



CONNECTED

July—September 2018

In this issue

Life Where I've Been	1
Available on Amazon	1
Honor to Whom Honor is Due	2
My new CD on Esther	2
My Prayer Requests	2
Book Review: <i>Expository Notes on the Book of Ephesians</i>	3
Headed to Panama	3
Israel and Petra	4
Miscellaneous	4



On Sunday, June 24, 2018 it was my privilege to show my appreciation and respect to Charles Dill who has personally won over 500 people to Christ since 1982

He that winneth souls is wise

LIFE WHERE I'VE BEEN

One thing is sure, the clock pauses for no man. Somehow I assumed that as you grow older, life will slow down. Was I ever wrong!

In the three months since my last *Connected Newsletter*, Mrs. Hutson and I have been blessed with mighty good health considering our years. She did really well with her knee replacement surgery. Recovery from this procedure is quite painful and requires lots of *true grit*. She had it, and is walking quite well; still sore and a bit stiff, but really active.

In April I spent a weekend with [Gateway Baptist Church](#) and my longtime friend Mike Bragdon in Gatesville, Texas. In June it was my privilege to present a *Basic Bible Truths* lapel pin to Pastor Charles Dill at [Lighthouse Baptist Church](#) in Dickinson, Texas. For more than 20 years, he has won an average of two people a month to Christ using this method. He has personally won more than 500 people to Christ. He has also taught many others how to use *Basic Bible Truths*. Many of these have now won dozens to Christ, and have taught others how to teach the lessons. The effect is exponential. Now that I am the pastor of [Northwest Baptist Church](#), I am not able to get away very often, but with sufficient advance planning I

can do so occasionally.

Early in May we were blessed to have Dr. Pat Briney at Northwest Baptist Church. He's a true ministry racehorse, a *pro* of the first rank. This man started out as a doctrinaire atheist; but when *evidence* was presented to him, he was honest enough to accept it. In his heart he embraced Christ by faith, and is a staunch believer. Better than anybody I personally know, Dr. Pat Briney stands toe to toe with the atheists who are stealing our children.

In May Mrs. Hutson and I drove to Fort Collins, Colorado to support our granddaughter Megan in her graduation from Colorado State University. A week later, we were back in Austin, Texas to support our grandson Cody. He now has a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Texas.

I continue to preach lots of funerals, and am neck-deep in the work that pastors do: the preparation and delivery of sermons, soul winning efforts, looking after sick and hurting people, investing my life as a mentor for Nathan Bragdon, the young preacher whom God has placed in my life, the preparation of agendas for Deacon and staff meetings, lots of administrative work that goes with a pastorate and always leading and

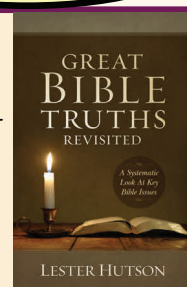
shepherding the flock that God has given me. Along the way I passed go for the 77th time. Thanks to the eternal God of the universe who allows me to continue to be a part of what He is doing on earth.

AVAILABLE ON
AMAZON

When I first published *Great Bible Truths Revisited*, I was not aware of the opportunities with Amazon. The publisher I used did an *okay-job*, but exposure was limited and the book was only available through limited websites. Their inclusion of excessive whitespace also made the book far too expensive; however, I had no voice in that decision.

Recently, with the great help of my friend Philip Rice, the book was reformatted and published through Amazon. The excessive whitespace was removed, reducing the book from 739 pages to 506 pages. There was no content revision, but the Amazon version is obviously not as thick. I am happy to also say the book is available on [Amazon](#) for \$17.99, whereas the other publisher charged over \$33.00.

Simply go to Amazon.com. Under books type in [Lester Hutson](#). You will see the books I have there.



HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE

It is the Bible which says, “*Or render therefore to all of their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to him custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor,*” **Romans 13:7**. I am quite aware that this passage is talking about the paying of certain Roman taxes and respect for Roman civil magistrates. I am equally aware of the overriding implications that God’s people should honor other people, especially those who make great contributions to the work of God. The Bible also says, “*Remember them that have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation,*” **Hebrews 13:7**. Note well: “*whose faith follow.*”



These days there is a shortage of Christian heroes. It saddens me that the heroes of our day generally come from Hollywood, music or sports; and many of these are of the lowest moral grade. I think too often we Christians become to *holy and high-minded* for our own good. We discourage honor for the good people among us for fear of the *praise of men*. My sakes! Don’t we have enough common sense to praise God for good people and to honor them without going to seed? Do we have to be reactionaries on everything, to take everything to the extreme?

I know there’s a danger, but shouldn’t the young boy look up to his own dad? Shouldn’t we thank God for the first responders who risk their lives to save others? Shouldn’t we thank God for great heroes of the faith who faithfully give their lives to the Lord and brings many to righteousness? I think we have allowed the pendulum to swing too far in the other direction. I think our heroes should include some great preachers, and singers and soul winners.

That’s why at my request I went to lighthouse Baptist Church in Dickinson, Texas on Sunday, June 24 and presented my own personal proclamation and one of my *Basic Bible Truths* lapel pins to Charles Benjamin Dill who has personally won over 500 people to Christ since 1982. In the years since then, he has averaged teaching two Bible classes per week. While most have talked about and preached about how bringing people to Christ is and about how it ought to be top priority in the life of every child of God, Charles Dill has been quietly doing it. To me, *doing it* is far superior to the hottest rhetoric I’ve ever heard. I will tell you who is going to shine at the Judgement Seat of Christ; the *doers*, not the *hearers only*. I thank God for Charles Dill, and rejoice in the souls he has brought to Christ!

MY NEW CD ON THE BOOK OF ESTHER

I am happy to announce that I have a new CD on the book of Esther. Last year I preached systematically through the book of Esther. There are 8 sermons on this CD. Seven of the sermons are an exegetical trip through the book; one sermon deals with that moment when Esther laid everything on the line to save her people.

The CD contains a digital recording of each message as I preached it at Northwest Baptist Church. My *preaching notes* for each message are also printable from this CD. A PowerPoint for each message is also a part of the CD.

The CD is available upon request for \$5 plus a mailer and postage. I also offer a number of other sermon CDs including Joshua, James, Philippians, *a History of Churches* and 2nd Timothy.

HERE IS HOW IT WORKS

Some of the materials I offer are available only by ordering directly from me. That includes several of my books as well as my CDs which are not available elsewhere. My ongoing effort is to make these available on Amazon; however, that is still a work in progress.

On items ordered directly from me, I add postage plus \$1 for a mailer. Most of the time due to the help of Mrs. Hutson, I’m able to process orders within a week, although sometimes it takes a little longer. After I ship an order, I prepare an email invoice. To process an order, I must have (1) the name of the person placing the order, (2) an email address, (3) a phone number and (4) a surface address including a ZIP Code.

So many of you have found these materials profitable, and expressed that they are a blessing to you. Please know that you have my deepest gratitude.

PASTOR HUTSON’S PRAYER REQUESTS

- ⇒ That I will be faithful and fruitful until death.
- ⇒ That God would grant me the time and wisdom to finish some of the written works better on my heart.
- ⇒ That I will have sufficient discernment to know when Nathan Bragdon is ready to assume a pastorate.
- ⇒ That I will have enough wisdom to discern the *best* from the *good*.
- ⇒ That I will be content to do the work God has for me at any given time.
- ⇒ That I will always recognize that I am only a servant.

You can contact us at
lesterhutson@gmail.com

A BOOK I HAVE RECENTLY READ AND RECOMMEND

Expository Notes on the Book of Ephesians

R. Nelson Colyar

The Challenge Press

Little Rock, Arkansas

No ISBN

Except for this book, all of the commentaries I have found on the book of Ephesians take a universal invisible church position. I know better.

Church is translated in English from the Greek noun **ekklesia** which means *a called out assembly*. All nouns are used in two senses, abstract or concrete. The *abstract* can only express itself in the *concrete*. No one has ever seen an *abstract* car, animal or church. The church cannot be universal; the idea violates the definition and the one of the most fundamental laws of grammar.

Nelson Colyar's *Expository Notes on the Book of Ephesians* is honest with the use of the word church. In the Bible book of Ephesians, the noun *church* is used both abstractly (institutionally) and concretely, but never in some universal sense. I like that kind of exegetical honesty. I have an equal disdain for exegetical dishonesty of any sort including the changing of a definition to support a preconceived notion.

Colyar's book is not extensive, only 128 pages; but it is concise, and to the point. His book includes 6 chapters, one corresponding to each of the 6 chapters in the book of Ephesians. His is a verse by verse approach. Though he does not go into great depth at any point, he adequately covers all of the ideas in Ephesians which is presented in two parts, doctrine followed by practical application. 67 pages of *Expository Notes on the Book of Ephesians* are given to an exegesis of the doctrine found in Ephesians 1-3. The remaining 60 pages (at chapter separations there are blank pages) are given to an exegesis of the practical application section of Ephesians.

In his commentary, Colyar presents the natural outline of Ephesians. He speaks of the believer's "*spiritual gifts*," but not in the sense of the gifts which characterized the apostles and those upon whom they laid their hands.

For all who seek a clear overall understanding of the book of Ephesians, I recommend R. Nelson Colyar's *Expository Notes on the Book of Ephesians*. The Challenge Press has moved to Emmaus, Pennsylvania. This book may be hard to locate, but it is worth the search.

Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth.

In a generation gone by, a traveling executive telephoned his wife from an airport pay phone. He concluded his call and said good-bye. As he walked away the phone rang. He suspected it was the operator calling to say that he owed more money. It was the operator. "Sir, I thought you'd like to know that just after you hung up, your wife said she loves you."

Several years ago Tommy Lankford's wife died with cancer. A few years later Tommy and I were chatting. I asked him what he'd do different, if he had her back. He said, "I'd sit close to her and hold her hand. When we'd watch TV, I'd sit right beside her; not in another couch or chair. I'd tell her I love her."

We get one pass. Roses are for now, not the casket.

HEADED TO PANAMA

Our missionary couple to Panama are ready to head to the field. It took two full years, but Tim and



Mandy Dulany visited church after church after church. Deputation is a blessing, but it is also a challenge. They're still a little short of their needed support, but more has been promised and they're off to Panama. Lord willing, on the morning of August 23 they will board a plane at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston. Four

hours later they will touch down at Panama City, Panama, their new home.

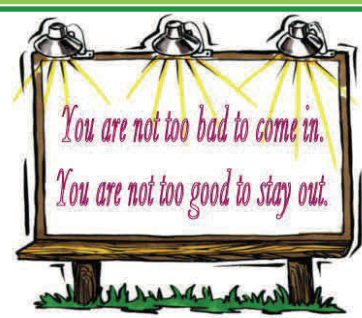
My personal gratitude to every one of you who has helped make this missionary vision and undertaking a reality. We at Northwest Baptist Church realize that true biblical missionary work is a team effort: God is the director, the missionary is the arm extended, his sponsoring church deputizes and sends him forth and the sister churches help make it possible through their financial support and partnership. Be assured dear friends that we at Northwest will do our best to be good team players with you.

Please pray for Tim and Mandy Dulany in Panama. May many come to Christ as a result of this effort!

A hungry soul entered the church in the middle of a sermon. After awhile he began to fidget. He leaned over to a white-haired man next to him and asked, "How long has he been preaching?" "About 40 years." "I suppose I'll stay. Surely he's about through by now."



Gender-neutral
restroom
Early version

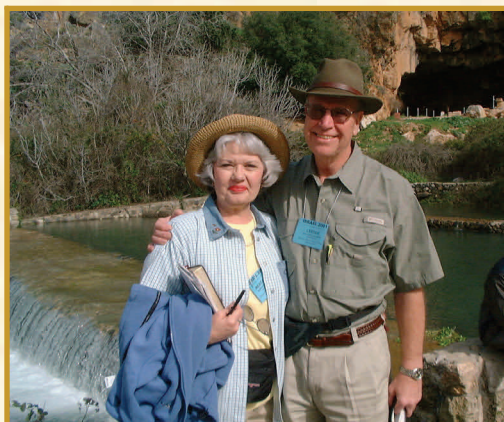


"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

**Some things are better left unsaid;
I usually realize that right after I say them.**

Israel and Petra—2019

Lord willing, next year I will make my 15th trip to Israel. No experience has proven more profitable and inspiring to me than a visit to the *Holy Land*. It is the single most eye-opening experience I've ever had. My Bible came alive. Before I ever went there the first time, I had read my Bible completely through many times, and I believe every word of it. I have to tell you that when I stepped off the airplane at Ben-Gurion Airport and realized that I was in Acts 9, I was moved beyond myself. And then to drive right through the Ajalon Valley where Joshua called on God for the sun and the moon to stand still, to see the minute and accurate detail of the Bible description of Jerusalem particularly on the east side, to observe the place where



**Margaret and Lester Hutson
At Caesarea Philippi**

David slew Goliath, to see the uncovered ruins at Beth Shean where the Philistines hung the bodies of Saul and his sons on the city walls and place after place! I tell you, it did something to me; something very good. My Bible became new. I gained a new appreciation which I cannot describe.

My plans are to take another group. Lord willing, we will depart New York at about 7 PM on Monday October 14, 2019. We will fly directly to Tel Aviv, Israel, meet my friend Ido Keynan whom I consider to be the best guide in Israel, board our tour bus and start a transforming journey. We will spend a few days up north in the Galilee area before moving down to Jerusalem. Everywhere you look and step, you will find yourself somewhere in the Bible. Toward the end of this tour, we will go to Elat on the Red Sea. From there, we will spend the day in Petra, Jordan.

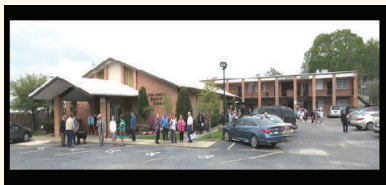
This will be a vintage Bible tour. We will learn a little about modern Israel and her fight for survival, but our main focus will be on this land as it relates to the Bible. Not all *Holy Land* tours are equal. The focus of some of them is more on a fun tour and vacation than upon a serious study of the Bible in light of the land. Some guides do not believe the Bible, and their emphasis is more

on historical information than on what the Bible says.

The airlines and hotels will not give us a firm price more than one year in advance; there are too many variables. Before October of this year, I will not know for sure what this tour will cost. What I do know is that it will most likely be in the neighborhood of \$5000 per person New York to New York based on double occupancy. In the tours I lead, I always make sure that everything except bottled water, soft drinks and souvenirs is included. That means the tour package will include all taxes, tips, site fees, guide, tour bus, hotels and the 3 meals every day. Once I'm able to get a firm price, I will provide a tour brochure to everyone who is interested.

Pastors Darrell Sparks (Dearborn Baptist Church), Charles Dill (Lighthouse Baptist Church) and Ron Thomas (Rodgers Baptist Church) will cohost this tour with me. I am organizing the tour and making the arrangements; each of these pastors is bringing a group and will assist me with logistics.

Those who are seriously interested in being a part of this tour should let me know. (lesterhutson@gmail.com); 713-206-8367. To secure a seat, those making the tour will be asked to send a non-refundable deposit in early October, 2018. The tour company which I will use is DuCar International Tours. Installment payments can be made, but the final amount will be due approximately 3 months before departure date. That's the middle of July 2019.



THE PLACE AND WORK MY MASTER HAS FOR ME

Northwest Baptist Church in Houston. At this stage of my life, I knew I would be giving all I had to the Lord; but I didn't see myself as the pastor of a church. Sometimes servants do not see what their masters have in store for them. God made it clear this is what I should be doing, and I am happy to do it until He changes my equation. I am still working on written materials, but my first responsibility is the pastorate of Northwest Baptist Church. It is a privilege to serve the great God of heaven and earth. My heart is to do it wherever He puts me; faithfully, fruitfully and happily till the day He takes me home.

"I was never one who sought to make the small man tall by cutting off the legs of a giant."

Paul Harvey

Legend has it that when Abe Lincoln was president, someone asked him how long a man's legs should be. Lincoln responded, *"Long enough to reach the ground."*