



CONNECTED

April—June 2017

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A SERVANT, NOT A MASTER

I do not belong to me. I am a slave; I belong to God. Jesus Christ is my Master. I have no rights; only privileges. I consider it a privilege to be His servant.

Though I commune with Him every day, I do not see Him as I do mortals. He does not talk to me in the same way they do. Sometimes I think I know what his assignments for me are, but He makes me aware that He has something else in mind. I thought my days as a pastor were over; He made it clear that I was to step up and become the pastor of [Northwest Baptist Church](#). How long is not clear, but I intend to stay here until he makes it clear that he has something else in mind. After all, He is the Master; I am only a servant.

There is a little more order in our lives than there was when we posted our last *Connected Newsletter*. Much of the transition of pastors has taken place at Northwest Baptist. There is a ton of work to do, but I have some great help. The distribution of responsibilities and sharing in the labors and ministry of the church are such a blessing. It is so much different than when I was a young man trying to do everything myself. It seems to me that the inability to administrate and delegate is a great plague to any pastor and church.

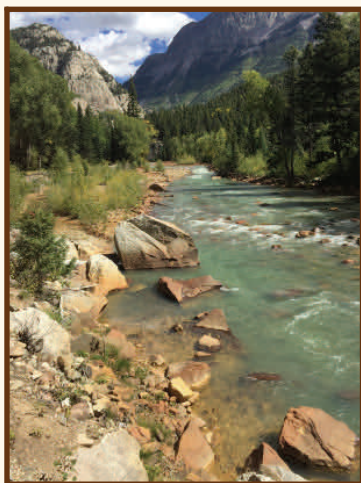
The New Year rolled in with a bang. There was *Vision Night* and then our fifth annual *Missions Conference*. My, what a blessing it proved to be! Our little church of just over 100 people is committed to giving over \$70,000 to missionary work in 2017. On Monday night, January 23, I had the privilege of representing the [Christian Law Association](#) at Temple Baptist Church in DeQuincy, Louisiana. Pastor Bruce Austin and Temple Baptist were in the midst of their Missions Conference.

On the first Saturday in February I conducted the funeral service of Baker Akin. On the last day of March I conducted his daughter's funeral service. Rosanne Akin was 61 years old. Cancer is a terrible enemy. I long to see the day when the Curse that came with Adam and Eve will be lifted! No more disease, pain, suffering or death! During February we had a great *Show Your Love Sunday* in our church; and as is the case with most old people, during the last 3 months I saw several doctors.

March found me preaching a 13 sermon series dealing with forgiveness and recovery. It is pretty obvious that you are not very likely to get better until you diagnose and deal with your

malady, whether spiritual or physical. I will finish this series at the end of April. In March I was also blessed to have a group of young preachers visit our ministry. They came to learn more about church administration, particularly organization and delegation. They sat in on all of our committee and staff meetings. They were here for a week and received copies of our agendas and other documents. They saw how we conduct our business in an orderly fashion. There were question and briefing sessions. We were mutually blessed by our time together. In March, Mrs. Hutson and I were also highly blessed by the privilege of being with [Midway Baptist Church](#) in McKinney, Texas. I was privileged to preach a series of revival messages in that church where Brother Ed Neal is pastor.

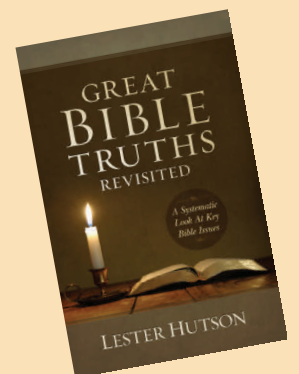
What a privilege it is to be alive and able to serve my Master! It is my intention to be a faithful servant to Him until the day He brings me into His presence.



The handiwork of our great God



Work Hard, Do Your Best, Never Get Too Big For Your Britches, Trust in God and Never Forget a Friend!



A STORY WORTH HEARING

"I locked my car. As I walked away I heard my car door unlock. I went back and locked my car again three times. Each time, as soon as I started to walk away, I would hear it unlock again! Naturally alarmed, I looked around and there were two guys sitting in a car in the fire lane next to the store. They were obviously watching me intently, and there was no doubt they were somehow involved in this very weird situation. I quickly chucked the errand I was on, jumped in my car and sped away. I went straight to the police station, told them what had happened, and found out I was part of a new and very successful scheme being used to gain entry into cars.

Two weeks later, my friend's son had a similar happening. While traveling my friend's son stopped at a roadside rest to use the bathroom. When he came out to his car less than 4-5 minutes later, someone had gotten into his car and stolen his cell phone, laptop computer, GPS navigator, briefcase.....you name it. He called the police and since there were no signs of his car being broken into, the police told him he had been a victim of the latest robbery tactic. There is a device that robbers are using now to clone your security code when you lock your doors on your car using your key-chain locking device.

They sit a distance away and watch for their next victim. They know you are going inside of the store, restaurant, or bathroom and that they now have a few minutes to steal and run. The police officer said to manually lock your car by hitting the lock button inside the car. That way, if there is someone sitting in a parking lot watching for their next victim, it will not be you. When you hit the lock button on your car upon exiting, it does not send the security code; but if you walk away and use the door lock on your key chain, it sends the code through the airwaves where it can be instantly stolen."



J.D. Johnston

July 30, 1920

March 28, 2017

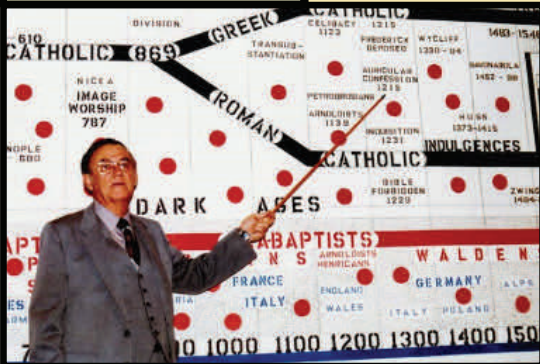
ANOTHER GIANT NOW WITH THE LORD

What a Christian champion! I suspect that when the rewards for faithful and fruitful service are distributed by the King of kings, J.D. Johnston will be way up toward the front of the line.

This thoroughbred Texan came into this world in 1920, and spent almost 100 years serving the Lord. He touched lots of lives. For the better!

Preachers come and go, but J.D. came to stay. In 1948 he surrendered to God's call on his life to the ministry. From Worth Bible College he received his Bachelors, Masters and Doctors degrees in theology and went forward from there to use what he had learned to the glory of God. He was an outstanding pastor. Until health wouldn't permit, his adult life was given to the pastorate. He was one of the founders of the Independent Baptist College as well as the Independent Baptist Encampment. Such a squeaky clean life: never a scandal, never betrayed his roots, kind and gentle, practiced what he preached, faithful till death! His legacy lives on in his children; he left a troop of Christian soldiers including several who are pastors.

He was a scholar indeed, a great church historian. For years, he taught *The Trail of Blood*. I will forever be grateful for his influence on my life; he personally stirred my interest in our great Baptist heritage and motivated me to write *A History of Churches: The Survival of New Testament Christianity against Overwhelming Odds*. Thank you old friend, I'll be there soon.



Bro. J.D. Johnston teaching
The Trail of Blood

"He that hath the Son hath life"

YES! THEY REALLY SAID THESE THINGS

"Teeth will disappear in about 75 years from now because the food of the future will be concentrated & made directly from chemicals so that there will be no strain on the digestion or gums." C.M. Skinner, editor of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle in 1900.

"Criminals will be prevented from propagating their kind. This will take the place of capital punishment. And after a few generations, this will do away with crime, since no criminals will be born." Poet Ella Wilcox. 1893.

Don't Silence
Your Critics!

You can contact us at
lesterhutson@gmail.com

A BOOK I HAVE RECENTLY READ

None of These Diseases

S. I. McMillen, M.D.
 Fleming H. Revell Company
 Old Tappan, New Jersey
 ISBN 0-8007-1207-2

Everything that is new is not necessarily better. Though it is constantly under assault, the truth has a way of enduring.

None of These Diseases was published in 1984. Not too long thereafter I found and read this book. I'm so grateful for the providence of God which brought this outstanding tool of understanding into my life! Over the years I have read my fair share of books. Very few have had the immediate and lasting impact of *None of These Diseases*.

Including a great bibliography of *Source Notes*, this book has only 224 pages, but they are power-packed. Dr. McMillen was a medical doctor who was also a Christian and staunch believer in a literal interpretation of the Word of God. *None of These Diseases* is a look at diseases and other physical maladies which accrue as a direct or indirect result disobedience to the clear instructions of God. Dr. McMillen particularly focuses on the diseases of Egypt at the time of Moses. Most of those diseases are still around. God said, *"If about wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases up on thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee," Exodus 15:26.* The law that God gave to the world talks at length about various foods, eating habits, hygiene, sexual behavior, holiness and separation, how to treat diseases and wounds and much more. For obedience to His teachings and ways, God promised deliverance from the Pandora's Box of diseases that plagued the Egyptians and their neighbors.

In *None of These Diseases*, Dr. McMillen explains the cause and effect nature of many of God's forbidden practices. For example, he medically explains how stress impacts our adrenaline glands. He then details how excess adrenaline can produce a multitude of medical problems such as arthritis and bone diseases.

The Law was given to Israel in light of the problems of their day; however, the Scriptures are timeless. Modern bodies work the same way their bodies worked, and are subject to the same laws that worked on our ancient forefathers. Good eating habits, moral purity, proper treatment of wounds, holiness and separated living continue to deliver people from terrible medical problems.

None of These Diseases is a treasure. I consider it to be one of the best, most practical books that I have ever read. I highly recommend it.



OUR AMERICAN ROOTS

Only a few days before I became so ill last year, Mrs. Hutson and I were privileged to visit the place where the United States of America was born: Jamestown, Yorktown and Williamsburg. It was very sobering to go back to the very soil where brave men and women risked so much to make us free. At the same time it was very saddening to contemplate how far America has drifted from her roots.



A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

A NEW ADDRESS

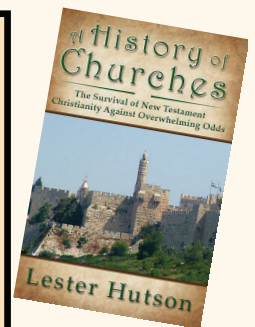
Mrs. Hutson and I are finally moved. Wow! What a relief! We lived in our old house for 26 years; I was shocked at how much stuff we have. We've gotten to know the people at *Goodwill* on a first name basis. The garbage people have also gotten to know us better, and we've been a blessing to our young people's garage sale.

Read my lips: it is not a good idea to move right after you become the senior pastor of a church. We are in our new home; however, we still have lots of boxes sitting around the house. About half of my books are in boxes in our new garage. It just takes a while.

We are happy over here on the west side of Houston. Our new address is 17607 Emerald Garden Ln., Houston, TX 77084. If you try to call our old home phone (281-587-9920), you won't get us. It has gone away. Technology won. Now we have only cell phones.

"Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people wanting to be important." --T. S. Eliot

This book traces 1st century Christianity from the Church Jesus established through the centuries to America. It is available on Amazon.



JOIN US FOR THIS OUTSTANDING EVENT

This seminar with Dr. Pat Briney is bigger than one church. In our increasingly atheistic world believers must produce answers. You are encouraged to go to our [website](#) for an in-depth look at this event. There you can register and guarantee yourself a seminar workbook. Many church groups have already registered or expressed their plans to be here.

On Friday night Dr. Briney will share his testimony of how he moved from a doctrinaire atheist to a committed Christian.

ANSWERS THAT BUILD FAITH

"EQUIPPING BELIEVERS FOR WORLDVIEW WARFARE"



Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Pat Briney

May 5th @ 7:00pm

May 6th @ 9:00am - 2:00pm

May 7th @ 9:45am - 12:00pm & 6:00pm

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DR. BRINEY'S LECTURES

Friday @ 7 PM

The Inescapable War of Ideas

Saturday @ 1 PM

The Evidence for God

Saturday @ 9 AM

The Strategy of Worldview Warfare

Sunday @ 9:45 AM

Convincing the Gainsayers of Creation

Saturday @ 10 AM

The Four Fundamental Questions

Sunday @ 11 AM

Lack of Souls for Lack of Answers

Saturday @ 11 AM

How to Choose the Right Worldview

Sunday @ 6 PM

To Challenge or Be Challenged



A MERRY HEART DOETH GOOD LIKE A MEDICINE

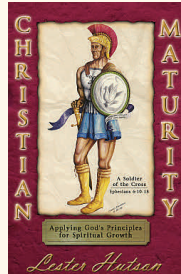
Tom was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. He knew that he would inherit a fortune once his sickly father died. Tom wanted two things: (1) to learn how to invest his inheritance and (2) to find a wife to share his fortune.

One evening at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary man," he said to her, "but in just a few years, my father will die, and I'll inherit 20 million dollars." Impressed, the woman obtained his business card. Two weeks later, she became his stepmother.

Moral of the story? Women are much better at estate planning than men.

You can always tell
a Texan, but not much

"If you think
health care is expensive now,
wait until you see what it costs
when it's free!"



A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

Many of My Books Are
Available
in both Electronic and
Paper Formats
at Amazon.com



"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill