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July 2017

The Oakhill Baptist Church Newsletter

# PASTOR'S POINTS



Alan D. Scott

Lead Pastor

[ascott@oakhillbc.org](mailto:ascott@oakhillbc.org)

Dear Church Family,

Are you a teachable person? This question is very important to answer especially as we consider our Wisdom/Folly sermon series we are in currently. We learned in Proverbs chapter nine that a fool is “unteachable”. He will not listen. This person is determined to live in human foolishness instead of God’s truth. This is so sad. A quote that I shared in this first sermon is so telling to how we often look at ourselves. **‘Too often we change jobs, friends, or spouses instead of changing ourselves.’- Akbarali Jetha.** We must be teachable if we are going to apply God’s wisdom to our lives. Pastor James Macdonald shares with us a five-point quiz to find out how teachable we are. He shares...

**Proverbs 17:10 says, “A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.”** In other words, you can get more ROI (Return on Investment) from a wise person in one gentle conversation than you can gain from a fool by whacking him with a board a hundred times. Which are you?

If you’re not sure how you rate on the teachability meter, take this five-point quiz:

**1. I know I’m teachable when people give me input.** When people feel free to give you a word of improvement, it’s a good sign that you’re teachable. Nobody wants to risk cleaning up a meltdown if the person can’t receive a difficult word. *Don’t try to tell him he’s not headed in the right direction because he’ll bite your head off.* The fool is always deeply persuaded that what he is doing is right. A teachable person will receive input.

**2. I know I’m teachable when I see measurable growth and character development in myself.** If you’re changing for the good, then you’re teachable. If you’re not the same person you were last year at this time, godly instruction has produced results in your life and there’s growth because of it.

**3. I know I’m teachable when I don’t have to answer a critic with a defense.** More often than I ever want to be, I’m in the uneasy position of giving people input. As hard as that is, I love to sit down with a person who can hear a difficult word with an open heart and without defensiveness. It’s been my repeated observation that those who are receptive to criticism flourish!

**4. I know I’m teachable when I don’t have to criticize back.** The classic symptom of an unteachable person is that they will listen to what you say, all the while framing their comeback, “Now let me tell *you* something . . .” Can you keep your defenses down and pride in check?

**5. I know I’m teachable when I’m learning new ways to grow.** If people have been telling you the same stuff for years, you’re not teachable. If you’ve grown out of those old issues and are now on to new lessons, you’re on the right track.

Are you teachable? Ask someone who knows you well for their honest evaluation. And take their response to heart.

I love you and I love being your pastor!

# THE STATS

	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
8:00 AM Worship	104	87	105	90
9:30 AM Worship	94	99	116	106
11:00 AM Worship	216	216	228	219
Total Worship	414	402	449	415
Life Groups	300	223	214	223
Oakhill Budget Offering	\$17,187.53	\$13,170.72	\$14,141.97	\$13,676.68
Greater Things	\$1,217.00	\$812.00	\$559.00	\$778.51
Mission Club	\$320.00	\$205.00	\$190.00	\$185.00

## Living with Gospel Purpose

### August 25th & 26th

- ♦ **Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Childcare Provided)**
- ♦ **Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Kids Praise Practice & Activities)**
- ♦ **Sign up in the lobby or register online at [www.oakhillbc.org/connect/events](http://www.oakhillbc.org/connect/events)**



# WOMEN ON MISSION

## A FOCUS ON COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

### Accomplishing More Together.

English Baptist William Carey answered the call to carry the gospel to India in the late 1700s. He recognized that to be effective in his efforts, he needed partnership and cooperation. He challenged churches to “hold the ropes” by committing to pray for and give to missions efforts.

In 1845, the Southern Baptist Convention was formed and continued in the spirit of fulfilling the Great Commission. The initial approach was a societal method of giving. Missionaries had to raise their own financial support and devote significant time to cultivating churches and individuals for that support. As missions efforts grew rapidly, so did the competition for funding. God led Southern Baptist in 1925 to launch a unified channel of giving called the Cooperative Program. It is a lifeline of support that begins with individual believers in each Southern Baptist congregation. As believers respond in obedience to give to the Lord in the local church, churches, in turn, allocate a percentage of undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program for state, national, and international missions.

The simple principle that more can be accomplished together than alone is the genius of the Cooperative Program. For almost 90 years, Southern Baptist have supported thousands of missionaries, planted multitudes of churches, and witnesses countless lives profess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Can one local church support more than 6,000 missionaries as well as six seminaries and engage more than 3,000 unreached people groups around the world? By giving through the Cooperative Program, yes, it can.

Please continue to feed your World Hunger bank. These will be returned Sunday, August 20th. Women on Mission will meet at the church on Monday, July 10 at 6:00pm. All our ladies are invited to join us.

# \$PARE ¢HANGE

## Get a New Perspective



### Bryan R. Gotcher

Pastor of Missions &  
Administration

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Blog: [bryangotcher.wordpress.com](http://bryangotcher.wordpress.com)

Much of life is about perspective. How we view our circumstances greatly impacts our attitude and actions. Let me give you a simple example. If you view children as a burden then they will always be bothersome to you. Their messes and loud noises will be frustrating. However, if you view them as blessings then you are able to pass over the little annoyances and realize they are a gift from God.

Often times we look at our situation and just see the negative. Sometimes we can't help it. We get so wrapped up in our own little bubble that it becomes difficult to see anything from a different perspective.

When we do look up, often it is to look at other people's situations, which only further increases our frustration. We look at others around us and realize what they have or what they get to do and we envy them. All the while not really having an honest perspective on our situation. Case in point-- I often feel like a failure as a father. I get frustrated too easily. I don't offer grace in the right situations. I often don't feel like a good parent. Then I hear from a good friend that another father was using me as an example of someone he looks up to as a father. He thinks that I am a good father and aspires to be like me. This blew me away. I thought to myself, "guess I have him fooled". But the reality is I am probably doing better than I think. Even though I struggle often, and need the grace of Jesus everyday, it was nice to be encouraged by this man.

The same can be true with our possessions. It is easy to get down on say, an older car that you hate to drive, especially when you look at other people's cars. But if you change your perspective you can change your attitude. You just have to see things differently. Choose to look at your car as a blessing. From working at our food pantry I know so many people that would look at any car, no matter how old, as a blessing.

Remember, when you're looking at someone else with envy, there is probably someone looking at you with envy. I say all this not so we will continue in envy but rather be content and thankful for what we have. When you change your perspective from man's point of view and reorient your mindset to a biblical point of view you can't help but be thankful. You start to think about things as blessings. You start to see your situation as an opportunity to bring God glory. This is the exact mindset God wants us to have in all things. Will you choose to view your circumstances like that? With a thankful attitude that sees life's situations as divine appointments and every opportunity and possession as a blessing; in this way you will in turn be blessed.

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:15-17*

# STUDENT MINISTRY



**Brian Van Doren**  
Student Pastor  
bvandoren@oakhillbc.org

Dear Church Family,

In my last article letter I talked a lot about fighting sin by resting in the gospel. I truly believe that the gospel is the answer to all of life’s problems. When we rest in Christ’s saving grace and become more like Him as He matures us in life, we become much more capable to overcome all the curveballs that life throws us. That is what it means to “do all things through Christ who strengthens” us. But how do we grow in Christ? How do we mature? Colossians 1:28 says that we are to proclaim Christ so that people would mature in the faith. Paul then writes in Colossians 3:16 to tell us that we must let the word of Christ richly dwell in us. We can easily perceive that Paul sees Christian fellowship and personal growth to be directly connected to scripture. Where can you find the “word of Christ?” Where does one find the gospel in order to proclaim it? It is God’s word that is constantly pointing us to Christ and His salvation. We must be intimately acquainted with God’s word, because Jesus is its main character. When we read God’s word to see how it points us to the Savior, even in the Old Testament, we will come to understand elements of the gospel that we never thought of before. God uses His word to point us to Christ and grow us in our faith. So what does this have to do with students?

Well, if you’re an adult reading this, I hope you will ask yourself how this reality affects your time in the word. But it certainly has implications for students and children as well. I find it very interesting that much of today’s student ministry does not encourage students to read the Bible. Nor does much of it really involve teaching scripture to the students. There are actually ministries that rarely even read from the Bible during their “Bible Study” times. This is a disservice to God’s people. Fortunately, there are many people who have seen this and are reacting to the lack of Bible use in student ministry. But our spiritual maturity is not simply an issue of the use of the Bible at church. That does make a huge impact, but what is even more influential to our maturity is our personal times of reading and reflection of God’s word. This is absolutely essential to the development and continued growth of children, youth, and even adults. Parents should read Bible stories to their children and talk to them about Jesus at the youngest possible age. Children should be encouraged to read children’s Bible books as soon as they can read. Youth should be held accountable by their parents and friends to read the Bible and talk about how it points to Christ’s salvation and presence in their lives. Adults should be meeting with other adults to discuss what they have been reading and learning about the gospel from their personal times in the word. Imagine what God could do in our lives if we were devoting time for Him and His word daily!

But why am I writing about all of this again? Here’s why. I need to be reminded of these truths every day. I need to have someone remind me to be in God’s word. And I don’t think I’m alone. I think our students really need help to stay focused on God in the midst of the craziness summer. They need their friends, families, and random people to invest in them and push them to be studying God’s word. I can assure you that we are proclaiming Christ in our student ministry and church-wide programing, but what I need your help with is the day-to-day exhortation to look to Christ in His word. If you see a student you know, ask them how their Bible studies/ quite times are going. Encourage them to keep at it or start back up if they haven’t been doing quite times lately. Sometimes all we need is a caring friend to make a suggestion for us to live obediently for Christ. I hope this will leave you encouraged to help others grow in Christ (and to grow yourself!) simply by getting together with God in the scriptures.

Sincerely,

Brian Van Doren

# WORSHIP



**Jared Mitchell**  
Pastor of Worship  
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Church Family,

I pray that you and your family have had a great start to your summer! This month, I want to write about a new song we have been singing together on Sundays, which has quickly become one of my favorite worship songs. It’s called, “Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery.” In just four verses, this song points us to the person and work of Jesus in a beautiful way. Verse 1 begins with Christ’s incarnation. Verse 2 and 3 lead us to consider Christ’s life and death, in which He died for us all. And then in verse 4, the song leads us to sing in triumph, celebrating Christ’s resurrection, and His victory over sin and death. I wanted to include the lyrics here, and ask you to reflect on these words this week. We will be singing this song together in the future, and I hope it encourages you to really consider who Jesus is, and what He has done for you. And then join us on Sunday, as we gather together to worship Jesus in a powerful way.

## “Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery”

### Verse 1

Come behold the wondrous mystery in the dawning of the King,  
He, the theme of heaven’s praises, robed in frail humanity.  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come;  
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us

### Verse 2

Come behold the wondrous mystery: He the perfect Son of Man,  
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin  
See the true and better Adam come to save the hell-bound man,  
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.

### Verse 3

Come behold the wondrous mystery: Christ the Lord upon the tree;  
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.  
See the price of our redemption; see the Father’s plan unfold,  
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold!

### Verse 4

Come behold the wondrous mystery: slain by death, the God of life;  
But no grave could e’er restrain Him, praise the Lord, He is alive!  
What a foretaste of deliverance; how unwavering our hope:  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.

In Christ,

Jared



# Spiritual Development

## Why Should I Fast?



Nick Scott

Pastor of Spiritual  
Development

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Fasting is the most misunderstood and under-utilized spiritual discipline of our time. It's a practice that Jesus himself used and expected his followers would also participate in, which is indicated in Matt. 6:16-17 when he says “*When* you fast...” instead of “*If* you fast...” So what should motivate a Christian to fast?

Christian fasting must have a spiritual purpose; a purpose that is closely aligned to our relationship with Christ. If fasting is done for worldly purposes, such as weight control, a pre-operation dictate, physical training, saving money, or political protest, then it isn't a Christian fast!

The biblical accounts of fasting make it clear there are a variety of reasons why a Christian should fast. And, *none of these purposes involve earning God's favor.* We can't use fasting as a way to impress God. We are made acceptable to God through the work of Jesus Christ alone. Fasting has no eternal benefit to us unless we first repent of our rebellion against God and surrender to Jesus Christ in faith.

Having said that, here are some good reasons to fast:

**1. Fast to Strengthen Prayer (Ezra 8:21,23)**

Now, the Bible does not teach that fasting is a kind of spiritual hunger strike that compels God to do our bidding. *Fasting does not change God's hearing; it changes our praying.* Christians who pray while fasting communicate that they are truly in earnest and are expressing that earnestness in a divinely appointed way.

**2. Fast to Seek God's Guidance (Judges 20:26-27a)**

*Fasting doesn't ensure clear guidance, but it does make us more sensitive to God,* helps us tune out the world and focus on the Lord, so that we might listen more attentively to His Word. Think of the leaders in Acts fasting before they sent out Paul and Barnabus. They wanted to be sensitive to be more to the Spirit's leading, so they fasted.

**3. Fast to Express Grief Over Sin (2 Samuel 1:11-12; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 1:9)**

Confession of sin isn't a simple mouthing of words. Biblical confession involves grief for the sin committed, and inasmuch as fasting can be an expression of grief, it is never inappropriate. But we want to reject the temptation to think that our fasting somehow is paying for our sins. Our fasting should include much praise to God for how he has promised that “if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

**4. Fast to Express Repentance and a Return to Trust in God (Joel 2:12)**

Closely related to expressing grief for sin, fasting can also signal a commitment to obedience and a new direction.

**5. Fast to Humble Yourself Before God (1 Kings 21:27-29)**

John Calvin said about fasting, “Since this is a holy exercise both for the humbling of men and for their confession of humility, why should we use it less than the ancients did in similar need?”

**6. Fast to Express Concern for the Work of God (Dan. 9:2-3)**

Now, we wouldn't want anyone to leave thinking that we should fast all day every day as an expression of concern for all of God's work, but God does, on occasion, give us so great a concern for His work that the Holy Spirit communicates to us we should fast.

**7. Fast to Minister to the Needs of Others (Isaiah 58:6-7)**

Fasting cannot be compartmentalized from the rest of our lives. The spiritual disciplines, as we have said before, are not only for our sake, but for the sake of others, too. If we give up some meals by fasting, we can use that time and money to minister to others.

**8. Fast to Overcome Temptation and Dedicate Yourself to God (Matt. 4:1-4)**

Fasting is a good exercise in self-discipline. Refraining from eating food can strengthen our ability to refrain from sin when we are tempted. If we train ourselves to accept the small “suffering” of fasting willingly, we will be better able to accept other suffering for the sake of righteousness.

**9. Fast to Express Love and to Worship God (Luke 2:36-37)**

To fast means that you love God more than food. You deny your hunger for food to pursue your hunger for God. Seeking more of Him is more important than eating. When you feel a hunger pang, let it remind you that your stomach is not your God and that your fasting honors the true God.

So, to summarize this article, remember that fasting must always have a spiritual purpose – a God-centered, not self-centered, purpose.

**More Resources on Fasting:**

*A Hunger for God* by John Piper (download for free at [desiringgod.com](http://desiringgod.com)), *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald Whitney (chapter 9), *Habits of Grace* by David Mathis (chapter 10), “7 Steps to Fasting” by Bill Bright (online article)

# Kids Happenings



**Proverbs 22:6**

*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

**April Sharp - [asharp@oakhillbc.org](mailto:asharp@oakhillbc.org)**  
Children's Ministry Director



Hello Church Family,

Everybody say Ya, ya, ya, ya, yes, to the love of VBS! For those of you that were singing this while you read it... well, I would have to say that you are someone that has been heavily involved with our VBS this year or in years past. And for that, I want to say THANK YOU! Thank you for investing in our children and for giving of your time and energy. I know you must be exhausted but **Oh how rewarding** it is to see those faces light up as they sing, play, and hear of the love of Jesus. We are so very blessed to have the opportunity to host Vacation Bible School at our church. So many churches have declining numbers in attendance and have ended their programs. This isn't the case at Oakhill! Thank you Jesus for parents that send their children and volunteers that invest in the young generation!

I read an article that spoke to me about this young generation and what our part needs to be for them. It was wrote by Tony Souder called *Prayer Changes Generations* and reads; Do you ever think about whether the kids in your church will still be following Jesus five years from now? How about 10? Some research indicates young people are steadily migrating away from God and the church. A study conducted by Sticky Faith shows that 40 to 50 percent of kids from healthy youth groups and families will drift away from God and the church after high school.

These statistics seem overwhelming. But there's good news, too. A recurring theme in research indicates that young people who do stay connected to church and flourish in their faith after high school have had multiple Christian adults intentionally investing in their lives. That means it's up to us to be brave and ask ourselves. “What is my role in God's plan for the next generation?” Psalm 145:4: “Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power.” Prayer is a way to initiate relationships across generational lines while also creating a bond that's supernatural and lasting. One of the greatest benefits churches experience when they establish an intentional prayer plan is that they become stronger and more relationally connected.

This month I would like to ask our church to start praying for our children that are going to Kids Camp. I will have bracelets at the welcome desk with children and leaders names on them that are attending camp. When you commit to take a bracelet, be intentional with prayer. These people will need prayer for changed hearts, safety, healing, and so much more. Lets start to be a church that is intentional with changing this generation through prayer and relationships!



### Kids Camp

**July 24th—27th**

(completed grades 2nd-5th)

**\$260**

Register online  
[gocrossings.org/kidscamp2017/events](http://gocrossings.org/kidscamp2017/events)

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Amazing Opportunities to Pour Into Children  
During 9:30 & 11am service times starting in August**

- **One year Commitment to teach children. This is age specific. (Lifeway curriculum provided “Bible Studies for life”) \* You choose your service time to serve.**
  - **Adult & Youth Worship Leaders and musicians during Kids Praise for mixed ages. (4 yr-2nd gr. & 3rd-5th gr.)\* You choose your service time to serve.**
- If interested please email [asharp@oakhillbc.org](mailto:asharp@oakhillbc.org) ASAP**



July 2017 Ministry Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div><div>Sunday Schedule</div><div>8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship</div><div>9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship</div><div>Life Groups (Bible Study)</div><div>11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship</div><div>Life Groups (Bible Study)</div><div>5:00 p.m. Student Life Groups - Jr. &amp; Sr. High</div></div> <div><div>Wednesday Schedule</div><div>12:00 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study Luncheon</div><div>7:30 p.m. Worship Team Practice</div></div>						1
2 Regular Sunday Morning Schedule <div>Fireworks Celebration @ Association Fields 6:00 PM</div>	3 Open Gym Basketball 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	4 <div>Independence Day - Church Office Closed</div>	5 No Bible Study Luncheon Deacon’s Meeting 6:00 p.m. <div>Burdette Park 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM</div>	6	7	8 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m.  State Hospital Engage Event 9:45 a.m.
9 Regular Sunday Schedule	10 Open Gym Basketball 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	11	12 Regular Wednesday Schedule	13	14	15 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m.
	HS Mission Trip					
16 Regular Sunday Schedule	17 Open Gym Basketball 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	18 <div>LLL SENIOR ADULT BREAKFAST CAROUSEL RESTAURANT 8:30 AM</div> <div>SKATE WORLD 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</div>	19 Regular Wednesday Schedule	20	21	22
23 Regular Sunday Schedule <div>Otters Game @ 5:05pm</div>	24 Open Gym Basketball 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	25	26 Regular Wednesday Schedule	27 Student / Parent Meeting @ 6pm	28	29
30 Regular Sunday Schedule <div>Block Party @ 5pm</div>	Kids Camp					
	31 Open Gym Basketball 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.					
	MS Mission Week					



Fireworks Celebration

July 2nd • 6:00 pm • Association Fields

Come eat with us! Burgers, hotdogs, drinks & chips will be provided.

All Friends and Family Are Welcome!

Please bring a dessert to share.

Don't forget your lawn chairs, pop-up tents, & yard games.



Wednesday, July 5th

Swim all day! Anytime! \$4.50 per person

Aquatic Center Hours 10am - 6pm

Pay for and pick up tickets at Welcome Desk



Join us at Skate World

July 18th 6-8pm

Admission is FREE

Skate Rental: Regular \$3.00 & Inline \$4.00



OHBC CHICAGO HS MISSION TRIP

DATES: JULY 10-14 SIGN UP: ONLINE AND FOYER COST: \$100

Fellowship Day with the Evansville Otters

Sunday July 23rd @ 5:05pm

General Admission Tickets \$5.00

Purchase Tickets at Welcome Desk





KIDS CAMP • JULY 24TH - 27TH

\$260

KIDS CAMP FOR KIDS WHO HAVE COMPLETED

SIGN UP AT OAKHILLBC.ORG/EVENTS