

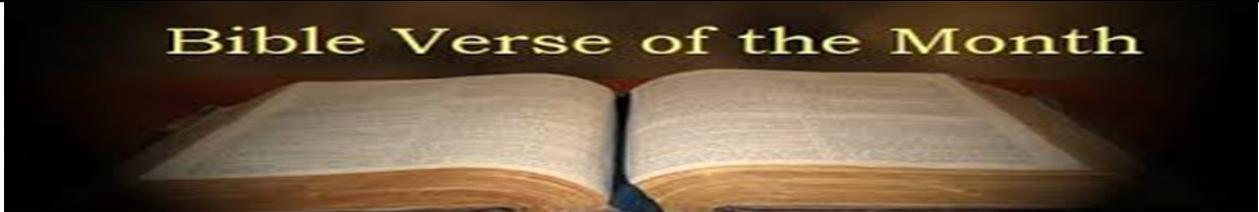
# The Tabernacle Good News

August, 2019

A monthly publication of Tabernacle Baptist Church—Concord

Volume 24, Issue 8

## Bible Verse of the Month



August is here and with it comes a full church calendar. It is awesome!

The Bible says many different things on many different topics, resulting in a very balanced way God desires us to live our lives. The theme and verse for the month of August is, *“A healthy church is a place of action.”* John 15:5 says, *“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”*

This first half of the year at Tabernacle we have looked at many foundational truths centering around the power of God.

Truths such as,

- *“A healthy church is built by Christ, on Christ”* - January
- *“A healthy church is a place of refuge”* - April
- *“A healthy church is built by the power of the Holy Spirit”* - June
- *“A healthy church rests in the Gospel”* - July

But now we get on to a theme of action. I love action. I love seeing action happen! I love seeing people enjoy serving the Lord!

As is often the case, a close examination of the verse reveals some interesting truths that are easy to overlook: *“I am the vine...”* Jesus is explaining where all the nutrients come from. The one source of growth. The only source of strength. The ONLY source of anything long-term.

*“...Ye are the branches:”* WE are where the fruit will physically come from. The vine does not bear fruit, the branches do. Yes, the branches are attached to the vine, but no vine ever bore fruit; We the branches do.

We as Christians need to understand the foundation that we build upon that is Christ Jesus. We need to understand the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to understand that life is not a frenzy, and we are to rest in the power of the Gospel. We need to understand the lifegiving strength we get from being firmly attached to the vine.

BUT, at the end of the day, if we do not bear fruit *ourselves*, the work of Christ will be hindered. If I abandon my wife and kids, they are going to be hindered.

If I abandon the studying, the planning, and the executing of various outreach projects at church, the effectiveness of Tabernacle will be hindered.

If YOU as the reader of this article, decide that serving your family and Lord is best left to others, there will be less fruit produced. There is no way around that fact.

YES, be balanced. YES, serve out of a heart of love for the Lord. BUT SERVE THE LORD! If you don't, who will? Those who don't know Christ? Will they bear the fruit? Will the pastor bear all the fruit? There will be very little fruit if that's the case.

*“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”*

Be reminded that Satan's attacks are never far away. We may start out joyously serving the Lord, firmly attached to the vine. But little by little we may begin to detach from the vine. Just like a bouquet of freshly cut roses, things will continue to look beautiful at first. But slowly and surely, we will feel the effects of being detached from the vine.

The solution is simple. Reattach to Jesus Christ the vine. Maybe take some rebuilding time if needed, but reattach to the vine, and let that fruit once again be produced for the glory of God.

Pastor Thomas

**2019: "I WILL BUILD"**



**AUGUST — A HEALTHY CHURCH IS A PLACE OF ACTION**

**I AM THE VINE, YE ARE THE BRANCHES: HE THAT ABIDETH IN ME, AND I IN HIM, THE SAME BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT: FOR WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING.**

**JOHN 15:5**

**TBC**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

August 16: Ladies Night Out



August 17: Men's Prayer Breakfast



August 18: Newsletter Deadline



September 1: Labor Day Picnic

September 6: Oakland As Game



September 14: Ladies Craft Day

Fishers of Men:

Every Saturday @ 10 AM



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## Caring Corner

### Birthdays



- 1. Karina Gallegos
- 8. Sandy Waite
- 12. Anita Pickens
- 13. Lincoln Gotz
- 13. Joanne Greenwood
- 14. Dave Menesini
- 13. Paul Ciaramitaro
- 14. Jackie Harmon
- 19. Rick Blake
- 19. Emerald Phillips
- 20. Misha Holz
- 25. Thomas Gordon Ciaramitaro
- 27. Elias Lopez
- 29. Gene Blake
- 29. Kent Staloup
- 29. David Vallero

### Anniversaries

- 3. Mike & Shannon Scharnett
- 6. Rick Blake & Andrea Finkbeiner
- 7. Gene & Sue Blake
- 10. Thomas & Jessica Ciaramitaro
- 11. Angel & Kay Juarez
- 16. Ken & Emerald Phillips

## Did You Know?

Grooves in the road on Route 66 play "America the Beautiful."

(See page 7 for details)

## Family Favorites

By Lisa Evans



If any of you have been reading this column for a while, you have learned I am the queen of short cuts. I usually have a bag of premade meatballs in my freezer; they can be found at Costco (Cash and Carry on Monument usually has them too) in the frozen food section. If you insist on making yours 'homemade', here is a super easy recipe. *A good gift suggestion for the cook enthusiast in your life is a selection of different sizes of ice cream scoopers for making cookies and all kinds of things.* Use your trusty ice cream scooper to make your meatballs all the same size. I use the same 1/2 inch scooper I use to make cookies. My mother used to make these, rolled by hand, when I was in elementary school (Childhood memories), but she made them on the stove all day and yes, I got to be the occasional taster. A crock pot works well for our busy lives in the 2000s.

### Meatball Recipe

1 pound of hamburger (can easily exchange for chicken or even turkey)

1 egg

1 large onion (grated)

salt and pepper liberally to taste (about 1/2 tablespoon)



Scoop the meatballs, place on jelly roll pan (a cookie sheet with a 1/4 lip surrounding the pan will catch any juices or drippings from the meatballs) or a regular roasting pan for 15-25 minutes at 350°. Keep an eye on them until they're brown and cooked through.

*(a jelly roll pan and a selection of different sized ice cream scoopers and a cookie recipe book would make a nice gift; I'm just saying)*

### Sweet and Sour Meatballs

Sauce:

8oz bottled chili sauce

1/4 cup lemon juice

1 8 oz jar of grape jelly

Optional--I usually add a small can of pineapple chunks, including juice.

Pour into slow cooker and simmer over low heat until warm.

Add the cooled, browned meatballs (*when cooled, they stay formed*) to the crockpot and simmer for 3-5 hours on high. If cooking longer use low setting.

Serve over steamed rice. Totally optional: add a dash of sesame seeds before serving.

# Missionary Letters

## **Brenda Hayes-Philippines**

I am SOO excited about this month's prayer letter—the news I have to tell you is awesome!

First of all, three weeks ago, we had three young people get saved in our services! Praise the Lord! We are so excited to be following them up and getting them in the church.

And secondly, I have requested prayer for my son, Bryan, his wife Deb, and Madison—the miracle grandchild born a little over two years ago at about 26 weeks. They have not been in church in a good while, but I have just continued to pray for them.

I just learned today, that they have been in another Bible-preaching church the last two Sundays, and that Madison really liked the music a lot! What an answer to prayer! I am so excited. They are not in our church, but they are in a church that preaches the Word. Thanks for your continued prayers for them, but rejoice with me that THEY ARE in church.

God has been so good to us. We have been having really good services the past few weeks—good singing, fellowship, food, and of course, being fed from God's Holy Word!

We had a Filipino family migrate to the United States last week, and we surely miss their presence, but they will return to the church where the father was saved and baptized in Connecticut many years ago. His wife works as a nurse there.

This family owns the house where we are meeting now, and we are very grateful for their allowing us to use a portion of their house for our services at this time. We have a place for the children to have their classes, for which we are so thankful. After the morning service, some bring their lunch and we eat together, and then begin the afternoon service.

The only drawback is that there are 54 steps to get to the third floor where we are

meeting. But, at least we have a place for now. We are continuing to try to locate another house that is closer to town and more accessible for some of our older people, including me. But we praise the Lord for His Provision for now.

Our summer is almost finished, so the kids will be back in school soon. We will be having our Ladies Meetings again next month. They are always a blessing as we share and pray for the prayer requests that are made known, and share an encouraging Bible Study. Friends, I am so thankful for the churches that keep supporting me in the Philippines. I get frustrated that I can't do all that I WANT to do, but am still enjoying the ministry to which God called us almost 48 years ago. Thanks for your continued faithful monthly support and prayers.

## **Dalton & Paulette Walker...New Zealand**

Sometimes I think if we're not careful, we forget that Missions, or any aspect of Church work is in reality about glorifying God. It's not about us or great numbers/buildings, it's about His Glory. Missions is the central part of that Biblical directive called THE Great Commission.

As we work together for the cause of His Glory in Missions we are like a spiritual harmony of gifts, talents, abilities and commitment to the Glory of the King - if you are reading this letter YOU are probably a part of this heavenly orchestra - If not, would you consider being part of the team?

We are currently undertaking to hand out door to door thousands of the "JESUS SAVES" booklets throughout town and leading up to the Grand Opening of our Church in this new community. To be clear, we are already holding services, garnering much attention and having visitors attend. We simply do not have any more room here and are asking for prayer for a meeting place and for help with all the expenses for shipping of materials (Jesus Saves booklets) and local printing here. The costs will be about \$750. For shipping and printing.

We are thrilled (and a little scared) to announce that a number of families that we have trained down through years have sold homes, quit jobs and relocated with us for the purpose of opening up this new region here for Christ. They are aged from 22 to 65 — that's right! They have come to work and put it all on the line, for His Glory and His kingdom — Wow!! Good news, they have all found homes and jobs here and are chomping at the bit to get going - THAT is reproduction and

success — and YOU had a part in it - LET THE ORCHESTRA PLAY.  
 Many people are unaware of the great orchestrative work that the Missions office does in working with local Church's & Missionaries across the globe. But so many times they have made the REAL difference when we needed them most. Please pray for the people who work tirelessly in the Missions Office to help, assist, counsel, encourage and so much more.

**Leonard & Susie Smith-Mexico**

Sadness and joy have been some of the emotions in our lives the last few weeks. Your prayers and support for us and the ministries in Mexico are so very appreciated and we pray that the Lord will bless you. Here is some of what has been happening.

As some you may know, I come from a large missionary family. Our parents were missionaries in Mexico their whole lives. All of us serve the Lord in some capacity, some full time ministry, others in their local churches. The Lord saw fit to take my sister Sandra home to Glory the last week of May.

She was on her way to sing with her church choir at another church on Sunday evening when her heart stopped. She was born with a heart defect and not given much of a chance to live, yet she lived over 56 years. She was an amazing sister. She was a teacher her whole life. She is missed by all of us.

We came out of Mexico for my sister's memorial service, spent some time with family, and today we will be crossing the border heading south. The Lord willing I will be preaching Sunday morning in Culiacan. Please pray for our trip. Also, please be praying for Sunday evening's service. We have scheduled an Evangelistic team from Georgia who will be singing and preaching Sunday evening. Pray for Jay, Tom, and for souls saved.

The last weekend of May we celebrated anniversaries in two of our churches. One in the village of Tierra Y Libertad, where Pastor Oscar is doing an amazing job. We had a former Missionary to Israel minister to the church. In the city, our Emanuel Bible Baptist Church was packed out and then some on Sunday morning. A good group of people from three of our village ministries came that day.

Knowing there were going to be several people there who had not trusted in Christ, the national pastor, Brother Morales decided that I

should take the first session where only adults were present and simply preach salvation. In the second session, the invited speaker would preach on the church. Well, sounded like a good plan to me. The Lord had people's hearts ready. I counted 16 people who got saved. What Joy! A great victory! Then after the second preaching service we went upstairs and ate barbacoa.  
 It is our privilege to preach, teach, and train others that will preach and teach! Thank you for making this possible.

**Options For Women...Home/Concord, CA**

As many of you are aware, the war against LIFE is raging, and California is taking direct aim at our college students.

Did you know Senate bill, SB 24 — also known as, the "College Student Right to Access Act"— was approved by the Senate Health Committee in April of this year?

This bill allows students on CSU, and UC campuses access to medical abortions, also known as a nonsurgical abortion or the "abortion pill." Although the bill has yet to be signed our states new Governor has promised his support.

This is not only an attack on the unborn but a DIRECT attack on our college students as they are sold a lie that abortion is what is best for them. Abortion promises something that it cannot deliver, it promises freedom, but there is NO freedom in death, only bondage to a secret that must be held tight.

Imagine how frightening it would be as a young student, away from home for the first time, possibly sharing a dorm or co-ed bathroom and experiencing a three-day abortion process, all alone, unable to tell anyone what is going on, afraid someone may find out your secret.

Imagine the physical pain, and the emotional trauma that this experience would bring and yet somehow this is what our state is calling "healthcare." The truth is, abortion ends the heartbeat of one and breaks the heart of the other.

Our nation has participated in allowing over 61 Million babies to lose their lives to abortion, and this bill furthers that agenda by making abortion more accessible than ever to our college students.

It is because of bills like SB 24 that Options for Women must exist!

Many of the women that come to us are faced with very difficult life choices and need to know there are alternatives and a community that

will support them if they choose life. Together, we are that community!  
 Friends, if you have not already partnered with us, will you invest in future generations and protect both our students and the lives of the unborn?

### **Foster Family-South Africa**

Kristina's remembrance photography ministry to families of still born and terminally ill babies has seen a surge of interest throughout South Africa! Leading teams of volunteers in the four major cities across the country, they have been able to minister to families through this free gift.

We have also been able to partner with several local organizations with awareness and are planning another annual Remembrance Walk in October - where these families can come together as a healing community. Our first one was held last October in Pretoria and was a huge success!

Kristina was asked to speak at a local bereavement duela's workshop and has now partnered with them to help bring this free gift to as many families as possible who are experiencing this loss. Her team of volunteers continues to grow as more and more families become aware of the services NILMDTS SA provides.

Daily Bible lessons. Weekly chapel services. Bible memory. Training for gospel outreach. These are just a few things that make us different and unique as we also teach the students reading, writing and arithmetic. GHCS continues to grow as new families come in weekly desiring to put their children into our school.

This opens many doors for ministry. Jim has started on a campaign to visit the more than 60 families that send children to our school. He and Frank Josephs, a deacon at Community Baptist Church, will be sharing the gospel with unsaved family members and encourage parents to attend church regularly, know Christ, and be a godly example to their children as we work with them to train them up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Jesus words to his disciples in Matthew 9 "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few" still rings true today as we have gone almost 10 years without any new missionaries/teachers coming to serve at GHCS.

All our teachers are also involved in local church plants, but I am the last remaining missionary serving full time in the school along with some very dedicated South Africans.

However, our teachers are needing reinforcements as most are teaching two grades at a time while also doing many other responsibilities. New missionary teachers would allow us to split some grades and take some of the burden off our sometimes overburdened teachers, including myself.

New teachers would also be able to get involved in the various new church plants around the Western Cape and experience the beauty of South Africa.

### **Noriega Family-USA Hispanics**

Since the last Prayer Letter, I was invited to preach the Prophecy Conference for Pastor Andy Cote of the "Iglesia Bautista de Fe y Amor" on the West Side of Las Vegas. The Conference consisted of three nights that began on a Sunday Night and ended on that Tuesday night.

We covered quite a bit of ground as well as question answer times at the end of the nights preaching. We mentored Andy and his wife before they started that Spanish speaking Independent Baptist Church.

I have also been asked to teach Sunday school and then preach a short devotional in the Morning Service in mid July at "City Baptist Church," an English speaking Independent Baptist Church which is also located in West Las Vegas. The Pastor there is Tony Griffin who planted that church just a few years ago. On top of that we are planning a men's fellowship for next month to include Iglesia Bautista La Fe, Iglesia Bautista de Fe y Amor, and Iglesia Bautista La Gran Comision. With life being very busy fellowship needs to be planned or it doesn't happen.

"Back at the Ranch" as they say, we have four couples expecting babies all due by of before September. One of them will be to Pastor Miguel Luna and his wife Sarah who are expecting their fourth child. Most of the church is comprised of younger couples who are eager to serve the Lord, but there is a good balance of senior citizens, middle aged, young adults, teens, and young children.

Finally Vegas is growing even bigger as construction is booming, the NFL Oakland Raiders move to and become the Las Vegas Raiders, joining the professional Hockey team "Vegas Golden Nights." Because of the vast expansion the valley is ripe for another Spanish speaking church in the Southwest area of the valley and that is a matter for prayer

## Bits and Pieces, Notes and News

**Ladies Fellowship:** This month's activity is a Ladies Night Out on Friday, August 16th at 7 pm. We will be meeting at the church. Expect a night of fun, food, and games. Please remember to bring your favorite games and some snacks to share. All Ladies are welcome.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast:** This month's breakfast will be on Saturday, August 17th at 8 am in the lunchroom. Men come and enjoy breakfast. Troy's message is always practical and the prayer time is edifying and encouraging. Men, don't miss it!

**New Church Directory:** Mark your calendars! Life Touch will be coming to Tabernacle on October 11-12. We would love all of the Tabernacle family to be included so mark these dates. More information will follow as the time draws closer.

**Labor Day Picnic:** Our annual Labor Day Picnic will be on September 1st. Plan to attend.

**Oakland As Game:** Our annual excursion to an As game will be on September 6th. All baseball fans should plan to attend. Details will follow as the time approaches. Members and guests are invited.

**New emails:** [Hedda@TabernacleBaptist.Church](mailto:Hedda@TabernacleBaptist.Church), [PastorThomas@TabernacleBaptist.Church](mailto:PastorThomas@TabernacleBaptist.Church), and website [TabernacleBaptist.Church](http://TabernacleBaptist.Church)

**Country Harvest Days:** Our annual Country Harvest Days are coming for the entire month of October. Don't miss a single Sunday. There will be activities every Sunday so mark your calendars. Details to follow. This is an excellent time to invite friends and family to join us.

**Hymns For Speeders:** 45 mph: "God will take Care of You"; 55 mph: "Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah"; 65 mph: "Nearer My God To Thee"; 75 mph: "Nearer, Still Nearer"; 85 mph: "This World is Not My Home"; 95 mph: "Lord, I'm Coming Home"; Over 100 mph: "Precious Memories".

**Grooves in the road on Route 66 play "America the Beautiful."** New Mexico's Department of Transportation decided to spice up a desolate quarter-mile stretch of Route 66 between Albuquerque and Tijeras. Grooves were added in the road that play music when you drive over them going the speed limit of 45 mph. The grooves work just like the rumble strips, which vibrate your car if you drift out of your lane. These particular strips are positioned to create different pitches when you drive over them, and if you do, you can clearly hear ["American the Beautiful"](#) play through the vibrations in your car's wheels.

### Ralphie's Puzzler of the Month

What great man was seen about 1500 years after his death?

**Last Month's Answer:** How often is God angry with the wicked? Every day Psalm 7:11

# Mary Lou's Musings

By Mary Lou McCauley

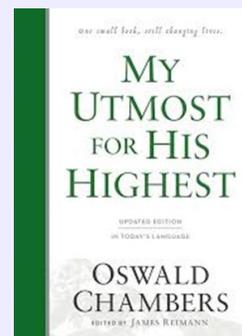
Reading Oswald Chamber's, *My Utmost for His Highest* today, I was impressed with the line in the sermon on the mount, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Chambers used the phrase *paupers* in spirit, which gave me a picture of what the Lord was really saying. Christ, the Great Teacher, was condoning those who understood that we must be paupers in spirit before we can be blessed.

So many people consider Jesus a great teacher only. They have never come to the realization that when He uttered those words, He was pointing out that we can never, simply by emulating His teaching, reach the standard He has set for us. Instead, any attempt by natural man to follow His commands will lead to despair and despondence. It is only as we are born again by the Spirit of God, that we can begin to live up to His standard, and then it is "not I, but Christ." Chambers puts it beautifully when he says, "When I am born again of the Spirit of God, I know that Jesus Christ did not come to teach only: He came to *make me what He teaches I should be.*"

I remember reading in the autobiography of Benjamin Franklin how he attempted to make his character better by developing qualities that he considered worthy, such as honesty, thriftiness, humility, tidiness, etc. To his dismay, he discovered that when he had developed one quality to his satisfaction, he fell apart on another. He could not seem to hold all the balls in the

air at the same time! Franklin, a self-proclaimed deist, did not realize his poverty of spirit, and call upon the power of the Holy Spirit through the blood of Jesus Christ, to develop these qualities in him. He did not understand that only as we recognize our need of a Savior and acknowledge that we are poor in spirit, can we ever hope to follow Christ's standards.

As Christians we know that we cannot follow Christ's standards by ourselves. As Paul so eloquently put it, "I can do all things through Christ, which strengthens me," and conversely, "Without Me (Jesus) ye can do nothing!" Sometimes we, as Christians, strive to develop qualities in our lives that we see as missing, not realizing that the only way we can ever please the Lord, is by acknowledging that we are helpless without utter dependence on Christ. If we really believed that wouldn't we spend more time trying to get close to Him? Wouldn't we be more eager to spend time studying his Word, and meditating on what He has said to us. Wouldn't we talk to Him more and bring our burdens immediately to Him? As Chambers says, "The knowledge of our own poverty brings us to the moral frontier where Jesus Christ works." Christ, and He alone, is the answer to our poverty of spirit!



**Monthly Devotional**

**Library Corner**



August 2019  
By \*J. Harmon

**August**

**Fighting the flesh is challenging!**

Read: Romans 12:21

21: Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good:

It is very normal for any Christian not to do good to those who do us evil. Revenge is the one thing which sits in our hearts automatically with no hesitation. Followers of Christ do rub elbows with many people as they are performing the Lord's work. Rest assured, you will come across people who will want to do you harm in one form or another. How will you react? How have you reacted in the past? It is not about letting them bulldoze you over, but it is not about you getting the upper hand either. Nothing wrong with protecting yourself. But it should be done without the intent of revenge. Overcoming evil with good is when someone does you wrong and you still treat them decently. It is someone talking to you cruelly as though you are gum under their shoe, but you respond back with respect. It is someone trying to tarnish your reputation with others and, in response, you do not talk badly of them. You allow your true reputation and actions to speak for you. In turn, their actions and reputation will eventually speak volumes of them. As a follower of Christ, let God do the justice for you. Eventually, all will turn out well. As the follower of Christ, set the good example for God's sheep.

**Goal**

As a follower of Christ, do not make it a practice to let revenge sit in your heart. Satan will have a field day with you. Let God do your protecting. Follow His instructions, particularly in the field of evil.

Anonymous

**The Initiative Against Despair-Oswald Chambers**

**"Rise, let us be going."**

**Matthew 26:46**

The disciples went to sleep when they should have kept awake, and when they realized what they had done it produced despair. The sense of the irreparable is apt to make us despair, and we say—"It is all up now, it is no use trying any more."

If we imagine that this kind of despair is exceptional, we are mistaken, it is a very ordinary human experience. Whenever we realize that we have not done that which we had a magnificent opportunity of doing, then we are apt to sink into despair; and Jesus Christ comes and says—"Sleep on now, that opportunity is lost forever, you cannot alter it, but arise and go to the next thing." Let the past sleep, but let it sleep on the bosom of Christ, and go out into the irresistible future with Him.

There are experiences like this in each of our lives. We are in despair, the despair that comes from actualities, and we cannot lift ourselves out of it. The disciples in this instance had done a downright unforgivable thing; they had gone to sleep instead of watching with Jesus, but He came with a spiritual initiative against their despair and said—"Arise and do the next thing."

If we are inspired of God, what is the next thing? To trust Him absolutely and to pray on the ground of His Redemption. Never let the sense of failure corrupt your new action.

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Before founding the **China Inland Mission**, Hudson Taylor was first sent to China as a missionary by The Chinese Evangelisation Society (1853). He and another missionary thought of plans to build a doctor's, house, and a school building in addition to a hospital and dispensary. From there they could visit the surrounding country and establish branch-schools and dispensaries wherever possible.

"It was all admirable no doubt...But it wasn't based upon conclusions that in their case were misleading, and just because the good is often the enemy of the best would have thwarted their real life-usefulness, fore-ordained in the purposes of God."

**Hudson Taylor in Early Years, The Growth of a Soul; First published 1911.**

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If I could grasp this one thing, - that "good is often the enemy of the best" perhaps God can use me after all.

## Tabernacle Baptist Church Ministry

### **Sunday**

9:45AM Sunday School For All Ages  
 10:45AM Morning Worship Service  
 Children's Church (3s through 3rd grade)  
 Nursery  
 6:00PM Evening Service

### **Wednesday**

7:00PM Discipleship/Prayer Meeting  
 7:00PM Patch The Pirate Club/Master Clubs/ACCESS-  
 Tabernacle Teens

### **Saturday**

10:00 AM Fishers of Men

*"Occupying till JESUS comes"*  
*-Luke 19:13c*

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**Victor Holz**  
**Rich King**  
**Troy Moore**

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