



## Resting In God's Sovereignty

By Shawn Hull

*Taken from Shawn's message at the 2018 CARBC Christian Workers Retreat*

We read about Elijah in the Bible, and we think, *What a man of God!* But the book of James says Elijah was a man with a nature like ours. This super saint, this awesome man of God, was just like you and me.

In 1 Kings 19 Elijah has just moved from the pinnacle of success to the pits of despair. We might ask, "Why? How is that even possible?" We see God's sovereignty on display when our lives are in ruin.

What happened to Elijah? Jezebel intimidated him. Jezebel knew she couldn't kill him, but she could get inside his mind. And Elijah reacted exactly like she had thought he would: he took off and then prayed, "I don't like the way my ministry is going, Lord. I would rather die than see this continue." Sometimes I pray something like this, "I want the Rapture to happen today, because I am tired of this. I want to be done. Lord. I want out." I don't say that to be funny; I say that because it's how I think.

Sometimes our situations knock us down so hard that we can't see ourselves ever getting back up. But God takes us one day at a time. He walks alongside His people in love. Jesus provides exactly what I need to help me through my difficult time.

Elijah was at a spot where he was feeling sorry for himself. God gave Elijah about five minutes to feel sorry for himself, just a little bit of time. Then God showed him some incredible things: a tornado, an earthquake, and a fire. Elijah needed to understand that God is not in the great big things that you think He is in. Instead, there is a whisper, a small voice.

At this point God instructed, "You've seen My presence; you've seen My sovereignty in action. Now it's time to remember the sovereign call that I have given to you. You have a task, you have a job, and it's not here." God knows that when His people hurt, they need time to mend. God is not always going to step in and do something miraculous in our lives. But God is going to cause you to draw closer to Him.

*Shawn Hull serves as pastor, First Baptist Church, Walnut Creek.*



### Pastoral Change:

David Rasnake to Madera Baptist Church as assistant pastor.

### Churches Seeking a Pastor:

Western Avenue Baptist, Brawley; First Baptist, Petaluma; Deaf Baptist, San Jose; Faith Baptist, Stockton; Faith Baptist, Strathmore.

## Christian Workers Retreat, Jan 21–23, 2019 Wonder Valley Ranch

"Looking to Christ as we look for Christ." Good words and strong words that are replete with meaning. Indeed, these are words that preach. But as important and as vital as is this motto for Christian living, as thematic for preaching as these words may be, do we dare *interrogate* our souls to see if we really practice these truths? Do those that know that we call ourselves "followers of Christ" and "Christian workers in Christ's church" see the reality of the words "looking to Christ as we look for Christ" in our speech, our actions, and our attitudes? Are we really feeding on *The Bread of Life* in the depths of our inmost being, or has Christ become only a "crouton" that we munch briefly and intermittently for our souls? Are we drinking to eternal satisfaction from "the Cup of the satisfying water of the River of Life," or have we relegated ourselves to only taking sips—or even worse—drinking more from the sugary and unsatisfying cup of this world? Again, do we *dare* interrogate our souls to see if we are truly looking to Christ and for Christ?

The theme for the Christian Worker's Retreat in 2019 is indeed "Looking to Christ as We Look for Christ." The challenge of the four sessions as we interrogate our souls and find our satisfaction in Christ is revealed in the following themes:

1. Looking to Christ when weary: Confidence in Christ
2. Looking to Christ when worried: Contentment in Christ
3. Looking to Christ when wobbling: Strength (Courage) in Christ
4. Looking **for** Christ when . . . whenever: Hope in Christ!

Thank you for praying for the meetings. We hope you can attend and be blessed by them. Let's prepare by *interrogating* our souls today (and every day) as to whether we are truly "Looking to Christ as we look for Christ."



### Paradise cont.

The CARBC Benevolence Fund immediately gave \$1,500 to help. Since then, over \$14,000 more has been given. Regular Baptist Builders Club also transferred \$2,000 in Disaster Relief funds to the church.

*This article was originally published at [baptistbuildersclub.org](http://baptistbuildersclub.org). Used with permission.*

## Ministry Perspectives:

## Passing The Torch

by William Heinrich

On Aug. 23, 2001, Sovereign Grace Baptist Church (SGBC) was started on my front lawn with about 20 people. A charter membership was posted, which included the names of Johnnie Sloan and his wife, Jaymee. His gifts were obvious, and he was encouraged to pray about becoming a pastor. Meanwhile, he served as a deacon and taught Sunday School. He initially resisted God's call, but God always wins, and in May 2005 the church called him to be SGBC's assistant pastor. He was ordained on April 11, 2010.

I was 72 years old in 2010. I knew the fallout when pastors change, and desiring not to experience this if possible, the church set in order a plan: I was to gradually decrease, and Pastor Sloan was to gradually increase. Starting in 2006 Pastor Sloan began to get a small salary but also worked part-time to provide for his family. By 2008 Pastor Sloan received 75 percent full-time salary, and I received about 35 percent, while both of us served the church full-time. From 2009 to 2011 Pastor Sloan received full-time pay and benefits, while my salary dropped. I remained the senior pastor, and Pastor Sloan gave no indication that he thought things were moving too slowly. He was taking seminary classes, and that was pressure enough.

During these years of passing the torch to Pastor Sloan, the church was kept fully informed of the entire process. Over time, those who had felt unsure about Pastor Sloan lost that concern and became supportive. At first Pastor Sloan preached occasionally, then just the evening sermons, and then every other morning and every other evening. Little by little he was more and more to be seen as their future pastor.

Now as I look back, I thank God for "the plan," and I thank the Holy Spirit for the smooth implementation of the plan. On July 6, 2014, Pastor Sloan became the senior pastor of SGBC. The transition took nine years.

Pastor Sloan continues preaching and following the same doctrine and general churchmanship. I am included in the preaching calendar for about 20 sermons a year, and I also teach the Over-60 Sunday School class. My wife, Ellen, and I feel wanted and loved, and we are truly enjoying Pastor Sloan's excellent ministry.

*William Heinrich continues to serve at Sovereign Grace Baptist in Modesto, Calif.*







## Nearing Ninety: A History of the CARBC

*As the CARBC nears 90 years, an article by David Hollingsworth in his work, The Ongoing Story: A History of the CARBC, traces the background that led to the formation of the CARBC in 1929.*

"In January, 1929, Rev. Van Dyke Todd, pastor at Ceres, and Rev. H. Eilertsen, pastor of Danish Baptist Church, Modesto, met with Rev. G. R. Dye, Mrs. Dye, and Rev. A. B. Whitney, in the prayer room of the Danish Baptist Church of Modesto. After earnest prayer it was decided to send a letter of invitation to the pastors of the independent Baptist Churches to assemble at the Calvary Baptist Church in Los Angeles to consider the question of forming a new Baptist Association. That was the real beginning of the California Association of Regular Baptist Churches." (Taken from *Origin and Early History of the California Association of Regular Baptist Churches*, by G. Rector Dye).

That meeting took place February 19, 1929, with about 25 independent Baptists present. They passed the following resolution (again quoting the aforementioned pamphlet by Dr. Dye):

"Resolved, on the part of those who were assembled in the Pastor's Conference at Los Angeles on February 19, 1929, that it be the sense of this meeting that existing circumstances clearly indicate the need of drawing together in a closer fellowship for mutual edification and especially for carrying out the Great Commission. We, therefore, respectfully recommend that all independent Baptist Churches in Southern California be invited to send their pastor and two members as messengers to meet in the Calvary Baptist Church of Los Angeles on March 19, 1929, for the purpose of forming an association of Baptist Churches."

With the passing of another month, several men from the February meeting either lost interest or chose a different course for their churches. But ten pastors did gather, and apparently an eleventh briefly stood with the fledgling association. Two of those original ten churches are still active in the CARBC; First Baptist Church, El Monte, and First Baptist Church, Wilmington.

Their purpose was stated as follows:

"The object of this Association shall be to promote, by our correspondence and personal intercourse, unity of faith and practice, fellowship, missionary and evangelistic efforts according to the Great Commission, and education and other enterprises in harmony with our confession of faith."

The first annual meeting of the CARBC was at Monte Rey Park Baptist Church on November 5, 1929.

### CARBC Calendar (visit [CARBC.org](http://CARBC.org) for more events):

Christian Workers Retreat, Wonder Valley .....Jan. 21–23, 2019  
CARBC Annual Bible Conference, El Monte .....April 9–11, 2019

## Walking Together with God

### NCARBC Meeting

"My walk with God is based on my relationship to God. My walk with God is not based on my performance for God." Around these two basic concepts, Dr. David Wilcox developed the theme of "Walking Together with God" for the annual meeting of the Northern California Association of Regular Baptist Churches. Drawing upon his years of backpacking, both as an avocation and a ministry, Dr. Wilcox led us all on a journey to better understand and ultimately deepen our walk with God.

The meetings began on Sunday evening, Oct. 7, with a singspiration and a message from Dr. Wilcox. Monday included three additional messages, ministry reports, and a business session.

The host church, Sierra Baptist in Newcastle, did a marvelous job in planning, promoting, and hosting the meetings under the leadership of Chaplain Whit Woodard and Pastor Randal Pollard. They are to be commended for their sacrificial ministry to the NCARBC churches.



### The CARBC Messenger | Edition 4 of 2018 | Volume 68, Number 4

The *CARBC Messenger* is published by the California Association of Regular Baptist Churches. Cost is 45 cents per copy per issue. Mail checks to CARBC, PO Box 2697 Santa Maria, CA 93457-2697. Send any submissions to the editor, Chips Ross: [chippychoopy@gmail.com](mailto:chippychoopy@gmail.com) or 3333 N. Cornelia Ave, Fresno, CA 93722. Please address questions about subscriptions and billing to Bruce McLain at [carbc.mclain@gmail.com](mailto:carbc.mclain@gmail.com).

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## CARBCmessenger

Serving churches in California,  
Nevada, and Southern Oregon

Edition 4 of 2018

### Calvary Baptist Suffers Damages From Wildfire

PARADISE, Calif.—"When we left . . . the fire was 300 feet from our house, and it was coming from two different directions," describes Rich Saum, member of Calvary Baptist, Paradise. "We looked out our window and saw the flames. We threw a few things in our car, but we didn't get much." Pastor Gerry Zordel relays further, "When he looked in his rearview mirror, there was a wall of flames following him. He's very fortunate to be alive."

The recent Camp Fire rapidly swept through the town, burning the homes of 30 to 40 church members. All the church buildings burned, with only the shell of the gymnasium surviving. While the church building was an older structure, Calvary Baptist recently spent about \$50,000 updating the church offices, educational building, and gymnasium for a charter school that is using the facility.

"We found out that every person we talked to lost their home," says Pastor Gerry Zordel of their church family. Only one church member is unaccounted for after the fire. "We reported her missing," he adds. "Everyone else is accounted for and is safe."

The first Sunday after the fire, Calvary Baptist met in Chico. "It provided an opportunity for members to begin sharing what happened to them and dealing with their own personal grief," says Pastor Zordel. He also encouraged the church to remember that God is faithful.

Pastor Zordel requests that churches in the CARBC remember them in prayer as they seek to rebuild. "This is going to be a very slow and arduous process," he says. "If people could commit to six months or a year of prayer, that would be helpful and encouraging to us."

In addition to housing needs, Pastor Zordel says his congregation has spiritual needs. "How do you live at a time when you are spending your finances on a hotel and meals and you don't have a job?" he asks, adding that they need "a sense of spiritual stamina and strength."

See Paradise cont.

