

Church pianist donates kidney to save life of her pastor's wife

By Cary Monaco, editor

It's not everyday that you hear about a church pianist saving the life of her pastor's wife, but that's exactly what happened on January 29, at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. However, as dramatic as that is, it's only part of a story that in whole is an incredible testimony for God's glory.

Things looked grim indeed for 56 year-old Sandy Patterson, whose husband, Ron, pastors Harvest Baptist Church in San Angelo, Texas. After years of being kept alive through dialysis, her kidneys were at the point of no return. If she didn't receive a kidney transplant soon her life on this earth was done. Texas hospitals had turned her down as a potential transplant recipient due to her fragile health. As it has been with thousands of others, the renowned Mayo Clinic was her last chance, humanly speaking. The doctors there were at least willing to try. Of course, the Pattersons knew that it

was all in the Lord's hands.

Finding a suitable donor wasn't coming easy. Seven people, family and friends, had already been turned down as potential donors for various reasons. Doctors explained that if an acceptable donor wasn't found soon it would be too late to perform a transplant.

That's when God began impressing upon Belinda Peevy's heart to go forward with testing. The long-time church pianist didn't tell the Pattersons because she didn't want Sandy to suffer another bitter disappointment if she wasn't a suitable donor.

After Belinda passed the initial stages of the donor process Ron Patterson received a surprising call from a Mayo Clinic doctor who said, "Bring Belinda Peevy with you. She needs further testing."

"She didn't tell us about starting the donor process so that we wouldn't be disappointed," he recalled. "It was just awesome news."

"I couldn't believe it when I heard Belinda was going to Mayo with me," Sandy revealed. "I still can't believe that someone would give part of themselves like that."

A week after flying to Minnesota for blood and renal function tests, Peevy learned that she could donate one of her kidney's to save Sandy's life.

"I had no fear or apprehension whatsoever," the 49 year-old remembered. "The Lord gave me complete peace about it."

Her husband Robert was some-



JUST BEFORE SURGERY: Belinda Peevy (left), the church pianist at Harvest Baptist Church, San Angelo, Texas, donated one of her kidneys to the pastor's wife, Sandy Patterson.

what hesitant at first, but soon found comfort.

"I knew it was God's will as everything fell perfectly into place," he stated.

Among the things that fell into place was Belinda being able to miss five weeks of work with no loss of income. Since she had never used it, Belinda had 80 hours of sick leave stored up. In addition, she took two weeks of paid vacation during the recovery period. The final week's pay was mainly recovered through a special offering by the church. Her air travel was paid by a "transplant fund."

Donning matching surgical caps made by a friend, Sandy and Belinda went to surgery together Jan. 29. Doctors proclaimed the kidney transplant a success, but additional complications would imperil Sandy's life for the next several weeks. It got to the point where the Pattersons started having doubts about whether she would ever leave Mayo Clinic alive.

An infection in her leg which kept destroying tissue would require five additional surgeries. Another two

Pattersons humbled at outpouring of aid

Ulysses S. Grant said, "The friend of my adversity I shall always cherish most."

In the time of their deep adversity Ron and Sandy Patterson were amazed and humbled at the outpouring of assistance and prayer from such cherished friends, including many whom they didn't even know they had.

Thousands of dollars came in to provide funding to pay for their

Aid • See Back Page

Kidney • See Back Page

Locusts & Honey

By Cary Monaco



One of the most delightful things in life to me is to hear a preacher excitedly tell about the vision God has given him for ministry, especially a younger pastor or missionary.

Soon after we visited Calvary Baptist Church, Luther, Okla., Pastor Matt Dedmon had me marching around outside the building at his side as he vibrantly told of the vision God had given him for the church, its property, and facilities. There was an unmistakable gleam in his eyes as he spoke of the turnpike exit coming just down the road, where the future auditorium and its wings would be constructed, how a section of the property was being raised with fill to one day become a large parking lot, and it seemed a hundred other things. I smiled in both amusement and awe as the young pastor showed me where he had concrete footings already poured to eventually expand to "Phase Three;" this while "Phase Two" is still in the dream stages for the baby church.

Since joining I've deduced that probably every man in the church has gone on that same march with Pastor Dedmon at least once or twice. That's not to mention any missionary or other preacher who happens along. When you have a God-given vision you want to share it, not just because you're enthused about it, but due to the fact that you want others to gain it too, especially the church members. The more who see at least a piece of the preacher's vision, the more likely that it's actually going to eventually become reality.

As God called us to establish a publishing ministry to edify independent Baptists, He also gave me a vision. Right now the entire operation fits into a small office in our house which is supposed to be a bedroom. However, someday, as we remain faithful, I believe God will give us a large building to operate our own printing press. Now not very many even know about us, but I see the day

when hundreds of churches and thousands of individuals are counting on Baptist Creek Ministries to supply them with publications which are powerful tools in helping them to carry out the "Great Commission" and bring increased glory to God. The vision includes seeing the circulation of the *Baptist Edifier* grow from several hundred to many thousands. I could excitedly go on and on with more of the vision, but that can wait until another time.

Like a pastor, I realize that the greater number of people who allow God to give them at least a little piece of the vision He has given me, the more likely and the more quickly these things will become realities.

During 16 years as a pastor I learned that no one else was going to possess as much vision for the church as I did. I see that even more clearly now as I find myself in a different role. Yes, I share our pastor's vision for Calvary Baptist Church, but it's not as complete and consuming to me as it is for him. While that doesn't seem real "spiritual," it makes sense, at least to me. This doesn't mean that a church member can't have an enormous vision for his or her church, yet it's still probably going to be considerably less than the pastor's.

So, I don't expect anyone else to be as pumped about the ministry God has called me to as I am. However, if you care to pray about it, maybe the Lord will give you at least a small glimpse of what's possible, and you'll be led to get involved somehow. Maybe enough to pray for the ministry at least once a week, to purchase a subscription, or to send an offering to help us move forward with publications that are waiting in the wings until there are funds to print them. Our main monetary need by far is for printing costs. By the way, unless otherwise designated, none of the offerings nor subscription monies are used for personal support. Every penny of those funds are used for the ministry's operating costs (*printing, postage, supplies*).

We're barely into "Phase One," yet believe me, I've already got the "footings" poured for "Phase Three." To borrow from an old Gospel song, "I don't know how God's gonna do it, but I know He will."

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As promised last issue, my wife, Ronnie's, "Edifying Enchiladas" recipe. A perfect "Father's Day" meal. (Unbelievably good!)

"Edifying Enchiladas" (chicken & cream cheese)

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 12 corn tortillas | ½ tsp. salt |
| 1 Tbsp. onion powder | ¼ tsp. black pepper |
| 2 c. diced cooked chicken | ½ tsp. garlic powder |
| 8 oz. cream cheese, diced | 8 oz. cheddar cheese, shredded |
| 1 can enchilada sauce | Chopped black olives |

Combine chicken, cream cheese, onion powder and other seasonings in large bowl and toss gently. Soften tortillas by heating on hot griddle for 10-15 seconds on each side. Dip one at a time into enchilada sauce. Place about 3 tablespoons chicken mixture in middle of tortilla. Roll up and place seam side down in lightly greased baking pan. Pour remaining sauce over the finished enchiladas. Sprinkle cheddar cheese over all and garnish with black olives. Bake uncovered at 350° for 30 minutes. Makes 12 enchiladas.

The *Baptist Edifier* is published quarterly as a ministry of Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 81, Luther, Oklahoma 73054. (Pastor Matt Dedmon) All articles are written by the editor, Cary Monaco, unless otherwise by-lined. The editor can be contacted via e-mail at: baptistedifier@sbcglobal.net

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The tornado hit almost seven months to the day after Wilson Creek Baptist Church had held Dedication Services for the new building. So much time and labor had been devoted by Pastor Randall Moody and the Battlefield, Missouri church in constructing the \$640,000, 15,000 square-foot “dream facility.” The long and stressful building program process was a fading memory, everything was finally done, but in a moment of time it was all gone.

After crawling out of the basement from under the twisted tons of metal with the 45 folks who had tarried in fellowship that Sunday night, Moody tried to hide his own shock and dismay. He was the pastor, amidst the tears and fears of others, he had to be strong. At first the building wasn’t a priority anyway, everyone was more concerned about the safety of loved ones still potentially in the killer tornado’s murderous path. One of its victims was the woman who lived across the street from the church, struck by a tree as she tried to save her dog.

Within hours tiny Battlefield was on national and international news programs, and the scene most often displayed on the television screens of millions was the rubble that once made up the facilities of Wilson Creek Baptist Church. Still trying to come to grips with the devastation in his own heart, Moody found himself being hounded by the media. How-



Resurrection From Ruins

The killer tornado had destroyed the new building
Would it destroy their church as well?

ever, he knew that the potential to witness for Jesus Christ was enormous, and that was his focus with every interview.

The following Sunday network TV cameras were there as the church held services outdoors on the tornado-torn property. It looked like a war-zone, and, spiritually-speaking, it probably was. Yet, as one, the people of the church determined to survive the “weapon of mass destruction” which smote their new building, and to do so without a single casualty.

The church responded to her grave trial with faith and obedience. Despite meeting at a building located 10 miles away through a 16-month building program not a single member was lost. Best of all, by faithfully enduring such a grave trial the church experienced increased spiritual

growth and fruitfulness.

As far as the building goes, well, God provided twice the facility that the tornado blew apart. On Nov. 7, 2004, 16 months after the tornado, Wilson Creek Baptist Church dedicated a \$1.2 million, 32,500 square-foot facility to God. It includes an auditorium which can seat 500, 13 classrooms, four offices, two Nurseries, a full-size gymnasium, four missions apartments, and more amenities than most independent Baptist churches even dream about. And, if that wasn’t enough, they owe less on it than they did the former building (\$270,000).

“One of the many good things God did for us with that tornado was to take away the building we needed and replace it with the one that we desired,” Moody related.

“Two Tall Design” almost too good to be true

Churches and other independent Baptist ministries seeking to develop a website or improve the effectiveness of their current one would do well to check out “Two Tall Design.” The company, started and owned by Chris Jaquess, a faithful member of Wilson Creek Baptist Church, already has a growing reputation for website development and management which goes the extra mile for its customers and then some.

In addition to the *Baptist Edifier*, current clients include Bill Hathaway Ministries, New Testament Church Planting Inc., Missionary Steve Benedict, RBC Ministries, and Bible Baptist Church, Cassville, Mo. Two Tall Design also features several businesses as clients.

Brad Lowrie, pastor of Bible Baptist Church, reported that he switched to Two Tall Design because their former

website was too hard to find using search engines.

“We went from not even being on search engines to being in the top five results within two weeks,” Lowrie exclaimed.

Two Tall Design also helps equip its clients with “Google Analytics.” The free service shows the geographic locations from which “hits” to the websites come, how interested parties came to the site, and a host of additional data.

“I was amazed at what the Google Analytics service could do,” Lowrie commented. “We could see where hits were coming from all over the world.”

To contact Jaquess and Two Tall Design call (417) 595-4182 or e-mail chris@twotalldesign.com. The website is www.twotalldesign.com.

What ever happened to good manners in church services?



An Exhortation To Church Service Etiquette

Several years ago I attended a sports/activities awards banquet at a high school which featured the women's volleyball coach at a nearby university as guest speaker. Soon after he began his speaking presentation I became both disgusted and incensed. No, not about what he was saying, but because of the terrible lack of respect and common decency afforded him by many of those in the crowd of about 200 people.

As the gentleman tried to give his speech you could barely hear him over the conversations being conducted at the same time by both students and many adults. This in addition to people constantly coming and going, rattling snack wrappers, cutting up, and other rude and disrespectful behaviors. After about 10 minutes or so of it, much to the horror and embarrassment of my then teenage daughter sitting next to me, I told the people within our vicinity to be quiet and listen.

Such rude and disrespectful manners amongst those at speaking events, concerts, plays and other public occasions are commonplace today. Of course, this lack of respect demonstrated towards others through bad etiquette has reached into local churches to varying degrees. One of the most sad aspects of the past many decades is that *the world has changed the church more than the church has changed the world.*

People used to dress in their "Sunday Best" for church out of respect for God, but in a society where it's acceptable to wear shorts, sweats, t-shirts and tank tops most anywhere that's quickly falling by the wayside. Also, folks used to exhibit behavior in church services which demonstrated respect for the speakers, singers, congregation, facilities and, most of all, for the Lord. However, in many churches even if the truth is preached those who desire to hear it are too distracted by the rude and irreverent conduct of others to get much out of it.

In many churches today it's hard to get much out of the services through the people coming and going, conversations carried on, rattling wrappers, slurping drinks and smacking food. That's not to mention the rowdy kids who aren't made to sit up and shut up, the watch alarms, cell phone ring tones, and the invitation-killing sound of dozens of Bible covers being zipped up at the conclusion of sermons.

What's being allowed to go on in many churches is a travesty. Bad manners in church are a reproach to God,

His Word, preachers, and the churches themselves.

I. PROPER CHURCH ETIQUETTE GIVES GOD WHAT HE DESERVES

We're to respect and glorify God at all times, but most especially in His house. Leviticus 19:30 reads, "*Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord.*" Here the Bible directs to "reverence" God's sanctuary. Certainly the application can be made to church services which feature ministry and worship to the Lord as did the Hebrew Tabernacle and Temple.

Psalm 29:2 exhorts us to "*Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name*" and to "*worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*" When people are walking in and out of a church auditorium when it's time to worship God in song, prayer, teaching and preaching is that giving the Lord the glory due Him? When conversation is going on at such times is God given the glory due Him? When people choose to wear exercise clothes and such to church rather than their "Sunday Best" is the Lord given the glory due Him? When folks are still somewhere in the building drinking coffee and fellowshiping after services have already started is our Savior given the glory due Him?

Yes, the overwhelmingly popular trend in churches is to gratify people's carnality by making dress ultra-casual, ensuring that plenty of snacks and pastries are available, providing never-ending entertainment for all ages, allowing people to converse and move around as they please, and so on, but any honest reader of the Bible must surely conclude that this *new tradition* is contrary to the worship of God recorded and instructed in His Holy Word. More and more so the worship of the Lord in churches is being replaced by the traditions of man which revolve around worshipping self.

The "perfect" church of 21st Century America would include "mini" Starbucks and McDonalds in the foyer; the latest Nintendo machines in every Sunday School class; couches and recliners for everyone in the auditorium; vendor-ushers to bring hotdogs, peanuts and ice cold soft drinks throughout services; and a Christian rock group which sounds just like "Black Sabbath" or the "Grateful Dead," except with "spiritual" lyrics.

Such a church would sure to be wildly popular. Indeed, there are already thousands of them which have almost reached the standards of this "perfect church."

"Church Etiquette" • See Next Page

The world has changed the church more than the church has changed the world.

“Church Etiquette” ● From Page 4

However, contrary to popular opinion, the Bible doesn't teach that churches are to mesh and conform with society. (Romans 12:1,2; I Cor. 6:15-18)

Obviously the Bible directs that we're not to be conformed to the world, we're to be transformed from it. People should see a difference from the world when they come to church. They should see a people who are giving the Lord the glory due unto His name. They should see Spirit-filled saints who are honoring and reverencing God rather than a carnal-led congregation devoted to gratifying the flesh and glorifying self.

II. PROPER CHURCH ETIQUETTE GIVES EVERYONE ELSE WHAT THEY DESERVE

Truly, the worst thing about bad church etiquette is that it disrespects God; yet next to this is that it hinders those with spiritual needs. Those who contribute disruptions to church services should well repent and heed the words of Paul who wrote, “...but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.” (Romans 14:13b)

How terribly hurtful and sad when people with whom the Holy Spirit is dealing are distracted due to the bad church etiquette of others. There's the person who needs to be saved whose focus on the preaching is impaired by people continually conversing, and going in and out. There's the visitor looking for a church who can't wait to leave because of the continual horseplay of the kids allowed to go on. There's the church member who needs the message badly but misses so much through the crackling mint and cough drop wrappers, cell phone noises, beeping watches and other assorted disruptions. And, there's the person under conviction who believes it must be time to leave when the invitation is preempted by Bible covers being vigorously zipped shut. (*Why in the world don't people have the sense to wait until services are over before conducting their “ceremonial zipping?”*)

Can there be any doubt that bad church etiquette is frequently used by the devil's demons in their attempts to stifle the work of the Holy Spirit during services? How dare God's people allow themselves to be such willing accomplices of the devil!

Not only does improper church etiquette show disrespect to God, it demonstrates it towards everyone in the congregation.

How disrespectful it is when someone is praying and there are those who are talking, cutting up, crackling wrappers, putting on coats, and the like. How disrespectful it is when someone is singing a special and there's conversation and moving around. How disrespectful it is to the preacher when there are frequent distractions which rob him of having free course in preaching the Word.

Jesus said, “*Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*”

With that in mind, we need to conduct ourselves in church as we would desire if doing the praying, singing, teaching or preaching. Can you imagine how upset and frustrated that you'd be if you were in front of an audience trying to tell them something of great importance and there was all kinds of coming and going, conversation, horseplay, drinking, eating, beepers, wrappers and so on while you were trying to speak?!

Well, it's even worse in church services because the speaker is trying to tell people the most important message of all, how to be saved from an eternal hell.

III. PROPER CHURCH ETIQUETTE ACCOMPLISHES WONDERFUL THINGS

Wonderful things come forth through practicing proper church etiquette. The Lord will be revered and honored, receiving the glory due unto His name. The Word of God will have free course. The congregation will have the opportunity to experience the unhindered ministry of the Spirit. Visitors will be drawn to the church. The entire ministry of the church will become more effective for the cause of Christ.

What more motivation does one need in order to repent of bad manners in services and to begin practicing proper church etiquette?!

Twelve Steps Toward Proper Church Etiquette

1. Similar to the common sense move on longer car trips, *use the restroom just before services.*
2. In order to avoid walking into services late, *leave home earlier.*
3. *Don't be somewhere else in the building drinking coffee, fellowshiping, etc. when you should be in church services.*
4. *Write notes to yourself so that you can tell all of the enlightening things you have to say after church services rather than during them.*
5. *Don't bring food or drinks into church services.*
6. *Turn off watch alarms and cell phones during services.*
7. *Don't expect someone else to make kids whose parents aren't at church behave.* At least give it a try yourself.
8. *Consider how the way you dress relates to respect or disrespect for God.*
9. *Wait until services are dismissed before zipping up your Bible cover.*
10. *Don't walk out of services during the invitation.*
11. If you must have a certain cough drop or candy enclosed in a crackling wrapper, *unwrap as many as needed for church and put them in a noise-free container.*
12. *Never, ever, clip your fingernails during services!!!*

Idaho pastor still facing up to one year in jail

In following up our front page article from the last issue concerning the vehicular manslaughter charges against Pastor Asa Samples, our primary report is that the legal system is moving slowly. His pre-trial hearing, originally scheduled for March 22, is now set for June 15, after two delays due to evidence gathering and sharing.

Samples, who planted North Idaho Baptist Church, Ponderay, Idaho, in September 2005, was driving down State Highway 95 in nearby Sandpoint at dusk last Christmas Eve when 48 year-old Mark Carter jumped backwards into his lane and was struck by the vehicle. The Sandpoint man died of his injuries.

As reported in our March issue, eye witnesses to the tragedy were shocked to hear that Samples was charged with “vehicular manslaughter.” The man had jumped back into the lane as the driver in the right lane swerved to miss him. There were four lanes of hectic Christmas Eve traffic, and it was nearly dark.

Samples has been working a secular job up to 60 hours per week in addition to his pastor duties to help pay mounting legal expenses. His wife, Angie, revealed to the *Baptist Edifier* that “a lot” of the legal assistance monies promised from pastors and churches has yet to come in. Total legal costs, including the price of an outside accident recreation team, are estimated by his lawyer to be at least \$15,000 if the case goes to trial. As reported in the earlier article, local legal officials seem determined to press the case to trial. Samples faces up to a year in jail if found guilty of the charges.

Upon further investigation the *Baptist Edifier* discovered a tragic irony to the case. Carter’s teenage son, Travis, was killed in 1996 after being struck by a train while crossing railroad tracks near Sandpoint.

**Young People
(Parents Too!)**
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11/3 - Dear Journal,

I’m really happy that my dad was so proud of me when I was born, but for the ten thousandth time today I wished he wouldn’t have named me “Sam’sson.”

It’s not a lot of fun being the only person on earth with an apostrophe in his first name. I still can’t believe the hospital people let him do it. The apostrophe isn’t the worst thing though. If I hear one more person at church say something like “How did you tie all those foxes’ tails together?” or “Killed any Philistines lately?” I’ll freak. Seems like they’d be smart enough to realize that I’ve heard them all 100 times by now! Other kids are the worst though. I’m in seventh grade and I still have to hear stupid little girls sing, “Samson and Delilah sitting in a tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G...” Worst of all, bullies are attracted to me like flies to fresh cow pies. “*Heh, heh, heh, I’m stronger than Samson!*” Thank God that I’m home schooled! Speaking of which, that has everything to do with why I’ve started this journal. (*More tomorrow, dad just yelled, “Lights out or else!” and the “or else” is never good!*)

11/4 – Dear Journal,

I didn’t think it was possible for this day to be worse than yesterday, but, oh well! First, I’ll get caught up on what happened yesterday.

You see, journal, (*Now that’s a little weird!*) Anyway, or “anyhoo” as that crazy lady at church says, I like to play basketball. No, I loooovveee to play basketball. I’ve always got my basketball with me. It’s on my lap right now. My favorite player of all time is “Pistol Pete” Maravich. He got saved after he retired from the NBA. The “Pistol” is still the highest scorer in college history. When he was a kid he took a basketball everywhere with him. I want to be like him, only I got saved as a kid, which is better.

Well, almost every day I get together with other guys and play some b-ball, but I’ve always wanted to play on a team. (*The Pistol started varsity high school in 8th grade!*) I know I’m good enough because I’ve beat a couple of the starters on last year’s team in one-on-one at the playground courts. They both said I would be a star in their league. The thing is, going to public school isn’t an option at our house. I don’t really have a problem with that, but it’s so hard not be able to play for the team. I hate to admit it, but I’ve cried about it. I’ve also been a jerk to my mom sometimes, and a couple of times even to my dad because of it.

So you can imagine my surprise when dad asked me last week if I wanted to try out for the 7th grade basketball team at Gentry Middle School. It was so unbelievable that I said, “Dad, that’s not a very funny joke!” But you know what?! He wasn’t joking. How could it be possible? (*Sorry journal, “lights out time” again, I promise to write down the whole story tomorrow night!*)

Editor’s Note: As we’re striving to be an encouragement to all ages, we have launched the “Sam’sson’s Journal” series. Although we won’t have room to put it in every issue, additional installments will be included on our website.

SAM’SSON’S JOURNAL

BY
CARY MONACO



Why Pastors Deserve Honor From Church Members

— A Must-Read Article For Those Who Love Their Church —

Part One

“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.” (I Tim. 5:17,18)

The careful student of the Bible understands that when “elder” or “elders” is used in the New Testament that it’s typically speaking of pastors. The text leaves no doubt that this is the case in the verses above (i.e. – “rule well,” “labour in the word and doctrine”).

Under the inspiration of God, Paul wrote that faithful pastors are “worthy of double honor” (vs. 17). Most involved with independent Baptist churches are highly supportive of their pastors and gladly submit to his God-given leadership role. However, anyone is susceptible to developing a wrong attitude towards his or her pastor. There are few things more harmful and dangerous to the local church than a wrong heart about the pastor because unless corrected it will eventually bring some degree of discord and division.

What follows isn’t an exhaustive coverage of “Why Pastors Deserve Honor From Their Church Members;” however, it should be more than enough to convince any humble believer of his or her need to do so.

Pastors deserve honor for their “work’s sake”

I Thessalonians 5:12,13 says, *“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.”*

Here we see that honoring a pastor isn’t so much about “who he is” as a person, but “what he does” alluding to his God-ordained office. The carnal mainly esteem pastors for humanistic things such as doing and saying what pleases and gratifies them. In verse 13 we see that the spiritual esteem pastors “very highly in love for their work’s sake.”

What comprises the works of the pastor?

Well, as the elder (ruler), bishop (overseer) and under-shepherd (leader) the pastor’s works involve the **mission** and **welfare** of the local church. He’s to lead the church to follow God and His Word in carrying out the most paramount mission which exists, propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As part of this his works also entail following the Lord’s leadership in the care of the church which includes trying to help all members to grow in Christ, doing whatever’s required to ensure that sound

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doctrine and practice are maintained, leading in bringing forth God-honoring services, overseeing business matters, and a whole myriad of other duties.

So, since the works of the pastor involve the mission and welfare of the local church, the members need to do everything the Bible and Holy Spirit direct in order to help him, including giving him a high degree of esteem and honor.

Esteeming and honoring the pastor have to do with actively demonstrating great respect for his under-shepherd role, which inherently includes willingly submitting to his God-given leadership.

The word “rule” seen in I Timothy 5:17 means just what it says, “rule.” It speaks of “presiding over” and “having the care of.” Obviously, it’s indicating that the pastor has the undisputed leadership role. The thing is, when a person or persons don’t highly esteem the pastor — when people don’t provide him with the proper respect through attitudes and actions — it hinders his work, which “is unprofitable” to the church and the entire cause of Christ. Pay careful attention to what it says in Hebrews 13:17, *“Obey them that*

have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

Remember, the pastor’s work is the mission and welfare of the church, so when a member doesn’t respect him and his office, but instead resists and rebels against his God-appointed and anointed leadership, the work of that entire local body of Christ is hindered. And guess what can happen when such disrespect of pastors grows within churches?

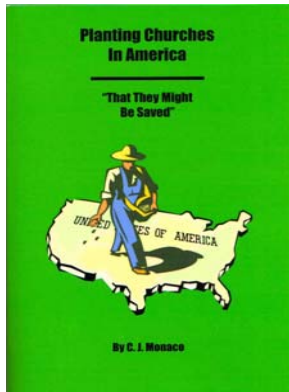
Those churches may be destroyed, at least as true New Testament Churches.

Who was the first in history to refuse to esteem and honor the One in spiritual leadership over him? *It was Lucifer, the devil.* So who is the church member emulating when he or she has a wrong attitude toward the pastor? *Yeah, that’s right!*

Folks, what is the devil always trying to do to churches? *He and his forces are continually seeking to hinder and destroy.* The serpent will be very happy to use you to try to run off God’s man and tear apart the Lord’s church. Only a lost person could enjoy being used in such a way. *Christian, don’t ever allow yourself to become a pawn of the devil against Christ’s church!*

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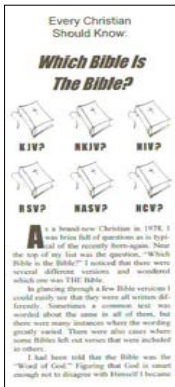
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Kidney • From Front Page

surgeries were needed to treat infection at her incision. At one point the limb infection was so bad doctors declared that the leg would need to be amputated. Remarkably, the leg healed, leaving stunned medical professionals with no explanations.

Sandy had an explanation though, and she wasn't shy about sharing it with all the doctors and nurses treating her.

"I was able to tell I don't know how many doctors about how God had healed me," she said.

Following two long, often torturous months at Mayo, Sandy did leave alive. In many ways more alive than ever before.

"I've become much closer to the

Lord through all of this," she testified. "Before each surgery I would wonder if I was going to wake up in heaven or on earth. When you go through something like this you know how close the Lord is to you, and that He really, really is with you."

The pastor's wife has also grown much closer to the church piano player.

"Belinda is an unbelievably loving and compassionate person," Sandy said. "God has put a tremendous bond between us. I always wanted a sister. She is my sister."

During a time of testimony after Sandy returned to church, the Patterson's presented Belinda with a gold necklace containing the inscription, "Thank you for the gift of life."

Aid • From Front Page

living expenses and associated costs while Sandy was a patient for two months at the Mayo Clinic. The donations came unexpectedly and from everywhere. Funds came from friends and relatives they had not seen in years, in some cases, decades; from their church family and other churches, including a major contribution from Southwest Baptist Church, Oklahoma City.

In addition, Pastor Sam Davison, Southwest Baptist Church, and Jeff Copes, vice president of Heartland Baptist Bible College, Oklahoma City, played key roles in making sure that Pastor Patterson's pulpit at Har-

vest Baptist Church, San Angelo, Texas, was covered during his two-month absence.

"I called Brother Sam and he said, 'whatever you need just call and let us know' which meant so much," Patterson said. "Heartland BBC bent over backwards to help us."

Patterson revealed that people were saved and the church grew during his absence.

"One thing that has happened through all this is that it really united and strengthened our church," Patterson related. "There was not one church problem while we were gone, not one. We had our Missions Conference right after we returned and missions is up quite a bit more."

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