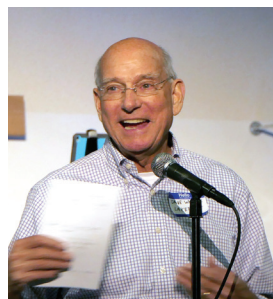


Still Faithful after All These Years

By Dave Wilcox

Still Faithful After All These Years was the theme for our 90th Annual Bible Conference at First Baptist Church in El Monte on April 9–11, 2019. Below is a summary of Dave's message that can challenge your heart in your service to the Lord.



What does it mean to be like Jesus? What is Jesus like? John 1:14 says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

This verse says that Jesus is full of grace. He is compassionate, congenial, well mannered, tender, courteous, good hearted, loving, polite, stately, amiable, charitable, cordial, friendly, giving. This should be what all of us are as Christians.

Jesus is also full of truth. Truth is authentic, right, certain, factual, genuine, exact, accurate, honest and infallible. Jesus is full of grace and truth. The Old Testament says, Don't let grace and truth leave you. Bind them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart. Grace and truth are what you are in Christ as you walk with God. They should describe the relationship that you will have with God and with others.

Our truth is the truth about Jesus. Who He is and what He did. We were formed as an association because we accepted and eagerly embraced the truth about Jesus, the deity of Christ, the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, the miracles of Christ, the substitutionary death of Christ, and the bodily resurrection. We will glorify God in our lives, in our homes, and in our churches if we are full of grace and truth. I challenge us to grow in grace and truth. We are simply the extensions of God's grace in a lost and sinful world. We are preachers of God's grace. We are demonstrators of God's grace. We are examples of God's grace in everything we do and every place we go, especially in the church.

Christian Worker's Retreat

The much-anticipated Christian Workers Retreat will be held at Wonder Valley Resort outside of Sanger, Calif., Jan. 20–22, 2020. Wonder Valley is

a beautiful spot nestled in the foothills east of Fresno. It is easily accessible and central to our CARBC constituency. It truly is a place



to rest and relax. The conference includes meals together, meetings with singing and preaching, great fellowship, and free time to enjoy the resort's amenities. Check it out at www.wondervalley.com. The cost for two nights' lodging and five meals is \$378 for a double-occupancy room and \$302 for a single-occupancy room. More information will be posted at www.carbc.org as the event draws closer.

With the Lord: Al Franklin

Al Franklin, a longtime pastor and Bible teacher, died Oct. 10. He was 77. Al grew up in Paso Robles, Calif.

Al was pastor of McKinleyville (Calif.) Baptist Church from 1968 to 1975 and Grace Baptist Church, Redding, Calif., from 1975 until his retirement in 2015.

He held degrees from Western Baptist Bible College (BS in theology, cum laude, 1964) and San Francisco Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv in theology and Greek, magna cum laude, 1967). In 2013 Shasta Bible College and Graduate School awarded him an honorary doctor of divinity degree. At the time of the award, David R. Nicholas, president of Shasta, said that those who knew Al regarded him "as one of fundamental Christianity's premier Bible expositors."

In addition to serving as a pastor, Al taught freshman Bible and senior Bible at Liberty Christian High School, Redding, Calif., as well as Bible exposition and homiletics at Shasta Bible College and Graduate School and Cornerstone Bible Institute in South Dakota.

"Al's ministry was a model of pastoral faithfulness and top-notch expository Bible preaching," says David Gunn, director of Regular Baptist Press, who was ordained at Grace Baptist Church while Al was pastor. "I learned so much from him over the years, and I especially appreciated his stalwart faithfulness to Biblical inerrancy and his passion for the grace of God. I rejoice in the knowledge that he is now with the Savior he served so well."

Al served on the CARBC Council, hosted several CARBC Bible Conferences, and was the speaker for various CARBC events during his ministry in Redding. He impacted future CARBC pastors through his teaching ministry at Shasta Bible College and was an example of faithfulness to the Word for fellow pastors.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Pat; three sons, Andy, Joe, and Todd; and nine grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Grace Baptist Church in Redding on Oct. 21, 2019.

This article was originally published on garbc.org and is reprinted here by permission.



Ministry Perspectives:

Missions and Missionaries

By Roger McCarty

Every local church supports missionaries, or at least it should. Maybe the missionaries are local; maybe their ministry is global. In any case, they came to your church to present their burden. The church heard it and decided to support their ministry. I'd like to share what we have done here at First Baptist Church of Los Gatos to build stronger relationships with the missionaries we support.

I came to be the pastor at First Baptist in 1996. During my first few months, one of our missionaries who serves in Thailand came for a visit and asked me, "Would you like to come to Thailand to see our work?" So in 1997 I visited Thailand, the Philippines, and Hong Kong. This trip began a 22-year practice of visiting every FBC-supported missionary on his or her field.

To encourage your church to begin a similar practice, let me tell you some of the benefits First Baptist has found as a local church.

By traveling to the homes and the fields of our missionaries, we show a personal care and interest in them. Our missionaries have expressed how much it means to them when I get to come.

Accountability is an important part of these visits. I can actually see and participate in the missionaries' ministry. This creates a relationship deeper than a prayer letter can.

Some of the fields have become a regular part of my travels. This provides another level of trust with the people that the missionaries minister to and with. We can pray for people we know through these contacts.

Finally, I would say the benefit to the pastor and church is immeasurable. Each trip that I return from is a win-win. To be a small part in the ministry of the Word around the world opens my eyes to so many things that enhance my ministry at home.

I understand that not every church can send the pastor twice a year, like we do. Yet with proper planning, maybe the pastor could make a trip every other year. Identify a missionary and his or her field and begin to plan!





New Pastor in Reno: Andrew Poh

During the summer, Andrew Poh became the pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Reno, Nev. Andrew was born to recently converted parents and grew up in a church in Wisconsin, where his family was active. When it was time for college, he attended Northland Baptist Bible College, which was about 40 minutes from his home. When his mother needed cancer treatments, the family moved to Minden, Nev., which meant a hiatus from college for Andrew, but the beginning of a burden for Nevada. After five months, the family moved back to Wisconsin, where Andrew finished his studies at Northland and met his future wife, Jarre. She was the only student from Nevada at Northland and had grown up at Calvary Baptist Church in Reno.

After college, Andrew returned to Nevada in 2009 and worked as a pastoral intern. He and Jarre were married in December of that year. However, it was not long until he was a student again, this time at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Through a seminary chapel speaker who talked about ministering in valleys of dry bones (Ezekiel 37), Andrew realized that Nevada was the place of dry bones to which God was calling him.

After his graduation, a move back to Nevada allowed him to serve as an assistant pastor at a church in Reno. When that church disbanded, he continued to operate his own business and waited for God's direction. His road to pastoral ministry took him from initially training to teach music in a Christian school to thinking about being a minister of music to an assurance that God wanted him to be a pastor. The previous pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Fred Jordan, befriended Andrew along the way, and there was even talk of Andrew joining him on staff at Calvary Baptist. Although that did not happen, after Pastor Jordan's retirement, it was clear to Andrew and to the church that God was bringing them together.

Throughout this journey, Andrew learned the necessity of patiently waiting for God's leadership. Because of that patient and intentional journey, he is certain that he is exactly where God wants him to be as he leads Calvary Baptist Church, specifically in building relationships with the unsaved as their primary means of evangelism. We welcome him and Jarre and their four children to the CARBC family.



GARBC Conference Coming to Sacramento



"Perspective: Finding Contentment in an Age of Cynicism and Comparison" is the theme for the 2020 GARBC Conference. Its location in Sacramento is a great benefit to our churches here in the West. The dates are June 29—July 2. The conference will be held at the Hilton Arden West, 2200 Harvard St., Sacramento, CA 95815.

Set aside these dates now and plan to attend: the conference will be worth your time. As a church, adjust your budget to provide the funds for your pastoral leaders to attend: the conference will be worth your investment.

This conference can be a family affair. The conference includes programming and activities for children and teens as well as adults. It is also for the entire church family, with a program that will minister to all who attend. The conference is especially for us here in the West who need the fellowship of both our brothers and sisters on the West Coast and across the country.

The CARBC Messenger | Edition 4 of 2019 | Volume 69, 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: chippyhappy@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.



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CARBCmessenger

Serving churches in California,
Nevada, and Southern Oregon

Edition 4 of 2019

God's Providence on Sovereign Grace Baptist

Since the founding of Sovereign Grace Baptist Church (SGBC) in 2001, the congregation have recognized the hand of God on them. They saw it in His provision of their building. It had been home of the Old German Baptist Brethren, the church where their founding pastor, Bill Heinrich, had grown up. In 2008, SGBC moved into that building and began renovating it. Part of the financing was procured through the CARBC Church Planting Fund. Later the CARBC consolidated SGBC's loan with a second one and carried the church's entire loan.

In 2004, Johnnie Sloan began his ministry as assistant pastor under the mentorship of Pastor Heinrich. In the providence of God, the torch of pastoral ministry passed to Pastor Sloan in 2014. Pastor Heinrich and his wife, Ellen, continue to have a positive, supportive ministry in the church.

SGBC held a day of celebration on Aug. 18, 2019 (its 18th anniversary) to praise God for the retirement of the church mortgage. The people faithfully gave beyond the church's budget needs to pay off the loan early. The Church Planting Fund blessed not only SGBC but also the home missionaries and churches that were helped by the interest generated from the loan.

The Church Planting Fund also testifies to the providence of God. Pastor Heinrich notes that at approximately the same time SGBC leaders first looked at their property, the Aurora Drive Baptist Church in San Leandro closed and sold. A portion of the sale price was promised to the CARBC Church Planting Fund. "So just when SGBC needed a loan, the money became available," he says.

CARBC Representative Bruce McLain celebrated with the church and spoke to the congregation about "Walking with God in His Providence" from Ezra 7. He states, "Seeing how God brought together the ministry of the Church Planting Fund and the needs of Sovereign Grace Baptist Church makes me thankful for His providence in the life of the CARBC."

