Pastor and Mrs. Damron visited Adam and Carol Rich, missionaries in Kabwe, Zambia, this summer and were much encouraged by the number of souls who have been reached and discipled through Independent Baptist Church. Pictured here are the faithful pastors of two other churches in the Southern Province, which were started by Fairhaven missionaries.

CHRISTIANS AND VOTING

“For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?” The elections will be upon us soon, and I want to think about our responsibilities as Christian Americans at this time. In Deuteronomy 4:7-8, we read about a nation that God made great, which had statutes and judgments that were righteous, speaking of Israel. But the passage makes me think of the greatest document that has been presented to any people in modern times—the Constitution of the United States. There has not been a nation in modern times given such a law and statutes which are based upon the laws and judgments of the Bible. We have been a blessed and privileged people because of this.

The 2012 election was the saddest in my life, but I believe that we will have the opportunity to stem the tide of the God-hating, church-hating liberals who are now in control. For six years many of those elected have been assualting all that we believe. It started out with a push for open homosexuality in our military forces and women being placed in combat positions. We are downsizing in numbers in the armed forces—we don’t have enough money to pay our men to train. There has been a great attack on our constitutional right to bear arms.

Morality and decency are scoffed at by the President of the United States, and the “Christian right” is the number one target of those in power, both Democrats and Republicans. Christians are openly attacked by the all-powerful IRS, and other agencies are heavily armed to attack our fellow citizens.

271 teens came for our special Teen Friend Day in August. Our church teens along with bus captains, worked hard to bring in visitors, and many came forward at the invitation to be counseled regarding salvation.

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Voting…from page 1

citizens. Now there is a chance to boot these God-hating, freedom-hating liberals out of office. America will not be salvaged by this, but it may give us a few more years to work freely for God, send out missionaries, raise our families, and maybe do something to get our country pointed in the right direction.

We were told the economy was the issue. The economy is not our major problem, and for the Christian it should never be about anything but principle. The issue today is whether America is one nation under God or a secular nation without fixed moral absolutes that functions independently of any God.

The Bible makes some statements loud and clear. We see certain themes over and over as we read through the Bible. For example, God speaks to man, God hates pride, men cannot be trusted, and the love of money will destroy you. Something that cannot be denied is that He is interested in the affairs of human government. God involves Himself in the affairs of human government, and you can trace that from generation to generation. He cares about humanity. He cares about the workers of government.

Tom and Shelley Furse have faithfully served the Lord for many years in various capacities, including pastor, missionary, and now directing the printing ministry of the Lighthouse Baptist Tabernacle in Rapid City, South Dakota. Tom spoke at our Stewardship Banquet and the opening chapel services of the college.

As we think of our country’s history, there is no question that our founding fathers were persuaded that God was using them to plant the United States. They didn’t get together and say, “We have a dream for this new country—let’s build it and then ask God to bless it.” No, as you read their direct quotes and statements, you see that they stood in awe of the fact that they were being used by the providential hand of a sovereign God to accomplish His purpose in bringing this country into existence.

Today we are told that we were given freedom in order to fight and blaspheme God, freedom to provide pornography. But if you were to go back to Jamestown or Plymouth or Rhode Island you would see that a person was put to death for such things. Today we are told that we are a nation founded on the principle of having freedom to worship anything, but laws in the books of all these settlements prove that a settler was required to believe in the God of our Bible. Over and over the leaders thanked God for His providential hand of protection as we defeated a vastly superior country in the Revolutionary War. Even though I believe Lee and Jackson were two of the greatest generals of all time, and many in the south had much more of a true belief in God, I believe it was His will for America to stay together.

God protected us in World War II. Miraculous times in events gave us victory over Hitler. We would never be the nation that has been the envy of the world for so long if it were not for God. He wanted a nation to be free to raise her families, spread the Bible, and preach the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth. If it were not for America, who would be financing 90% of the missions projects today? God planted this nation not only to bless it, but for it to be a blessing.

God makes an offer to nations in Deuteronomy 28:1-6, “And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.”

This is written to Israel, but it applies to any nation. God is saying, “I just want some people who will do what I say; and if they will just do what I say, I will bless them and bless them and bless them.” Look at verses 15 and 19, “But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee . . . Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.”

If you do God’s will, it means blessings. If you disobey, it means cursings. You don’t need to know Hebrew to see that. That’s true on a national or an individual level. It’s true in family life or in church. If you do what God wants you to do, He will throw blessings at you. If you don’t, you will be cursed—you, your family, your church, or your country. Now look at Deuteronomy 30:19, “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”

This is so simple. We have a choice—life and blessing or death and cursing—it’s your choice. He says, “therefore choose life.” God says, “You can have it any way you want, but I suggest—choose life.” Now in a real sense, I believe that America, in this decade especially, is voting for either national life and blessings or national death and cursings; and God is imploring us—choose life. We need to get before God and find His will in this matter—then vote, and do all we
Empowered Youth
November 10-13, 2014

Highlights

Morning & Evening Services
challenge and encourage teens to serve the Lord

Fun-Filled Activities
competitive and exciting events for the teens

Special Split Sessions
help equip teens for service in their local church

Speech & Music Competition
sharpen skills and win trophies and scholarships to Fairhaven Baptist College

►Register at ey.fairhavenbaptist.org. On the website, you will find...
  •Schedules
  •Competition Information and Forms
  •Teen Registration Forms
  •Hotel Information

►The cost per teen is $70.

►Teen registration fees include meals, housing, t-shirt, devotional, and all activities.

►Additional fees apply for chaperones.

Don’t miss the excitement!
WHERE IS THE LORD GOD OF ELIJAH?

Pastor Steve Damron

II Kings 2:9-14, “And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horses of fire, and parted them both asunder: and Elijah was taken up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.”

In this passage, Elisha is asking, “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” Looking at these two men—Elijah and Elisha—is a very interesting study. Elijah’s name means, “Jehovah is my God.” However, Elisha’s name means, “Jehovah is my Saviour.” Just a little bit different. You say, “What’s the difference?” It appears that Elisha was a little more personal in his relationship with God.

Elijah was a prophet of the wilderness. Elisha was more a prince of the courts. Elijah had no settled home— you see him wandering all the time. But when you look at Elisha’s life, you see him at home. Even in the story of Gehazi, you see that his servant was there at his house. Elijah was known for his long hair and shaggy mantle. Elisha was known by his staff, and in chapter 2, by his bald head. Elisha was mainly prophetical in his dealings; Elisha’s work was much more miraculous.

Many times when I think of a prophet or a man of God, Elijah comes to mind. However, we read of Elisha saying, “I need a double portion.” Remember that is what he asked for, and Elijah told him, “If my mantle falls on you, then your request is going to be granted.”

Well, what did that mean in Elisha’s life? When you study Elijah and Elisha, Elisha had two times the amount of miracles, so he did get his petition. We sometimes think that Elisha was not as flamboyant as Elijah; however, we see that Elisha was a man of very strong faith. In II Kings chapter 2, you see that Elisha was a man of swift action. Elisha had spiritual power. Elisha had courage. In chapter 3, Elisha had sympathy, and Elisha was willing to help. Elisha had clear understanding. In II Kings chapter 5, you’ll see that he was a man of force, a man of might, and in II Kings 6, he was a man who knew secrets. Also, in II Kings chapter 6, you’ll see that he was a man of remarkable foresight. Elisha is interesting to study because as you look at what was accomplished in his life, he did receive a double portion.

So this evening when we consider this idea of, “Where is the Lord God of Elijah,” we ask first of all, “Who is the Lord God of Elijah?” Why did Elisha want the Lord God of Elijah? Who is He? The first thing that we see is that He’s a God of power.

I read a funny story about Mike Collin who was a linebacker for the Miami Dolphins. He tells the story of his coach who asked him to do some recruiting for the team. The coach was trying to describe the type of player that Mike should look for while recruiting. “Mike, do you know the type of guy that gets knocked down and doesn’t get up?” Mike said, “Yeah, Coach.” He said, “That’s not the guy we want.” Then he continued. “You know the type of guy that gets knocked down and he gets up, and he gets knocked down and he stays down.” “Yeah, Coach. Coach, that’s not the type of guy we want.” “Nope. It’s not the type of guy we want.” So then the coach looked at Mike and said, “The guy that gets out there, gets knocked down, and gets up, gets knocked down and gets up...,” and he just went on and on with it. Mike said, “That’s the type of guy we want.” The coach said, “No, no, no. You find the guy that’s knocking everybody down. That is the guy we want!”

Elijah found an all-powerful God. In I Kings 17:1, we see a God Who can hold back anything He wants. He can perform any miracle, He can provide anything, but also He has enough power to just say, “It’s not going to rain.” It’s not just Elijah. This is the God of Elijah. The God of Elijah has power. He can do things that we can’t imagine. That’s the type of God we serve. We don’t serve a God that is weak. We don’t serve a God that is unable to do things.

Understand that although I don’t know your need, God does, and He can supply your need because He’s a God of power. This God of power is limitless. He spoke and the worlds came into existence, so don’t you think He could speak for you? He can speak for you and can change all things. As Pastor Wagner said on Thursday night, it is unbelievable to me sometimes how weak our prayers are and how little we ask of God. He has it all. He is all powerful.

A week or two ago, a famous atheist had an interview on national television, and he said, “Very soon Christianity is going to be dead.” And I thought of Voltaire who said the same thing. Shortly after his death, they were printing Bibles in his home. There have been others before that famous atheist, who have said, “Who is this God? He’s powerless.” God always wipes them out because Elijah’s God was a God of power.

But not just that. Look at verse 4. This one is so refreshing. Elijah tells the king that it is not going to rain. What is Elijah going to do? Not only is the God of Elijah a God of power, but He is a God of provision. Too many people are afraid that if they rely on the Lord, He will not take care of them. Some of you sitting here have only partially committed to God, and you do not see the miracles that an Elijah or Elisha could see. It is because you haven’t understood resting upon an all-powerful God. He can provide for all your needs because God is a God of provision. God sent ravens to feed Elijah. I’d rather be taken care of by
the Lord than be fed at the table of Ahab. Some of you say, "I'm not being fed by Ahab." But you’re scared to death to stand up. You’re scared to death to commit to the God of Elijah. And the devil has his little dainties. He sits there and feeds you at his table. I can tell you this—all his food has a bunch of disease in it. His food isn’t satisfying, but my God can provide a table in the wilderness. My God said, "I can supply your needs." If need be, He can go out into the hills, and kill one of His beef, and fling it right there in front of me because He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. One man said that it shows how much God thinks of gold. He owns the gold in the hills, but let’s His cattle feed on those same hills. God has the resources to take care of your needs.

Elijah’s God is a God of provision. He wants to take care of us. There was a powerful old-time preacher by the name of T. T. Shields. At one time, he had seven millionaires in his church. His needs were supplied, right? No, they all left the same week. I guess he probably made them mad. The next Sunday, he got into the pulpit and preached a sermon entitled, “The One Millionaire Who Never Leaves—God.” He told his church, “It doesn’t matter because God will supply our needs.”

It is sometimes hard for us to picture this. We live in the lap of luxury. We sit in a beautiful auditorium and walk on a beautiful campus. We walk into our closet, and we have all the clothing we need. We open up our pantries, and we have all the food we need. Sometimes I think we rely on those things instead of our God, Who can provide everything. He can provide all of our needs, but you’ve got to go to Elijah’s God. Elijah’s God is not only powerful, but He provides. He is a God of provision.

Another thing we see about Elijah’s God is that He is a God of principle. In I Kings 17, Elijah comes to Ahab after six months. I can picture it. It hadn’t rained for six months. It was dry and getting crusty out there. You know how it is when we get a spell of about four weeks, and we’re about dying without rain. But at this time, it had been twenty-six weeks and not a drop of rain has come down. You can imagine King Ahab’s lavish palace at this time. Just then a man comes walking up the steps of the palace. You can see the guards standing there at attention. We see him as he is described in the Bible. He wore camel’s hair, and we’re not talking cashmere. We are talking about a rough man who comes walking in.

You can almost imagine the palace guards snickering as they stand at attention. “Who is this guy?” He walks past them, and requests an audience with King Ahab. He says, “Is it a little dry? The flowers outside aren’t as beautiful in your landscape. Are you having a problem? The flowers are fading, the trees are shriveling up, the grass has withered away, and it’s not going to rain for three more years. Go call your god and tell him to bring some rain.” He turns around and he walks out. You know what I see about Elijah? He had some guts. He served a God that had principle, conviction, and backbone. Elijah could stand there because it wasn’t him. He didn’t control the rain, and all of the earth, and the atmosphere, but he served a God Who was powerful. That God is principled. Six months without rain. It was pretty parched, but he said, “There are three more years coming.”

Look at I Kings 18:21 and notice the challenge. What we are trying to figure out is, “Who is this God of Elijah?” He is a God of power. He is a God of provision. He is a God of principle because verse 21 says, “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.” He challenged them because our God is a God of principle, and He challenges the world. He challenges the devil. When you get in touch with the God of Elijah, you won’t back down from the devil’s assaults, and you won’t be timid. You won’t just let your family go and say, “Devil, you can have them.” You’ll stand stiffened up. You’ll have backbone, and you’ll say, “Come on.” You will know it isn’t your strength because you serve a God that is powerful, and it stiffens up your backbone. When I see a preacher who doesn’t have backbone, I say, “He hasn’t been with God.” When you have been with God, your back stiffens up. He gives you a vertebrae. There is a new species—the invertebrate preacher who is spineless, sissified, and effeminate. He can’t stand up to anything.

God, give us the God of Elijah again. Let us want the God of Elijah that has principle and will stand up to things. You read in the Bible and you see that even afterward, Elisha stood. Daniel, he stood. John the Baptist, he stood. Peter faltered, but then it says they took note that he had been with Jesus and he said, “We ought to obey God rather than men.” When you get with the God of Elijah, and when you desire Him, you will say “God, I want that double portion.” He will give it to you, and He will stiffen your principles. He will help you stand.

Who is the Lord God of Elijah? A God of power, a God of provision, and a God of principle. So, why do we need the God of Elijah? This week in the case of Greece vs. Galloway, in Greece, New York, an atheist and a secularist complained that most of the town council implications were Christian in nature. Already a lower court in New York ruled that the prayers were unconstitutional, so it’s being taken to the Supreme Court for a decision. The Family Research Council is sponsoring lawyers to defend praying at a town council meeting. The Supreme Court is expected to issue its decision in the first quarter of the next year. Observers say that based on exchanges between the attorneys arguing the case and the justices, it appears the court favors prayer. Wow! What a powerful country we live in! It just might be that the Supreme Court will make it legal for us to pray again. That’s the country you live in!

Here is Governor Christie in New Jersey. Many thousands of people have been able to shake free of same gender attraction through counseling, but Governor Christie signed a bill forcing counselors to halt the therapy. In the state of New Jersey, you are no longer allowed to counsel a young man that a same-sex relationship is wrong, and you need to get that right. But guess what, that’s America. There is a book at my house called, “The Justice Project.” It came out about six months ago. A group of neo-evangelicals have come together and called it the Justice Project. It is to help Christians bring justice back. A lady named Sandy Campola, who is a huge neo-evangelical out of Pennsylvania wrote, “The Justice Project of Fairness in the Family.” This chapter is about seven pages and doesn’t
quote one scripture. She says, “Nowhere in the Bible can I find a description of marriage being a husband and a wife.” Now, I don’t know, maybe you’re reading the “Message,” or maybe you’re reading the NIV, or maybe you’re reading something else, but I went right to Genesis chapter 2, and I found that God called them Adam and Eve. God put them together, and it was a husband and a wife. Now it’s amazing to me that I could find it in a matter of seconds, and this lady has never been able to find it. Although claiming Christianity, she says, “Christians need to be more accepting.” She has gone on cruises with the LGBT movement that were sponsored by Roseanne Barr. She marches in parades with them. Here is a so-called Christian in our nation who can’t even open up a Bible and find out that God says that a man and a woman together make a marriage. That’s our country.

Why do we need the God of Elijah? Because we live in a wicked world, and that wicked world wants to come after you, not just your children. You could be sitting here at 65 years old, but the world wants to destroy you just as much as it wants to destroy your children. It wants you worthless. It wants you without a backbone. It wants you to back down. It wants you afraid. Why do we need the God of Elijah? We need the God of Elijah because we need His power again.

Look at our text again in II Kings chapter 2. You’ll see three illustrations here and how it represents what we need today. “And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they bowed down to Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him. And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master: lest peradventure the Spirit of the Lord hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And he said, Ye shall not send. And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, Send. They sent therefore fifty men; and they sought three days, but they found him not.”

Do you know what that shows me right away? Why do we need the God of Elijah? Because there’s a religious world out there that has never seen the power of God, and has never seen a church move forward for God. They have never seen revival, as the Holy Spirit comes through and does a mighty work. That religious crowd needs to see a church on fire for God. They need to see a people sold out for Him because the religious crowd is dead.

I’m so glad that our preacher has been able to resist it, and my prayer is that I can resist it. This isn’t my work, and this isn’t Preacher’s work. This is God’s work, and we give honor to Him. If He can use a poor worthless person like me, then let Him do it. Notice when the religious crowd sees the mighty hand of God, they bow down to a man. That is exactly what has happened in our movement. When they see God’s hand, the man gets lifted up. Notice what the sons of the prophets did. They bowed down to Elisha. They didn’t say, “O God.” They said, “O Elisha.” God, give us some preachers again who have enough guts and have enough humility to understand that it’s not our work, it’s not by my might, not by my power, but it’s by His might and by His power. You see, what we should be showing to the religious crowd is that Elijah’s God is powerful. Why do we need the God of Elijah? Because the religious world hasn’t seen it. It’s empty in America. This Sunday morning, thousands of so-called Christians got together and were jamming in their praise time. I don’t know who they were praising, but it wasn’t my God. Because when you worship my God, you look up and you say, “I can’t believe this God—how mighty He is. You are humbled before Him. I don’t raise my hand and dance. It’s silliness. The religious world needs to see the God of Elijah.

Next, notice what the men of the city said unto Elisha, in verse 19. “And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren.” This is Jericho. In Joshua chapter 6, the Israelites went across Jordan, and the first city that they destroyed was Jericho. In Joshua chapter 6, verse 26, the walls came down, and Joshua said, “Cursed be the man before the Lord, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.”

What I see in my mind is an unregenerate world that is dead, and nothing can grow and nothing is alive. They’ve tried to raise crops, and now even there is no good water. There is no satisfaction. An unregenerate world needs the God of Elijah. Notice he took a little salt and put it in a vial. He took a pinch of salt and he threw it into the water. If you study salt in the Bible in the book of Leviticus and Numbers, you will see that when the children of Israel brought an offering to the Lord, they salted it. It made it a sweet savor to God.

In fact, the Bible tells us that we are the salt of the world. We aren’t supposed to lose our savor because it makes the world bearable to God. When we are removed at the rapture, then tribulation comes. We hold it back; we’re salt. Salt brings healing, and salt brings life back. It adds flavor. The world is unregenerate, and it’s dead. No flavor. It can’t grow anything because it’s dead. Why do we need the God of Elijah? Because there are dead people out there—unsaved, unregenerate people who are lost, and the salt can be brought upon them. They can have the God of Elijah brought to them, and He can revive them. He can save them. And where there was emptiness, there is happiness. Where there was unrest and insecurity, there is peace because that’s what the God of Elijah can do. He’s a powerful God.

Why do we need the God of Elijah? Because the religious world needs to see Him and the unregenerate world needs to see Him. But there is another group. “And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head. And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the Lord. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.”

Why do we need the God of Elijah? Oh, we said the
religious crowd, they’ve never seen it. They don’t know what to do when they see God’s power. They say, “Let’s do a praise and worship time. Oh, let’s lift up this man because he’s such a great speaker.” They’ve missed the whole point—that’s the religious crowd. The unregenerate crowd, they’ve never seen it. They’ve tried on their own; they’ve tried to get life, and it’s dead. The youth of this world, they need to see the God of Elijah. They need to see an all-powerful God, a God that deserves respect—a God that deserves awe-inspiring honor. And the youth of this world, are they seeing this God of Elijah today? Are they seeing that? No. Why do we need the God of Elijah? Because the religious crowd, the unregenerate crowd, and the youth of this world need to see Him. They need to see people filled with the double portion.

Elijah was like you and me, but he did pray earnestly. He prayed again, and the earth brought forth her fruit. It’s not impossible for you to see the Lord God of Elijah in your life because you and I are in the same flesh that enclosed Elijah. Where is the Lord God of Elijah? He’s ready as ever to clothe you. He’s ready for that mantle to come down upon you. He’s there alive to the service of the most obscure of servants. Will you live a life that people would be desirous of your God?

A little boy was dying in one of the English counties. He had heard of Whitefield. He had heard his marvelous voice. He had heard him preach about the Lord Jesus, and the impression never left him. While this boy was very young, a fever came over him. He had to be taken to a hospital. There, with the fever burning upon him, he knew that he was going to die. He looked at the attendant who was beside his bed, and he said, “I should like to go to Mr. Whitefield’s God.” When I heard that, I thought of my children. Is the God of Steve Damron the One that they want? Put your name there. Your bus kids, do they see a powerful God, and in their life say, “I want that guy’s God”? You can have it. He’ll give you a double portion. It’s not arrogant to ask for it. You come humbly and God will grant it. Oh, may God give us the Lord God of Elijah.

Jeremiah Mitchell was raised in Utah, where his family attended Anchor Baptist Church of Salt Lake City, pastored by Dr. Thomas Corkish. After graduating from Anchor Christian Academy, Jeremiah enrolled at Fairhaven Baptist College, graduating in 2001. His wife, Kara, grew up at Fairhaven Baptist Church. She and Jeremiah met at Fairhaven and after their graduation, they joined the staff. Dr. Mitchell is the college registrar. In addition, he teaches music classes, both history and theory, and directs the college choir. He also teaches the freshman speech class. Kara teaches college keyboarding, desktop publishing, as well as advanced college speech classes. Since graduating thirteen years ago, Jeremiah has added several graduate degrees to his résumé, most recently earning his Ph. D. in Bible. They are both actively involved in the soul-winning efforts of Fairhaven Baptist Church.

It has always been the plan of Fairhaven Baptist College that its teachers advance their education. As registrar, Dr. Mitchell has seen firsthand the dilution that has taken place among Bible colleges in their academic requirements. The bar of expectations has been lowered significantly. Fairhaven Baptist College stands up against this trend. II Timothy 3:17 says that the man of God should be “throughly furnished” unto all good works. While we understand that intellectual genius rarely succeeds in the humbling work of local church ministry, we challenge our students to strive for excellence in their studies. Fairhaven Baptist College has been structured to prepare its students academically, physically, and spiritually for the great task of the ministry.

Please pray for the Mitchells, as well as for the entire staff of Fairhaven Baptist College, as we seek to prepare the next generation of laborers for God’s harvest fields.
can to get others to do the same. The main issue is this—do we want the blessings of God or do we want the cursing of God? God cares about the behavior of the people in the land He provides for them. It is important to God, and we must use the freedoms He has given us.

This land was given to us by God, from the beautiful East Coast, where our forefathers settled, all the way to the mountains of the West. I love wild Texas and Oklahoma, the farms of the Midwest, and the shores of the ocean in the West. There is no land like the country God has given us—from sea to shining sea, and God cares about our conduct in this great land. Leviticus 18:1-3, “And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, I am the LORD your God. After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.”

It’s not hard to figure out—don’t do what they did in Egypt or Canaan—don’t follow.

There is surely a movement today to belittle our American heritage and lift up that of the heathen of the world or those who were here when our forefathers arrived. We are asked, “What’s the difference between the gods of Africa and South America and Haiti and your God?” We are told now how Columbus ruined America by coming here, that the American Indian was so superior to the Europeans who came, even though they couldn’t write (had no history), and didn’t even have the wheel or a beast of burden.

America is “awestruck” by their traditions—demon worship. They were for the most part savages, killing one another. The sign of a young man coming of age was not a diploma but getting a scalp. We are told the missionaries ruined them. The terrible Europeans tried to “Christianize” them. No, our forefathers came looking for the promises of God and His blessings, and so should we. God said, “Don’t do what they did in Egypt, and don’t do what the Canaanites are doing in the land I’m giving you. Don’t follow anyone but Me.”

Look at verses 4 and 5, “Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the LORD your God. Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.” You do what I tell you to do, and you will live. Beginning in verses 6-19, Moses gives them instructions about sexual conduct. Look at verse 20, “Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour’s wife, to defile thyself therewith: thou shalt not any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion.” It is as unnatural before God for a man to be with a man for sexual purposes as for him to be with a beast. It is an abomination. God was saying, “That’s what they were doing back in Egypt. That’s what they were doing in Canaan. DON’T DO IT! I’m going to slaughter them, and I will slaughter you if you do it.”

Look at verses 24-30, “Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants. Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you: (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;) That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you. For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people. Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the LORD your God.”

God has blessed America in the past, and I pray that He will be able to again in the future. Let’s not follow the Indian heritage, African heritage, Oxford scholars, or German liberals. Let’s follow God. I ask you to pray about how to vote—then vote and get others to vote also.
MEET A FAIRHAVEN STUDENT

James Silwamba and Brenda Champo are both from Zambia, Africa. Their families were reached through the ministry of the Independent Baptist Church in Kabwe. Beginning with Pat and Greta Gordon, several missionaries sent by Fairhaven Baptist Church have labored in the city of Kabwe, Zambia. Brother Gordon first visited the Silwambas, and as a result their family joined Independent Baptist in 2003. James was saved soon thereafter.

Brenda Champo’s family at one time attended a Roman Catholic church, and then a Pentecostal church. Through the efforts of Independent Baptist and the grace of God, Brenda was saved in 2005, joining the church soon after.

Dave and Lisa Olson came to the ministry in Kabwe after the Gordons returned to the States to work with Fundamental Baptist Mission in Tennessee. The Olsons continued the discipleship of James and Brenda. In addition to church work, Dave taught both of them Bible doctrines in the church’s institute classes. James and Brenda also worked alongside Lisa in their extensive children’s outreach ministry. As they were being discipled, they developed a desire to go to Bible college, and the Olsons assisted them in enrolling at Fairhaven Baptist College. This was a big step of faith for both James and Brenda, as it was a several-year commitment without possibility of a visit home.

Brenda will graduate next spring and James the following year. Both look forward to returning to Zambia, where missionary Adam Rich and his wife Carol now labor, reaching their city through evangelism of the lost and discipleship of new converts and having plans to start a Christian school at Independent Baptist Church.

We are privileged to have a part in the training of students from foreign fields where dedicated, serious-minded missionaries are preparing their young people for Christian service. Please pray for both Brenda and James as they near the end of their Bible college education and return to work in the ministry in Zambia.

AN ODE TO SPANKING
by Pastor Steve Damron

Recently, corporal punishment has been in the headlines because of some of the NFL’s “stars” and their actions. As I read the articles on this subject, I was amused at the “experts” who were brought in to give advice.

Detroit Lions’ star Reggie Bush’s comments about “harshly” disciplining his 1-year-old daughter while taking care not to leave bruises are troubling enough to potentially merit an investigation, Michigan child welfare advocates told FoxNews.com.

The mercurial running back clarified his comments on Wednesday, saying his statements to New York’s WFAN a day earlier were taken out of context. He denied spanking the girl, Briseis Avagyan Bush, but acknowledged disciplining her “a bit” when she acts inappropriately.

“I think the way I discipline my children, my daughter, is private and I should have kept it private,” Bush said. “Obviously, some of the words were taken out of context and that’s fine, it happens all the time. That’s really all I have to say.”

Lori Antkoviak, executive director of the Safe Harbor Children’s Advocacy Center in Michigan, said an investigation could potentially already be under way.

“I could see this going both ways, I could see it interpreted both ways,” Antkoviak told FoxNews.com on whether she thought the circumstances meet the criteria for a probe. “They may very well be doing an investigation, but you wouldn’t know because it’s confidential.”

Tom Knapp, coordinator of the Michigan chapter of the National Children’s Alliance, said Bush’s comments are “concerning” to his organization.

“He’s obviously made some statements and tried to withdraw them,” Knapp said. “No one would dispute that parents can reasonably discipline their children, so long as there’s no physical harm. The primary concern needs to be the emotional and physical well-being of the child.”

Knapp said any comments like those made by Bush are “disturbing,” but said child welfare authorities must consider the totality of the situation before potentially launching an investigation.

- copied from Fox News.com.

What amazes me is that when we need to know whether a situation is okay for our children we have to go to a government-sanctioned advocacy group. It used to be that when parents were struggling with their children, they would call their pastor and get some advice. The government has superseded the church’s Biblically-given function of helping service.
Spanking...from page 9

parents with their responsibilities. Now parents cannot de-
cide how to discipline, educate, or even feed their children
because they are not “fit” for this task. The government has
to provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner because parents are
not smart enough to do it.

This should give thinking people reason for not trusting
the government. Why? For decades now the government
has taken over the responsibility of training our children
in the local government propaganda schools. They have
crammed worldly philosophy down the average parent’s
throat until they are relegated to being a “glorified” babysitter.
Parents have been told that sex education must be taught
at an early age; having no self-control in appetites is a
disease not a decision; and sexual orientation is not known
until later in life. All of these teachings have been brought
by a government that has no clue when it comes to rearing
children. The government has no Biblical foundation except
that the “experts” have found this to be the best way it should
be done. They spout a study which, when you follow the
research, is bogus at best.

Most parents today have been taught to rely so much
on the government that they feel slighted if they do not get
free day care, free schooling, and soon, free college edu-
cation. We are seeing the results of the world’s philosophy
coming full circle. Because the government has downplayed
Biblical discipline, we have a generation that does whatever
is right in their own eyes. In other words, we have a gener-
ation of self-centered parents.

Recently, a mother talked to my wife about how worn
out she was because of having to take care of her children.
She is separated from the children’s father and was hoping
that the father could take the children for a month or so.
She justified this by saying that she just needed some time
for herself. This is a selfish philosophy developed by the
world we live in. We are overwhelmed now because we
have children. This is ridiculous, but this is the result of
the government propaganda schools teaching self-esteem,
self-improvement, self-confidence, and self-recognition.
When you are caught up with yourself, you live an empty life.

Christians need to get back to the local church, based
on the Bible, for their education. The government has
trained the modern parent who doesn’t know how to rear his
children. They are the reason that we have this mess. Is
it that hard to figure out? We have a potential presidential
candidate who wrote a book indicating it takes a village to
rear children. Why is this so? The author, I believe, did not
want to take responsibility for rearing her children.

We should be intuitive enough to recognize this when
we see articles in the news and hear news commentators
that promote this worldly philosophy. Adam and Eve in
the garden pulled the same ploy. “It is not our fault.” The
blame-shifting philosophy was not created by that author.
She just re-hashed it into modern terminology. The devil is
the author of confusion and by creating a village philosophy
to rear children, who then can be blamed—the parent?... the
environment?... the water table?... the educational system?

A mother and father, together, are given responsibil-
ity by God. Yes, a church can be a great asset and help.

However, ultimately the parents will answer to God for what
they did with God-given resources in rearing their children.
Take your village and get away from my home! I don’t want
people snooping, peeping, or clambering over my children.
God has given me an instruction Book—the Bible, an instruc-
tional aid—the church, and a personal Tutor—the Holy Spirit
to help me navigate the job of rearing my children. Let’s
take the responsibility and stand up to the task like strong,
Biblical Christians.

A lot of time and effort go into producing our music CDs, and we
should have a new Christmas music recording ready by this December.

Excerpts from Home-Making

by Rev. J. R. Miller, D. D. (Originally published in 1882)

The Husband’s Part, (continued)

Part II

The spirit of this love requires a husband to honor his
wife. He honored her before she was his wife. He saw in
her his ideal of all that was noble, lovely and queenly. He
showed her every mark of honor of which his soul was
able. Now that he has lifted her up to the throne of his
heart will he honor her less? Not less, but more and ever
more, if he be a true husband and a manly man. He has
taken her now into the closest and holiest relation of earth.
He has linked her life with his own, so that henceforward
whatever affects one affects both. If one is honored the other
is exalted; if one is dishonored the other is debased. There
is infinitely more reason why he should honor her now than
before she was his wife.

The ways in which he should show her honor are
countless. He will do it by providing for her wants on as
generous a scale as his position and his means will justify.
He will do it by making her the sharer of all his own life. He
will counsel with her about his business, advise with her
concerning every new plan, and confide to her at every
point the results of his undertakings. A true wife is not a
child. When he chose her to be his wife he believed her to
be worthy. She may not have all of his wisdom with regard
to the affairs of business, but she may be able to make
many a suggestion which will prove valuable, for women’s
quick intuition often sees at a glance what men’s slow logic
is long in discovering. Many a man owes to his wife’s wise
and after a while, in the genial warmth there sprang out from
from the mountain a sod of moss. She put it in her parlor,
for beautiful things and gathering them about her brought
they live is chill and cold. A lady who is always watching
out in their best beauty because the atmosphere in which
own doors. There are wives whose natures do not blossom
shows itself in all his life, but nowhere so richly as within his
large-hearted man.

...Every true-hearted husband should seek to be worthy of the wife he has already won. For her sake he should reach out after the noblest achievements and strive to attain the loftiest heights of character. To her he is the ideal of all that is manly, and he should seek to become every day more worthy of the homage she pays to him. Every possibility in his soul should be developed. Every latent power and energy of his life should be brought out. His hand should be trained under love’s inspiration to do its most skillful work. Every fault in his character should be eradicated, every evil habit conquered, and every hidden beauty of soul should burst into fragrant bloom for her sake. She looks to him as her ideal of manhood, and he must see to it that the ideal is never marred, that he never falls by any unworthy act of his own from the high pedestal in her heart to which she has raised him. Among all sins few are worse than those by which a man draws down shame and reproach upon himself for, besides all the sorrow he brings upon her in so many other ways, he thus crushes in his wife’s heart the fair and noble image of manhood which she had enshrined there next to her Saviour’s.

In the spirit of this love every husband should be a large-hearted man. He should never be a tyrant, playing the petty despot in his home. There is no surer mark than this of a small man. A manly man has a generous spirit which shows itself in all his life, but nowhere so richly as within his own doors. There are wives whose natures do not blossom out in their best beauty because the atmosphere in which they live is chill and cold. A lady who is always watching for beautiful things and gathering them about her brought from the mountain a sod of moss. She put it in her parlor, and after a while, in the genial warmth there sprang out from

the bosom of the moss a multitude of sweet, delicate spring flowers. The seeds had long lain in the moss but in the cold air of the mountain they had never burst into life. There are noble wives in homes humble and homes stately who are just like this moss. In their natures there are the germs of many excellences and the possibilities of rich outcome, but the home-atmosphere is repressing and chilly, and in it none of these richer qualities and powers manifest themselves. The bringing of new warmth into the home will draw out these latent germs of unsuspected loveliness. The husband who would have his wife’s nature blossom out into its best possibilities of character, influence and power must make a genial summer atmosphere for his home all the round year.

Then this large-heartedness will impart its spirit to the home itself. A husband who is generous within his own doors will not be close and niggardly outside. The heart that is used always to be open at home cannot be carried shut through this suffering world. The prosperous home of a gentleman sends many a blessing and comfort out to less-favored homes. Every true home ought to be a help to a great many struggling lives. Every generous and large-hearted man scatters many a comfort among the needy and the suffering as he passes through this world.

There is nothing lost by such scattering. No richer blessing can come upon a home than the benedictions of those who have been helped, who have been fed at its doors, or sheltered beneath its roof, or inspired by its cheer and kindly interest. There is no memorial that any man can reach out after the noblest achievements and strive to attain the loftiest heights of worth or power. Many a youth of humble origin and without rank or condition has worshiped at the feet of a maiden far above him in social standing, and, incited by his ardent affection, has made himself worthy of her and then won her as his bride....

—To be continued

Becca (Gaus) Staal and Carol (Porozynski) Rich grew up at Fairhaven and now serve the Lord in Africa—Carol as a missionary wife and Becca as a church worker. The Lord has blessed both families with new babies.
OUR SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SCHOOL .................. 9:45 a.m.
PREACHING SERVICE ........ 10:45 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE ............... 5:30 p.m.
THURSDAY SERVICE .......... 7:00 p.m.

FROM FAIRHAVEN’S PULPIT

Fairhaven Baptist College graduates are serving the Lord all across our nation and on every continent. We have been blessed recently by the graduates who have visited to speak in our chapel and church services, along with the preaching of those who serve faithfully on our staff.

“Stay With the Ship”
– Pastor Jonn Morrow

“Prayer for Missions”
– Mr. Pat Gordon

“The Tale of a Bitter Christian”
– Pastor Archie Parrish

“Correction”
– Mr. Dave Olson

“Optical Illusion Christianity”
– Pastor A. J. Potter

“Dwelling in the Secret Place”
– Pastor Kyle Allen

“Confronting Ahab”
– Pastor José Moreno

“The Dangers of Backsliding”
– Mr. Todd Wright

“Giving” [Stewardship Banquet]
– Pastor Tom Furse

“Raising the Dead”
– Pastor Courtney Lewis

“Joy”
– Pastor Steve Neff

“Where is the Lord God of Elijah?”
– Pastor Steve Damron

These sermons are available on CD for $3 each through our bookstore. Some are also available through sermonaudio.com.