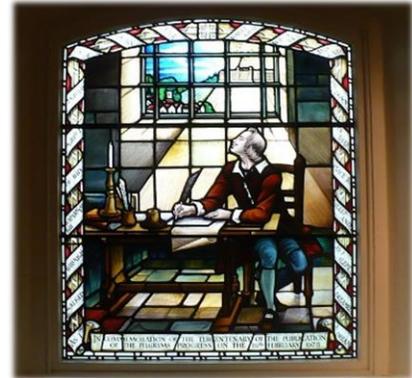


July 27, 2020

Good morning, Everybody.

The Lord's Day yesterday had a little more of the feel of normalcy. Especially with the baptismal service last night. Weren't those testimonies a great blessing? That part of the service alone was priceless. What wonderful works of God were displayed.



A Thank-you Note

This last week a brief, handwritten note came to the church from a Christian sister named Pat Hiser. Pat lives in Normal, Illinois, and is the sister of our church member, Phyllis Todd. The note is written to all of us, and ought to be shared with everyone.

Mount Calvary Baptist,

Thank you for streaming your services. I can't attend my local church yet, but I have wonderful fellowship with God every Sunday through your church service.

I was saved in the 1960's thru the preaching of Pastor James Zaspel (now deceased), Bartonville, Ill., Oak Grove Baptist. He always had students from Bob Jones University.

Psalm 38:21 & 22 – Do not forsake me, O Lord!

We receive notes like this pretty regularly, sometimes addressed to one or the other of the staff, sometimes to the sound room, and occasionally to all us. Whenever they come, it's a precious reminder that we have a stewardship to fulfill that includes brothers and sisters in Christ whom we've never met, but who rejoice in their opportunities to join with us in the services.

A little side note; James Zaspel's son, Fred, used to attend Mount Calvary when he was a student at Bob Jones University in the late 1970's if I'm remembering rightly. In the 1980's he worked in the Christian Bookstore that was housed in Lake Forest Shopping Center, right across Pleasantburg behind the girls' dorms at BJU. Fred pastors a church in PA. Every once in a great while our paths cross, and we catch up on the last five or ten years.

And then here's a picture of some folks watching the service yesterday. I opened it just now. I usually ask permission before I send these to everyone, but in this case I'm pretty certain that these guys wouldn't object. You know two of these "watchers" for sure. And some of you also know the little guy, Timmy Baker. He's Joe and Anna Baker's oldest boy. Do you know where this was taken? What state? What ministry? Hmm. Well, if not, look up Joe and Anna Baker in our church directory. And congratulations (!) to them on the birth of their little girl, Lydia Joy just one week ago today. She's beautiful! Truly (smile).



And then, just as I was typing that last paragraph, yet another picture came. I asked permission to send this one (smile). This was some of the Kendalls last night. It was so good to see Dr. Tom Jr. and Melissa, and their children in the service yesterday morning. They're here from Togo on furlough. So good to have them with us for a little bit, even if only by live streaming. Whoops—I better mention that not *all* the children in the photo are theirs. I'll have to let the Kendalls fill in all the details on that (smile).



Well, I began this letter an hour and a half ago and have been piecemealing it together between phone calls and e-mails. I better stop and get it out to you. But as always, I prayed for you this morning (smile).

Pastor Minnick