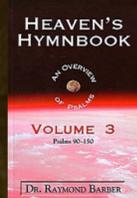


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For Time Like These

VIOLENCE *In Monterrey, Mexico*

– By Daniel Jones, Missionary to México (since 1977) and the Rio Grande Valley (2012)



I would like to give you a bird's eye view of what has been going on just with the people in the Bethesda Fundamental Baptist Church in Monterrey:

I do not know of a single member of the church that has not been threatened by phone at least once and most of us two and three times.

At least five of our members have been car-jacked (some while going to church). One family lost both of their personal cars and one of their business cars! One of our men was coming to the church after soul-winning in his brother's taxi, when at a red light two men got in the taxi. He told them that he was not in service, but they told him that this was his last day on earth, as they pointed a machine gun to the back of his head. He told them that if it was God's will that would happen, but that it was all up to the Lord. They mocked his Christianity, and made him sing "those Christian songs." He was able to get away when he literally tried to crash into a police car, and though the police avoided the crash, they came out with their guns ready. He opened the car door, threw himself on the ground and told them that the men in the back seat had machine guns. They were arrested.

Three of our members were kidnapped in the last three years with two paying ransom and being released, and one we have not heard of since her disappearance.

One member had a Christian book store, and had to close it because the cartels demanded "protection fees." Several others have had to close down business and move to another part of the state because of this.

One lady took a taxi to go to church; she started witnessing to the man immediately upon entering the taxi. The driver took her down an alley, stopped the car and threatened her with a screw driver demanding she give him everything she

had and to get out of the car, and the only reason he did not do her any physical harm was because she spoke to him about "Jesus." (Witnessing can save your life!)

A graduate of our Bible Institute, won a young lady to the Lord on a Friday in her place of work. The next Monday, they found her headless body on the side of the road! The worst part of it all is that they are now going into churches, beating up the pastor, and robbing all the attendees of their wallets, purses, cell phones, computers, jewelry, keys, etc. It has gotten to the place where churches are now having closed door services! Our main church is even practicing "underground church" just in case the situation gets worse and they have to go into hiding!

This is just what one church is experiencing, not to mention the accounts of August of 2011 in which 53 were killed in a Casino when the cartel went in and shot it up and then burned down the establishment! About the only newspaper that is reporting all the violence in Monterrey has been attacked at least 5 times in the last 9 months. In May, 2012, 43 bodies were found near Cadereyta, with no heads, hands, or feet! In August, 2012, on the roads from the border to Monterrey, they still shoot, carjack and rob people at will, with seemingly no resistance from the authorities. Statistics place Mexico as the # 1 nation in manslaughter with over 15,000 killed so far this year!

So, if someone tells you that the violence in Mexico is not really bad or that they exaggerate in the reports, take it from someone who has lived there during the violence and knows what is going on. Pray for Mexico! Sources: CIA public reports, Reuter's, Wikipedia and Nation Master Statistics on violence in Mexico.

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I'm Going on a Month-Long Fishing Trip

Dr. Jerry Siler, President



The first of the apostles that Jesus called were fishermen. Jesus called them to follow Him to pursue the souls of men.

Fishermen and soul winners certainly have to have a similar determination to be successful. All believers are to be fishers of men, but it becomes obvious that most Christians have never given fishing for men much attention.

I've heard statistics that claim 75% of God's people have never attempted to witness to someone concerning the need of their soul. They somehow believe that it's only for those that have an outgoing personality and a burden for lost souls. The truth of the matter is that all believers have an obligation and should see it as an opportunity to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the gospels, we find the record of Jesus calling these fishermen to follow Him, and the promise that He would make them successful fishers of men. These men displayed the right attitude upon their call from God. They forsook all and immediately followed Him. In Luke 5:2, they were busy cleaning their fishing nets and keeping their equipment in good repair. Let's not forget that as God's fishermen, we must keep our equipment (life) in good repair. God desires that our lives be holy and our testimonies be acceptable among men. Good fishermen are not only to keep their equipment in good repair, but are to make a commitment to fish. We have the "know how" and the "why to" figured out, but the problem remains to "do it." Go fishing! I just signed up about 150 fishermen to go with me on a one month fishing trip. We have promised to put a total commitment

into one month of praying, pleading, passing out tracts, and bringing folks to God's house during this four-week period.

The heartbeat of our mission for Christ is seeking the souls of men. May God help us to keep in the forefront the Great Commission. God will be with our churches as we endeavor to cast the Gospel net for the souls of men, women, boys and girls.

I really, personally, was needing a fishing trip in my schedule. There's something about getting involved in fishing that takes our minds off many of the things of the world that trouble us. I'm glad it's a month long too...I need to get away for this extended time. **If we're not fishing, then we're not following.**

NEWS & EVENTS

**IBFI Annual Spring Fellowship Meeting
May 20-23, 2013**

Directory Information

If your church is not currently listed in the IBFI Directory and you would like to be or if you need to update your current information, please send us the following information:

Church Name
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Please e-mail to info@ibfi.us, fax to 817-246-4884, or mail to the office.

TO HELP WITH THE COST OF MAILING THE SEARCHLIGHT, PLEASE SEND US ADDRESS CHANGES. You can e-mail the information to info@ibfi.us or mail to the office.

From the Pen of the President Emeritus

Dr. Raymond Barber



THE PROBLEMS of the RIGHTEOUS and the PROSPERITY of the WICKED

Psalm 73 is a psalm of Asaph, who also wrote the next ten psalms as well as Psalm 50.

The writer reveals a great deal about his own personal experiences in a period of his life when his faith had grown weak. His life is characterized by fear, doubt, disappointments, depression, and despair—all because he had stopped frequenting the sanctuary. On the outside of God's appointed place of worship and refuge, one gets an improper and distorted view of life. Wrong seems to be right, and right appears to be wrong.

It was not until he started back to church that his faith was restored and his perspective readjusted. Once again he saw things as they should be: God is good, the righteous are blessed, and the wicked are punished. Hope springs eternal where faith blossoms in the heart.

Outline: Preaching/Teaching

I. The Problem as seen by the Psalmist (verses 1-14)

NOTE: The basic problem is found in the fact that the psalmist did not understand life at this particular period in his experience. The reason he didn't lie in the fact that he was not attending the sanctuary to worship. In today's way of putting it, we would say that he was "out of church."

A. He admits the goodness of God and in the next breath complains of his own personal condition (verses 1-3).

B. He describes the prosperity of the wicked

(verses 4-12).

1. They are strong (verse 4).
2. They appear to be free from trouble and disease (verse 5).
3. They are filled with pride and are given to violence (verse 6).
4. They possess great wealth (verse 7).
5. They are corrupt and deceitful (verses 8, 9).
6. They doubt the wisdom and knowledge of God (verses 10, 11).
7. They are prosperous in spite of their wickedness (verse 12).

C. He complains that his faith has left him in an unhappy condition (verses 13, 14).

11. The Problem Solved in the House of Worship—Verses 15-28

A. The solution comes when he starts back to church (verses 15-17).

B. He sees the wicked in the proper perspective (verses 18-20).

C. He confesses his foolish lack of understanding (verses 21, 22).

D. He acknowledges his blessings and benefits (verses 23-28).

1. Assurance of God's presence (verse 23)

2. Assurance of Heaven (verse 24)

3. Assurance of eternal joy (verses 25-28)

Summary:

Once the psalmist returns to the house of worship, his outlook on life undergoes a drastic and pronounced change. He sees the wicked as God sees them. He sees himself as God sees him.

How wonderful are the joys and blessings of church attendance! How marvelous to meet with the presence of the Lord and to learn of our blessed future with Him Who provides a place of everlasting bliss in His new City where the sun never sets, where we will never grow old and where the soul of man never dies!

A Concluding Thought:

Wait upon the Lord, and He will show you the ultimate purpose He has for your life.

WALKER SPRINGS ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH HOSTS FELLOWSHIP MEEETING



It was evident the moment we drove onto the grounds of the Walker Springs Road Baptist Church in Jackson, Alabama, that the Fall Fellowship of the IBFI was going to be a special time for all of those who would be in attendance! Pastor David Webb and his people had been PLANNING, PREPARING, and PRAYING for this meeting, and they were very gracious hosts, going the "extra mile" to make everyone not only feel welcome, but "special."

The fellowship began a little different this year as the Southeast IBFI assembled on Monday afternoon and Monday night prior to the National IBFI Fellowship, which began on Tuesday morning. The meeting from start to finish was a time of great refreshing and encouragement. The Walker Springs Road Baptist Church provided gift baskets for every Pastor, as well as some "special" vacation gifts to a few who were in attendance on Thursday. The meals were delicious, the music uplifting, and the preaching encouraging as

well as challenging! In keeping with the theme "We Can Pray," a special emphasis on prayer was given throughout the meeting!

Pastor David Webb is a graduate of the Norris Bible Baptist Seminary, and there were several alumni in attendance at the meeting. The preaching schedule included some of our alumni, and it was a great joy to see that the Lord is using many of our graduates in ministries throughout the world! Thank you Pastor Webb and the Walker Springs Road Baptist Church for your sacrifices to make the Fall Fellowship of the IBFI one to remember.

Please continue to pray for our alumni, as well as current students. We are certainly thankful for all that the Lord has done to bless our school and are excited about what He is continuing to do in and through the Crown-Southwest/Norris Seminary.

Remember, "WE CAN PRAY"

-Mark Brown, Alumni President



Pastor and Alumni President Mark Brown presented Pastor & Mrs. Webb with a thank you gift from the fellowship.



Dr. Jerry Siler, President of IBFI.



Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Barber and the other guests enjoyed the time of visiting and great meals served by the host church.



Everyone enjoyed the choir and other special music.