

# *The Faith Watch*

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## A PLEA AGAINST ECUMENISM

Ecumenical thinking in a religious context is not new. It is the belief that people should cooperate together despite differences in belief and practice. In our day this trend has reached epidemic proportions. So many today work together in local ministerial associations, national organizations and other joint ventures in spite of the fact that they hold widely divergent and irreconcilable doctrinal views. Ecumenical evangelism made popular by the likes of Billy Graham is considered above criticism though the workforce at such crusades embodies free grace people and sacramentalists and every doctrine under the sun. The philosophy of ecumenism has become so entrenched in current religious thought that to raise an objection to it is to be considered a fringe radical.

First of all, ecumenism is based upon human sentiment rather than biblical teaching. God's Word forbids the crossing of doctrinal lines in order to cooperate in the work of the Lord.

*Ro. 16:17 - Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*

*II Ti. 2:16-21 - If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall*

*be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use...*

*II Th. 3:6,14,16 - Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly and not after the tradition which he received of us.*

*II Co. 6:14,17 - Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness... Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you...*

Human sentiment draws many into interdenominational and interdoctrinal working relationships because they just can't bring themselves to do the hard thing and stay separate from falsehood. They just can't believe that a loving God would require it, and they haven't the spiritual guts to draw the line in the sand. Emotion and sentiment rule the day. These types do too much thinking and not enough biblical studying. (*Is. 55:8,9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.*) In such an envi-

ronment Christianity becomes a feel good society and a goodwill club where little is criticized and few are convicted of error and urged to get right with God. It creates a pseudo-togetherness and a false unbiblical peace.

Truth is the commodity around which the faithful are to rally. Without agreement on truth there can be no fellowship.

*Pr. 23:23 Buy the truth and sell it not.*

*1Ti. 3:15 ...the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

*Ep. 4:13-15 Till we all come in the unity of the faith ... That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine ... But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things...*

We know that sound teaching often breeds division, but truth is the constant of the ministry, not togetherness. Jesus Christ caused many to turn away from Him by His teachings, yet He allowed such division because He was bound to the truth. They went away from Him in droves at the thought of His being the true Bread from Heaven or of His literal bodily resurrection. He angered the religious groups of His day because He criticized their beliefs and worked in opposition to them rather than in fellowship with them. He practiced fidelity before fellowship and unity over union. Milquetoast ministries today could learn a lot by mimicking Him along with other messengers of God found worthy of honorable mention in Holy Writ.

*Ep. 5: 10, 11 - Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

True Baptists have always been separatists and nonconformists ... reprovers. Read the history books! They have always followed the commands of God in His Word to stay unyoked from error. They have understood that in order to help others one must stay true to the Bible himself. They have always believed it was their duty to be true to the separatist instructions of God before being partners with man. Historically a fundamentalist is one who holds to the fundamental beliefs of the Bible and separates from those who do not. Separatism has always been a tenet of fundamentalism, and historically, Baptists have always been fundamentalists. Any church that calls itself Baptist and is not fundamentalist in practice is not following Baptist principles.

*Amos 3:3 - Can two walk together except they be agreed?*

There is an undeniable threefold indictment of the modern interdenominational ecumenical movement:

1. **It disregards the truth.** In order for the current fellowship to exist between divergent religious societies there are a myriad of biblical topics that must be ignored. Silence must prevail on these topics because of the wide diversity and toleration so lauded by the group. These societies operate on the lowest common denominator doctrinally. Truth is sacrificed for the sake of peace. (*Pr.23:23 - sell it not.*)

2. **It dishonors God.** Being blatantly

unbiblical in practice, ecumenism flatly ignores what the Lord commands. This is open rebellion. Some within the ranks of ecumenism do not believe the whole Bible to be verbally inspired and preserved for us. They are unbelievers and dishonor the very God Who said over and over again that His Word was binding in every part. (*II Ti. 3:16 - All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine...*)

### **3. It disintegrates the churches.**

Look at so many of the churches which have clasped hands across the aisle. They are often biblically uneducated while the pastor spends his pulpit time on loving your neighbor and getting the most out of life. Churches of that persuasion often don't take the stands required in this wicked world. The people have gone soft, no cross to bear, no reproach to suffer, no death to self about which the Lord so often spoke. In so many corners the various congregations have become indistinguishable globs of religious goop. No distinctiveness, no clarion call from the pulpit to walk the narrow way, no battle cry to hold the fort, just the treasonous effeminate voice of acquiescence.

*Re. 2:8, 10 - And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write ... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

Pastor Stan Gustafson

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**Faithbaptistmoline.org**

It's the newest thing sweeping through the World Wide Web.

Faithbaptistmoline.org went live the beginning of January and has been growing since. Our website is constantly changing and we have been trying to add things as we get the time (and ideas) to do so. There are a variety of things to do on the website, including listening to the newest tape list, ordering a sermon if you find one you like, reading the latest edition of the Watch, or even clicking over to read the latest edition of the Pastor's blog. We also have a section for special events that are upcoming. You'll want to keep an eye on this as we are working on fleshing it out a bit in the near future. We hope everyone uses this valuable resource and we look forward to suggestions, which you can send via the "contact us" tab. Now for some little facts:

Since it's inception, and publishing, in January of 2008 we have had 314 distinct IP hits. This means that 314 different computers have requested to view at least one page of our website. That's not too bad for the short amount of time we have been live. As word gets out we expect this number to grow immensely. The number of successful hits over the last three months has been an astonishing 36000. We averaged 270 hits/day in January, 640 hits/day in February, and we are averaging 531 hits/day in March. Just for educational purposes, hits is the number of times we show up on a search on someone's computer out there in cyberspace, whether they visit us or not. Obviously we want this number as high as possible. The number of visits is averaging 16/day.

Well that's a general introduction and we will keep everyone updated on any changes online, and offline.

Matt Fox

*“Indeed, it is an incontrovertible fact that all the complex and horrendous questions confronting us at home and worldwide have their answer in that single book, The King James Bible.”*

Ronald Reagan  
Newsweek, Dec. 27, 1982 p.46

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**Missionary Letter From The  
Rettigs in the Czech Republic**  
February 2008

The Rettigs have been on the mission field of Prague for many years, and we, as a supporting church, receive regular letters from them as to the progress of their work on the field. This latest mailing was especially encouraging. It gives a number of witnessing opportunities that the members of the Prague church took advantage of though many would have let them slip by. It speaks to the fact that they are alert for souls and zealous for the Christ they possess. Knowing the Rettigs as I do, I know this evidence of holy fire seen in their people is a tremendous blessing to them. Read below for yourself from their latest missionary letter.

*Pastor Stan Rettig*

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Vladimir at the border

Coming back from a 4 day work related trip to Leipzig, Germany, Vladimir was nearing the border Though it was already dark, Vladimir felt impressed of the Lord to pick up a man he saw hitch-

hiking. Most people would just drive by. But not Vladimir. He stopped and asked the man if he had proper identification documents. He did. So Vladimir told him to hop in. The hitchhiker got more than just a ride to Prague. He got a 2 hour sermon from a chemist giving him the correct formula for eternal life :)

Jana on the bus

We could write a book on Jana's bus ride testimonies. Last week, Jana quietly prayed as she got on the bus asking the Lord to let her talk to someone about the Lord. So she sat next to a lady and the lady seemed very upset. Jana began talking to her. They happened to be getting off at the same stop, just by coincidence of course. The conversation continued and they stepped into a coffee shop where Jana preached the gospel to her for over an hour!

Sincerely in Christ,  
The Rettigs

Rackova 13, Praha 6  
165 00 Czech Republic



## Did You Know....

...that nearly all the enameled bricks found in ancient Babylon bear the inscription, "I am Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon"?

...that Bible critics told us for hundreds of years that Nebuchadnezzar was not an historic figure?

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## My Testimony

Ron Skiles

Recently Pastor was discussing what it takes to be a good witness. This got me to thinking about the three things I could share with other people about myself. First of all when I was a young adult I was hanging with a bad crowd, we were drinking, cussing, partying, sometimes stealing. Not really into working for a living. I got married and had kids pretty young, I even made a half hearted effort to go to church with my then girlfriend. Now that I think about it, this was probably mostly to please her and not to help myself or to seek Jesus. The church was Pentecostal and it was a lot different than any other church I had been to. I think I made a small effort to better myself, I was baptized there, but had no real commitment. My girlfriend and I decided to get married and asked the Pastor of this church to marry us, but she declined, saying she could not because I was not a Christian. This upset me a lot and I quit the church and never went back. We found a different way to marry, which ended after three years and two kids. From there I really went off the deep end. I was partying even more. I was this way for ten years or so, then I moved back to this area and pretty much became strictly an

alcoholic.

I met Eileen 11 years ago and she changed my life a little. Then Ronnie came along, I was still drinking, not as much but when I did, I did it right. And then Eileen and I split up for quite awhile. She and Ronnie started coming to Faith Baptist. I had Ronnie every other weekend and was told by both Eileen and Ronnie that he could not miss church, so every other Sunday; I had to bring Ronnie to church. You know what? God started working on ME. Next thing I knew it didn't make sense to come to church every other Sunday. I was coming every Sunday. This went on like this for a few months. In 2005, Eileen, Ronnie and I became a whole family again, by the grace of God. In September of 2005 I bought my Bible. I now have a time and place of my new birth. It was in Pastors office at Faith Baptist on November 2, 2005. A couple of weeks later, I was accepted as a member of the church and was baptized, on the same day as Ronnie. I thank God daily for my Salvation. As I see it now, I was on the road to destruction and didn't even know it. So now my life has been changed for the better, I have been clean and sober for almost three years, I no longer have such an explosive temper, I go to church on Sunday and Wednesday's and know more about the Bible than I ever thought I could. Thank God and Pastor for both being good teachers.



*"You know it's strange, the same music that they kicked me out of school for is the same kind of music they play in their churches today. The difference is, I know I am playing for the devil and they don't."*

Jerry Lee Lewis

## No Bandages on Jesus' Wounds

Sara Shipp

So many times in our lives we sit around and wallow in our own sorrows, and look for bandages to put on our wounds that we have. We have wounds such as hurt feelings, rejections, betrayal by a friend, persecutions, and heartaches. If we would only take a step back for a few moments, we will realize that we generally bring the wounds on ourselves. We take something small and turn it into something that is completely blown up and for no good reasons but sheer ignorance. What does it really solve to put afflictions upon ourselves?

Have you ever noticed that there are no bandages on Jesus' wounds? Think back in the Bible when it talks about Christ being rejected by His own people. Isaiah 53:3 *"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."* John 1:11 *"He came unto his own, and his own received him not."* Luke 23:18 *"And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas:"* Did He run and try to find a band aid to put on His wound? Nope, didn't think so.

You know that Christ also suffered betrayal by a friend in Psalms 41:9 *"Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me."* Luke 22:47-48 *"And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?"*

1. Spat upon and smitten Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 26:67
2. Hated without reason Psalms 35:19; John 15:24
3. Suffered a vicarious sacrifice Isaiah 53:5; Romans 5:6, 8
4. Crucified with malefactors Isaiah 53:12; mark 15:27
5. Pierced through His hands and feet Zechariah 12: 10; John 20:27
6. Scorned and mocked Psalms 22:7; Luke 23:35
7. Given vinegar and gall Psalms 69:2 1; Matthew 27:34
8. His side pierced Zechariah 12: 10; John 19:34

He was spat upon and smitten, hated without reason, suffered a vicarious sacrifice, crucified with malefactors, pierced through his hands and feet, scorned and mocked, given vinegar and gall to drink, and had his side pierced and yet never had and bandages put over his wounds.

Most importantly, think about the fact that God the Father turned His back on His own Son to take away the sins of the world. Matthew 27:45-46 *"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* Stop to think that He could have called twelve legions of angels to come and take Him down, (Matthew 26:53 *"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"*) but He didn't. I am so thankful that HE didn't. Have you ever wondered what it would be like if He came down? Let me tell you what would have happened. There would have been no hope for our eternity. We

would still be in our sins and there would be no payment for our sins. He was born to die upon Calvary, he suffered my sin to forgive, he was born to die upon Calvary that I might live. I am so glad He died for me.

If you have never accepted Christ into your heart and have never fully trusted in His grace and grace alone, you can have salvation simply like a child. There are four things you must realize. Once you have realized these four things, you can come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and be assured a home in Heaven.

1. The fact of sin. *Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short to the glory of God."*

2. The penalty for sin. *Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death,"*

3. The price paid for sin. *Romans 6:23b "but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"*

4. Salvation. *Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. "*

If you believe these things and would like to know that Heaven is your home, just simply ask Jesus to come into your heart and forgive you of your sins and to cleanse you of all unrighteousness and thou shalt be saved. Let me leave you with a song that I ran across while writing this. It is called "The Healer" written by Lois Irwin:

*On the cross crucified, In great sorrow He died; The Giver of life was HE. Yet MY Lord was despised and rejected of men, This Jesus of Calvary. He was wounded for our*

*transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; surely He bore our sorrows, and by HIS stripes we are healed.*

*Price for healing was paid, As those cruel stripes were made, With in Pilate's judgment hall. Now His suffering affords perfect healing for all. This wonderful Healer's mine. He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; surely He bore our sorrows, and by HIS stripes we are healed.*

*Came the leper to Christ, Saying "Surely I know, that Thou, Lord, canst make me whole. " When His great faith was seen Jesus said, "Yes I will. " And touched him and made him clean. He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; surely He bore our sorrows, and by HIS stripes we are healed.*

*He has healed my sick soul, Made me every whit whole, And He'll do the same for you. He's the same yesterday and today and forever, The Healer of men today. He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; surely He bore our sorrows, and by HIS stripes we are healed.*

I hope this will help you as it has helped me to understand that I don't always have to understand why - just comply with what the Lord wants to use me for.

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## **Something I Learned**

by Barbi Daffara

Recently on Wednesday night, Pas-

tor embarked upon a series of lessons on fasting. I have always been intrigued by the idea that there was something I could do to "help" my prayers along or "get my prayers noticed." What I found out that night changed my thinking about fasting and its purpose. I was so surprised by this novel idea that I wanted to share it with those who were not able to be there and missed it. Bear in mind that this information is not my own. Pastor presented it; I am simply repeating it.

My earlier statement that fasting is some sort of catalyst to an answer to prayer was erroneous. I have spent my life believing that fasting was my way of showing God I "meant business." That is silly, I know, because...

*"...for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7*

God already knows if I am serious in seeking an outcome to my prayer. So, fasting does not prove "I mean what I pray."

I also thought of fasting as a way to get God's attention. It was like I was on a deserted island, and there was a plane flying overhead. I was waving my hands frantically to get God to notice me and my prayer. Again, I was wrong.

*"Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?" Job 31:4*

God has counted the hairs on my head. He sees me at all times and watches over me. I do not need to fast to make him aware that I am seeking an answer to prayer.

Another aspect of fasting that I was wrong about was looking at it as some

sort of attempt to make a deal with or threaten (in the nicest sense of the word) God for an answer. This is almost like a petulant child who says "I'll hold my breath until you give me what I want." I'm positive that no one enters into the fasting process with this in the forefront of their thinking, but I am guessing that many have it unconsciously in the back of their mind. "If I sacrifice sufficiently, God will see and He will see all that I have suffered and feel sorry for me. Then, He will give me what I want." As I said before, this is also an incorrect view of this practice of fasting.

*"Thy will be done" Matthew 6:10*

God will not be bent to our will by fasting.

At this point in the lesson, I was confused and despondent. If fasting was not helping to get my prayers noticed and it was not swaying God over to my way of thinking, then what was the point (aside from the fact that I had one less lunch to pack on those days)?

*"I humbled my soul with fasting" Psalm 35:13*

The answer seems so clear now, and I am slightly embarrassed that I did not see it before. Fasting is a tool by which we make ourselves ready for the answer God has for us. We spend that fasting time growing closer to Him and being made painfully aware of the hold our flesh has on us. Does fasting help our prayers? Yes, because as we grow closer to God, we are more able to pray in His will and less likely to receive a negative answer. Secondly, when a Christian tends to his relationship with God, he will find himself in a better place to re-

ceive blessings at His hand.

Therefore, fasting does not speed my prayers to the top of God's to-do list, does not get me noticed, and does not talk God into answering me. It is so much more than that because not only does it aid in answers to prayer by readying the Christian for that answer, it also strengthens the relationship between God and the one who fasts.

I hope that this is as interesting to you as it was to me. With my new-found knowledge, I sign off saying that I will be praying for you!

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## **Sunday School 10-12 Year Olds**

By John O'Melia

Recently, each member of our congregation was challenged by Pastor to give their own testimony regarding their salvation during a Sunday evening service. This was prompted by a bulletin board display in the main hallway that included hearts that had individuals names and salvation date (among other details) on them. Every one of those hearts are a snapshot of a lost sinner that has repented and found Christ as their Saviour. As the evening continued and one person after another shared the details of that glorious day, I decided that this would be great assignment for the kids in my Sunday school class to do in written form. As we began the assignment, they quickly informed me that they had already done this orally in the Heritage Kids Class with Ella Crawford on Wednesday night. Of course, I immediately responded with "Great...then this will be easy!"

We took up the challenge from the viewpoint of a visitor coming in and

seeing the hearts on the board for the first time. The challenge was for each student to answer 3 questions that we would hope that person would ask.

1) Why do you (or would you) have a heart with your name and date on display on the bulletin board?

2) What does it mean to be saved?

3) What must I do to be saved? (and they must reference scripture for this) Here are their responses in their own words:

Tristan Daffara

1) Because I wanted people to know when I was saved. I also wanted to show people that I am saved.

2) To be saved means I am sorry for sins in my life. I believed in Christ and confessed to Him so I could be forgiven. I also believe that Jesus is the only way to be saved. I believe in the atonement of Christ and in the resurrection of Christ.

3) If you want to be saved you must believe in Christ and confess you are a sinner.

*John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

*Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

*John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord*

*Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

*Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Ronnie Skiles

1) I would have a heart on the bulletin board because it would show people I am saved. It would also tell people when I was saved.

2) When I was saved, I talked to Pastor Stan. We went into his office and prayed. I prayed to Jesus to come into my heart. I confessed to Pastor before I prayed. After that, Jesus was in my heart.

3) To be saved, you must believe in the Trinity. You must accept God in your heart. You must confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus. You must believe in the birth, death and resurrection of Christ.

*Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

Sean O'Melia

1) I put a heart on the board because I wanted people to know I was saved. I also put it there because I wanted to remember when I was saved.

2) When I was saved I knew that I came short of the glory of God. Then I confessed in prayer. I can't just say it, I have to believe it in my heart. I also believe that Jesus is the only way to salvation. That is my testimony of salvation.

3) To be saved, you have to know that you've come short of the glory of God. You must also believe in your heart that He was resurrected from the dead. You have to believe that he is the only way. You can learn a lot at church. That is how you accept Jesus into your life.

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## **IS THE CHURCH IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

Most professing Christians today treat the New Testament churches of the Lord Jesus Christ as if they are optional to Christianity. Some actually demonstrate by their actions that they believe the local church is unnecessary. It is obvious from his PRACTICE as well as his teaching that the Apostle Paul believed that God's plan for this age is the local New Testament church. By that I mean that it is God's perfect will for everyone to be saved, baptized, and united with a New Testament church. I set forth Paul as an example because he is rightly considered as possibly the greatest Christian that ever lived. Search the Scriptures and you will see that the following facts about Paul are obvious:

Paul was convicted concerning the Gospel as he heard preaching from a deacon in the first New Testament church.

After his baptism Paul "assembled" with the disciples at Damascus.

When he went to Jerusalem "he assayed (meaning "attempted") to join himself (meaning "glue, stick, cleave, keep company") with those disciples that were known as the church which is at Jerusalem. "And he was with them coming in and going out of Jerusalem." (Acts 9:28)

When he relocated to Antioch he assembled with the New Testament church that was located there.

When he took money to help the

church at Jerusalem he did so under the direction of the church at Antioch.

He ministered to the Lord as a teacher in the church at Antioch.

He was sent out as a missionary by the church at Antioch.

He reported to that church after his missionary journey.

He wrote his epistles to the churches, the pastors, and one time a member of a church (Philemon).

He Encouraged, Exhorted, Reproved, and Rebuked the churches that God allowed him to start.

He prayed for the churches.

He gave himself for the churches.

He hazarded his life for the churches.

He laboured, loved, and longed for the churches.

He labeled the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ as House of God, Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Temple of God, Body of Christ, Church of the Living God.

He led in the discipline of unruly members who were contrary to the will of God and the Word of God.

Now, what about you? Is the church important to you? It sure was to Paul!

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## The Hymn Writer

John O'Melia

In many of the song services led by Bro. Rick Crawford, a brief background of the writer is included which gives more depth and meaning to the songs that are being sung. Many of these are individuals whose own salvation testimonies are revealed in the contents of the song. Others place God in his rightful place of absolute Holiness. One of

my personal favorite hymn writers is Fanny Crosby. She was born Frances Jane Crosby on March 24, 1820. At the young age of 6 weeks old, she caught a cold and had inflammation in her eyes. Her family doctor was not available, and the one that replaced him botched a procedure that left her blind at that tender age. Her father died when she was just one year old and she was then raised by her mother and grandmother. She was very active in education, writing poetry, playing music and lobbying for the blind, despite her being blind herself. She would, over the course of her career, write more than 8,000 hymns using more than 100 different pseudonyms. She was quite humble and didn't want people to realize that she had written so many. A few of my favorites are "Near the Cross" and "Blessed Assurance".

While many of her hymns speak volumes, I am drawn to her "can do" attitude. At eight years old she wrote a poem about her blindness proclaiming her joy and happiness and that she would never weep or sigh about her infirmity.

She would later remark: *"It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me."*

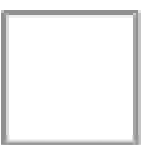
She like the Apostle Paul gloried in her infirmities, never lamenting them. She was also quoted as saying: *"When I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Saviour!"*

Who among us wouldn't choose that as their epitaph?

**FAITH BAPTIST WATCH**

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*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves:  
it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast.*

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

***[www.faithbaptistmoline.org](http://www.faithbaptistmoline.org)***