



CONNECTED

January—March 2019

In this issue

Merry Christmas	1
Ken Ham in town	1
The Telephone	2
Fifteen Things I Have Observed	2
The Holy Land Tour is Set	3
May 3-5, 2019	3
Book Review: Chasing Jonah	3
<i>Basic Bible Truths</i>	4
Ten Personal Goals for 2019	4



Ken Ham was recently in town. Nathan Bragdon, Richard Delos Santos along with Mrs. H and me.

Caller: 'I'd like the number of the Argo Fish Bar, please'
 Operator: 'I'm sorry, there's no listing. Are you sure that the spelling is correct?'
 Caller: 'Well, it used to be called the Bargo Fish Bar but the 'B' fell off.'

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND A HAPPY NEW

Mrs. Hutson and I wish each and every one of you a blessed and enjoyable Christmas, and the best new year of your life to date. Who knows what a new year may bring forth? Jesus may come. I am planning to give my best to God this year; my intentions are to make 2019 the best, most productive year of my life.

I enjoyed every day of 2018, but I could've done better and been more appreciative. I know I have not arrived. So, I will work harder, try to improve my attitude and do my best to win more people to Christ this year. My goal is to be a better husband, a better grandpa, a better pastor and a better person.

2018 seems like a whirlwind to me. We enjoyed some really outstanding events in our church: a wonderful Missions Conference in January, a truly provocative *Answers that Build Faith Seminar* with Dr. Pat Briney, an excellent Vacation Bible School and a wonderful revival with Pastor Ron Thomas. What a blessing it was to spend

two weeks with Mrs. Hutson and two friends in Canada!

Since my last *Connected Newsletter* I have known life in the fast lane. There have been a couple of weddings, three funerals in November, a funeral for a two-week old baby in December and a lot of other things that pastors do including the preparation and delivery of sermons. When you get my age, health problems tend to assert themselves. At mostly the same time, several of them ganged up on me: vision issues, back problems, very sore feet and swollen legs along with urinary issues. I took a pretty jolting fall, had surgery on my left eye, started on some new medicines and started wearing special built shoes; but as I write these lines, I am doing much better. Hallelujah and praise the Lord! Good health is such a special gift!

Mrs. Hutson and I were able to spend a few days of quality time with our family. We have some of the best friends in the entire world, and we've been able

to communicate with many of them. We were even able to spend a few days in the great outdoors.

I am very grateful for you to read this *Connected Newsletter*. Thank you for all the encouraging feedback. So many of you have refreshed my soul. Yes, I truly and humbly thank you. I ask you to continue to pray for me as I continue to serve my Master in the role He has for me at this time. I want to give him my best every day and be sprinting when I cross the finish line. My heart for Him is *routine excellence*. Every day in all things!

"We must reject the idea that every time a law is broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions."

Ronald Reagan

GOD LOVES US IN SPITE OF OURSELVES!

THE TELEPHONE

Mark Twain said, *"It is my heart-warmed and world-embracing Christmas hope and aspiration that all of us . . . may eventually be gathered together in a heaven of everlasting rest and peace and bliss-- except the inventor of the telephone."* And he knew nothing of cell phones!

My, oh my! Have you looked around? People are consumed with the telephone. They drive down the freeway with their heads in a phone. They are so consumed with the phone they sit halfway through a green light. A waiting room looks like a place of zombies. Intelligent conversation has largely gone the way of the horse and buggy. Solitaire, games of all sorts including blood and guts, the Internet, scams galore, shopping, your bank account, information galore and plenty of people to talk to at your fingertips! Yep! The phone has all of it. Including your privacy!

I refuse to let my life be dominated by telephone. I will not allow it to establish my agenda or tell me when to talk or to whom. I do not feel compelled to talk every time the phone rings or return calls within an expected time frame. In fact, some calls I do not return at all, like those who call and leave no message. I figure if somebody wants to talk to me, they will identify themselves and tell me what they want to talk about. If they don't, I usually hang up and don't call back. And, time is too precious and passing at such a high speed to spend very much of it on *small-talk* where the same old hash is stirred and stirred and re-stirred. I think most of us tend to avoid phone conversations with people who consistently tie us up for long periods of time.

I know that I am rapidly running out of time, and there is so much work that remains to be done. I have to keep learning, and that requires lots of study and reading. There are so many good books and Christian materials which I would like to put into the marketplace. They are in my head and heart, and it takes time and lots of effort to put them on paper in a good format and make them available to people who are interested. Oh, how I need to pray and spend more time with God! I have a precious wife, and I want to spend quality time with her while I still can. And I have a family and friends.

Yes, I refuse to let a telephone dominate my life. I do not want to be arrogant or too independent, and I know there are emergencies and priorities. Hopefully, I will have enough sense to balance my own life and never let anything place me under its spell. Including the telephone.

Contact us at:

LESTERHUTSON@GMAIL.COM



*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,
And to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God,
Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all!*

FIFTEEN THINGS I'VE OBSERVED

1. Those who have the least to say seem to take the longest to say it.
2. Ignorance of a subject is rarely a deterrent to passionate talk about it, especially in a committee meeting.
3. Preaching is easier and far more common than practicing.
4. The greatest censors of all are the media who rabidly condemn censorship.
5. Those who cry loudest about wrongdoing are often the guiltiest of all.
6. Many times those who neglected most wail loudest at the casket.
7. It is still true that a child left unto himself brings his mother to shame. And his father!
8. Negativism feeds on itself, is self-righteous and is contagious.
9. Anger makes fools out of people.
10. It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.
11. He who aims at nothing generally hits it.
12. Attitude is a matter of choice. Many of the nicest, kindest and happiest people I know have the biggest problems.
13. Things that go around seem to always come around.
14. Your words never seem to taste the same when you have to eat them.
15. And, as R.G. Lee said, *"Payday someday!"*

ARE YOU CALLED?

"'Not called!' did you say? 'Not heard the call,' I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face — whose mercy you have professed to obey — and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world."

William Booth

THE HOLY LAND TOUR IS SET

Lord willing, on Tuesday, November 12 of this year almost 50 of us will fly out of Houston in route to Ben-Gurion airport in Tel Aviv, Israel. We will spend a week in this glorious land of the Bible absorbing all we can. This is a truly vintage Christian, Bible study tour. For a serious student of the word of God, there is no tour that even comes close to a tour of Israel. Everywhere you look and every step you take is right in the middle of the Bible. A trip like this is not only an educational experience beyond description, it is inspiring to the core. Every Christian should go there, especially young preachers. One of the best ways for a church to help itself is to send its pastor on a vintage Christian *Holy Land Tour*.

The largest tour buses in Israel have 52 seats. One is for the driver, one is for the guide and there are 50 seats for tour members. Because it is so advantageous to have all members of a tour group on one bus, I limited this tour to 50 tour members. I have worked with Pastors Ron Thomas and Charles Dill who are each bringing small groups. At this moment, the bus is almost full and only limited seats available; however, there's always the possibility that a seat may become available. If you are interested in being on a standby list, you should let me know by email:

lesterhutson@gmail.com



We're standing on Mars Hill on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece. Acts 17. Carl Young and David Mollohan (2nd and 3rd from right) are now in heaven.

Friends, enjoy God's roses while you can. We only get one pass through here. This is not a dress rehearsal; we're in the big show!

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father, but by me."

Jesus Christ



MAY 3-5, 2019

Attorney Hutson Smelley is our speaker at Northwest Baptist Church for this year's *Answers That Build Faith Seminar*. The subject: *Calvinism and Choice*.

Many of you are familiar with Bro. Smelley's excellent book, *Deconstructing Calvinism*. It's available on Amazon.com. He has upgraded and enhanced this material, and he will present it at this year's seminar. Each person who attends the seminar will receive a workbook. *Deconstructing Calvinism* is by far the most succinct, concise and pointed resource I know on the Calvinism issue.

Hutson Smelley is a practicing attorney who often teaches courses at the College of Biblical Studies in Houston. He is the author of a growing number of outstanding commentaries on various books of the Bible. They are all available in electronic and paper format from Amazon. He is an active member of [Northwest Baptist Church](#) in Houston, and teacher of the Ambassador Sunday school class.

A BOOK I HAVE RECENTLY READ & HIGHLY RECOMMEND

Chasing Jonah A Mission 119 Guide to Jonah

Hutson Smelley

ISBN 978-0-9861336-2-6

www.proclaimtheword.me

Available from Amazon.com

The preface of this book alone is more than worth the modest price of the book.

I know Hutson Smelley. I heard him deliver this series. He's a true scholar, and by far the best Bible teacher I have ever heard. His depth and overall sensitization of Scripture is truly exceptional and rare.

Chasing Jonah is a potent package, just over 100 pages. There's no fluff; it gets right to the point. The first of the five chapters is given to great background information: on Nineveh, the barbaric Assyrians, on Jonah and on unbelief in the supernatural. And, it's all documented. It's really good material.

The final four chapters are an exegesis of the book of Jonah. He deals successively with *Jonah's Rebellious Heart*, his *Unrepentant Heart*, his *Unfaithful Heart* and his *Angry Heart*. These rich and meaty chapters are most insightful.

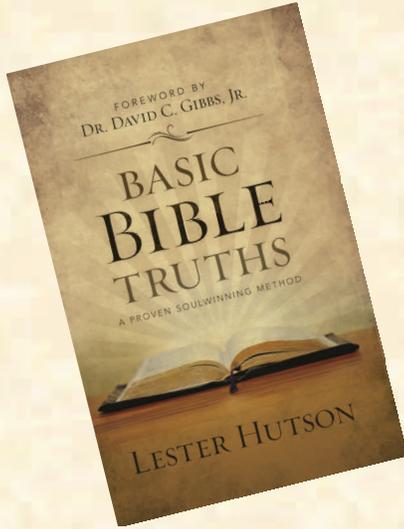
Contrary to popular belief, Jonah's primary audience was not the people of Nineveh; it was Israel. Furthermore, unlike most of the other prophets, Jonah's prophecy was not a preached or written message. It's a prophecy in action. As Smelley points out, Jonah preached "only five Hebrew words: 'Forty days from now Nineveh will be overthrown.' With so little light, the people of Nineveh repented. With a very short message from Jonah, the mariners turned to God. The great fish obeyed God as did the worm; but not Israel. God was evident to them everywhere; the prophets saturated them with God's Word, but they ignored Him. Their stubbornness and deaf ears continued and was even worse when the Messiah came. How much greater the condemnation!

For people serious about understanding the Bible, this is truly a must-read book!

My recent series on *The Judges* is available on DVD complete with audio, sermon notes & PowerPoints.

BASIC BIBLE TRUTHS PAPER COPIES NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON

I am humbled at how God has blessed me with widespread use of many of the books I have written. They are His, not mine; and He is to be credited with any good that has come from them.



The book that God has used to His greatest advantage is *Basic Bible Truths*. Thank God this book has reached quite far and wide; and of all of the books, this is by far the one which I want to do the best. This book is about bringing people to Christ. It really is simply a clear-cut presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The book is a manual which teaches people how to present the message of Jesus Christ in a clear-cut, systematic way. It is a *how to* book; a book designed to equip a person to do the greatest work there is, the work of bringing a lost soul to Jesus Christ.

Basic Bible Truths is a personal method of getting one-on-one with people. It is not a *scatter-gun* approach. The book tells how to set up Bible classes, and how to teach the 6 one-hour lessons. It shows where to start, where to go next and how to emphasize the right information at the right time. Appropriate Scriptures are provided for use at the right time, and there are plenty of illustrations to help make clear the great truths at hand. There is a systematic chart to be developed throughout the studies. Each lesson is outlined, and there are teaching tips all along the way. This tool will help people who are truly serious about bringing people to Jesus Christ.

It has been successfully used by lots of people, especially missionaries in well over 100 countries. It is available in several languages. Seldom does a week pass when I do not hear at least one report of someone getting saved in a *Basic Bible Truths* lesson. I hope that continues until Jesus comes. A few weeks ago, I conducted the funeral service of Mildred Hill. She and her husband Willie were house parents at Boys Country for almost 30 years. She took every new boy who passed through her cabin through the *Basic Bible Truths* lessons. Over 100 of them trusted Christ. Eternal fruit! Fruit to the glory of God!

It has been my heart to make this tool available to the entire world. Through the years I have published it in several editions. Always before copies have been available mainly through me. Long ago I realized that unless I put the book on Amazon, it would probably perish when I move to heaven. Amazon is so big and world-wide, and makes things so readily accessible usually at a reasonably low price.

At the end of November it happened. *Basic Bible Truths* is now available in paperback format at [Amazon](#). It is also available as an [electronic book](#). The outlines and charts are also available on my website as a [free download](#). These can be printed out and used as an aid to teach the lesson. Furthermore, the paperback price is really good. Amazon lists it for \$9.99. For that, I praise God! Pray that many will get and use the tool to bring people to Christ. *“He that winneth souls is wise,” Proverbs 11:30. “They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever,” Daniel 12:3.*

Jesus said,

“Ye must be born again.”

“There’s a reason why in New York Harbor we have the Statue of Liberty and not the Statue of Equality.” Charles Krauthammer

TEN SPECIFIC PERSONAL GOALS FOR 2019

1. Consciously give my best to the Lord every day.
2. Win at least one person a month to the Lord.
3. Be a good example and testimony to every bystander in my life.
4. Live a life that is pure and holy both inside and outside.
5. Read through the Bible one more time.
6. Read at least one book per month.
7. Finish and publish *What We Believe and Why 2*.
8. Show my love to Mrs. Hutson more than I ever have.
9. Talk less about myself, especially health issues; and more about the Lord.
10. Lose 10 more pounds.

An old guy stopped by a Little League baseball game in progress near his home. He asked one of the boys what the score was. *“We’re behind 14 to nothing,”* he answered with a smile. *“Really? You don’t look very discouraged.”* *“Discouraged?”* the boy asked with a puzzled look on his face. *“Why should we be discouraged? We haven’t been up to bat yet.”*