

Baptist Testimony



The Word Has It

Ken Floyd
MARBC State Representative

“Strengthen me according to Your word,”

— Psalm 119:28

DECEMBER’S WORD:

“Room”

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

— Luke 2:7

“Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem’s home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.”

“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne,”
Emily E.S. Elliott, 1836-1897)

We have entered perhaps the most celebrated and recognized season of the year worldwide. Even those who do not personally embrace Christianity participate in this year end observance of good will. This presents a special challenge for those of us who do embrace the Christ of Christmas and seek to clearly present the purpose for His coming into the world.

Several years ago Dr. William Brock, one of my friends and mentors who served as the State Representative for the



-VOLUME 53 NUMBER 11 DECEMBER 2007

Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches, shared the following story in a Christmas letter sent to the pastors of Ohio. He prefaced the story by sharing that this was one of his favorite stories associated with Christmas. After I read it, it became one of mine as well. I have enjoyed sharing this story regularly over the years in my messages and Christmas devotionals. I trust that it will be a blessing to you as you read it.

“Trouble in the Inn”

by Dina Donohue

For years now whenever Christmas pageants are talked about in a certain town in the Midwest, someone is sure to mention the name of Wallace Purling. Wally’s performance in one annual production of the Nativity play has slipped into the realm of legend. But the old-timers who were in the audience that night never tire of recalling exactly what happened.

Wally was nine that year and in the second grade, though he should have been in the fourth. Most people in town knew that he had difficulty in keeping up. He was big and clumsy, slow in movement and mind. Still, Wally was well liked by the other children in his class, all of whom were smaller than he, though the boys had trouble hiding their irritation if the un-coordinated Wally asked to play ball with them.

Most often they’d find a way to keep him off the field, but Wally would hang around anyway – not sulking, just hoping. He was always a helpful boy, a willing and smiling

one, and the natural protector, paradoxically, of the underdog. Sometimes if the old boys chased the younger ones away, it would always be Wally who’d say, “Can’t they stay? They’re no bother.”

Wally fancied the idea of being a shepherd with a flute in the Christmas pageant that year, but the play’s director, Miss Lumbar, assigned him to a more important role. After all, she reasoned, the Innkeeper did not have too many lines, and Wally’s size would make his refusal of lodging to Joseph more forceful.

And so it happened that the usual large, partisan audience gathered for the town’s Yuletide extravaganza of the staffs and crèches, of beards, crowns, halos and a whole stageful of squeaky voices. No one on stage or off was more caught up in the magic of the night than Wallace Purling. They said later that he stood in the wings and watched the performance with such fascination that from time to time Miss Lumbar had to make sure he didn’t wander onstage before his cue.

Then the time came when Joseph appeared, slowly, tenderly guiding Mary to the door of the inn. Joseph knocked hard on the wooden door set into the painted backdrop. Wally the Innkeeper was there, waiting.

“What do you want?” Wally said, swinging the door open with a brusque gesture. “We seek lodging.” “Seek it elsewhere.” Wally looked straight ahead but spoke vigorously. “The inn is filled.”

“Sir, we have asked everywhere in vain. We have traveled far and are very weary.”

“There is no room in this inn for you.” Wally looked properly stern.

“Please, good innkeeper, this is my wife, Mary. She is heavy with child and needs a place to rest. Surely you must have some small corner for her. She is so tired.”

Now, for the first time, the Innkeeper relaxed his stiff stance and looked down at Mary. With that, there was a long pause, long enough to make the audience a bit tense with embarrassment.

(continued on page 3)

BAPTIST TESTIMONY
Official Organ of the Michigan Association
Of Regular Baptist Churches
830 Russwood St., NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

MARBC NEWS & NOTES

GRAND RAPIDS, HIGHLAND HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH (DAVE LAMB) – Highland Hills Baptist Church held a special service on September 9 to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of Pastor Dave Lamb’s installation as Senior Pastor and 18 years of ministry on the pastoral staff. Pastor Dave and Brenda first came to Highland Hills to serve as Associate Pastor of Youth. The Lamb’s former pastor, Rev. Edward Fuller (State Representative of the Wisconsin Association of Regular Baptist Churches), was the special speaker. Several family members also traveled to Grand Rapids to share in the special service and luncheon. We give thanks for God’s blessings upon the Lambs, their three daughters, and the entire church family.

ISHPEMING, BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH (JIM HILL) – Bible Baptist Church held a surprise party during Pastor Appreciation Month to honor Pastor Jim and Ruth Hill for their 30 years of ministry at the church.

The Hills’ daughter, Beth, shares this report: “When Mom and Dad arrived at church Sunday morning, October 14, they learned that we were having a special service to commemorate their 30 years at Bible Baptist, including a fellowship dinner after the service. We had come up with an entirely new order of service, so Mom & Dad had the ‘fake’ bulletin with what they THOUGHT was the order of service, when in fact the deacons had staged a coup and had printed off entirely new bulletins which changed the songs, Scripture reading, and even the speaker! We had a guest with us from Continental Baptist Missions, Tom Logsdon, so Dad didn’t even have to

preach! We sang songs of God’s faithfulness, had a moving testimony time where several shared what the ministry had meant in their lives through the years, and I put together a PowerPoint slideshow a ‘Walk Down Memory Lane’ that Rachel & Sarah narrated with pictures of the last 30 years (thanks to Rachel for raiding mom and dad’s photo albums). We sang a song as a family, Sarah sang a special, and we even had a special ‘virtual Tim’ (the Hills’ son) visit with a video testimony that he had mailed to us! It was a special day for the whole family. I think it is good to have ‘stones of remembrance’ of how God has showed Himself to be faithful in the past and will continue to show Himself faithful. It was a nice time to celebrate the ministry in Ishpeming!”



Above: Jim & Ruth Hill, 2007



At right: Jim & Ruth Hill, circa 1975

LAKE CITY, CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH (DAN WILLIS) – Calvary Baptist Church of Lake City celebrated “50 Years of God’s Grace” on Sunday, October 7. Following a worship service of praise the church met in the Family Center for a fish fry and potluck dinner.

Calvary Baptist started in 1953 when a lady living in Lake City contacted the Grand Rapids Association of Regular Baptist Churches to inquire about starting a church in the area. In 1953 Pastor C. S. Larson of Calvary Baptist Church in West Branch made weekly trips to Lake City to hold worship services on park benches. Several people from his own congregation made the trip with him to help with the meetings. When cold weather approached the local Legion Hall and later a public school were rented to hold worship services. Financial support came from churches in West Branch, Manton,

Northville, and the GRARBC. In 1954 other pastors began assisting in the preaching duties. In February 1957 Pastor Ira Watson, a missionary with Galilean Baptist Mission, became the pastor. Four months later the current 2.5 acre site, including a house, was purchased for \$4,200. Services were held in the house until the church basement was completed. Blocks for the basement were purchased by members and friends for 25 cents each. 90% of the work and materials for construction were supplied by members and friends. The original house was later removed and the present parsonage was built.

In June 1963, the Lake City Baptist Church became the 100th Baptist congregation to affiliate with the GRARBC. It was then that the little Baptist church in Lake City became and remains an independent ministry dedicated to the worship of our loving Heavenly Father. In October 1968 the name of the church was changed to Calvary Baptist of Lake City.

One member observed at the anniversary celebration, “This church has come a long way since 1953 when meetings were held on park benches and picnic tables at a local park.” Today the congregation gives praise to God for a nice church building for worship, a separate family center, and a parsonage that are all debt free. The church is thankful for the opportunity to give over 20% of its annual budget to missions. Pastor Dan Willis is the current pastor of this special ministry.



Calvary Baptist of Lake City celebrates 50th Anniversary



Ira Watson, Galilean Baptist Missions, in Lake City, ca 1958

BAPTIST TESTIMONY
 Official Organ of the Michigan Association
 of Regular Baptist Churches

KEN FLOYD
 Editor
 830 Russwood St., NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505
 Phone: (616) 364-5688

Editorial Staff:
 Council of Fifteen - MARBC

Baptist Testimony is published monthly (bi-monthly June/July), seeking to serve the cause of Regular Baptists in our association & State Fellowship. It will be sent to churches at a cost of 19 cents per copy. Individual subscriptions are \$5.50 per year. Deadline for copy is the last day of the month.

"No! Begone!" the prompter whispered from the wings.

"No!" Wally repeated automatically. "Begone!"

Joseph sadly placed his arm around Mary and Mary laid her head upon his shoulder and the two of them started to move away. The Innkeeper did not return inside his inn, however. Wally stood there in the doorway, watching the forlorn couple. His mouth was open, his brow creased with concern, his eyes filling unmistakably with tears.

"Don't go, Joseph," Wally called out. "Bring Mary back." And Wally Purling's face grew into a bright smile. "You can have my room."

Some people in town thought that the pageant had been ruined. Yet there were others – many others – who considered it the most Christmas of all Christmas pageants they had ever seen.

Quite a touching story, isn't it? As I have read Wally's sincere invitation to Joseph and Mary throughout the years, it has always caused my voice to quiver and tears to collect in my eyes. Please remember during these busy days of preparation for special Christmas ministries, gift purchasing, tree trimming, and family gatherings that the most important aspect of Christmas is to be sure to invite Jesus to be the central part of your life and your observances.

Emily Elliott concluded the poem that is quoted at the beginning of this column with the invitation: "O come to my heart, Lord Jesus – there is room in my heart for Thee!" In referring to the purpose for Christ's coming at Bethlehem, *John 1:12-13* shares, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." My friend, please make sure that this is true for you.

The joyful news and most precious gift of every Christmas season is - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17)

You have His Word on it! (KEF)

MARBC CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 24, 2007

WHEREAS Lake Ann Baptist Camp has opened its doors and its facilities to us for our Annual Conference, and WHEREAS we have found the housing accommodations comfortable and restful; and the dining room atmosphere, with the delicious food, very appealing; and the chapel most inviting to our worship and praise to our Great God, with opportunity to hear from Him, through His Word, and WHEREAS we have enjoyed the beautiful outdoors and the well kept grounds, so as to rejoice in the wonders of our Great Creator, and WHEREAS all these amenities are under the capable leadership of our friend and Executive Director, Rev. Ken Riley, who has led his fine staff in the gracious way in which they have ministered to our needs, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we the messengers of the Michigan Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 65th annual meeting, October 22 through 24, 2007, do go on record as expressing our grateful thanks to Ken Riley and his staff, for the way they have hosted our meeting and attended to our needs, and FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that we as an association give our united appreciation to our God for the great things He has done, through the ministry of Lake Ann Camp.

MARBC CONFERENCE MESSAGES

AVAILABLE: Messages by Dr. Renald Showers and Ken Floyd are available free for listening or downloading at www.marbc.net.

The January issue of THE BAPTIST TESTIMONY will feature "CPR" (Church Partnering Relationships), the new ministry introduced by Ken Floyd at the MARBC Conference. The brochure explaining this special ministry for MARBC churches is available to download at the MARBC website.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

YOU MAY BE SEATED! – North Casnovia Baptist Church has 27 pews to give away to a sister church who would like them. They are in good condition and can seat 220 people comfortably.

Contact 231.834.5952 or 231.834.5341 / email – ncasbaptist@ncats.net / 1625 N. Canada Rd., Bailey, MI 49303

MARBC EVENTS TO PLACE ON YOUR 2007 CALENDAR

March 1, 2008

The EMARBC
Men Modeling the Master
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Flint
Answers in Genesis, creation ministry team

March 7-8, 2008

The GRARBC
Annual Church Ministries Conference
Calvary Baptist Church, Grand Rapids
"Masterfully Motivated"
Keynote Speaker: Rev. Ken Floyd
MARBC State Representative

Saturday, April 19, 2008

MARBC Talents for Christ Competition
South Baptist Church, Flint
Ken Pyne, Director

May 1-3, 2008

Annual MARBC Men's Retreat
Lake Ann Baptist Camp
"Being Men of Valor: How to Develop the Character of a Conqueror"
Keynote Speaker: Rev. Bill Jenkin
President, Continental Baptist Mission

June 24-27, 2008

National GARBC Conference
"The Glory of the Cross"
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

October 27-28, 2008

66th Annual MARBC Conference
First Baptist Church, Rochester, Michigan
Dr. Jim Jeffery
President, Baptist Bible College,
Graduate School, and Seminary

WITH THE LORD

"Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of His saints."

– Psalm 116:15

Rev. Larry Vincent went home to be with His Lord on November 3. A memorial service was held at the First Baptist Church in Fremont. Larry was the director of Churches Unlimited, Inc., served as the Deputation Director for Continental Baptist Missions in the 1980's, as well as an MARBC pastor, and was currently a member of First Baptist Church in Newaygo.

Mrs. Florence Strolle, wife of retired MARBC pastor Martin Strolle, was called into the Lord's presence on Thanksgiving Day. A memorial service was held at Blessed Hope Baptist Church in Escanaba.

Need an Interim Pastor or Pulpit Supply?

INTERPAS

has godly, experienced men to help you.

Please contact:

Rev. Tom Dolph, Interpas Director
(616) 874-7056 ♦ (616) 874-6740

Ministry Opportunity:

- Serve as Houseparents
- Full Salary & Benefits
- 401(k) Plan & Vacation
- Minister to needy children
- Openings in Indiana & Michigan
- Call Jim Geurink for more information 219.462.4111



Baptist Children's Home
354 West St.,
Valparaiso, IN 48383
www.baptistchildrenshome.org

Mark Hoskins
REALTOR®



Preferred, REALTORS®

502 Northland Dr. NE
Rockford, MI 49341
Bus. 616.866.1212
Cell 616.893.9422

World Wide Relocation
E-mail markhoskins50@grar.com



An independently owned and operated member of the Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

BEACONHILL

AT

Eastgate

Independent living - apartments
Semi-independent living -
Residential studio/suite
Assisted living & Nursing care.



"The Times
of Your Life"

1845 Boston SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 245-9179

Meet us at whwl.net

Are you looking for
Christian radio that
has retained hymns
of the faith, uncompromising
Bible teaching, children's
programming and a Christian
perspective on the news?



David Jeremiah • Chuck Swindoll
John MacArthur • Alistair Begg
Cal Thomas • Phyllis Schlafly

Give us a try on the web!
www.whwl.net

Order program guides by calling
1-800-359-9673
whwl@whwl.net

KEN'S ROAD REPORT

- Dec 2 First Baptist Church, Stanton,
pastor's installation service
- Dec 3 Attend SMARBC fellowship dinner in
Adrian
- Dec 6 Interpas luncheon, Grand Rapids
- Dec 9 North Park Baptist Church, Grand
Rapids
- Dec 10 Closed Door Ministries open house,
Grand Rapids
- Dec 15 Christmas Banquet, North Park
Baptist, Grand Rapids
- Dec 23-
Jan 10 Christmas Vacation
- Jan 13 OPEN
- Jan 15 Council of 15 meeting, West
Cannon, Belmont
- Jan 19 Closed Door Ministries board
meeting, Grand Rapids
- JAN 20 Evangel Baptist Church, Taylor
- Jan 21-24 Baptist Bible College & Seminary
Trustee Board meetings, PA
- JAN 27 OPEN

Special note: Ken is scheduling meetings for 2008. Please send all support checks, correspondence, church bulletins, newsletters and requests for speaking engagements to:

MARBC

830 Russwood St., NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
Phone: (616)364-5688

MARBCken@aol.com
MARBCSharon@aol.com
www.MARBC.net

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

SPECIAL PASTORS AND WIVES DISCOUNT: the Best Western Scenic Hill Resort in Beulah, Michigan, is once again this year offering a special getaway for pastors and wives of the MARBC at their hotel. The special rate is \$50 per night, plus tax, and includes a full hot breakfast. This rate is available through May 23 (based on availability). They also offer a discount of 20% off all Spa services. Contact Dave Easter, 1.800.439.7080, for more information and reservations.



Pederson
Funeral Homes, Inc.

DAVID A. PEDERSON
Funeral Director

127 N. Monroe Street, Rockford, MI 49341
(616) 866-1515 ♦ Fax (616) 866-6440

DECEMBER 2007 ANNIVERSARY ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 10 - Pastor & Mrs. Chris Weeks, Kent City
Bapt., Kent City
- 16 - Rev. & Mrs. Rich Griffith, Parma Bapt.,
Parma
- 18 - Rev. & Mrs. Thomas Stout, Volinia Bapt.,
Decatur
- 20 - Rev. & Mrs. Adam Arnould, Emmanuel
Bapt., Flint
- 20 - Pastor & Mrs. Jonathan McGinnis, Berean
Bapt., Portage - 10 years!
- 22 - Rev. & Mrs. Douglas Crawford, West
Cannon Bapt., Belmont
- 22 - Rev. & Mrs. Jerry Bishop, L'Anse Bapt.,
L'Anse
- 23 - Pastor & Ms. Paul Osborn, First Bapt.,
Hastings
- 27 - Rev. & Mrs. Ted Jolls, Limestone Bapt.,
Wetmore - 15 years!
- 27 - Pastor & Mrs. Marc Herron, First Bapt.,
Caro - 5 years!
- 27 - Rev. & Mrs. Steve Summerfield, First
Bapt., Fremont
- 28 - Rev. & Mrs. George Dwelley, Cornerstone
Bapt., Shingleton
- 30 - Rev. & Mrs. Jim Ankerberg, Ensley Bapt.,
Sand Lake - 35 years!

*May your marriage and ministry be
marked by God's guidance and blessing!*

A CHRISTMAS GREETING from the Floyds

Sharon and I pray for God's rich blessings upon all of the churches and friends of the MARBC during this Christmas season. We appreciate your prayer support and words of encouragement during our first year of ministry with the MARBC. We look forward to a wonderful new year of opportunity and growth for our fellowship as we follow the leadership of our wonderful Savior and Lord and the encouraging guidance of God's Spirit.



Ken & Sharon Floyd

We appreciate your prayer support and words of encouragement during our first year of ministry with the MARBC. We look forward to a wonderful new year of opportunity and growth for our fellowship as we follow the leadership of our wonderful Savior and Lord and the encouraging guidance of God's Spirit.

