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Keystone BAPTIST



SOVEREIGN GRACE MUSIC, A PLEASANT SOUND OR A DANGEROUS TREND?



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In monitoring the trends that shape our lives, it's obvious that nothing ever stays the same; everything changes, and the devil always takes advantage of these changes. And nothing is more obvious than the way the devil manipulates these changes to his advantage. One of the component of change that tends to registers the pulse of each decade is the music we listen to.

I, personally have lived through most of these musical changes. I remember the swing music of Danny Kaye, the dancing music of Lawrence Welk, the sensual music of Elvis Presley, the county music of Johnny Cash, the rock music of the Beatles, and the acid rock of the Grateful Dead. All of these secular music changes, to some extent, have influenced the drastic change in the Christian music of our day. We have gone from the traditional music of John W. Peterson to the hard rock music of the contemporary bands. In the mix is a new musical sound called (SGM) Sovereign Grace Music, which is contemporary in its nature and pleasant in its sound. Please bear with me. I have no axe to grind; I simply want to share with you a musical trend that I believe will hasten the further fragmentation of fundamentalism.

So, what is Sovereign Grace Music? I'm not sure how to describe it. I spoke with two reputable music men in our State of Indiana, and both of them said that it is a form of "soft rock, and is contemporary in nature." If I were to characterize this music, I would have to say that it's a mixture of the traditional music of the hymnbook and the contemporary music of the charismatics. The singing of SGM in our fundamental Baptist churches is epidemic and is one of the most controversial issues to come before us

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Blessings of a Conference

It is always a special time when members of our churches and their pastors are able to gather

together for a conference. Setting the time aside to join others in our association as the Word of God is proclaimed can be very encouraging. The PARBC has two conferences a year – one in the spring and one in the fall.

Churches in our fellowship take turns hosting these special activities. It allows the pastor and church members to work together to serve and help others in the PARBC. It brings to mind Acts 20:35, “. . . to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Our Spring Conference this year at Calvary Baptist Church in New Stanton was indeed a blessing. The two day event was tremendous with much food, provided by the church, and precious fellowship. Our thanks to Pastor Sementilli and his dear folks for a marvelous job.

We had the privilege of honoring three men of God who had given many years in serving our Savior. They were Pastor David L. Johnson, Pastor G. Victor Perry and Pastor H.D. Youngblood. Together, their collective years of service amounted to almost one hundred and fifty years! What a blessing! What a testimony! Their “Faithful Servant Awards” are posted

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From the Parsonage Window



The Widow of Zarephat

It would be a day like none other; over a year had passed and still no rain. Because she was a widow with a small boy to provide for, it was even worse. She may have had an olive orchard and possibly some land to plant but everything had dried up.

Little did she know that there was one man who was behind the curse of no rain for this long year. Every day, she and her son had been eating less and less. While perhaps she gave him a little more, as any mother would, she could see that he was beginning to starve. She lifted the lid of the jar with meal and let her fingers attempt to measure what was left. The oil container was lower still. It was obvious that today was the last of their food. First, though, she would need some wood so she could start a fire to make this meal.

She walked outside toward the city gates and stooped down to find anything that would burn. Two sticks was all she found. Everything was dried up. There wasn't even dry grass to fuel the fire. She'd make due but then she saw a man approaching.

“Can you give me some water to drink,” he asked. She almost walked away, but she noticed by what he was wearing that he was a prophet. She had heard about these prophets who claimed to be prophets of the one only true God. Whether she felt sorry for his obvious thirst or whether curious about his God, she turned to get him a drink. Even a drink was nearly an impossible request, but she had a little water. Without answering, she turned to get him a drink. That was all she could do.

He called out to her, “Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.”

She answers, “As the Lord *thy* God liveth, I have not a cake but a morsel of meal in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse;” Today, I will fix one last meal for my son and me, and then we will die. She may have commented about the draught and that she was seeing signs that her son was already beginning to starve.

Persistently, and without seeming to hear her, the prophet said, “Don't be afraid to make me a cake first and then one for you and your son.”

“For thus saith the Lord God of Israel, the barrel of

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since the advent of CCM, i.e. Contemporary Christian Music. All over America, churches are singing Sovereign Grace Music, which is appealing to the flesh, and pleasant to the ears. So what is wrong with it? Why has it become an issue that churches have to deal with?

Not being a music man myself, I see SGM as a dangerous trend, particularly as it relates to its philosophy and its theology. One of my music consultants stated, “when people swarm around a style of music, it’s time to step back and take a look at it, and find out why this is happening.” In other words, “swarming” around the gospel or anything that identifies with the gospel is contrary to what is taught in the Bible. The gospel is offensive to the world, and usually they stay away from it like the plague. However, that’s not true of Christian Rock and Soft Rock. Somehow, it’s appealing to the world and its crowd. Both the saved and the lost are “swarming” around SGM music, which makes it at least, questionable. Some questions that come to mind are: who are the people that are producing this kind of music? Where do they stand theologically? What is their motive in writing it? What is their philosophy of music? Why are the big names in the fundamental circles silent on this issue? These are just a few of the questions that have made this issue so divisive.

As I listen to this music, the sound is definitely “contemporary in nature,” even though they would not identify with the CCM crowd, and although, I may be mistaken in this, I believe a surface motive in producing this kind of music, is not only to counter some of the traditional songs that borders on Arminianism in our hymn books, but more specifically, it is to bridge the gap between Christian Rock and Traditional music. Most fundamentalists have condemned the CCM of the charismatics, but they seem to be swarming around the soft rock music of the Sovereign Grace crowd.

In dealing with this subject, I not only have an issue with the music, I have an issue with its philosophy and its theology. As a long time pastor of an independent, fundamental, Baptist Church, we were traditional in our music philosophy and evangelistic in our emphasis. Sovereign Grace music doesn’t lend itself to either of these. Philosophically, it has bought into the “worship” style of services, which are so popular today in fundamental churches, rather than evangelistic. Its theology is distinctly Reformed or Covenant in nature, and is linked with Kingdom Theology. This crowd would naturally eliminate Israel’s involvement in all of God’s plans for the future, believing that the church is the Kingdom promised to Israel. It would also reject the eschatology of dispensationalism. I’ve been told by several of my colleagues that the words of SGM are God honoring and very worshipful in nature and can be cleaned up and used by any of our churches. That may very well be true, but the same could be said of a lot of secular music. I strongly believe that the contemporary sound of this music will inevitably lead churches and believers into uncharted waters and eventually into compromise.

One of the leading proponents of this kind of music is C. J. Mahaney, who was the former president of the Sovereign Grace Movement. Theologically, C. J. Mahaney is a Reformed continuationist and believes that all the gifts mentioned in I Corinthians 12 are still in play, including speaking in tongues, divine healing and Apostleship. He would also subscribe to what is called “Replacement Theology,” which means that Old Testament Israel has been replaced by the New Testament Church, signaling the end of God’s plans for Israel.

If there were no other reason to reject this kind of music, the fact that it’s identified with the Sovereign Grace Movement and the likes of C. J. Mahaney would be reason enough. You cannot divorce the music from the movement. They are forever bound together in philosophy and theology, and sooner than later, this will take you down the road to compromise and will open the door for all kinds of doctrinal error. Mahaney and the SGM is identified with everything an independent, fundamental, Bible believing Baptist is not and to that end, we must reject both the movement, as well as their music. □

2016-17 PARBC Calendar

If the Lord Tarries

Fall Conference – September 22-24, 2016
 Bible Baptist Church, Shickshinny
 Hosts: Pastor Donald Thomas and Congregation
 Special Speaker: Dr. E. Allen Griffith
 Biblical Family Ministries
 Theme: The Word of God

Pastor & Wife Retreat – February 6-7, 2017
 Best Western Country Cupboard Inn
 Lewisburg, PA
 Special Speaker: Evangelist Ken &
 Mrs. Barbara Lynch

Youth Retreat & Talents for Christ
 March 31 – April 1, 2017
 Calvary Baptist Church, Bloomsburg
 Special Speaker: Evangelist Glen Shanks

**No Teen Harvest Rally
 this year.**



All other PARBC activities are posted on
PARBC.org

Churches Searching for a Pastor

Faith Baptist Church, Bradford ▼ First Baptist Church, Ebensburg

First Baptist Church, Grove City

Sharon Baptist, Hermitage

Jersey Mills Independent Baptist Church, Jersey Mills

Mountain Top Baptist Church, Mountain Top

Chestnut Street Baptist Church, Port Allegany

Carmel Baptist Church, Saegertown

Calvary Baptist Church, Union City

separately in this issue of the Keystone Baptist.

Our special speaker for the conference was Pastor Lawrence Hufhand from Indiana. He has served the Lord for over fifty years. Brother Larry is the brother to my predecessor, Pastor Leland Hufhand.

The messages on the "Power of Prayer" were challenging and soul storing. So much so, that there were many of us responding to the invitations. You could sense the working of the Holy Spirit. WOW! Did we ever need a conference on PRAYER! It was a blessing, and we praise the Lord for the opportunity to meet and be ministered to by Brother Hufhand as he faithfully preached the Word of God.

If you missed this conference, you really missed one of the most blessed times in our association. There is a sense of loss when we miss these times together. If you are a pastor, have you ever worked hard to prepare a sermon only your flock wasn't all there? If you're a believer, have you ever worked hard preparing a meal or something special only to have some of your family or friends missing? Those that are present are totally blessed, but those absent are indeed missed and miss out on the blessing and fellowship that is rare in the age we live in.

I do hope we can all gather together for the special time at our Fall Conference. Plan on it. Pastor Donald Thomas and the folks of Bible Baptist Church of Shickshinny are looking forward to our coming. Our special speaker will be Dr. E. Allen Griffith of Biblical Family ministries. Don't miss this blessing – September 12, 13, 14, 2016.

Zarephat Continued

meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth."

We can only imagine how tentative she felt as she turned and obeyed his request. Why, she may have wondered, am I doing this but something deep within caused her to trust him.

When she went to the meal barrel, it appeared the same amount of meal was still there and the same amount of oil in the oil cruse but still...she honored his request. She lit the fire and baked the one small cake, took it to him "...and then she and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah."

Elijah stays with the widow as God had told to do. "...get thee to Zarepath, which belongeth to Sidon and dwell there: behold, I have commended a widow woman there to sustain thee."

Elijah might have been a bit tenuous about going to Sidon because Sidon was actually the hometown of King Ahab, his arch enemy who had searched high and low for him for over a year. But, our gracious Lord hid his servant right under the nose of the King.

Every good story has a clincher near the end; the story of Elijah and the widow is the same. After some time, perhaps up to two years, the widow's son fell ill and died. We can only speculate what Elijah had shared with her and her son about the God of Israel during his stay with them. Little doubt, though, she first of all she blames Elijah and then his God. She accuses God of punishing her for her sin. It would seem that she was under conviction to believe in Elijah's God.

Elijah takes the boy and prays to the Lord God of all creation--his God, the only one true God. and the boy is raised from death.

"And the woman said to Elijah. Now by this I know that thou art a man of God and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth."

I've written this in a fictional, story-telling way but this story in the 17th Chapter of I Kings has a lot to say to us. The widow is never heard of again, but the Scriptures say, "And it came to pass after many days, that the Word of the Lord, came to Elijah in the third year (of the drought) saying, Go show thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth" (18:1). God's purposes are genuine and true and His Word is undeniable.

When I read this story, I often wonder what my testimony is proving to those I encounter. Do the people I work with, the neighbors, my unsaved loved ones see the true God in my life. We so quickly talk the talk, even to the unsaved, but do we live in such a way as to prove the reality of the Lord God?

PARBC

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April 5, 2016

Dear Dr. G. Victor Perry,

We, fellow-pastors and members of Baptist Churches who fellowship with the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches, are honored to recognize your distinguished ministry of more than 45 years for our Lord Jesus Christ.

You married Deborah Estes, and together you were blessed with four children who know the Lord as Savior, served alongside you in your various ministries, and now serve in their local churches.

The Lord used your training at Glen Cove Bible College, and then your Master's and Doctorate of Theology degrees from Atlantic Baptist Bible College in Alexandria, Alabama in a variety of churches and ministries over these years.

You began as a student pastor to a church in Newburgh, Maine, became the pastor for 3 years at Hauserville Chapel, in East Stroudsburg, PA, then pastored the First Baptist Church of Fernwood in Pulaski, NY. You then pastored Broadalbin Baptist Church in Broadalbin, NY. The Lord then called you to your most recent ministry at East Lawrence Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, PA. God blessed you as the church grew and you had the privilege of serving the Lord there for 30 years.

During your years of ministry, you drove school bus, you were a house parent and maintenance worker for handicapped children, helped to start two Christian schools here in the states and took three mission's trips to teach modules for students and African pastors. You have also served on the Council of Ten for many years here in Pennsylvania and were the treasurer for our fellowship for 23 years. After listing all these ministries, we must also mention the many committee's such as the Youth Committee, Talents for Christ, and the ministry of Baptists for Life and Families.

You have been faithful in proclaiming of the truths of Scripture in your local ministries, and you have taken a faithful stand for Christ on a national level as well. You have been a part of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America since its inception, preached at its conferences, and prayerfully sought to stand for the fundamental truths of God's Word. You have been a man of integrity and faithfulness, and have consistently served the Lord as a statesman for Fundamental Bible Truth. We thank you for your fellowship, example, wisdom, and faithfulness to Christ as you have endeavored to "contend for the faith."

On this fifth day of April, 2016, at the Spring Conference of the PARBC meeting in New Stanton, PA, we do thank you for your many contributions to the PARBC and present you with this **Faithful Servant Award** in recognition of your distinguished ministry of 45 years.

To God be the glory!

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To Pastor H.D. Youngblood and family:
April 5, 2016

We, your fellow pastors and members of Baptist churches in fellowship with the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches, consider it our privilege to honor you for your many years of faithful ministry of God's Word in churches of like precious faith, both here in Pennsylvania and in other states. Therefore, we are glad to bestow upon you our Fellowship's Faithful Servant Award in recognition of your service and the Lord's blessings upon your life and ministry.

You came to trust in Christ out of a difficult home situation, in a small church in Gilmer, Texas. Both you, your mother and a brother went forward the last night of revival meetings and were wonderfully saved by God's grace. The Lord then burdened your heart to preach the Gospel, and within a year you preached for the first time in Glade Creek Baptist Church. Further studies for the ministry brought you together with Vivian Neergard, who became your wife on May 30, 1958; and you began your pastoral ministry at North Eulalia Baptist Church near Coudersport, PA. While it was quite a change from the warmth of Texas, you went on to pastor the church, first from 1961 to 1963 and again from 1967 to 1971.

Efforts were made to reach Coudersport through Vacation Bible School and youth work, and the church grew under your leadership. You found your way back to a tent-making ministry at Grace Baptist Church in Henderson, Texas, during which time your daughter Judy was born. You also pastored First Baptist Church in Roulette, PA for 16½ years, 1971 through 1987, between times at Coudersport. The Lord used you to build the ministry at Roulette, through bus, VBS, Bible studies and other ministries, and many came to Christ, leading to the building of a new church completed and dedicated to the Lord's service May 25, 1975. It was also during your time in Roulette that your son, Keith, was born.

Your ministry with the small work of Wrights Evangelical Church, outside Port Allegany, led to the establishment of Chestnut Street Baptist Church in Port Allegany, in 1994. Chestnut Street continued to grow, and you retired from full-time ministry in June, 2004. Even though "retired," you continued to be used of the Lord in interim ministries in New York and Pennsylvania. While you no longer pastor, you have been actively engaged in your home church.

Throughout your ministry you have demonstrated the Lord's blessings upon your labors for Him and your servant's heart for people. Much of the impact you have made upon others will not be fully realized until we see our Savior, but we are grateful for your example of dedication and faithfulness and for your years with the PARBC.

To God be the glory!

Editors comment : 20 days after receiving this award,
Pastor Johnson received the greatest award of all to see his
Saviour in glory.

PARBC

April 5, 2016

To Pastor David L. Johnson:

On looking back at your family heritage of service to the Lord, from your grandfather who was an evangelist and your father who was a pastor to your own ministries, we, your fellow pastors and members of Baptist Churches in Fellowship with the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches, consider it our privilege to honor you for your many years of faithful ministry of God's Word, both here in Pennsylvania as well as in other states.

At an early age, you came to know Christ while under your father's ministry in Chicago, IL. You served in that ministry with your siblings playing various music instruments to the glory of God. During your high school years, God called you into the ministry' and your life has been total commitment to His service since then.

After graduating from college, you and your wife, Lois, began your first pastorate at People's Bible Church in Chicago, then on to pastor in Saginaw, MI for several years. The Lord opened the door for you to attend Capital Bible Seminary in Suitland, MD, during which you also pastored a small Baptist church in Great Falls, VA, and later in Woodbridge, VA. In 1987 with a growing family, two in high school and two in junior high school, the Lord led you to Grove City, PA.

You and Lois were blessed to serve together at First Baptist of Grove City for 27 Years. While there you have fellowshiped with the PARBC, serving several times on the Council of 10. Through your ministry, several pastors, preacher's wives, and missionaries have come out of First Baptist of Grove City, As well, your own children have gone on to serve the Lord as pastors and youth workers.

Throughout your ministry of 48 years, you have served in five pastorates and continue to do pulpit supply as needed. You have demonstrated God's blessings upon your life and ministries, as well as proving your servant's heart for people. It is for these reasons, we present you with this Faithful Servant Award today, April 5, 2016.

To God Be the Glory!

Pennsylvania Baptists for Life & Families, Inc.

Action Line for Life & Families 570-376-2584

www.pabflf.org



The Silent Screams

Can you hear the many, many, many screams??? No, you can't, the screams are silent. They are silent because they are coming from the wombs of troubled women. Women who have chosen to abort/kill/slaughter the young baby they are carrying within their bodies. The Department of Health of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania most recent records show we are averaging **88 babies a day** being aborted. That is not in the world – that is just in PA alone. That is absolutely alarming!

Most of us go about our daily routines never giving thought to the hundreds and thousands of souls whose lives are being snuffed out even before they have a chance to pass through the birth canal and finally take their first breath. We call ourselves civilized, yet we are tolerating this atrocity to human life. We say we are “PRO-LIFE”, but are we, when we have no commitment to help the unborn? With our passive, uncommitted attitude might not some have cause to say we are “PRO-DEATH”?

Maybe it is time for us to start screaming for those that can't be heard!?! Our society looks at this issue with no remorse. Our own country had its highest court say it is all right to kill a life in the womb. God have mercy on us! If ever there was a time for us to try and do something it is now. Would you pray and consider helping the Pennsylvania Baptists for Life and Families. We desperately need ladies that would be trained for a phone ministry and an internet ministry. Doing so, you would begin to answer the Silent Screams for help. Please, please contact our office:

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