



Three Days in Wonder Valley

By Whit Woodard

The beautiful Wonder Valley Ranch Resort was a fitting venue for our annual Christian Workers' Retreat with the theme "Looking to Christ as We Look for Christ." Pastor Randy Pollard set the tone with a plea for meaningful and powerful prayer that produces spiritual enabling, divine guidance, and personal fulfillment, based on the topic "Looking to Christ When Worried: Contentment in Christ."

Pastor Shawn Hull shared his insight on "Looking to Christ When Weary: Confidence in Christ" by encouraging us to gain strength as we look back on God's faithfulness in former days and ahead to Christ's promises that produce endurance.

CARBC Representative Bruce McLain brought enlightening insight on "Looking to Christ When Wobbling: Courage in Christ." He reminded us of the declaration, defense, description, difficulties, and deliberation of Paul's ministry in 2 Corinthians 4, pointing to examples of looking to Christ when wobbling in our servanthood, in our commitment, or because of suffering.

Finally, Paul Pierce from The Friends of Israel culminated the fellowship with stirring remarks on "Looking for Christ When . . . : The Believer's Consolation (Hope) in Christ," helping us to understand, anticipate, and apply our hope in Christ



and His imminent coming.

The preaching was enhanced with ample time for making new friends, renewing old friendships, experiencing godly fellowship, and sharing in excellent food and recreation.

The words "What a fellowship, what a joy divine" from the familiar gospel song are a fitting exclamation for the combination of spiritual refreshment, physical rest, and recuperation enjoyed by all who participated. Our hearts were warmed and filled as we sang together under the musical direction of Pastors Gregory Oliver and Randy Pollard and as

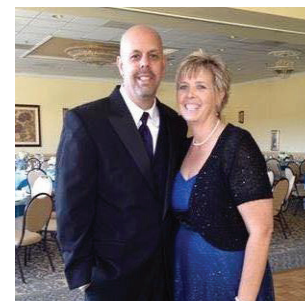
together we witnessed the beauty of God's creation in the splendor of Wonder Valley.

90th Anniversary Bible Conference

"Still Faithful after All These Years" is the theme for the CARBC Annual Bible Conference, April 9–11, as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the CARBC. First Baptist Church, El Monte, led by Pastor Jay Gauthier, will host this historic meeting. Speaking to our theme will be former CARBC Representatives David Wilcox and Ron Schrock, Southern California Representative Herb Rogers, and CARBC Representative Bruce McLain. Information for the conference will be posted at www.carbc.org as plans are finalized.

The CARBC began in 1929 with 10 churches. Two of those churches are still part of our association and will be recognized at the conference. They are First Baptist Church of El Monte and First Baptist Church of Wilmington.

CARBC Representative Bruce McLain states, "I am praying that this conference gives us a renewed appreciation for our heritage and a clear vision for our future."



Churches Without a Pastor:

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

Ministry Perspectives:

Clothing Ministry

When Pastor Gregory Oliver began his ministry at Calvary Baptist Church of Compton in 2015, he knew raising the church's visibility in the community was a priority. The church facility is located on Alondra Blvd., an area thoroughfare and strategic location that needed to be maximized. As a result of his experience in another Los Angeles-area church, Pastor Oliver knew the benefits of a clothing ministry and the logistics of starting one. People from a variety of age groups and backgrounds benefit from the ministry by walking or driving to the church each week.

Bruce and Margie McLain recently visited the church on a Saturday morning and watched the ministry in action. Minister of Evangelism Godray Paton set up the church parking lot along Alondra with racks of clothes, water bottles, Cup O' Noodles, tables, and chairs. Each week a couple of volunteers help staff the ministry. The foot traffic was light on the day of the visit, but Brother Paton engaged a passerby in conversation and prayed with her before she continued down Alondra. Although she did not come into the parking lot and look for clothing, being there with the clothing provided an opportunity for him to talk to her as she walked by the church.

Pastor Oliver is convinced that if we believers worship God weekly and study the Bible regularly, we need to evangelize just as often, which is why the clothing ministry is weekly. It reminds the church of the ongoing need to take the gospel wherever they go. The ministry is a way to meet people, to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of the community, to present the gospel, to hand out tracts, and to involve the church family in an evangelistic ministry.

A clothing ministry may not be effective where you are, but the principles of meeting community needs and regular evangelistic outreach are important for all of our churches.





Nearing Ninety: A History of the CARBC

As we enter the 90th year of the CARBC, we plan to share some articles from our historical archives. This article is from Origin and Early History of the California Association of Regular Baptist Churches, by G. Rector Dye.

At the third meeting of the Regular Baptists of California, held in Grace Baptist Church, Modesto, November 6–8, 1931, the question of a national organization was brought up. We had heard that a few small associations had been formed, notably in Michigan and Ohio, but we knew of no attempt to form a national body. So, on Saturday, November 7, 1931, at 5:15 p.m. Dr. G. Rector Dye offered a resolution, written on the back of an old envelope, and moved its adoption; it was unanimously carried. The resolution read as follows:

*“To Dr. O.W. Van Osdel,
Wealthy Street Baptist Church, Grand Rapids*

Dear Brother Van Osdel:

We, the Association of Regular Baptist Churches of California, believe it would greatly advance the Lord’s cause at our hands if the various associations of Independent Baptists in the United States were brought together in some form of national organization, expressing a common fellowship and purpose.

We believe that you are, Dr. Van Osdel, the proper convener of a national meeting of representatives for the purpose of forming such a national assembly. We hereby request you to confer with all other independent bodies of Baptists and, if possible, arrange such a meeting at such time and place as may seem best.”

Dr. Van Osdel printed this resolution in his church publication, “Temple News.” A number of independent Baptists met in Chicago in May, 1932, and organized the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

CARBC Calendar (visit CARBC.org for more events):

CARBC Annual Bible Conference, El Monte April 9–11, 2019

With the Lord: Gerald Harder

Gerald Harder was born Sept. 15, 1951, in Madison, Wis., to Alfred and Myrtle Harder. He grew up in Louisiana with his brother, Richard. He joined the US Navy at 18. While stationed in Key West, Fla., he met and married Connie, “his sweet angel,” as he called her. In 2018, they celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. He was born again Dec. 12, 1973. He was baptized and called to preach while attending Key West Baptist Temple. Pastor Harder graduated from Tennessee Temple in 1978 in the school’s heyday, as he used to say.



He started Canyon County Baptist Church in Caldwell, Idaho, immediately after graduating from Bible college. He moved to Vacaville, Calif., with his wife and four boys—Jesse, Joel, Nathan, and Andrew—in 1986. He served at Elmira Baptist Church for 32 years, loving people and lifting up Christ. Pastor Harder preached the word faithfully for 40 years and spoiled his 9 grandchildren with ice cream for 17 years.

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A Letter of Thanks from Calvary Baptist, Paradise

By Pastor Gerry Zordel

As a preacher, I am rarely without words. But for the last three months, I have been speechless more times than at any other period in my ministry. The first speechless moment happened when I was driving through Paradise at sunrise on



Nov. 9. During the drive evacuating our home in Magalia, Kristy and I saw homes and buildings burning in lower Magalia and realized how close the fire was moving toward our home. We sat silently as we drove through Paradise and the destruction that surrounded us.

The second speechless moment came only minutes later as we sat in our car in front of what had been our congregation’s meeting place for the last 75 years. The auditorium, the educational building, and the original building were nothing but piles of rubble. Wisps of smoke rose here and there from the ruin.

Other times of speechlessness followed. Many of you know we held our breaths waiting word about one of our widows. At first we thought she had gotten away, escaping the fire but becoming disconnected from us. Four weeks later the county’s sheriff’s department found her body; she had perished in the fire. We rejoiced during a Sunday service because she has continued in the Lord’s care.

I join my church in speechlessness again. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for your generosity to us. Your gifts and offerings have supported us while each member has had to find temporary housing and buy basic items during the months since the fire. Still the effect of the fire wrenches at our hearts, and we become speechless.

I have never known a time of such outpouring of love to a congregation. So many churches and individuals have reached out to care for us. We want to thank you. We are overwhelmed with thanksgiving to God, Who has shown His love to us through you and by your generosity. Thank you for producing in us a sense that we are loved and supported, and for arousing thanksgiving, worship, and, again, speechlessness. Thank you.