

Beside *Quiet Waters*

"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials." — 1 Peter 1:6

It is peculiar to Christians to give thanks in adversity. To praise God for blessings, others can do, but to give thanks in danger is the highest pitch of virtue: "I do not see why I should suffer less; these things are very little compared to my sin. I deserve much more at the Lord's hands!"

A Christian has taken up his cross. No loss can dishearten him, as the poet says: "If the world breaks and falls about my ears, I will not be afraid."

Afflictions are for our good. They conform us to the Lord, our chief good. They prepare us for communion with the Lord and are fatherly tokens of love. Children must submit to the rod, and kiss it too.

The Lord by afflicting prevents and purges sin. Do we not thank the surgeon who removes a damaged limb? Yes, we thank him, and take our bitter pills too.

The cross God lays upon is far below what we deserve. What is a drop of sweetened wormwood to the gall of bitterness? What is a little suffering to the lake of fire? Jesus drank the full cup of suffering for us. He drank it fully—we cannot, we need not. O thank God you have so little a share of it!

In affliction we learn what we could not otherwise. Wax unheated will not receive the impression of the seal. Man in affliction will receive the imprint of divine wisdom. It prepares us for glory. The potter beats the clay to make it well-tempered, molds it on the wheel, and then bakes it in the oven before use. A wooden vessel is turned and cut before it is fit. Gold is heated and pounded before it is complete. So every vessel of mercy must be treated before it is fit for glory. The cross sharpens our faith and sets a sharp edge and luster upon it. The stone is hewed, cut, carved, and polished. So suffering saints are prepared for the highest degrees of glory.

William Cooper, *Puritan Sermons 1659–1689*, 6 vols. (London, 1844), 1:423–26. Quoted in Richard Rushing, ed., *Voices from the Past* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 2009), 183. Richard Rushing is pastor of Bethany Baptist in Martinez. Devotion from the book *Voices from the Past*, published by the Banner of Truth Trust, copyrighted material used by permission. www.banneroftruth.org.

Christian Worker's Retreat

January 18-20, 2016 at The Hilton Garden Inn, Monterey

Pastors, missionaries, Christian workers, and spouses of our association value the annual Christian Workers' Retreat. But skyrocketing costs limit those on a tight budget. We are asking God to meet this need. The CARBC Council has established a special gifting fund to enable workers to attend. If God leads you, consider giving to help underwrite the fees for pastors and missionaries of the CARBC. Please send monies to CARBC, P.O. Box 2697, Santa Maria, CA 93457-2697 and designate the gift to the Retreat Fund for Pastors and Missionaries. Thank you for your kind consideration



CARBC Annual Meeting

April 6-8, 2016 at Fellowship Baptist in Hemet, CA

Dr. R. Larry Overstreet will be the keynote speaker.

Churches Seeking a Pastor:

Calvary Baptist, Burbank; First Baptist, Cambria; Grace Baptist, El Centro; Ranch View Baptist, Encinitas; Forest Ranch Baptist; First Baptist, Petaluma; Sunrise Valley Baptist, San Jose. First Baptist, Wilmington.

Pastoral Changes:

Al Franklin retires as pastor, Grace Baptist, Redding. Jon Cook (right) from First Baptist Community, Los Gatos, to Grace Baptist, Redding. Chips Ross (below left) from Forest Ranch Baptist to Westwood Baptist, Fresno. Chris Law (below right) from First Baptist, Cambria.



Ministry Perspectives:

Searchin For A Pastor?

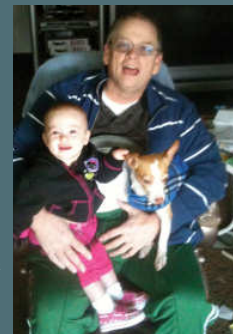
by John Murray

So, your church is seeking a new pastor and has chosen you to be part of the search team!

The good news is that you are not alone. Not only is God with you, but He has intentionally placed you on the search team. Further, He has already provided people* and situations necessary to accomplish the task He set in front of you. **Bob Schultz** (Grace Baptist, Yuba City) says, "It is most important for [the committee] and the congregation to pray, to have fervent prayer for God's will in a pastor. I have never been as closely dependent on the Lord as I was during that time. I couldn't control anything. He gave me wisdom and discernment."



Ephesians 4 speaks of the whole body "joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (NKJV). Since every person is necessary to the body, consider a representative makeup. **Mark Garro** (Lighthouse Baptist, Brentwood) recommends that the search committee be "a diverse group of members, both male and female, younger and older adults, and any person who is in a church leadership position."



I think of two votes: The vote to call the first candidate was 17 percent; the second candidate did not fare much better. After the search committee received input from the church's younger families, the church was able to successfully call a new pastor.

Various sources repeat some basic advice:

Glean potential candidate names from multiple sources. Giving due diligence, check references and history; maybe even get a background check. **Roger Padilla** (Pine Grove Baptist, Santa Maria) comments, "One of the single greatest dangers to the search for a new pastor is the urge to rush the process." Once the initial field is narrowed, take the best candidate, but deal with only one candidate at a time.

Bob Schultz suggests having various committee members call the candidate's references and then have other members call those same references, because each person asks different questions and gets different answers. This spreads out the work and provides a better understanding of the various candidates.



(See Pastor Search continued on back)

(Al Franklin continued)

Some people might say, "I'll just model good hermeneutics for my congregants, but they don't need to be instructed in it." I take it you don't share that opinion.

Every preacher should be able to explain hermeneutics in a concise, simple way that everybody can understand. For example, when I teach hermeneutics, I illustrate the process using a toolbox. I liken *literal* to the toolbox itself, *grammatical* to the tools that take apart, *historical* to the tools that dig, and *contextual* to the tools that measure. Everybody can understand that!



The evening service on August 23rd highlighted the ministry of Pastor Al and Pat with special music, reading of letters, a reception, and messages from Pastor Jon Cook, Dr. George Gunn, Bruce McClain, and Pastor Jared Berg. The morning service included Pastor Al's message: 'Pass The Bible Baton' from 2 Timothy 4:1-8.

You've been at Grace Baptist for 40 years. The average pastoral tenure in America ranges between four and seven years. Why do you think the average tenure is that short, and what can be done to extend it?

Every church has a personality, every pastor has a personality, and the personalities have to match. I'm wired to focus on teaching, and that's matched GBC's personality well. Then, too, early on in my ministry someone told me, "You brag on your people and they'll brag on you." I've never knocked my people. So I credit my long tenure here to diligently preaching the Word and loving the people.

I also like to encourage people to cultivate hobbies. One of the reasons for my longevity is my interest in other things. I have a two-acre garden, and I hunt and fish and I've been involved in photography and fossils. Even though I've never taken a sabbatical, I've had hobbies that have kept me from burning out.

As a seasoned veteran of pastoral ministry, if you had to choose just one word of counsel to pass on to the next generation of Regular Baptist ministers and leaders, what would it be?

Preach the Word! Preach Biblical truth in Biblical proportions. I preached the Word for 40 years, and I never came close to running out of material.

Taken with permission from the full interview in the November/December 2015 issue of the Baptist Bulletin.

(Pastor Search continued)

Churches are divided on the question of a congregational survey. I recommend using a survey only if it is tightly and Biblically focused. Ask specific questions about spiritual health, ministry strengths or weaknesses, and the like. Choose what specific information you believe will help and then get it.

It is most important for the congregation to pray, to have fervent prayer for God's will in a pastor.
Bob Schultz

What qualifications will you look for? Grace Baptist (Yuba City) discovered they had put limits on their search. They were requiring candidates be ordained. When they widened their search to those who would be ordained shortly, they called their current pastor.

One of the single greatest dangers to the search for a new pastor is the urge to rush the process.
Roger Padilla

Roger Padilla highly recommends keeping the church updated on the progress—even if only to say, "We made several calls this week and are waiting to hear back from potential candidates."

Yours is not the first church to seek a pastor. It is God's plan. Seek God and the man.

*Contact the CARBC state representative, Bruce McLain. Also visit carbc.org and look at a variety of documents to help a pastoral search committee.

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the CARBC messenger

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An Interview With Al Franklin

By David Gunn

On Aug. 23, veteran CARBC pastor Al Franklin retired. Al is one of the finest Bible expositors I've ever known. His 47 years of pastoral ministry—first at McKinleyville (Calif.) Baptist Church then at Grace Baptist Church of Redding, Calif.—has been characterized by passionate preaching, a commitment to the dispensational understanding of Scripture, and a vigorous defense of young-earth creationism. In celebration of his retirement, the Baptist Bulletin is pleased to present an interview with Al Franklin reflecting on the thrust of his ministry and the lessons he would pass on to the next generation of Regular Baptists.



Al and Pat Franklin were honored for 40 years of faithful service at Grace Baptist, Redding.

If you were to identify three major focuses of your ministry, what would you point to?

Expository preaching, a literal hermeneutic consistently applied, and a dispensational focus on Scripture. Of course there have been others, but these three come to mind immediately.

Most preachers don't really make it a point to talk about hermeneutics from the pulpit, but you have. What's your rationale for doing so?

It really goes back to our view of inspiration. If we actually believe in verbal, plenary inspiration—that the Bible is God's Word—then it's incumbent upon us to make sure we handle it accordingly. That means we have to interpret it literally, and that literal interpretation is the result of self-evidencing rules found in the Scriptures so that we get our methodology directly from God Himself. We want our people to use the proper method of interpretation so that they come to a right understanding of progressive revelation. That way they can understand the economies of Scripture and they can know how to distinguish Israel, the church, and the Kingdom. So in my thinking, we need to be neither sloppy in our interpretation nor leaky in our dispensations. All the Bible is for us, but not all the Bible is to us. So I've made that a major emphasis of my ministry to make sure that our people have the right foundation.

(see Al Franklin continued)