most of the application process is completed virtually.

We were extremely blessed to get everything back up and running and at the same time upgrade and strengthen our systems.

However, we suffered a sharp decline in fall enrollment that will likely continue through the spring 2023 semester. At the time the article was released, we calculated the loss of tuition income, resulting from not being able to recruit new students for an extended period, to be near \$500,000.

Now that fall enrollment figures have been finalized, and considering projections for spring, that number could easily reach the \$1 million mark.

In church visits, state and local associational meetings, local civic clubs, and every other place I've been afforded the opportunity, I have shared this burden and unashamedly challenged churches, businesses, alumni, and anyone who has been touched by the ministry of CBC to step up and give generously and sacrificially to help get us through this very difficult time.

I've often characterized it as a critical and emergent financial need brought on by evil players whose single goal was to extort money and bring harm to Central Baptist College. One million dollars, on top of our already aggressive budgeted revenue from tuition, fees, and fundraising, is a daunting task. Some would say, "It's impossible."

But I reflect daily on the words of Jesus recorded in Luke 18:27, "What is impossible with man, is possible with God."

In our annual pre-college meeting, I challenged all employees of CBC (administration, faculty, and staff) to set aside time for fasting and prayer for this urgent financial need.

I don't know who accepted the challenge; It is not for me to know. I do know that God is providing, and we are nearly halfway to our overall goal.

Will you let God use you to help us during this very difficult time? I'm pleased to report that churches that have never given to CBC are responding.

Some very faithful, long-time supporting churches have taken special offerings, and others have told me they plan to do something very soon. I've received hand-written notes, e-mails, and letters from individuals telling me that after reading the account of the ransomware attack, they felt compelled to give.

I'm praying many more will accept the challenge. Will you walk with us through this challenging time?

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to:

Central Baptist College 1501 College Avenue Conway, AR 72034

or give online at cbc.edu/give.

Mark your check or online donation "cyber." You may want to give appreciated securities and bypass paying capital gains, or you can donate your IRA's required minimum (RMD). We have several donors who do so. Consider setting up a recurring credit card donation, or we can also draft your bank account if you prefer.

Corporate matching programs are available and often overlooked. Thousands of companies match donations their employees make to private colleges like Central Baptist College.

Check to see if your employer will match your donation to CBC at cbc.edu/ giftmatch.

For more ways to give, or to discuss your contribution, contact us by e-mail or phone. Individuals, businesses, and alumni, contact Amy Reed, Director of Development, at

> areed@cbc.edu or 501-205-8934.

Churches and church groups, contact Duffy Guyton, Director of Church Relations at

dguyton@cbc.edu or 501-205-8920.

I am always available to discuss ways you can help, so feel free to contact me personally at

tkimbrow@cbc.edu or 501-205-8818.

I've had several people assure me, "God's got this." While I know and understand the intent of that statement, I also know by experience that God provides through His children.

Even God's most faithful will usually not give if they are not asked and challenged to do so.

I also believe that those who are charitable in heart want to know the needs and are always looking for an opportunity to give.

Finally, I'm convinced that, because the Bible tells us so, that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).



"That Reminds Me

By Jesse Spurlock

"Independence Day"

When I was a little boy, we lived on a farm and didn't get into town except for school and on the weekends for my dad to sell the cream and eggs and buy supplies.

I don't know I really wanted it any other way. I enjoyed playing and doing things on the farm.

My brothers enjoyed fighting and harassing one another. Since I was the peacemaker I didn't really that that too much either, so when they "got with it" I would usually go off by myself and let them settle things in their own way.

Which usually meant one or both ended up in trouble with our mother who didn't like fighting any more than I did. My duties as a peacemaker usually came into play when we were assigned to fixing fences, cutting wood, or some other job requiring all of us to participate.

Although that's about sixty years ago, I still have trouble figuring out why some of my sibling's battles took place.

'On one occasion, my brothers and I had finished shelling out a bunch of beans for our mother. It was a nice warm day with a gently breeze blowing.

My older brother stretched out on an old worn out couch beside the house. He put his pan over his face and very soon was snoozing away.

Just them our old tomcat came strolling by. Before I knew what was happening, and certainly before I figured out why, Jim had picked up that old cat and hurled it in the air, in an arch toward our older brother.

As he left my brother's hands the startled cat began clawing for traction, which he found when he landed in the middle of our older brother's bare chest.

With an piercing scream, Louis came off the couch. With the cat and Jim both

departing the scene in opposite directions Louis recognized the cause and effect in an instant and was off in hot pursuit of our younger brother.

I started to go after them to prevent the likely homicide when Louis caught Jim. Then I figured out that sometimes justice required I not interfere.

America's Independence Day commemorates the United State's war to gain our independence from England.

As I recently re-read the history leading up to that war I was reminded the Colonies were much like my sleeping brother. His only wish was to be left alone in freedom and peace, as was the colonists.

Much like England, my younger

brother couldn't leave well enough alone. Jim hurled a literal tomcat into the direction of his sleeping brother. England's tomcat was the unfair tax on

tea that led to the Boston Tea Party.

That wasn't the first time Jim had done something uncalled for to Louis, and it wasn't the first time England had unfairly taxed the colonists without their representation.

I recently read the first and second chapter of Job. It seems to me from Job's perspective he must have been much like my sleeping brother.

He was living a peaceful existence without difficulties. He was peacefully serving God without fanfare. He wasn't bothering anyone.

Suddenly, without warning, he is jolted awake to find Satan's tomcat in the middle of his chest with claws slashing away.

Satan suddenly, and without warning, took all Job had including his children. Job must have been even more startled than my older brother.

However, justice and right prevailed with Job, Louis, and in the case of the United States and England.



"Politician vs Statesman," from on pg 1

"To call a person a statesman is a mark of high regard for that person's integrity. To call someone a politician usually implies the person is worthy of very little esteem."

the worst attitudes. Why are we so selfish and self-centered?

The physical world revolves around the sun and the spiritual world revolves around the Son. Why then do we act like we are the center of the universe. You didn't die for me, and I didn't die for you. Why are we so "entitle minded" that everything must be about us? Christ gave it all, but we don't even want to give a little.

Matthew 25: 35-40 says, "For I was hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

"Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?"

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you,

"Don't Touch That Dial," cont from pg 3

Life is hard. Some days we literally have to drag ourselves out of bed to start the day. Our plates are so full with responsibilities and activities that most of us have switched to platters to hold it all!

Add any misfortune and sorrow to this already monstrous load, and we feel ourselves begin to stagger under the weight of it all. How many times have you said, I just don't have the strength to go on.

Good news! God has a vast supply of strength available, just for the asking.

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

By cutting off our ability to receive the Holy Spirit's daily broadcasts we will, over a period of time, cease to remember vital spiritual truths. This is exactly what Satan wants; then he can rake us over the coals.

Without one in particular, our lives will be miserable, hopeless, and depressing. What is it? The assurance of God forgiveness. One prayer from a repentant heart will wipe our slate clean of the vilest sins, allowing us to start fresh again.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

These are just a few of all the wonderful things God wants to share with us. Are you curious to know what the rest are?

The best place to start is station SS945 (Sunday School 9:45, by the way, this is an AM station, not a PM.)

There you'll find instructions for the rest of the week. Well, stick those knobs back on and tune in!!

inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

As we walk in our day to day lives we need to ask ourselves are we trying to impress? Or bless? What is our motivation?

God saves us and leaves us on the earth so that we can minister to others. Is our ministering and service to help other or is it to help ourselves?

We should all be public servants, not just the pastors and politicians.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coach Training January 12-13 Evangelism Training January 28 Conway, AR

BMAO Midyear Meeting April 15 Pleasant Hill Blanchard

> BMAA National Meeting April 25-27

Antioch Baptist Conway, AR

SOAR Youth Conference July 3-5 Grapevine, TX

Healthy Church Solutions **P5 Multiplication**

By Bro. Larry Barker

Healthy churches reproduce. The healthiest and most biblical method of church planting is churches planting churches.

In the American Church in Crisis, David Olson stated that over 600,000 churches will need to be planted by the year 2050 just to keep up with population growth and to replace the 3,000–4,000 churches that are closing their doors every year.

Our vision at Healthy Church Solutions is to start new churches while strengthening existing churches. The vision for BMA Missions is "to see every partner church around the world engaged in the process of starting a church." The initial reaction is to rationalize why we cannot be a part of that vision.

"We are too small!" "We do not have enough money!" "We do not know how or what to do!"

Yet, every church is commanded to carry out the Great Commission and we desire to help your church determine its level of involvement in this church planting, church strengthening movement.

Every church, big and small, can and should be involved in church multiplication. It begins by multiplying disciples, then multiplying leaders, which leads to multiplying churches.

The opportunities are everywhere, and our associational structure gives us a pathway of cooperation.

Pray! While I realize this is understood by most, we must be careful to not overlook this all-important step in the process. In our DCPI Essentials training (which is Bible-principle based, not a model), there are four phases.

The first phase is the Macedonia Phase, which is God to you. This step must involve discerning what God is asking you and your church to do and how He desires you to accomplish it. You must set aside scheduled times and days that are dedicated to prayer and fasting as you seek His vision for your church.

Consider looking into our Church Prayer System training by emailing us (heidi@bmaam.com) and asking for the three levels of training. Manley Beasley stated, "The mark of a godly man or church is that everything they do is Godinitiated."

Prepare! The preparation phase is so important to the church, the church planter and the missionary. This is where you, as a church, must put into practice a biblically solid discipleship pathway and begin developing a leadership pipeline.

Consider how you will train your people in evangelism/discipleship to make sure you are practicing what you are preaching.

This training could include our Multiplication Workshop, which teaches the simple reproducible process of making disciples that make disciples that make disciples. You should also consider looking into the Good Soil Training.

It reminds us that gospel information, apart from a relationship with a real live Christian, will have very limited results. With our eyes on the Great Commission, we must develop transferrable methods that empower ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

Partner! Church planters and missionaries could not accomplish what they are accomplishing without partners who have committed to praying, encouraging, visiting and financially supporting them. They must be willing to give the rest of their lives to suffering for and serving the church.

Money is not the limiting factor, leadership is! We must create a culture where we answer the call to the mission, not salary.

If we rely on external motivation (a paycheck) to reach the world, it will never happen. There must be an internal motivation and passion to live out God's calling and do whatever it takes to be obedient to His will. God gives churches and individuals the opportunity to partner with Him and come alongside others to reach our nation and the world for Christ.

Ed Stetzer stated, "What is worse than being lost? Being lost and having no one

looking for you!" Begin where you are right now!

Plant! Do we really need more churches? Do we not need to just focus on helping what we already have? The answer to both is, "Yes."

Even if you live in the Bible Belt, where 25 -30% of the population attend church on any given Sunday, that means there are not enough churches to seat everyone if they all showed up.

While our goal is not seating capacity but rather sending capacity, it illustrates that, in a city of 30,000 there are, at a minimum, 15,000 to 20,000 people who desperately need Jesus.

Alan Redpath has stated this about membership in the average American church: 5% do not exist, 10% cannot be found, 25% do not attend, 50% do not show up on Sunday, 75% present do not attend the prayer meeting, 90% have no family wor ship and 95% have never shared the gospel with others.

This is an outcry to start new churches and strengthen existing churches.

Parent! This requires a much larger commitment from the church. It could be a larger amount of financial support and a closer relationship with the church planter/ missionary family, but it could also involve raising up, discipling, assessing, training and sending a team out of the church to birth a daughter congregation.

A parent takes full responsibility for their children, but usually needs some partners (brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, grandparents) to help with the nurturing of the new baby. The Churches Planting Churches (DCPI) track is a must with a lesson on "Determining Your Involvement" in the church plant. Every church ought to multiply.

Some say, "We are not healthy enough to multiply!" Then your goal should be to become healthy enough so you can multiply! The truth is you cannot disconnect church planting from New Testament missions.

It was not always the result of their disciple making efforts, but it was always the goal. Maturity is the ability to reproduce, and the Lord's work deserves that you work hard to provide your church with an easy process for a disciple based church multiplication movement.

Let's get moving!