



CONNECTED

January—March 2017

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A HUTSON UPDATE

You may have noticed that our last *Connected Newsletter* was posted last July. My efforts to get on my feet after urinary sepsis which almost put me in heaven combined with moving Northwest Baptist Church forward while searching for a pastor simply made it impossible to adequately attend to all that was in front of me. I simply could not get around to publishing an October-December edition.

It was last July when things really heated up in my life. That's when I officially became *Interim Pastor*. That is also about the time that it became obvious that we were not going to find a man who was the right *fit* for Northwest Baptist Church at this time. God has some wonderful servants out there, but we realize they were not who we needed at this junction in the life of this church.

On Sunday, August 21 the church asked me to become Senior Pastor. I agreed with the understanding that my pastorate could not be long; at my age a lengthy pastorate is unrealistic. Since I accepted the role, my time has been consumed with plans and efforts to re-posture the church to move forward; restructuring with delegation and redistribution of responsibilities, the certifying of an accurate membership roll with current

contact information, improved member care under the oversight of our deacons, reestablishing excellence and worship without distractions, populating a church calendar with events designed to strengthen the church and engage its support, the creation of an apologetics oriented youth ministry where there was no youth ministry, the preparation of a realistic 2017 budget and this list could go on for a long time.

So many in our church have gotten on board. It is truly been a joy to watch the church sprout, bloom and show new life again! Since the end of August 26 new people have been added to the church including people who've been saved and those who rededicated themselves to the Lord and His work. Four new young families have joined us. It is so refreshing to see children in our church again!

Before I had any idea that I would again be a pastor, I had several long-term commitments. Even in the midst of all this hustle and bustle, I had to be away several times; however, the church stayed unified with fixed vision. I have worked through the prior commitments and for the foreseeable future most of my time will be invested right here in Northwest Baptist Church. I

will also return to my writing ministry.

During this hectic time I have also spent considerable time in doctor's offices and therapy. Also, many of my dear friends have died and I have conducted their funerals. We also took a group of young people and chaperones to one of the best kept secrets in Texas: the Creation Evidence Museum in Glen Rose, Texas. That's where human footprints are captured in stone right in the footprints of dinosaurs. You ought to go see that place and take your kids and grandkids with you. Margaret and I have been neck-deep in a move to a new house. All in all, the last six months have been quite a trip, but I have seen the hand of God at work and I am so thankful that He let me be a part of it.



**Creation Evidence Museum
Glen Rose, Texas**

Dr. Carl Baugh lecturing to our educational tour group

Many have asked about my health. Thank you for caring. My May bout with urinary sepsis took me way down, and recovery has been very slow. I am happy to say that I'm now again very active. My stamina is not up to par and I tire pretty easily; however, I have enough strength to do the job every day. My therapist taught me exercises that I will have to continue for the rest of my life. Thank God for good medical people.

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again.

Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

Contact us at:
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A LIFETIME IN THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

The Gospel Ministry of Jesus Christ has been my life. Oh, how blessed I feel! I can identify with the apostle Paul who said, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry," 1 Timothy 1:12. In October 1954 I trusted Christ as my own personal Savior. One month before my 14th birthday, I walked the aisle of Fairview Baptist Church near Lufkin, Texas and publicly surrendered my life the Gospel Ministry. That was May 1, 1955; I was 14. The following September a small country church called me as pastor. Obviously, I was a kid and knew nothing about pastoring a church, but I accepted and began a lifetime that is been almost exclusively given to the Gospel Ministry. I can't imagine having done anything else. I'd gladly do it again.

Sept. 1955 - Sept. 1956	Senior Pastor	Prairie Grove B.C.	Diboll, Texas
Spring 1958 - Summer 1959	Senior Pastor	Fairview B.C.	Lufkin, Texas
Summer 1959 - Fall 1962	Senior Pastor	Berean B.C.	Lufkin, Texas
Summer 1963 - Fall 1964	Associate Pastor	Bridge Street B.C.	Gatesville, Texas
Oct. 1964 - June 1976	Senior Pastor	Eleventh Street B.C.	Beaumont, Texas
June 1976 - June 2009	Senior Pastor	Berean B.C.	Houston, Texas
June 2009 - March 2012	National Field Representation for the Christian Law Association		
April. 2012 - Aug. 2016	Associate Pastor	Northwest B.C.	Houston, Texas
Aug. 2016 - Present	Senior Pastor	Northwest BC	Houston, Texas

SOME OF MY OWN PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

- ◆ *Common sense is not so common*
- ◆ *The most likely to succeed are not usually the ones who succeed*
- ◆ *High IQs do not make people smart or wise*
- ◆ *Systems will save you*
- ◆ *Good is the biggest enemy of the best*
- ◆ *Dependability is one of the greatest abilities there is*
- ◆ *Loyalty is increasingly in short supply*
- ◆ *A fundamental Christian truth doesn't change because it is made political*
- ◆ *God feeds the sparrows, but they all have to dig for worms*

MY CURRENT CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION CONNECTION

Even before I resigned the pastorate at Berean Baptist Church in Houston in June 2009, I periodically represented CLA as time allowed. Along with writing books, representing CLA was my main occupation for the next three years; however, even after becoming Associate Pastor at Northwest Baptist Church in Houston, I continued to give much time to the ministry of CLA. Now that I am Senior Pastor at Northwest Baptist Church there is not much time for CLA work, although I do serve when time will allow. To schedule an appointment call the CLA office at 800-252-1969. My CLA appointments are almost exclusively limited to weeknight events.

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up."

"That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well," said the little guy, "I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, And I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen."

Hopefully by this summer I will have republished my second volume of
What We Believe and Why



THE HUTSON PRAYER LIST

- ✓ That I may represent my Master with routine excellence every day
- ✓ That no one will ever doubt that I belong to Jesus Christ
- ✓ That my life will not be all about me
- ✓ That my heart will be on giving God all I have every day, not on how many days I have left
- ✓ That I may live in the light of eternity, not the immediate and urgent
- ✓ That I may budget and manage my time effectively
- ✓ That love will be my greatest earmark
- ✓ That I may live long enough to get all of my books on the Internet
- ✓ That my last fruit will be the best
- ✓ That I may finish my course sprinting

OUR NEW ADDRESS

For Mrs. Hutson and me, it seems almost comical to say that after 26 years in the same house we are moving across town. Really! For months we have been running wide open amidst all the work and uncertainties that go on with a pastor search, now I'm the Senior Pastor of a church that was well on its way to the church graveyard, and here we are moving. Go figure! You probably think we need our heads examined.

You may be right, but for years I have taught how biblical it is to prepare for your older years. My near-death experience with urinary sepsis in May was a serious wake-up call that I ought to practice what I preach. Right now both of us are going strong and hope to continue independent living much longer, but when you're in your mid-70s you have to be honest with reality. Both of us wanted to make the relocation choices, not neglect reality until someone had to make them for us. It appears that our daughter and son-in-law will be our primary caregivers as we grow older. This move will locate us much closer to where they live. It will also put us about 10 miles closer to Northwest Baptist Church. Our new address is:

17607 Emerald Garden Lane
Houston, TX 77084

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE

Mrs. Hutson and I wish each of you a blessed and spiritually prosperous New Year. May 2017 be the best year of your life to date! Please know that we count you, our many friends, among our greatest treasures. We love you and thank you for your many expressions of love to us. Our prayer is that God will meet all of your needs according to His riches. May each of us give Him our best! Routinely!

A BOOK I HAVE RECENTLY READ

History of the Donatists

David Benedict

The Baptist Standard Bearer, Inc.

No. 1 Iron Oak Drive

ISBN 1-57978-995-1

This is a reprint of Benedict's book which was originally printed in 1875 by Nickerson, Sibley & Co., Pawtucket, Rhode Island. The book is enlightening and confirms that from the earliest times when preachers and churches began the move away from the authority of the Scriptures toward church *tradition*, there were large numbers of Christians who rejected that move and stayed true to the Scriptures. The Donatists were there in great numbers, particularly in North Africa, long before Constantine established a state church which later became the Roman Catholic Church.

This book is factual, but not well-written. It is prefaced with a lengthy summary of Benedict's life. Benedict's *History of the Donatists* is largely given to the reprehensible character and practices of a large number church leaders who seized power and saw themselves as authorities over all of Christendom. Constantine made this group the official Roman state church. Many pastors and churches rejected this corruption and the drift away from Scripture. They made converts and re-baptized multitudes from the corrupt churches. Tension mounted and a split occurred. Since Donatus was one of the chief leaders at the time of schism, the group that stayed true to the Scriptures became known as the Donatists. This group had been in existence from the time of Jesus Christ. Donatus did not found the movement; as a chief leader at the time of a showdown, the movement assumed his name.

Much of this history is given to the struggles which ensued over the next 300 years. Constantine's marriage of the church to the Roman state gave church leaders civil authority to enforce church positions. The state backed the false church with civil power and persecuted all who refused to submit. The Donatists were the primary target. During his lifetime, Augustine was the chief negotiator of persecution against the Donatists. Lying, treachery, deceit, graft, abuse of civil power and underhanded moves were his hallmarks.

The book gives some of the doctrinal practices of the Donatist, but it is mostly given to their sterling character which history has misrepresented. It is also about their struggles to survive the assaults of the state-established church. Benedict's *History of the Donatists* is informative reading, but its best use is for those interested in scholarly research.

"We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first"

CURRENT STATUS

By now many of you know that I am the Senior Pastor of Northwest Baptist Church in Houston Texas. Last March Pastor Tim Dulany announced his plans to go to Panama as a missionary. He asked Northwest Baptist Church to sponsor him; the church agreed.

Immediately the church began a pastor search which lasted into August. At the same time, the church asked me to serve as interim pastor. After a grueling six-month pastor search, we were simply unable to find anyone who seem to be right for our church at this time. When I resigned from the pastorate in 2009, it never occurred to me that I would pastor another church; however, I am no prophet. As the pastor search continued, the *handwriting on the wall* began to emerge. Like so many churches, especially small churches, for several years Northwest Baptist Church has been on its way to the church graveyard. Oh yes, we've had 100 or so wonderful, godly, giving people; however, all but a few of us have really gray heads. We have not been replenishing ourselves with a new, younger generation. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that any church of this sort will die of old age in a few years. I have known for a while that we must have a change of direction which involved a major mentality shift; not of doctrine and worship style, but of attitude and approach.

It became clear to me that I must step forward. A change of this sort is not an easy undertaking; and sometimes holder churches are pretty *set in their ways*. They have been known to unwittingly crush young preachers. On August 21 Northwest Baptist Church asked me to become her Senior Pastor. I agreed. How long God will leave me in this role is uncertain. At my age, it's not hard to figure that it won't be too long. I realize that I am merely building a bridge to the next pastor.

I am happy to say that coincidental with the time I agreed to accept this pastorate, a young preacher named Joseph Allen became available. He came on board as my Associate/Youth Pastor. He is proving to be a tremendous help. He is growing in the ministry and doing a good job establishing a viable youth ministry here in our church. A major turnaround is in progress here at Northwest Baptist Church. Several have been saved, and others have come by letter or statement. It is truly a joy to see what's happening in this church!

"Today, I kissed my dad on the forehead as he passed away in a small hospital bed. About 5 seconds after he passed, I realized it was the first time I had given him a kiss since I was a little boy." Author unknown

I JUST MISSED IT

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT THERE IS NO OCTOBER-DECEMBER EDITION OF THE *CONNECTED NEWSLETTER*. THAT'S BECAUSE I DIDN'T PUBLISH ONE. ALL THAT WAS HAPPENING IN MY LIFE AT THE TIME SIMPLY MADE PUT IT BEYOND MY REACH. THANKS FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.



The 3 Outstanding Deacons of Northwest Baptist with Whom I Serve: Raymond Coates, Richard Delos Santos & David Klingensmith

Artificial Intelligence Is No Match for Natural Stupidity

This plague seems to be no respecter of persons, and most who have it don't think they do and are smug.

"Drill for oil? You mean drill into the ground to try to find oil? You're crazy." Drillers who Edwin Drake tried to enlist in his project to drill for oil in 1859.

"I think there's a world market for maybe five computers." Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943.

"You ain't going nowhere son; you ought to go back to driving a truck." Jim Denny, manager of the Grand Ole Opry, on firing Elvis Presley after one performance in 1954.

"Today, when I witnessed a 27-year-old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2-year-old daughter's antics, I suddenly realized that I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again." Author unknown

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things," **Philippians 4:8**

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools." Plato