



Looking To Christ When Weary

By Shawn Hull

The Christians in the book of Hebrews were contemplating going back to their pre-conversion lives. They were discouraged. But the writer, who knew those Christians well, gave them an encouraging reminder—Jesus Christ—to help them persevere in their Christian walk.

The writer reminds the Christians to go back in their minds to the day they became followers of Christ. He reminds them that they focused on Christ while suffering for being Christians and while indirectly suffering because those around them were experiencing hardships. Finally he told them to keep remembering as they looked to the future. When they became believers, they focused on Jesus. When trials came, their focus was on Jesus. And as they look ahead, their focus is to be on Jesus.

As Christians, we are to be encouraged by our faith in Christ. We need to look back to our past faith and how it has encouraged us, and we need to anticipate Christ's faithfulness to us in the future. Doing God's will as we anticipate the future requires having patience and trusting God each step of the way. While we obey Him, He's shaping and molding us into the image of His Son. He's changing us into the people He wants us to be. By obeying God's will, we will receive the exceedingly great reward of Jesus Christ. The reward is relationship, fellowship with Him, and the promise of His coming. As we wait for our reward, we are to stay confident in Christ and to live by faith. We are to put our trust in Him and Him alone.

As we look to the future, our focus is on Christ and His return. Our eyes should be focused on Him and not on all the difficulties in our way. Christ is our reward!

Taken from Shawn Hull's message at the 2019 Christian Worker's Retreat.



With the Lord: Don Radecki

As a leader in the CARBC, Don Radecki served as lay leader at First Baptist Church of El Monte, representative of the Association of Regular Baptist Churches of Southern California (1985–1993), executive director of Southwest Baptist Home Missions (1985–1993), and CARBC representative (1989–1993). Don passed away on April 3, 2019, at 81. Pastor Jay Gauthier of First Baptist Church of El Monte officiated the funeral held at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier on April 18.

Don's business career had included providing management analysis; working as a bookkeeper, controller, and consultant; and owning an insurance services company. In many ways he was an efficiency expert who brought these skills to his service as the CARBC representative, helping many churches by evaluating their ministries and facilities.

Don's roots were in Pennsylvania, but he spent his career in California. He met his wife, Tomie, while they worked for the same company in Los Angeles. They were married in 1963 and had 47 years together. Tomie was a great blessing to the CARBC as she traveled with Don in serving our churches. She preceded Don in death on May 20, 2011.

Don's heart is revealed in what he wrote for the July/August 1990 *Messenger*.

As I have travelled to various churches within the California Association, the desire to serve the Lord comes through loud and clear. I have felt and heard this desire come from the pulpit as well as from the pews. God is causing a change in our churches so that those in California will be given the opportunity to hear the gospel and then to know His Son as Lord and Savior. We can do it! We will do it!



Ministry Perspectives:

Ministry Perspective: Missions

By Randall Pollard

My wife and I have served our Savior in America and in Brazil. This dual perspective has dramatically changed our view of missions. We knew that missionaries were human, but we didn't realize to what extent the spiritual condition of the church in America affects missionary families, giving, and enterprise.

The reality is that missionaries struggle with all the same temptations of church leaders in America plus a few more. All too often we seem to place unrealistic expectations on missionaries based on their willingness, "commitment," and human abilities. Then we're quite disappointed when they fail to see great results, or fail to remain on the field, or fail morally or in some other way. We certainly praise the Lord for those who hang in there and do fairly well, but we struggle to understand their tendency to discouragement or failure to build long-lasting, successful churches. We're also surprised to see how many times missionaries struggle with their own children, as if we don't struggle with the same challenge!

Fifty years ago, missions seemed to be a motivational force in our churches. A strong missions emphasis drove spiritual vitality in a church, or so we thought! Missions conferences might last for two weeks, and missionaries raised support and arrived to their fields much sooner. But sadly, the group of people in our supporting churches who are interested and willing to support foreign missions has gotten older and smaller.

Do we need to revitalize missions in our churches? Yes! But that truly needs to be revitalized? After evaluating this issue, I believe that interest in and support for missions in our churches is an indicator, not a driver, of spiritual vitality. Stoking up interest in missions won't solve the problem. New missionaries come from our churches. If our youth have little interest in serving the Lord, promoting missions won't solve the problem. We need spiritual renewal! If we long to see a renewed missions emphasis, let's pray God would revive our hearts. When we're on fire for Christ, missions will grow. Young people will hear God's call, and others will invest through finances and prayer to send them. Let's pray for a mighty moving of God among His people.



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Speaker: Pastor Ryan Perry





Reflecting on 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. The following article is condensed from the Hall of Faith of the CARBC, written by David Hollingsworth.

Dr. George Herman Lemmon was born in a sod house July 11, 1889 near Gothenburg, Nebraska. He was married to country school teacher Gladys McGivney on November 10, 1909. They were blessed with 5 children. Dr. Lemmon was saved in a Methodist evangelistic meeting in Iowa in 1915. As a result of his personal Bible study, he moved his family to a Baptist church in Guthrie Center, Iowa, where they were baptized and he was licensed to preach. He was an accomplished farmer and stockman when God called him to preach in 1922.

The Lemmon family arrived in Los Angeles on December 31, 1922, where Dr. Lemmon planned to attend the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. After dropping out of public school after the 8th grade, he graduated in 1926 as class Valedictorian.

After his ordination to the gospel ministry in the Northern Baptist Convention in 1931, he started the Green Meadows Baptist Church (1931–35), now known as Vermont Avenue Baptist Church of Gardena. The church came into the CARBC in 1933. He pastored First Baptist Church of San Dimas from 1935–1939. He also was the pastor of First Baptist Church of Wilmington from 1939–1944.

He took a position with the home mission board to establish Grace Baptist Church of Eureka in 1944. He was also instrumental in the establishment of California Heights Baptist Church of Long Beach and pastored Calvary Baptist Church of Compton (1945–50), Calvary Baptist Church of Paradise (1950–51), Grace Baptist Church of Richmond (1951–61) and Faith Baptist Church of San Pablo, which he established (1961–66).

Dr. Lemmon served in many leadership capacities in the CARBC from the 1930's through the 1950's. He received an honorary doctorate from B.I.O.L.A. He excelled because he was faithful. His ministries grew because he was a fervent preacher and soul winner. But he gave all the glory to God.

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Christian Worker's Retreat

Pastors, missionaries, Christian workers and spouses of our Association value the Annual Retreat. As costs for such events skyrocket it limits those on a tight budget. We ask that God may direct those who have the means to underwrite the Retreat for our workers.

The CARBC Council has established a special gifting fund enabling 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 of this important ministry.

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CARBC Annual Conference

The CARBC family gathered from all over California for its 91st Annual Conference at First Baptist Church of El Monte on April 9–11.

The CARBC began with 11 churches in 1929 in Los Angeles. Two of those churches are still part of the association and were recognized at the conference. First Baptist Church of El Monte was represented by Pastor Jay Gauthier and his wife, Valerie. First Baptist Church of Wilmington was represented by Deacon David Wagner and his wife, Lorena.

The messages for this 90th anniversary of the CARBC, around the theme “Still Faithful after All These Years,” were from former CARBC Representatives David Wilcox (“Our Mandate”) and Ron Schrock (“Our Determination”), Southern California Representative Herb Rogers (“Our Heritage”), and CARBC Representative Bruce McLain (“Our Destination”).

Bruce McLain presented a plaque to former CARBC Representative Ron Schrock and his wife, Sally, thanking them for their service to the CARBC from 2008 to 2014.

