



Taken from Chips' message at the 2017 CARBC Christian Workers Retreat

Jesus said that it's out of the heart that the mouth speaks. Our communication, whether with our hands, our bodies, or our words, flows out of our hearts. Look at the family of Jacob to see how our communication flows from our walk with Christ.

Rachel, while very beautiful, wants children or death. She is not a woman of faith, but bases her life on having as many kids as she can.

Meanwhile, Leah gives birth to seven kids. Only with her fourth son, Judah, does she praise the Lord. Leah has some measure of faith.

We first meet Judah when he sells his brother Joseph, then next when he has sex with his daughter-in-law, Tamar. Not a good start! When Judah realizes what Tamar has done, he says, "She is more righteous than I." After this, Judah takes the lead as the family goes to Egypt for food. Judah promises to care for Benjamin, and Jacob trusts him. So we see Judah as a changed man, a trustworthy man.

As a child, Joseph was loved by his dad but hated by his brothers. After Judah gives in to sexual temptation, Joseph doesn't yield. He runs away! In prison, Joseph interprets dreams but schemes to get out of prison. When Joseph is released to interpret the dreams of Pharaoh, Joseph humbly emphasizes God's role. As Joseph names his sons, he continues to recognize God's role. Finally, the story ends with Joseph comforting and speaking kindly to his brothers. In Joseph we see someone who is changed by God because he is close to God.

Our last character is Jacob, who starts as a deceptive man. But this characteristic changes when he wrestles with God. A profound change is signaled when he prays: I wait for God to bring salvation (Gen. 49:18)! Jacob begins as a man striving to get what he wants, and he ends by waiting on God.

When we are close to Christ, words of encouragement, healing, truth, and wisdom come from our hearts. Walk with Jesus. The more time you spend with Jesus, the more you will become like Him, including how you communicate with your family.

By Chips Ross



With The Lord: Bud Williams

Pastor Atha Ray "Bud" Williams of First Baptist Church, Ducor, entered Heaven on January 11, 2017.

Bud was born in Oklahoma on May 1, 1933. He and his wife, Fern, were married in 1952 and were blessed with three daughters. In 1971, while living in McKinleyville, California, Bud's pastor, Al Franklin, encouraged him to enroll in the Scofield Bible Correspondence Course at Moody Bible Institute because Al saw Bud's desire and potential for pastoral ministry. Bud served as a lay leader and pulpit supply speaker in several churches. Bud realized his goal of becoming a pastor when he was called to First Baptist Church in Ducor. He loved ministering to his church family and spent the last 10 years of his life fulfilling his greatest dream.



With The Lord: Rick Bonn

On May 13, 2017, Pastor Rick Bonn was called home to Heaven after a battle with kidney disease and cancer. Rick was born on November 27, 1948, in Montebello, California, and is survived by his wife of 45 years, Sandy; two daughters; and three grandchildren.

After believing in Jesus Christ at age 15, Rick attended Western Baptist Bible College and then Baptist Bible Seminary. He served for 40 years as pastor in small towns of Northern California and Nevada, often working as a truck driver. In the CARBC, Rick was pastor of Calvary Baptist in Susanville and gave help to Forest Ranch Baptist.

God's Grace To Me

Bill Heinrich, a former CARBC pastor who most recently served at Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Modesto, has written an autobiography titled *God's Grace to Me*. The book includes his roots as a farm boy in California's rural post-Depression San Joaquin Valley and his journey to the Midwest with his new bride, Ellen Boyd for his seminary training. Pastor Heinrich shares the joys and sorrows of tending God's sheep as he pastors three churches over 40 years. Heartwarming vignettes from his personal life allow the reader to know the man behind the man and to love him all the more.



Ministry Perspectives:

Serving as a Deacon

by Bruce Mulcahy

About 40 years ago as I worked at a Christian camp, the key speaker asked us two simple but challenging questions. "Why do you do the things you do?" and "Who do you do them for?" These questions have helped me focus as a layman serving on the deacon board. After I was elected to the board, I asked the chairman what my job would be. He stated, "Be the eyes and ears of the pastor." I soon realized that as I watched and listened, I needed to ask those two questions I had learned at camp to understand the people to whom I would minister: "Why do they do the things they do?" and "Who do they do them for?"

Most church ministries come under the guidance and input of the deacons. The first question led me to spend more time with the pastor. I needed to see things through the shepherd's eyes and hear them through his ears. As a newly elected board chairman, I felt inadequate, doubting my ability to serve in this position.

Praying on a weekly basis with the pastor helped me to develop a heart for service, learn how to balance family and church needs, and engage in caring relationships with the congregation. Overall, I learned who I ministered to and why.

I enjoyed the annual deacons' retreat, which offered us the opportunity to set goals, prioritize needs, and get to know each other better. Often the best times were sharing as we walked up the road to skip rocks in the creek. The retreat was significant in bringing the deacons closer as we supported, prayed for, and worked alongside each other.

Discussions with the deacons, men of the congregation, and the pastor helped implement a men's ministry, which the pastor and I jointly taught for several years. Its priority was to develop methods and activities to help men grow in all areas of their lives. Later, God led another deacon to take this over.

Yearly, I asked the deacons to walk with me through the entire church. We visited every building and room—even the storage



See **Deacons** cont.

Sunrise Bible Ordains Two

Sunrise Bible Fellowship in Red Bluff experienced a double blessing May 6–7 when the church ordained two pastors, Josh Carpenter and Chris Hurton. The examination council assembled by the church included Chips Ross, David Wilcox, Bruce McLain, Dan Iles, Dale Gibson, Pat Hurton, and Cliff Rowen.



The council questioned Josh Carpenter Saturday morning and Chris Hurton in the afternoon. Both men did exceptionally well demonstrating their knowledge of God’s Word and theological concepts. The council heartily recommended that the church proceed with ordination.

The ordination service on Sunday was a wonderful celebration for the church family. Former pastor Dale Gibson challenged the pastors, and Bruce McLain, CARBC representative, gave the challenge to the church. Pastor Pat Hurton led in the ordination prayer and the laying on of hands. A fellowship meal followed, giving the church family the opportunity to enjoy the blessing of this special time in the lives of these men and their church.

Deacons cont.

room—with the goal of understanding what ministry needs were being met there. We discussed the people who led the ministries and shared what we could do to support these ministries. I loved the reactions of the men as they began to comprehend all that went on in the various areas of the church. Looking at the organized chaos in the room with sewing supplies helped us understand the ministry of women who, for years, worked to create quilts, dresses, and dolls for missionaries.

“Why do they do the things they do?” “Who do they do them for?” These two questions helped me focus as I served on the deacon board. Perhaps they will help you as you serve.

Bruce Mulcahy served for many years as a deacon at Pine Grove Baptist Church, Santa Maria.

CARBC Events Calendar

- Pilot Lake Summer Camp (grades 4–6 and grades 7–12) July 10–15
- Victory Ranch Junior Camps July 23–29 and Aug. 7–12
- Victory Ranch Teen Camp July 30–Aug. 5

(Drawing Near cont.)

- “The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate answer to persecution. Christians don’t have to fear death.”
—Bruce McLain



Besides the blessings from the Word of God, the fellowship of believers was also encouraging. Added this year were many new faces; at one point, three pastors new to the CARBC were introduced, as well as one new church. A report in the business meeting listed 21 pastoral changes in 16 churches over the 2016–2017 year. “What I continually heard from those at the conference was the wonderful spirit of fellowship,” says Bruce McLain. “The host church did an extraordinary job, and Dr. David Crandall’s messages were a tremendous blessing. It was what we desire each of our annual conferences to be.”

Churches Seeking a Pastor:

First Baptist, San Dimas; First Baptist, Ducor; First Baptist, Petaluma; Grace Baptist, Paso Robles; Community Baptist, Red Bluff; First Baptist, Wilmington.

Pastoral Changes:

Kelsey Pietsch, retiring from Grace Baptist, Paso Robles. Josh Carpenter from pastoral intern to co-pastor at Sunrise Bible Fellowship, Red Bluff.

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Drawing Near: A Look at Eschatology

By Chips Ross



“It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world [Heaven] that they have become so ineffective.” With this quote from C. S. Lewis, Dr. David Crandall encouraged the near 100 people in attendance at the CARBC Annual Bible Conference to be thinking about Heaven and eternity. The messages delivered at First Baptist Community Church of Los Gatos

April 4–6 covered eternity, Heaven, Daniel’s 70 weeks, and Jesus as our hope. Here are a few encouraging thoughts from the messages:

- “The most wonderful thing about Heaven is the presence of God!” — *Dr. David Crandall*
- “A glorious truth about the Rapture is that no one will be missed. All the redeemed will be there.” — *Dr. David Crandall*
- “As eternal beings, we will live forever in one of two places. ... This is the message we take to the world.” — *Dr. David Crandall*
- “Do you want to build some-thing for God? Pray that the good hand of God would be upon you.” — *Roger McCarty, referring to the book of Nehemiah*
- “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if wherever we are in life, people are amazed by our devotion to Jesus?” — *Bruce McLain*



(See **Drawing Near** cont.)