

The Life-Changing
Impact of Coming to

F A I T H

How Faith Has Changed My View Of Christ

by Ken Doan

Go with me to John 9:1 and look at the man's spiritual condition: blind from his birth. Romans 3 spells that out, where we understand that we all sinned.

In John 9:3 we see the sovereign plan that God has for this particular man: that the works of God be manifest. Where? In him!

Notice with me in verses 6 and 7 the surrender of him to the call that God had on his life.

We see the spiritual application to where every single one of us was spiritually blind; we were the ones that needed spit in our eyes. So that why? God could give us spiritual sight.

My earliest memories were probably like kindergarten, where our parents took us to church every Sunday. Then something happened at church, and my parents said, "No more!" [When I was] about 11, this blue and white Sunday School bus started coming by our house. I decided to start riding that bus.

Later [when I was] a teenager, our church went off to a camp program in the hills of Pennsylvania. And it was at that event where I trusted Christ as my Savior.

So I want to walk you back through how my view of Christ has changed. You know as a little kindergartener, my whole view was flannelgraph. I understood what He did, but it meant nothing to me. A lot of people today know the name of Jesus, but there's nothing else that they understand.

The second view that I had was an invisible one. I had years of no view of Christ at all. We live in a world where people have no view, no concept of who Christ is.

My third view of Christ was a distant view. I started going on that Sunday School bus. I watched two couples. I could see Christ in them, but it wasn't real to me yet.

Back to John 9:11 for my fourth view of Jesus: "A man called Jesus." A man called Jesus saved me. I'm beginning to grasp more and see Jesus as my friend, lover of my soul. Let's not lose sight of Jesus, and who He is to us. Our view of Jesus should be changing in a positive way every day.

Taken from Ken's testimony given at the CARBC Christian Workers Retreat, January 2016.

CARBC State Conference Features Larry and Linda Overstreet

April 14–16, Victory Ranch
Baptist Camp

Please join us **April 14–16 for the CARBC State Conference** at Victory Ranch Baptist Camp. We are excited to have Dr. Larry Overstreet and his wife Linda come and encourage us from the Word of God.

A graduate of Bob Jones University (BA), San Francisco Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and Wayne State University (MA, PhD), Dr. Overstreet has been in full-time Christian service for nearly 50 years, both in pastoral ministry and in Christian education. He has taught at Corban University School of Ministry, Tacoma, Wash.; Detroit (Mich.) Baptist Theological Seminary; Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, Ind.; and Clearwater (Fla.) Christian College. Dr. Overstreet also pastored churches in Michigan and Indiana for 17 years, and presents sermon-length, first-person dramatic monologues. Dressed in Biblical costume, he "becomes" a Biblical character (e.g., Lot, Solomon, Job, King Herod, Pontius Pilate, John Mark), and powerfully shares the life and lessons of that person with the contemporary audience. He is the author of *Biographical Preaching: Bringing Bible Characters to Life* (Kregel, 2001; translated into Korean, 2007), and *Persuasive Preaching: A Biblical and Practical Guide to the Effective Use of Persuasion* (Weaver Book Company, 2014). A former skydiver and motorcyclist, Dr. Overstreet now limits his hobby activity to jogging and working around the house.

As well as being a pastor/teacher's wife, Linda has served the Lord in various ministry positions, including teaching, administration, counseling women, and leading small-group Bible studies. A product of Bob Jones University and Midwestern Baptist College, she has had an active leadership and teaching ministry in local churches. Her spiritual maturity and Christian experience provide her with insightful approaches to Scripture to glean its practical applications for everyday life.

Dr. Larry and Linda have three children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Ministry Perspectives:

Recasting The Vision

by Dan Daniels

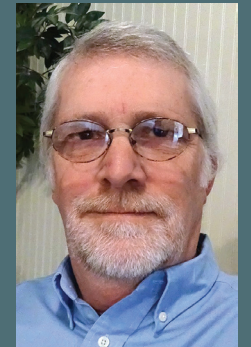
Martin Luther was once asked by someone in his church, "Pastor, why is it that week after week after week all you ever preach to us is the gospel?"—implying that "we're ready to move on to something else. Certainly we know this by now." Luther's response was, "Well, because week after week you forget it." I believe the same is true for the vision God has given each individual church. Folks tend to get comfortable and then forget what it is that God has called us to. So each year, using the book of Nehemiah, I re-preach on the vision God has given me.

The first book that I read after becoming a Christian was written by Allen Redpath, *Victorious Christian Service*. By the time I had finished the book, Nehemiah had become my Old Testament Bible hero, and Christian service had become my life.

The book of Nehemiah vividly shows the reality of trying to accomplish something amazing for God while having critics on every corner, or in every pew. And that's why I preach from Nehemiah every January.

Nehemiah was given a vision, directly from the Lord: rebuild the wall that surrounded Jerusalem. It was a huge task, but no bigger than the one given to each pastor and the church he pastored. When it comes to vision, we need to be constantly revisiting what the Lord has given us to do and sharing it with our church folks. And sometimes that means recasting that vision every January.

Looking at what Nehemiah and his workers accomplished in just 52 days shows us at Shasta Valley Baptist Church that we can accomplish the same if we will just keep focused on the vision of building God's church here in Montague, Calif.



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Churches Seeking a Pastor

Grace Baptist, El Centro; Forest Ranch (Calif.) Baptist; First Baptist, Petaluma; Sunrise Valley Baptist, San Jose. First Baptist, Wilmington.

Pastoral Changes:

Roman Folia as pastor to Ranch View Baptist, Encinitas