



# CONNECTED

July-September, 2022

## In this issue

Life for Mrs. Hutson & Me Remains Very Full	1
Precious Memories	1
12 Things I Don't Want as I Grow Old	1
Generally Prophetic	2
Jim and Nelle Davis	2
Don & Kay McFarland	3
<i>The Trail of Tears</i>	3
A Central Pillar of Leadership	4
<i>The Reliability of Your Bible</i> Now Available	4



## PRECIOUS MEMORIES

Our Shugart grandboys. Nathan is holding Adam. In May, Adam was graduated from Stratford High School. He will be entering the University of Texas in San Antonio as a Mechanical Engineering student. Nathan is in U.T. Dallas.

Enjoy every day!  
They grow up in a hurry!

## LIFE FOR MRS. HUTSON AND ME REMAINS VERY FULL

I am so happy and blessed to be alive, reasonably healthy and able to serve the Lord, including preaching his Word. During April, May and June I preached 31 times. A few years ago, when I "retired" from Berean Baptist Church, I let it be known that I was not retiring from the Lord, just the pastorate of one church. Thank the Lord, he still keeping me about as *busy as a bee in a tar bucket*.

The days in McKinney, Texas with Midway Baptist Church and Pastor Ed Neal were a delight. The *Prophetic Overview of God's Calendar* seminar went well. A week later, we were back in the Dallas area to conduct a funeral of a dear and godly man who was a precious friend for many decades: Jim Davis. The following Sunday, we were just out of Cleburne, Texas for the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Prairie Vista Baptist Church and Pastor Robert Stephens. We came back to Northwest Baptist Church in Houston and Pastor Darren Simpson for the *How Reliable is Your*

*Bible* seminar. Two days later we were in Childress, Texas to conduct a funeral of a great man of God and his wife: Don and Kay McFarland.

May gave me a little time in my office in front of my computer. The work on my new book continues: *What's So Wrong with Doing Right*. Hopefully, I will get it done by this summer however, that's not a prediction. At the end of May, our last grandchild was graduated from high school. We weren't about to miss that graduation.

The end of June found me with my son and two great friends on a high mountain lake in the absolutely stunning San Juan Mountains of Southwest Colorado. Yep. Trout fishing. Yes, it's great to be alive!

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*No matter how educated, talented, rich or cool you believe you are, how you treat people ultimately tells all.*

## 12 THINGS I DON'T WANT AS I GROW OLD

1. To be a person of negativism, selfishness, cynicism and bitterness.
2. To be a gripey, sour, ungrateful old man.
3. To turn increasingly inward and into self: my wants, aches, pains and my little world.
4. To lose sight of God's life-long goodness to me, and find myself wallowing in ingratitude and self-pity.
5. To blame and falsely accuse God.
6. To lose sight of where I am in life, and of the limitations that go with where I am.
7. To make it hard for my own children to take care of me.
8. To become so stubborn and obstinate that I force my children to make necessary choices for me.
9. To violate every principle of basic Christianity for which I have stood my whole life: the all-sufficient grace of God for every circumstance, cooperation, respecting others, humility and the hope we have in Christ. In my life, I want people to see that the truths of God are real, not just hot rhetoric.
10. To lose my Christian testimony.
11. To become so irresponsible that I fail to prepare to die: no will, no burial policy, no medical directive.
12. To give up and quit living.

## GENERALLY PROPHETIC

It is quite likely that you have been around a good many old people. A nursing home is a good place to find lots of them; however, there are plenty of them who are not there yet. Most of them have very distinct and defined traits. So many of them, the vast majority are a delight! So full of joy, great stories and lots of wisdom. They're so easy-going and gracious.

Then, there are others. Years ago, there was a big billboard sign outside a West Texas town that said something like this: *"The home of 141,194 wonderful people, and 13 old soreheads."* Yes, there are a few of them in almost every mix. They're even in churches.

How people will be as they grow older is generally quite predictable. If you would like to know how a 30-year-old will be when he or she is 70, study the traits and habits that have now. As they grow older, those traits and habits will simply grow stronger and more defined. If a person is self-centered, greedy, cranky, ill-tempered, negative and inconsiderate at 30, by the time that person is 70 you will probably want to stay clear. Although bad traits would have just gotten bigger, take it from the other direction. Look at the dominant traits of any old person. What you see in excess there was what they were in moderation back then.

What a blessing to be around mature and elderly people who are full of life, smiles and happiness! Even with all of the health issues and limitations that go with aging, they are upbeat and positive. Their focus not on themselves. They are loving, kind, considerate and content with the state in which they find themselves, even when it's often poorly.

Would you like to know where you're going to be when you get old? Take a good look in your mirror. Look at your attitudes, and how you treat other people. Listen to yourself talk. How do you respond to problems, and to other people? It's not very hard to tell which way you're headed. It's likely that you don't like much of what you see in old people. It's also likely that much of what you see is you. Just a younger version.

Christians are pretty notorious for talking about how God can change lives. That kind of preaching brings lots of *"Amen's."* It seems that too many Christians are thinking about changes that need to be made in the life of someone else; not their own. I can't tell you how many times I've heard some Christians say, *"That's just the way I am."* A statement like that is a disgrace to any Christian. If we don't believe that God can change lives, including our own, we ought to quit saying it.

The truth is, *God can change lives*; but He rarely does it overnight. The Bible talks about *growing in grace*; and we all know that growth takes time. If you'd like to be different from many of the 70-year-olds that you know, you'd better start letting God change you now. Spend a little time in the mirror of God's Word. If you're honest, it will not take you very long to see a good many things that need to be changed in you. If you can't figure it out for yourself, ask a true friend who will be honest with you. By the grace of God, you can be different for the better. There is no excuse for growing old and ugly.



Earlier this year, I conducted the funeral service of Tom Wroblewski. Yes, he was a wonderful friend and a thoroughbred Polock. These three godly men were there. They served with me at **Berean Baptist Church**: Anastacio Perez, Roger Thompson and Ronnie Layton.

## A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART



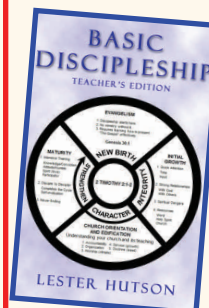
Through the years, it has been my privilege to know lots of really great people. Somehow, we all seem to *click* with some more than others. Jim Davis was one of those magnets for me. We both loved the Lord, and

were committed to Him. Our love for the great outdoors, the handiwork of our great God was deep and genuine. He loved the beautiful mountains, the mighty Rio Grande River and fishing for trout with dry flies. Back in the early 1970s, we bonded; it was a lifelong connection. Jim would've been 100 years old in October. We buried him in the beautiful Veterans Cemetery in Dallas, Texas on April 18. Jim was a true World War II hero, and he was my personal hero. Jim and his dear wife of 61 years, Nelle were good to Margaret and me, and to our children. *"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works to follow them," Revelation 14:13.*

## RODGERS MISSIONS CONFERENCE

For several decades I have attended most of the annual *Missions Conferences* at **Rodgers Baptist Church** in Garland, Texas. I have found them to be good for me. I meet and heard from many missionaries, some new. It keeps my *ear-to-the-ground*

about much of the work of our great God beyond my immediate grasp. I interface with pastors from around the country, and am challenged and enriched by their fellowship and preaching. The hosts at Rodgers Baptist Church are extremely gracious.



This year's Conference dates are July 18-20. Experience has taught me that it is well worth your time to attend this *Missions Conference*. Details are available at <https://www.rodgersbaptist.net/>

My plans are to attend the Conference, and give a free copy of one of my books to every pastor, missionary and full-time ministry worker in attendance: *Basic Discipleship Teacher's Manual*.



## A TRULY GODLY COUPLE NOW WITH THE LORD



I doubt that I will ever forget April 27, 2022. Only a few hours after a tragic head on collision on US 287 just south-east of Amarillo, Chase Finch called to say that Don and Kay McFarland died instantly on the scene. What a shock! Two young women and a small child died in the other vehicle which was traveling the wrong way.

Even though we know they're with the Lord, it's hard to give up our dearest loved ones. Our bond with the McFar-

land was about as tight as they get. They had the respect of lots of people. Don was the pastor of [Parkview Baptist Church](#) in Childress, Texas for 38 years. The church was full, standing room only. The service was live-streamed into the Fellowship Hall. There were lots of people over there as well as many who watched on Facebook. The choir loft was reserved for pastors and missionaries. It was full.

I feel like David when Jonathan fell. Thank God for the hope that is in Jesus Christ. Because we are mortals, we "*sorrow,*" but not "*as others which have no hope,*" **1 Thessalonians 4:13**. We left two cold bodies in side-by-side graves in the Childress Cemetery, but Don and Kay McFarland are with the Lord. For those who know Jesus Christ as personal Savior, there is hope beyond the grave. Hallelujah! Death is not the end.

## A BOOK I HAVE READ AND HIGHLY RECOMMEND

### *The Trail of Tears: The Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation*

By John Ehle

Audible

Anchor Books, 1988

ISBN: 9780307793836

This is one of the most well-written, fact-filled histories I have ever read. For those with a basic knowledge of American history from the beginning of this nation into the early 1840's, *The Trail of Tears* provides remarkable insight into the early thinking and actions of the nation as it steadily moved westward.

The center focus of *The Trail of Tears* is on the Cherokee Indians who had their own sovereign nation before the white man arrived. Against impossible odds, they sought to maintain their nation. The effort ultimately ended in subjection and agony. This book centers on the Cherokees and their ruinous demise, but to a great degree *The Trail of Tears* is the story of all American Indians, eastern and western. White settlers were greedy for land, and determined to take it. Regardless! Injustice, cruelty and wholesale crimes against humanity were of little concern to most of them. A majority of them viewed Indians and blacks as less than human, even as animals. In the minds of many, they had no souls or rights, and they treated them worse than beasts.

The book is remarkably candid, objective and non-judgmental. It factually exposes some of the ugliest aspects of the human race. Many white settlers claimed to be Christians while they raped black and Indian women, stole their horses and cattle, burned their living quarters, took their land and slaughtered them like wild animals. The fact is that Indians had been doing the same things to other Indians long before white men arrived: Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, Seminoles and others. Naturally, they fought back against the white intruders, and took lots of scalps. The Indians were fighting white people who were destroying them, but their own fragmentation and inner power struggles greatly contributed to their demise and misery.

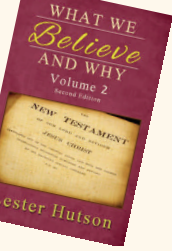
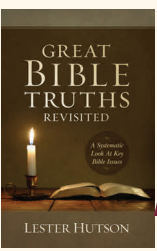
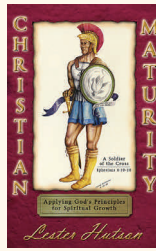
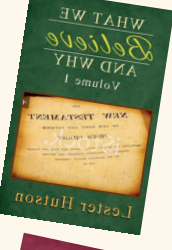
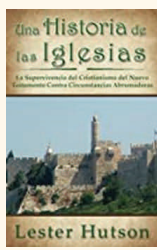
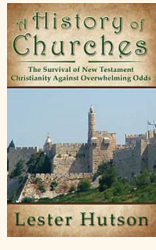
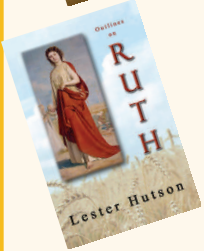
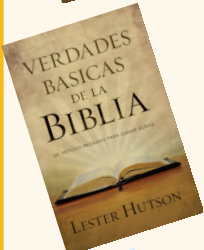
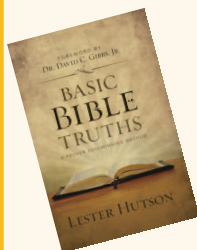
*The Trail of Tears* will make you cry and your blood boil. In this book humanity's propensity to tell and believe lies, its greed, its cruelty and inhumanity, its abject corruptness and its evil nature all glare. The book exposes the rawest underbelly of humanity. The bribery, dishonesty and corruption of multiple government officials from presidents downward will turn your stomach. Indian leaders were in on it too. The thinking and role of Andrew Jackson is particularly appalling. The people of Georgia were particularly heartless.

The Cherokee Indians were arguably the most enlightened and progressive of the eastern tribes. A most intelligent Indian named Ridge played a huge role in efforts to "*civilize*" his people and cooperate with the new American Nation. In the end, through the lies and deception of an especially corrupt Indian leader named John Ross, his own people murdered him. More than any other tribe, under the leadership and integrity of Ridge, his people largely gave up their prior hunter-gatherer lifestyle, became farmers and cattlemen, gained educations, embraced the God of the Bible and became "*civilized*." It was to no avail. Eventually the ground-swell of the new nation took almost all Indian lands and forceably moved them west of the Mississippi River into a supposed new land of their own. During the forced military march known as *The Trail of Tears*, hundreds of the Indians perished in the cruelest of ways.

I strongly recommend this book. It is extremely enlightening.

## BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON

Here are some of my books which you can find on [Amazon](#). They are available in both paper and electronic formats.



Roe vs Wade was overturned!  
Praise His holy name!

## A CENTRAL PILLAR OF LEADERSHIP

Somebody is always in charge; many times it's not the person you'd think. If you think the head of the home is always in charge, you're pretty naïve. Bosses are not always running the show. Oh, most of them have a degree of power, and they love to strut it; but it's a clever, behind-the-scenes person who is determining direction. Churches? The pastor is *the man*; but it's the man (or men) who gives the big money, who has been there a long time or who has that *bull-dog* personality and domineering spirit who is in real control.

Leaders are ALWAYS "*out front*." Maybe not visibly *out front*; but *out front* in ideas, thinking, plans and strategy. They see what other don't see, and are always working on a plan to see that their direction prevails. They're always considering the *options* and *what-ifs*.

In the sense of success there are good leaders and poor leaders, but there are two categories of successful leaders: those with integrity who establish good, wholesome direction and those who are deceptive, crooked, selfish and corrupt. There are successful gang leaders. For a long time, Adolph Hitler succeeded in getting his way. Many "*successful*" politicians are very corrupt leaders. It seems to me that a good many business leaders, educator and preachers fall into this category.

Whether for good or for evil, they all have at least one big common denominator; they are always ahead of the pack. Regardless of where they are located in the crowd, they are *out front* in thinking, ideas, vision, strategy and plans.

They're the *go-to* and *go-with* people. It really doesn't matter who is wearing the title: boss, dad, pastor; everybody knows where the real power is. They know who can get the job done. At home, little children figure it out really quick. Everybody at the workplace knows. The pastor may act like the *big cheese* and seem very important, but most of the people soon know whether or not he's really in charge and can get the job done.

A beautiful thing is that when leadership is done right, it seems so easy and natural. The leader is not threatening, bullying or intimidating anybody. He's simply *out front* with good, clear vision and ideas. People see it, and get hold of the vision. They buy into the plans. They respect the leader, and want to be a part of the plan. There's harmony and enthusiasm; and appreciation for good, clear leadership.

How much better things are when strong leadership comes from the person wearing the title! Oh, how it cuts down on petty, in-the-ranks power struggles! Oh, how it builds morale and respect!

Churches are notorious for dictatorial or passive pastors. It's usually one extreme or the other. Dictatorial pastors run everything with a heavy hand. The result is almost always resentment, intimidation and a revolving door. The pastor decides everything; committee meetings and other meetings are mere formalities.

On the other hand, divisive and non-productive committee meetings are the earmarks of passive pastors who do not lead. It's that time of the month for the committee to meet. There's no agenda. Someone asks (usually the pastor), "*Is there anything we need to discuss?*" or "*We have this problem; does anyone have a suggestion?*" Somebody says, "*Yes,*" and lays out a plan. If it's not what the preacher wanted, he's now on his heels. Bad feelings and division are almost inevitable. If something gets done, everybody in the meeting knows who the real leader is; and word gets around.

How much better if would be for the person wearing the leadership hat to be out front with vision and a well-thought plan! Get input from committee members, amend as needed and move forward as one. Go into meetings to address real issues; and if there are none, don't have the meeting. To most thinking people, *meetings for meetings sake* are anathema. Poorly planned and executed meetings are a close second.

This concept works well in churches and in the marketplace. Wherever they are, people have many similarities. They need leaders, not dictators or bullies. And, they rarely care very much for wimps.

**answering**  
THAT BUILD FAITH  
SEMINAR

HOW RELIABLE IS YOUR BIBLE?  
By Dr. Lester Hutson

**SCHEDULE:**

Apr. 28, Thurs.-7PM-9PM  
Apr. 29, Fri.-7PM-9PM  
Apr. 30, Sat.-10AM-12PM  
May 1, Sun.-9:45AM-10:30PM  
11AM-12PM  
2PM-3PM

Each session will be live-streamed  
on our Facebook @NWBCHouston  
or look up "Northwest Baptist Church"

APRIL 28-MAY 1

### NORTH CLEAR CREEK FALLS

One of my favorite places on the planet; between Creede and Lake City, Colorado.

Gorgeous! 10,000 feet above sea level.



### The two most famous words in golf: "Oh, no!"

"Any shortcomings of the gospel are never about the message, but the messenger"

Jerry Locke

My recent seminar on *The Reliability of Your Bible* was captured on video. There were 8 sessions plus a sermon. All 9 episodes are available on the Northwest Baptist Church website. Simply go to <https://nwbchouston.org>. Once there, click on "Media." You will see all of the sessions.