



CONNECTED

October—December 2017

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THREE FULL MONTHS

The July-September edition of the *Connected Newsletter* seems long ago. When stacked up just right, three months can produce lots of living. July entered the scene in a rather ordinary way, but surely didn't end that way. In the middle of July, Mrs. Hutson and I enjoyed a wonderful time at the [Rodgers Missions Conference](#) in Garland. Before we got home, a dear and faithful long-time friend ([Chesley Bridgewater](#)) departed for heaven. With airline tickets in hand we were committed to joining our group of 17 for the [Ark Encounter](#) just south of Cincinnati. The scrambling began. Before the next six weeks passed, I preached four funerals.

In the middle of August, I was so blessed to spend a weekend with Bro. Colin Hirsch and the [Holts Prairie Baptist Church](#) in Pinckneyville, Illinois. It was their 145th anniversary. Bro. Colin took me fishing in a couple of those gorgeous coal mine lakes. It

was great. Later in August I spent a day with [Pastor Ed Neal](#) and several other dear pastor friends. I was privileged to present a one day workshop on *The Preparation and Delivery of Sermons*. The workshop was videoed and both the DVD and a workbook will soon be available.

And then Hurricane Harvey roared in and stayed, and stayed and stayed. It is hard to comprehend the trail of destruction. This metropolitan giant called Houston was brought down, powerless before this natural giant. In five days over an area within a radius of roughly 100 miles, enough rain fell to cover the entire United States with 17 inches of water. It became obvious to me that when the Lord declares war, He doesn't need tanks, jets and bombs. He can simply open the faucets of heaven and promptly shut down whatever He chooses. We found ourselves doing all we could (and can; the effort continues) to help as many

storm victims as possible.

Storms or not, life goes on; in spite of suffering on so many fronts, God gave us many good services. We were able to re-certify our children's workers which we do every year. And, by the goodness of God, we finished September with a really good 53rd anniversary celebration. Bro. Don McFarland preached for us, and we had 190 in church.

What a blessing it is to be a part of what God is doing! There are ups and there are downs, but it's great to be alive and in the race.



Pastor and Mrs. Hutson

After church on a Sunday night at Northwest Baptist. Still in love with the Lord and each other after 55 years of marriage and 63 years in the gospel ministry.



Julia and Richard Kovach

True yokefellows in the work of the Lord. Richard is our church treasurer and works around the church at least one day every week. Julia constantly helps me with editing, computer work and multiple tasks both for the church and in my writing ministry.

Written on an Old Man's Shirt

"I am not 80 years old. I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience."

HURRICANE HARVEY

I have been blessed with many years and have seen many things including disasters. It is pretty common for the sensation-seeking media to inflate things, especially natural disasters; and make them bigger than they are. That was not the case this time.

This storm ravished this city; not just this city and county, but this region. Then it moved over to Beaumont and Port Arthur wrecking them. Most of the Texas Coast took a beating. A real, thoroughbred beating. It will be years before much of this region recovers. Many never will. Areas that had never flooded had several feet of water. Lots of them. Driving through nice neighborhood after nice neighborhood, street after street was like driving through narrow streets with garbage on both sides piled two or three cars high: soaked carpet, saturated sheetrock, couches, televisions, refrigerators, mattresses, moldy clothes and even cars that had been submerged under water. Whole lifetimes piled on the sidewalks! Lots of grief and tears!

A week after the storm was gone, I saw Buffalo Bayou running 4 or 5 feet deep right through high-dollar homes. Cypress Creek crested 11 feet above its previous high; hundreds of new homes felt the devastating impact. Water was one foot from the ceiling in my previous neighbor's house. Lake Conroe had to increase her discharge; for thousands downstream, that was really bad news. Without discrimination creeks and bayous all across this region made their ways right into homes and businesses.

Thank God for all who helped, and are helping. Our little church of about 100 raised about \$25,000.00. A church in Ravenna, Ohio who didn't know us looked on the Internet. They liked what they saw, wanted to help and sent almost \$8,000.00. Our friends at Highland Baptist Church in Dublin, Texas sent \$2,000.00. We put their funds with our own and have helped lots of needy people. We've vetted every one of them, and have tried to help those most needy. We still have a little left, and every cent will go to help storm victims. Right now we're paying a retired friend of ours who has good building skills to work on the home of a family of believers who got really hurt by Harvey. The husband is almost blind, and our friend is working for a very minimum amount, barely enough to cover his gas and food while on the job.

To all of our readers around the country, I ask you to pray for hurting people in Houston. Harvey dealt a truly devastating blow.

MY PERSONAL OUTLOOK

One thing is sure, I am no prophet. After Berean, I didn't foresee another pastorate. When I accepted the pastorate of Northwest Baptist Church, I didn't expect it to be for very long. It may not be for much longer, but for now it appears that I will be here at least another year or two.

At the end of August, Bro. Joseph Allen announced his plans to move back to his home state of Kentucky at the end of October. Obviously my work here is not yet done.

In no way am I unhappy with what I am doing; it's just not what I thought I'd be doing at this stage in my life. I don't see that as a bad thing. After all, I am just a servant; God is my Master. He has every right to use me as He sees fit. My life is not *my* life; it is His. He bought me with His own blood; I belong to Him. He owns me. My assignment is to do His will, not mine; however, the desire of my heart is for my will to be to do His will.

The future never surprises God. He is the Prophet of all prophets. He knows the end from the beginning. The future only surprises us. God knew what would transpire here and already had a young preacher waiting in the wings. He is Nathan Bragdon who became my assistant and our Youth Pastor as of October 1.

Pray that God will exponentially grow him in this place. I not only need an assistant and an apprentice to mentor, this church needs someone to step up and assume the leadership. That takes time, and until that time arrives I will continue to serve the Lord with all my might as pastor of Northwest Baptist Church.

Be careful what you forecast, even about your own self. When you give your life to the Lord, it's not yours any more. He may have other plans for you. I am living proof of that reality.



Mrs. Hutson and her baby sister Katherine Fuller

Be assured that the [Ark Encounter](#) near Cincinnati is well worth the trip. A group of 17 from our church was there in August. We visited the Creation Museum as well as the full model of Noah's Ark. What a faith-fortifying experience! I highly recommend it.

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**"He that hath the Son
hath life"**

1 John 5:12

A really big lie: *"I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."*

**A BOOK I HAVE RECENTLY READ
AND RECOMMEND**

A Tale of Two Cities

Charles Dickens
Dover Publishers, Inc.
Mineola, New York
ISBN 13:978-0-486-40651-0

They don't call certain books *classics* for no reason. Some men have something to say, and they say it very well. Charles Dickens was most assuredly one of those men.

A Tale of Two Cities is the story of the French Revolution; but it's a much bigger story. It's a story of the human heart, of just how depraved and fickle it can be. For years before *the Revolution* erupted in the late 18th century, the French Aristocracy was rotten to the core. Ordinary Frenchmen were treated with utter contempt and disdain, creatures to be exploited and abused, worse than animals. They practiced their tyranny against common French people in the name of God and with the backing of the Catholic Church.

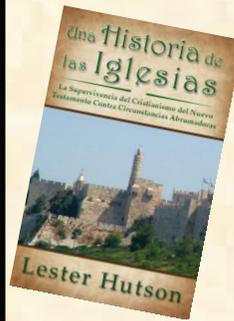
In time the worm turned; sooner or later it always does. The desperate commoners reached the breaking-point; they had nothing to lose. That's the way it works with heartless, tyrannical rulers, governments. In a blood bath of epic proportions, the common French people rose up with sticks and stones threw off their hated oppressors. The thirst of the Guillotine was insatiable; the ground couldn't seem to drink enough blood; the putrid blood of heartless tyrants, but also the blood of untold innocent people. People who were *suspected*; they knew somebody that was guilty, lived nearby, were in the wrong place at the right time, *somebody said*, accused by someone who had a grudge. As bad as the Aristocracy had been, the commoners made them look mighty good.

A Tale of Two Cities is a story of arrogance, pride, cruelty, blood-thirsty mobs, *justice standing afar off*, *truth fallen in the streets*, raw and ugly power, hatred, vengeance, lawlessness and the rejection of all that is Christian. It's the story of the French people, but it can and will be the story of any people that forgets the basic tenets of Christianity which alone bring civility to barbaric, selfish cut-throats. Beware America! Tyranny, oppression, racism, cruelty, hatred, revenge, and lawlessness leads somewhere, and it's not a very pleasant place. Another subtle message in *A Tale of Two Cities* is that there comes a point of no return.

In no sense can this be considered a Christian book, but it is a book loaded with sobering messages, many of them are Christian to the core. It's long, three volumes; but you would do well to read it. The language is spectacular. Beside its needed messages, it is truly a literary masterpiece.

I AM STILL IN THE BOOK BUSINESS

James Strong, W. E. Vine, Henry Morris; men who *being dead yet speaketh*. Only God knows how many lives have been helped the *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* along with his Hebrew and Greek dictionaries. The great creationist movement of our day is largely due to the great works of Dr. Morris. Too many good men take their good thoughts and works right to the grave with them; never make provisions for their work to out-live them.



Yes. I am still writing books; at the moment I'm editing *What We Believe and Why 2* for publishing on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) where a number of my books are available. I am also making video recordings of a few other things. A DVD of the *Preparation and Delivery of Sermons* along with a workbook will soon be available. I am currently recording another set which I call

Gospel Ministry Wisdom. It too will become a DVD with workbook.

The pastorate of a church of wonderful, but elderly people is a blessings, but it takes lots of time. My progress has slowed, but my vision has not dimmed. One of the biggest on-going challenges of my life has been the prioritizing and management of my time. Pray that in the days ahead I will be wise in how I do it.

MANY OF YOU HAVE ASKED

So many of you have asked about the personal situation of Mrs. Hutson and me. We were truly blessed. Water came within two blocks of our home, but we had absolutely no flooding. All we can say is thanks be unto God. We didn't deserve to be spared any more than anyone, but we were. We are humbled. The people who purchased our old home in May had four feet of water; that house had never flooded. Yes. The Lord was really gracious to us.

Also, Northwest Baptist Church escaped without damage. Several of our families were flooded, but the church facilities were spared. We are humbled by His goodness to us. In view of what I saw, I am convinced that no ground-level place in Houston, Texas is not subject to flooding.

Thanks to the hundreds of you from far and wide who called, texted, emailed and otherwise checked on us.

NATHAN BRAGDON

Many years ago the providence of our great God brought Nathan Bragdon into my life. When his newly-wed parents went as missionaries to Japan, we supported them. Little did I know that a son yet to be born to them would one day be my assistant and Youth Pastor.

Earlier this year, Bro. Nathan decided to move to Houston to gain mentoring and pastoral help as a part of Northwest Baptist Church. For several years he worked for Office Max/Depot, but ever asking God to use him vocationally in the gospel ministry. As he waited on the timing of God, in 2014 Bro. Nathan completed a Bachelor's degree in Religion from Liberty University.

He is now on staff here at Northwest Baptist Church. We are most grateful that God has merged our paths, and so eager to see what God is about to do. You can be sure that the days ahead will be a yeoman's effort at ministerial discipleship. Your prayers would be greatly appreciated.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

WISHFUL THINKING

The lack of common sense and the shallowness of liberalism never cease to amaze me. For a group that as a whole boasts its education and academia, the *nose on the face* seems hard to see.

In a world and American society that is convulsing in violence, there is a stampede for *Band Aid* answers. Yes, quick fixes! Fast foods, drive-through banking and car washes, quick fixes to unwanted pregnancies and the abolishing of guns to eliminate killing. How nice it would be if it were that simple! Most thinking people know that crooks and demented people will find a way. Take away their guns and they will make a bomb, plough into a crowd with a car or truck, get a butcher knife or hijack a plane. Another thing that most thinking people know is that the threat is not from law-abiding people with Christian values; it's people who don't care about laws who pose the threats. They're the ones causing the carnage in Las Vegas, in Orlando and at Ft. Hood. It's not honest, law-abiding citizens who are advocating the killing of policemen, marching down streets to support violence against other races and colors or who are taking advantage of divisive situations to loot stores and burn buildings.

When an oil well catches fire in the Gulf of Mexico, thinking people know dousing it with the entire waters of the Gulf won't put out the fire. They go to the root of the problem; they get down into the hole and cap it. It doesn't take extraordinary brilliance to figure out that treating the source of a problem is far superior to getting all worked up and emotional over symptoms. That's why doctors examine patients and do all that testing. Reputable doctors are not going to perform surgeries, prescribe medicine or start therapy until they get a good idea on what's causing the problem and all those symptoms.

You'd think the media, those glamorous movie stars, vote seeking politicians and those *know-everything* professors would be able to grasp something so simple and common sense as seeking root causes. Why not look into the impact of video games on social behavior? What about a legal system that emphasizes the welfare of the perpetrator over the victim, and the politicians who craft laws to that effect? Why not take a look at the value systems advocated on television, both in its programming and commercials? Who has done a study on the rise of violence and evils of all sorts since God and Christian values have been largely supplanted by atheistic and anti-Christian values? What has been the social impact of our approach to being *soft on crime* and while giving preferential treatment to lawbreakers? If these and other such considerations are at the root of the shootings and other violence that is mushrooming in America, you can be sure that Band Aids like gun control, more police officers, jails and prisons with more amenities, more social welfare give-away programs and less emphasis on God and patriotism will not turn the tide and solve the problems.

"There are two classes of Christians, soul-winners and backsliders."

Andrew Murray

**THE GOOD LORD DIDN'T
CREATE ANYTHING
WITHOUT A PURPOSE,
BUT MOSQUITOES
COME CLOSE.**

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

NOT TO BE OUTDONE

One boy said, "My daddy is a songwriter. He puts a few lines, musical notes and words on a piece of paper and sells it for \$1000!"

Another boy said, "That ain't nothin! My dad is a painter. He takes a canvas, a brush, some paint, paints a picture and sells it for several thousand dollars!"

Not wanting to be outdone the preacher's kid said, "My father is a preacher. He gets up on Sunday morning, talks for 25 to 30 minutes; and it takes 20 men to collect the money!"

"I never begin my work in the morning without thinking that perhaps He will interrupt my work and begin His own. I am not looking for death, I am looking for Him."

G. Campbell Morgan