

Church sees devastating flood as open door for ministry

By Cary Monaco, editor

What would your church be doing a few days after losing her facilities to a devastating flood combined with a massive oil spill?

For Bible Baptist Church of Coffeyville, Kan., the answer to that question was to go around town with big smiles on their faces passing out thousands of chocolate

chip cookies along with Gospel tracts.

“Our people are not discouraged, but encouraged about what has happened,” revealed Pastor Daniel Knight. “We believe God is going to use this to springboard our church forward.”

Following days of unprecedented torrential rainfall, the Vertigris River overflowed the levy in Coffeyville late Saturday night on June 30. The river crested at 30.4 feet on Sunday completely overwhelming the 26.5 foot-high levy and destroying one-quarter of the blue-collar town of 11,000 souls located just over the Oklahoma border about 70 miles north of Tulsa.

Making matters even worse was the overflow of a 42,000 gallon oil storage tank at the nearby refinery



DISASTER: This photo of the main building was taken after the waters had abated over a foot (notice water line at top of windows).

caused by the flood which created an environmental disaster on top of the natural one. Homes and buildings which might have been salvaged from the flood waters alone were now complete losses as future environmental clean-up sites. While PETA mourned the hundreds of pets and other animals covered in oil slime, the populace bemoaned the fact that multiplied millions of dollars in costs would be added to recovery efforts due to the spill.

Before it was all said and done water reached within two feet of the side roof eaves of the church's main building, and the mission's house where Knight and his family lived floated off its foundation. The house would have disappeared down the river if not for being caught by the Sunday School building next door.

Yet, perhaps the most heart-breaking loss was the church parsonage where the former pastor's wife, Pam Wood, lived. Her husband, Ron, died in October, and now just nine months later the disaster destroyed her residence and many of her earthly belongings. She's now living with her daughter and son-in-law, who is the church song leader.

Remarkably, considering the huge run on rentals in dry areas as well as price-gouging immediately following the flood, Knight was able to rent a reasonably-priced duplex unit for his family with a hand shake. He didn't sign a lease until three weeks later.

In addition to Mrs. Wood and the Knights, two other church families lost homes to the flood.

Although the church was under water, Knight believed it important to hold services the Sunday of the flood. Services were held under the pavilion of a golf course at noon. Despite some being flooded out and others being blocked off from their homes, there was good attendance.

Faced with an immediate need for a church meeting place, Knight started scouring the town for one on Monday morning. Frustrated with lack of availability and outrageous costs at first, God soon worked what

Flood ● See Back Page

To Help
Bible Baptist Church
Contact
Pastor Daniel Knight
P.O. Box 543
Coffeyville, KS 67337
Phone
(620) 251-7724

Special Theme Issue: “Not Forgotten”

As with many of you, I'm sure, God has given me a heart for faithful older preachers. These senior saints in their seventies and beyond are a living spiritual heritage, and a bountiful source of wisdom which often goes untapped. Sadly, many of them become greatly forgotten as they advance in years, even by those whom they helped the most.

I couldn't write about or mention very many of them in one issue, but hopefully the small sampling here will inspire others to let such preachers in their lives know that they're not forgotten. — Cary Monaco

Locusts & Honey

By Cary Monaco



Sometimes a pastor may feel like a living piñata as individuals wearing carnal blindfolds tied together by selfishness and rebellion swing at him savagely, often landing heart-breaking blows. Yet, faithful pastors and missionaries are also blessed to be filled with the sweetest of spiritual saviors by God's wonderful grace.

The chief of these sweet saviors is a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ than most believers will ever come close to realizing this side of heaven. However, next to that must be the sublime joy of being utilized by the Almighty to intensely impact the lives and very eternities of others.

I'm enormously thankful that God has used me to play an integral role in the salvation and spiritual growth of others. However, in going with the theme of this issue, I'm also very grateful for the pastors and other saints who have played key roles in my spiritual life since I was saved in October 1978.

They begin with Robert Waggoner. Bob was my immediate supervisor in the Air Force when he got saved. Like all Christians are supposed to do, but most don't, he started witnessing to me on a fairly consistent basis. I didn't respond real well, even threatening to go over his head to complain. The bugger still didn't stop, and I'm so glad that he didn't. God was convicting me sorely.

Then one evening unannounced he brought his pastor to my house and within a few minutes I was down on my knees asking Jesus to forgive me for

"We were either going to get all the way into church or all the way out."

my sins and to become my Savior. That pastor was Eddis Edwards who went home to heaven quite a few years ago now. He was my first pastor and I let him and the Lord down as within a few months I was out of church and into the world. We didn't see each other again until many years later when I was a Bible College student. Fighting back tears as I sheepishly approached him, still ashamed for deserting the Lord

so many years earlier as a 20 year-old kid, I was relieved when he gave me warmth and affection rather than the cold shoulder which I feared.

Within a couple months of getting married at age 21 after being stationed in San Antonio, both myself and my wife determined to get back into church. We got involved in a Southern Baptist Church, quit alcohol and tobacco, and started taking baby steps forward spiritually. It was a watered-down church, but we probably would have choked on strong doctrine and practice then. Anyway, it wasn't too long before the Air Force gave us orders to Mountain Home, Idaho.

I had only heard about "hell-fire and brimstone preaching" until my first service at Bible Baptist Church on the forlorn tundra of southern Idaho. I didn't much like it at the time either; however, it was the only church in town where the people actually acted happy about us being there so we stuck. Ken Jones was the pastor. I remember angrily telling my wife after church one Sunday morning, "I'll go down to the altar the day I see that preacher do it!" Don't you know that during evening services Pastor Jones came down to the altar and prayed at the invitation?! In the several months we had attended that was the first time he had done so. My did the Holy Spirit sear my heart that day! Yes folks, God is real!

Although I was supposed to be at Mountain Home for four years, the Lord was getting my writing noticed as the editor of the base newspaper. I was chosen for a position that landed us back in San Antonio, only this time on the north side of town at Randolph Air Force Base. As we headed to Texas I told

MY PASTORS

Eddis Edwards (1978-79)

I was probably his quickest convert, getting saved about 15 minutes after he walked through my front door. (After I had been witnessed to for months by my Air Force supervisor.) As far as I was concerned in those days, Brother Edwards was a modern version of Moses himself.

Ken Jones (1980-82)

The hardest-preaching pastor I've ever sat under. He was at least six inches shorter than me, but I was scared to death of the man. The Lord used him to motivate me to make the decision to dedicate my life to God.

Gary Coble (1983-84)

The most incredible "people person" I've ever known, with an unforgettable sense of humor. His confidence in me inspired the belief that God could even use the "chief of sinners," Cary Monaco. Surrendered to preach under his ministry. I would have stepped in front of a bullet for him.

Randall Moody (1985-1990)

Being an eldest sibling, I never had an older brother; however, Brother Moody is the closest thing to one for me. He has been the most encouraging preacher in my life by far although I've been blessed with more than a few.

Matt Dedmon (2006-present)

Although much younger than me, we share an intense passion for home missions church planting that has helped to bond us closely in a hurry. Being a part of the new work in Luther has been a valuable experience.

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 contact information for the *Baptist Edifier* and Baptist Creek Ministries is: P.O. Box 531, Chandler, Oklahoma 74834; phone, (405) 240-5747; e-mail, baptistedifier@sbcglobal.net

Locusts ● See Page 3

Don't Let Our Ancient Ones Become Forgotten Ones

Many of them opted out of Social Security because they needed every cent possible to put food on the table. Besides, they figured their retirement would be the Rapture.

The people and churches during the first 30 to 40 years of their ministries were quite different from those of today. Most families didn't have much money back then. Generally-speaking, those folks were considerably more humble, unselfish, faithful and holy than the generations that followed.

My how they miss those days. Still young buck preachers full of fire and vinegar; they had the fearless faces of lions and the piercing eyes of eagles. Sometimes it felt as if their preaching was a torch of fire and the people's hearts were as dry grass to be set ablaze for the glory of Jesus Christ.

No, it's not the same now. Many feel used up and forgotten, cast aside as tattered and torn rags. For decades they preached more than 200 times each year, now the chances to preach are few and far between. They've heard whispers that they preach too long, tell too many stories, and cry too easily.

Treasure chests filled to the brim with priceless jewels of wisdom are all amongst us, yet we rarely take time to open the top and look inside. Senior citizen preachers, hoary-headed repositories of unsurpassed knowledge and assistance, would love for you to visit or give them a call. You might even schedule them to preach, if they're still able. Your people will be the better for it. Those who have aided and edified so many, deserve our help and encouragement today.

Locusts ● From Page 2

my wife that I was tired of being under conviction and that "we were either going to get all the way into church or all the way out." Those sound like dangerous words, but the Lord had my heart leaning very strongly towards the "all the way in" side of the equation.

The Holy Spirit told me to join Tabernacle Baptist Church of Universal City as Pastor Gary Coble was teaching Sunday School Class. I could tell that he was somewhat taken aback when we as first-time visitors came forward to join the church after the invitation started. Neither he nor anyone else in the church had even met us and here we were coming forward to join! None of us could have imagined then that in 18 months I would be his associate pastor.

Like all of us Brother Coble had his weaknesses and negatives, yet he was so personable, lovable and downright funny that even his enemies couldn't help liking him. That week when he came to visit I told him about my "getting all the way in or out" decision and he gave me the keys to the church so I could come in and work.

Seeing the man of God so quickly place such trust in me changed my life. In a whirlwind I was a bus captain, Sunday School teacher, youth director, working in Awana's, and more. Then God called me to preach and instilled my heart with a desire to pastor in my home state of Montana. With a few months left in the Air Force, Brother Coble asked me to be his associate. My plan was to skip Bible College by learning as a right-hand man and then head to Montana. Well, I was on the fast-track, but God wasn't. Bible College would end up being on the agenda.

Gary Coble is with the Lord too. I wouldn't be surprised if the "Sherriff" is one of the most popular guys to be around in heaven. His pastor, Howard Ingram, probably loves to tell the other saints how many times he fired Coble when he was on his staff in Abilene.

Another of many preachers in the "Ingram Lineage" is Randall Moody, who was also part of the Abilene church. Still in Bible College, Brother Moody preached

for Pastor Coble during the service when I surrendered to preach. Just before we left for Baptist Bible College I learned that he was serving as pastor of a small church not too far from Springfield. The Lord was speaking to my heart about joining there several weeks before we hit town.

Being a brand new pastor just out of Bible College I know that it wasn't always easy for Brother Moody to have me around during those early times of his ministry; however, we eventually became comfortable friends and trusting confidants. You'll not find a more faithful pastor. He has always been there for me and my family in remarkable ways. He's truly a bigger-than-life character in both size and achievement. Actually, I could write a book about him, and maybe someday I will.

When planning this piece I didn't figure for it to be this long and include so much personal information, yet how could I produce an issue honoring faithful men of God and not include my own pastors?

In addition to them the Lord has used others to make a huge difference in my life. They include James Combs, who is the only real genius I've ever known. During my four years as his assistant editor at the *Baptist Bible Tribune* I received an unofficial masters' degree simply through conversing and working with him.

Others include F.C. Lasater who was with the Missions Office during my *Tribune* years, and the legendary friend of church planters, Dennis Brown. Although Brother Brown was a mentor to scores of other men, he always made one feel like you were special to him.

The Apostle Paul wrote concerning the Corinthian Christians, "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men." (II Cor. 3:2)

While quite imperfect just as were those Christians, I'm the very living epistle of the men whose names I've included in this essay. And, perhaps the best way to honor them and others like them in each of our lives is to submit ourselves to the Lord and minister for God in such ways that He will give us more and more living epistles as part of our spiritual fruits.

Clifford Clark a genuine pioneer among Baptists

Identifying a preacher as a “pioneer” is done rather loosely in some circles. However, the facts leave no doubt that 83 year-old Clifford Clark is a genuine pioneer of the independent Baptist movement in the 20th century. While he followed several years behind elder pioneers such as J. Frank Norris, Lee Roberson, Harvey Springer, G.B. Vick and Art Wilson, it didn’t take him long to make his mark for Christ.

Raised as a Methodist when a young child, Clark’s parents moved the family to Denver in 1937 after losing their Kansas farm to the infamous “Dust Bowl.” He was saved as a 16 year-old in 1940 under the ministry of the late “Cowboy Evangelist,” Harvey Springer, who was pastor of First Baptist Church, Englewood, Colo. It was there that Clark started a “Young People’s Gospel Team” that ministered in churches, rescue missions, and other venues. He testifies that it was during this time that God began to deal with his heart about the ministry.

Clark joined the Army Air Force in 1943, serving during World War II. During his three-year stint in the service he preached over 200 times and established “Air Force Gospel Teams” which ministered at military installations and local churches. Soon after finishing his enlistment, he became youth director and song leader

at Wichita (Kan.) Baptist Tabernacle under the venerable Art Wilson. It’s there that he met his future wife, Geneva, who recently joined him in repeating their wedding vows on the occasion of their 60th anniversary.

His desire to preach became so intense that he left Wichita for Dodge City, Kan., enrolling in junior college and starting a radio program. The young preacher proclaimed the Gospel in schools, churches and using an “open-air tabernacle” that he constructed. Tabernacle meetings were held in several towns, including Garden City, where that ministry played a key role in the birth of the first independent, fundamental Baptist church in western Kansas. In his nearly three years as pastor, the church grew to average over 200 in attendance, and gave birth to four additional churches.

In May 1950, Clark accepted the pastorate of Tulsa (Okla.) Baptist Temple, where he would serve behind the pulpit for 35 years. Under his leadership Baptist Temple became one of the leading independent Baptist churches in America, with crowds

exceeding 2,000 on several occasions. Incredibly, 177 of his church members surrendered to the ministry through the decades.

Always the pioneer, launching various ministries, Clark is credited with conducting the first Faith Missions Conference amongst independent Baptists in 1956. Seeing the enormous blessings of God in raising missions money through the conferences, more and more independent Baptist churches started conducting them. Today, thousands of independent Baptist churches utilize the Bible-based and God-blessed Faith Promise Conferences to bring forth millions of dollars for missionary ministries each year.

Armed with an overwhelming heart for both foreign and home missions, Clark would resign as pastor in 1985 to dedicate himself to the Great Commission as an evangelist. Until a stroke slowed him down a bit in recent times (he has fully recovered), Clark preached at least 35 Faith Promise Missions Conferences annually for more than 20 years. He has well-earned his title of “Minister of World Missions,” preaching in over 40 countries and in 49 states. As far as home missions, Tulsa Baptist Temple birthed 14 churches in eastern Oklahoma while he was pastor. Clark has also been a frequent speaker at regional home missions conferences.

Always determined to gain knowledge, Clark earned both Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Religion from Tulsa University, as well as completing all required courses for a Doctorate of Ministry from Conservative Baptist Seminary, Denver. His education has helped him to write several books relating to missions.

“My advice to young preachers is to be daring in your faith and ministry,” Clark encouraged.

What else would you expect a true pioneer to say?



Speaking of pioneering...



The editor and his wife, Ronnie, are planting a church in Chandler, Okla. this October. The birthing church is Calvary Baptist Church, Luther, Okla., Matt Dedmon, pastor.

We appreciate your prayers for God to provide the baby church’s needs. We’ll continue to faithfully publish the *Baptist Edifier*, while pressing on with other writing endeavors as God allows.

— Cary Monaco



Representing the Unsung Heroes

Oran Cobb faithfully manned his assigned battle stations with little notice or fanfare

Just as there are various types of doctors, plumbers and salesmen, there are pastors of all kinds. Typically, however, independent Baptist pastors are among the most self-sacrificing people on the planet. The testimonies of those who know Oran Cobb paint a portrait of a humble and unselfish pastor who put the needs of the flock well above his own.

For instance, have you ever heard of someone turning down a pay raise? Well, according to former church members, Cobb did just that on more than one occasion, believing God would have the money used for ministry needs. Many would consider it unwise to turn down a pay raise; however, isn't putting the needs of God's flock above one's personal welfare the thesis of Christ? (John 10:11-15)

That's not to say that pastors shouldn't be paid well or always turn down pay raises (I Tim. 5:17,18), yet how refreshingly Christ-like to graciously refuse a salary hike if the Holy Spirit so leads. It's quite a contrast to this era where many need to know the exact terms of the pay and benefits package before deciding if it's God's will for them to seek and/or accept a church staff position or pastorate.

Cobb served as faithful pastor of South Campbell Avenue Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo., for 26 years, retiring in 2004. He held his first pastorate while still in Bible College, serving at Calvary Baptist Church, Nixa, Mo., from 1960-62. In addition, Cobb led another Springfield area congregation, Bible Baptist Church, Republic,

for 11 years, and got a taste of life in the Northwest as pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Olympia, Wash., before returning to the Ozarks.

During his nearly 40 years as a pastor in the Springfield area, Cobb was privileged to help the scores of Baptist Bible College students who attended his churches prepare for the ministry. He counts this as one of the paramount delights of his pastoral service.

Cobb wasn't raised in a Christian home; however, when visiting his born-again grandmother in Gainesville, Texas she took him to Grand Avenue Baptist Church where he was saved and baptized at age 12 in 1942. It wasn't until he was 27 years old that God called him to preach while attending Bible Baptist Church, Del Paso Heights, Calif.

Still going strong despite continuing heart problems, Cobb's ministry is currently focused on raising funds for printing and distributing Bibles and tracts, presenting the need to churches where invited. He also loves to keep busy with pulpit supply preaching.

The 76 year-old expresses immense appreciation to his wife, Joyce, and the family for faithfully sharing the burden of ministry with him over the decades.

"I'm particularly thankful for a wife who faithfully served the Lord beside me and has been a great prayer warrior," Cobb said.

No doubt Oran Cobb exemplifies the thousands of unsung independent Baptist pastors who quietly dedicate their lives to the mission at hand, faithfully putting the needs of God's flock above their own.

There are relatively few preachers who become well-known and revered by Baptists across the nation and around the world. However, to one day hear from our Lord Jesus Christ, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," is of far greater value than to hear praise from the lips of the entire world.

Thank God that no believer is anonymous to Christ.

Thank God that no believer is anonymous to Jesus Christ.

NOT FORGOTTEN

In gratitude and respect I've listed the following preachers in recognition of their significantly enhancing my life and ministry during their advanced years (70 and older). — Gary Monaco

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Clyde Barnes | James Combs | June Patton |
| Carl Boonstra | W.E. Dowell | Bob Perryman |
| Bill Brewer | A.V. Henderson | Bernie Rodgers |
| Dennis Brown | Granville LaForge | Leo Thompson |
| Alfred Busby | F.C. Lasater | Bill Wambsganss |
| Clifford Clark | James Norwood | Homer Williams |

Are You A Real Old Person?

...with apologies to Jeff Foxworthy

If it takes you 3 1/2 minutes to get up off of your knees and stand up after you pray, then you're probably a real old person.

If you have high-tech equipment operating inside your body that is worth more than your house, then you're probably a real old person.

If you think you're having a stroke because of slurred speech and then realize that you just don't have your teeth in, then you're probably a real old person.

And, if you complained about the small type before you began reading these jokes, then you're probably a grumpy real old person.

Why Pastors Deserve Honor From Church Members Part Two



A church cannot possibly be of one accord, of one heart, and of one soul for the Lord unless every member has the proper attitudes and actions of respect for the pastor. (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32,33)

We can become so consumed with self that we refuse to see the biggest and most important picture. The mission and welfare of God's church are much more vital than anyone's personal whims, fancies and feelings! Every Christian must fight self. We must always love the Lord and His church enough to get "me" and "I" out of the way so that we can see and focus on the biggest and most important picture – the mission and welfare of the Church of Jesus Christ!

Pastors deserve honor for the Lord's sake

You know, when one gets right down to it, to refuse the proper respect for a God-called pastor is to disrespect the Lord Almighty Himself. First, it disrespects God's plan and organization. The Lord's plan has always involved using under-shepherds in the position of spiritual leadership (i.e. – Moses, Joshua, the Judges, prophets, priests, several Hebrew kings).

To the God Who is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34), all believers are equal in person, but we're ordained to different roles. As much as some folks might desire the leadership role in the church, it's clearly and undeniably bestowed upon the pastor by the Lord Himself. Filled with pride many believe that they can improve on God's plan which gives rise to board-run churches, committee-run churches, domineering man or woman run churches, family-run churches and devil-run churches.

I Corinthians 14:33 tells us "*For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*" In verse 40 we read, "*Let all things be done decently and in order.*"

When there's rebellion against a faithful pastor's leadership, when there is slander being brought forth about him within the church, when a certain member or members are dedicated to getting their way, it certainly doesn't bring peace. Rather, it brings chaos. We know that God isn't the author of chaos, so who is?

Secondly, refusing proper respect to a God-called pastor disrespects the Lord by disregarding His Word. How can someone who truly fears God read Proverbs 6:16-19 and still possess a wrong attitude towards his or her pastor? There we read these words, "*These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A*

proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

Not honoring pastors brings discord to churches; and God hates sowers of discord.

Pastors deserve honor for the church's sake

If the church member believes that the pastor has offended him or her in some way, or done some grievous wrong, the Bible explains what to do. (Matt. 18:15-17) Jesus taught that we're to "go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone." Why is it then that folks usually go to everyone except the pastor to tell about his alleged fault(s)?

We should strive to be 100 percent behind the pastor. If someone comes with complaints about him, you should immediately tell them that you don't want to hear it, and to take the matter to the pastor alone, not to anyone else.

If fact, for the welfare of the Lord's church, those who even smell the slightest stink of discord from anyone should be quick to report it to the pastor so that he can deal with the situation. Certainly the welfare of the church should be of much higher priority than any human relationship.

The Scriptures describe the devil as a "roaring lion." Have you ever seen how elephants protect the herd from lions? The most mature males and females will band together, standing shoulder-to-shoulder to form a near half-circle wall. Inside the wall will be their immature and babies. Guess what happens? *The lions back away!*

Church members need to take a lesson from the elephants and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the pastor against those whom the "roaring lion" would use to attack. Have you noticed that it's almost always the immature and baby Christians who are the first to be devoured? How utterly heart-breaking and angering! How dare any church allow it to happen!

Conclusion

Honoring or not honoring a pastor really comes down to a person's heart. Those who are humble and seek to be servants will have little trouble submitting to a Godly pastor's leadership. Those who are prideful and seek to have their own ways will not properly submit to a pastor's leadership until they get their hearts right with God.

Indeed, we should love the Lord and our pastor so much that we love him as Jonathan loved David. Do you know what I mean? By the way things operated, Jonathan was supposed to be the next king of Israel after his father Saul would die. However, even knowing that David would get that honor instead of himself, Jonathan stood behind the one who God had called to that position. (I

Pastors ● See Page 7

September 2007

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 19:14)

Few, if any, independent Baptist preachers have taken the instructions of Christ concerning evangelizing children more to heart than Bill Wambsganss. Since he began conducting Vacation Bible Schools and preaching at youth camps over 40 years ago many thousands of children have been saved through his ministries. More than ever, at age 72, Wambsganss and his wife, Sharon, travel throughout the western U.S. and beyond reaching countless children for Christ.

However, children are not the only ones to be blessed by this true saint of saints as he keeps just as busy preaching revivals, Missions Conferences and retreats, as well as providing trustworthy pulpit supply.

Because he has been based in Washington state for the past 25 years, most know Bill Wambsganss as a Northwest preacher. Yet, the truth is, the beloved "Brother Bill," has deep roots embedded in that dusty flat land known as Kansas.

Saved when he was just five years old, Wambsganss trumpeted his first sermon at age 12 when the Lord called him to preach. In a wonderfully unique happening, he and his father were ordained together at Bible Baptist Church, Fredonia, Kansas. He was 16 (almost 17) and his daddy, George, was 39. His father was a faithful preacher for 30

"God's Pet"

Bill Wambsganss has been so blessed of the Lord that he feels like "God's Pet"



years until his "home" going in 1982. As the Lord would have it, the son who was ordained with his daddy followed him as pastor of West Side Baptist Church in Bremerton, Wash.

Before God called Wambsganss to take his father's place on the battlefield in Washington, he had enjoyed an abundantly fruitful 22-year pastorate at Bible Baptist Church, Dodge City, Kan. The Lord remarkably enabled the church to broadcast a 30-minute television program every Sunday morning for two decades which reached into many homes throughout the area. He and his first wife, Norma, who died of cancer in 1994, raised their six children in Dodge City and saw God build a bright lighthouse of the Gospel there.

Bill Wambsganss never attended Bible College, but no doubt he received superior training on-the-job. Only 17, he helped Pastor Harold Elder plant Baptist Temple in Iola, Kan., serving as associate pastor and song leader. Things really flew into high gear in 1954 when he traveled for a year with the legendary Evan-

gelist Art Wilson as song leader and a lot more. Amused by Wambsganss unusual last name, Wilson called him "Brother Wamby" from then on. Many crusades were held by Wilson that year, two of which resulted in churches being planted, Calvary Baptist Church, Junction City, Kan., and Broadway Baptist Church, Boise, Idaho. Wilson created quite an uproar in Boise and was nearly arrested after running large ads in the local paper announcing that a baby would be given away as a prize at the crusade.

Following the year with Wilson, Wambsganss became pastor of Bible Baptist Church, Eureka, Kan., at barely 20 years old. Two-years later he accepted the pastorate at Prescott (Kan.) Baptist Church, before moving on to the Dodge City church in 1960.

The former Kansas farm boy didn't quite know what to expect upon leaving the Heartland for the west coast of Washington in 1982. However, God would bless magnificently with scores of souls saved including many U.S. Navy men and their families from the nearby station. During one year the church averaged over 400 in Sunday School.

"The Lord has been so good to me that I think I must be his pet," Wambsganss related.

Certainly not forgotten by the many pastors who call him for meetings, Wambsganss maintains a full schedule. Included is a trip to Romania in October to minister with Missionary Gary Matheney. No doubt many hundreds of Romanian children will never forget "Brother Bill."

Pastors ● From Page 6

Samuel 23:16-18)

The church member who truly loves God will love his pastor as he loves his own soul. Rather than tearing him down to people, we should stand up for him if anyone ever dares to disparage him, raising up in righteous anger against such enemies of the church.

(II Thess. 3:1) Let us hold up our pastors, their wives, and children in

fervent prayer everyday. Let us seek to encourage them often. And, let us have the courage to stand up for them whenever anyone would seek to tear them down.

"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)

Flood • From Front Page

some might call a miracle. After leaving a phone message with the man in charge of a vacant bank building, Knight received a voice mail from him saying that he would help the church. That day the gentleman rented the 37,000 square-foot facility to the church for \$1.50. That's right, the church can use the building for as long as needed for a total cost of a buck-fifty.

Sister churches stepped up to help as well, contributing a pulpit, chairs, and other basic needs.

There were 40 people at church Wednesday night (the church averages 50-55 on Sunday mornings). The plan was hatched to be pro-active and use the disaster as a means to transmit the hope of the Gospel. With the theme, "Hope in the Midst of Crisis," 30 church folks gathered on Thursday to begin distributing chocolate chip cookies in small containers with Gospel tracts. The effort has been a powerful testimony for the church, and, best of all, at least one person has been saved through it.

Bible Baptist Church has also been presented with opportunities for more wide-ranging testimony through media coverage. The church has been featured by area FOX and ABC news programs, and was included in a *Los Angeles Times* article.

"We have been praying since we arrived here in April for God to do the unusual in our hearts, in our church, and in our town," Knight informed. "God has answered our prayers with what has happened. He has opened doors and we need to capitalize on it."

As far as recovering the facilities, Knight expects most everything to be a complete loss.

"We only have \$2,500 in flood insurance and that sure won't go very far," he said. "We're praying that we'll receive funds due to the oil spill. We've received estimates for oil clean up on two of the buildings and they're both over \$100,000."

In the meanwhile, the church has opened up a "Hope Center" at the former bank building as a means to help people to Christ. Folks are welcome to come for encouragement, biblical counseling (focusing on the need to receive Christ as Savior), and, of course, chocolate chip cookies.

**Are You 100%
Sure That If You
Died Today That
You Would Go
To Heaven?**

**If not, please call us:
(405) 240-5747**

How To Contact Our Featured Senior Saints

Clifford Clark

8007 S. 75th E. Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74133
(918) 461-8864

Bill Wambsganss

4106 Springcreek Rd.
Yakima, WA 98903
(509) 952-5365

Oran Cobb

514 W. Broadmoor
Springfield, MO 65807
(417) 890-5627

Next Issue

Look for feature story
on Bob Perryman (*we
ran out of room!*)

The Necessity of Follow Through

In the realm of sports "follow through" is essential. The pitcher must follow through on his fastball, the quarterback on his throw, and the basketball player on his shot in order to achieve success. In the arena of ministry for Christ, follow through is also essential.

With that in mind, we have had a myriad of individuals communicate to us that they greatly enjoy the *Baptist Edifier* and plan to subscribe. However, in the majority of cases, so far, the follow through is missing.

Again, we remind that every cent contributed through subscriptions goes towards printing and distributing the *Baptist Edifier*. And, the more money available, the more issues that can be produced, and the more people who are edified.

Pastors might pray about recommending this publication to their folks. We recently had a pastor who led his church to buy 20 two-year subscriptions because he sees the help and encouragement that the *Baptist Edifier* can provide to the flock.

So, we encourage those who have said that they were going to subscribe to follow through, and for others to pray about the potential benefits of the *Baptist Edifier* in their lives and ministries. One-year subscriptions are \$15, and two-year subs are \$25. Send your check to P.O. Box 531, Chandler, OK 74834 or subscribe using our website at www.baptistedifier.com.

Baptist Edifier

P.O. Box 531
Chandler, OK 74834