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Official Paper of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches

# Keystone BAPTIST

## Talents for Christ

By Hannah Risser  
Hope Baptist Church, Hanover



The van door slammed. The engine roared to a start. I turned to stare out the window, and we were on our way. We had already packed all our bags and changed from school clothes to travel clothes. We had prayed together, and now, as the trees flashed past my window, I felt the excitement. It was my first time going to Talents for Christ.

Talents for Christ, known as TFC, had been a part of my life for as long as I could remember. As a little kid, I would get TFC and KFC mixed up. Whenever my siblings and parents went to TFC, I got to stay at a friend's house. When my family came back, I loved hearing stories of the friendly rivalry or crazy activities they had taken part in. Then it was my turn to go!

I was excited to meet new friends. One of the best things about TFC through my



## Talents for Christ

By Chloe Greene  
Calvary Baptist Church, Bloomsburg

Talents for Christ (TFC) has had a significant impact on my life by broadening my interests and challenging me to hone my skills. I greatly appreciate the well-thought advice the judges take the time to write, especially in the music area. Their comments are extremely helpful and challenge me to grow as a musician. TFC also encourages participants to branch out into other areas of church ministry. During the four years I have been a participant, I have taken part in music (voice and piano), puppets, photography & baking.

The main event at Talents for Christ is Bible quizzing. Though I do not participate in the quizzing, our youth group works at memorizing the verses quizzed. It's an amazing opportunity to have a competition where knowing and understanding God's Word is the focus! TFC is also a great way to fellowship and reconnect with godly friends made at the re-



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### Hannah—Continued

teen years has been meeting new friends and getting closer to old friends. Christian fellowship is one of the main reasons church even exists! What better event to go to than one where there are like-minded Christian teens? On my second year at TFC, one of my good friends came along. Between laughing our heads off the entire way there and singing and talking the entire way back, our friendship became deeper and more Christ-centered. Several of the friends I've made at TFC have come back into my life at camp or school activities. Last year, the group from our church learned a lot together, played a lot together, and ate all of Pastor Conner's York Peppermint Patties together.

Learning is one of the major purposes of TFC. It's so important to teach teens to use the talents they have for Jesus. It's vital for teens to realize how to improve the gifts they have been given. Whether I'm doing art, sewing, or music, constructive criticism has been so helpful. Compliments have been so encouraging. When I did Bible Quizzing, it was wonderful to see other teens that knew the Bible too. It was a great, uplifting challenge to compete against the other teens. And winning the hot-seat? That was definitely one of my best years.

But I would be remiss if I left out the heart-stirring singing and preaching. From Rand Hummel to Ron DeGarde, the speakers who came spoke God's Word in His power. I began to clearly see my need to lay my

all on the altar at TFC. God used this time that was set aside to get our focus back on Him.

This year my friends and I are already talking about what we should do. This is my last year, and I hope all glory goes to Christ. I pray that the churches supporting TFC would stand strong, strong in teaching teens to use *every part* of their lives for Christ. I hope they stand strong in helping teens to follow what *God* says and hold the line against what the world says. When I get in the old white church van this year, and enjoy watching the fields and hills roll past my window, I will thank God for TFC (and KFC).

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### Chloe—Continued

treat. The highlight of the time has always been the evening rally, where the preaching of God's Word and singing to Him is a blessing. Singing and hearing God's word alongside many others of the same age is an encouragement. I also appreciate that TFC is not actually a competition, but an evaluation of the demonstration of your talents, used for Christ in the local church.

Since the focus is on using your God-given talents for the Lord, participants must perform or display their pieces in their local church before the retreat. This encourages contributors to do what their talents are meant for – to be used wholeheartedly for the goal of glorifying God in church ministry.

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## Youth Retreat and Talents for Christ

**April 5-6, 2019**

Calvary Baptist Church, Bloomsburg  
Special Speaker: Evangelist. Erich Brooks

**Deadline for Registration – March 20<sup>th</sup>**

See [www.parbc.org](http://www.parbc.org) (Teen Activities)

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# TALENTS FOR CHRIST

## COMPETITION CATEGORIES

- Extemporaneous Writing
- Bible Knowledge: Old & New Testament
- Art: 2-Dimensional, 3-Dimensional
- Photography
- Home Economics: Baking, Needlework/Handiwork, Sewing
- Bible Quizzing Team
- Vocal
  - Male & Female Solos
  - Large & Small Groups
- Instrumental\*
  - Brass: Cornet, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Sousaphone
  - Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, Classical Guitar, Folk Strings
  - Woodwinds: Bassoon, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Flute
  - Piano
  - Large & Small Group
- Speech
  - Oral Interpretation
  - Public Speaking: Male & Female
  - Visualized Bible Teaching
  - Puppetry
- Digital Media
  - Digital Presentation

*\*Exceptions can be made to these categories and instruments with prior approval from the Talents for Christ Committee.*

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>.**

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State Representative's Comments  
Rev. Paul J. Connor



### What Benefits Do You Have?

I hear a lot about benefits today. If you work for some companies or corporations or the government you can get certain "perks" and benefits. They talk about benefits

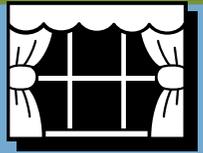
that consider contracts, employee's health and life insurance, vacation time and pay, possible raises, retirement plans, oh yes, severance packages, etc. There seems to be concern about some individuals receiving too many benefits and then others that get very few benefits, and that's all fine, BUT - - - - .

You don't hear a lot of talk, however, about the absolutely most fantastic benefit of all time, without any question- the gift of Eternal Life through the sacrificed life and shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. 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 10:9. That awesome gift has such magnificent benefits that will be forever and ever and ever. And there are so many additional benefits that it simply makes the most outlandish benefits of some worldwide corporation top executives look like a bunch of discarded garbage.

Can you imagine, because of faith in Christ I now have a place being prepared for me in heaven. I have been justified by Christ who paid for my sins and I am not damned to Hell any longer - Jesus saved me! Now I have received the power to be a witness for my Savior (Acts 1:8).

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### From the Parsonage Window



#### IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL - the rest of the story.



There are very few of us who don't know this hymn and the story of its genesis. Horatio Spafford wrote the lyrics to, "It Is Well With My Soul," following the loss of all four of his daughters in a tragic accident at sea in 1873. If this was all of the Spafford story and about the Spafford's great faith and acceptance of their loss as God's sovereignty, it would seem enough. The story sends chills down our spines when we hear how his wife telegraphed him, the now famous words, "Saved alone..." He immediately traveled, also by ship, to be with her and was inspired to write the now famous words when his ship passed in the area where the girls died. Philip Bliss then wrote the music, which Ira Sankey published in 1876. What few of us know, though, as famously said, "The rest of the story."

Prior to losing his daughters, his two-year old son had died and the Great Chicago Fire in 1871 nearly ruined him financially. Spafford was a lawyer who had invested heavily in real estate. The economic turndown of 1873 had also seriously impacted the Spaffords. It would seem that this couple could not endure much more. But, following the loss of their daughters, the Spaffords returned to Chicago and had three more children. Then in 1880, another son age four, died of scarlet fever. Sadly, the Presbyterian Church where Horatio was an Elder, saw their tragedies as divine punishment and criticized them severely. When we don't understand what God is doing in our personal lives or the lives of others, we are so quick to judge.

However, in response to this, the Spaffords, in turn, formed their own Messianic sect, dubbed "the Overcomers," by the media of the day. They moved to the Ottoman-Turkish Palestine and settled in Jerusalem forming a commune called the American Colony. In order to work among the people of Jeru-

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Now I can enjoy the privilege of being a member of a good independent Baptist church (having followed in believers baptism) and have sweet fellowship with other saints (and I do). I can grow spiritually in Bible study, Sunday school, and be fed and challenged by the preaching of God's Word in the morning worship service and evening service. The benefits of being a part of a body of believers are precious.

And because I belong to a local New Testament independent Baptist church I can enjoy the benefits of our church being in fellowship with the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches (PARBC). And there are even more benefits of being a part of that association. There is a brochure entitled "The Value of the PARBC to its Churches." Inside there are listed a dozen benefits for those who are within the fellowship. You can review this information and others at [www.parbc.org](http://www.parbc.org). There are benefits upon benefits for us to enjoy and be blessed by them.

The next benefit coming soon is the Youth Retreat and Talents for Christ to be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> at Calvary Baptist Church in Bloomsburg. That is a fantastic time for young people to gather from all over the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be challenged by a special speaker, Evangelist Erick Brooks, and them be able to exercise their Talents for Christ. This is one of the most special times for me in the whole year. Teens come with a desiring to sharpen their talents to be used for the Lord in their local church.

And another benefit is the coming PARBC Spring Conference being held in Philadelphia at Crescentville Baptist Church. Our special speaker will be Rev. Mike McCubbins from California.

Now if you had a benefit of a two week paid vacation and you decided NOT to use that benefit – that would be sad to not enjoy what has been provided. Some might even say that is outright foolish and wasteful! The same is true when we don't use spiritual benefits that are also provided for us.

**WHAT BENEFITS DO YOU HAVE AND  
ARE YOU USING AND ENJOYING  
THEM???**

salem regardless of their religious affiliation, their outreach was philanthropic and not evangelistic. Horatio Spafford believed that theirs was a messianic work, which would hasten the Lord's return. In contrast to the Protestant missionaries in Jerusalem, it is not known that they ever worked for the conversion of those of other faiths.

However, during World War I, the American Colony was a tremendous blessing to thousands with soup kitchens, hospitals, orphanages, and other charitable ventures. Isn't this like so many social organizations today whose vision is to bring about peace with charity.

Although the American Colony ceased to exist as a religious community in the late 1940s, individual members continued to be active in the daily life of Jerusalem. Towards the end of the 1950s, the society's communal residence was converted into the American Colony Hotel, which still exists today. The hotel is an integral part of the Jerusalem landscape where members of all communities in Jerusalem still meet. In 1992, representatives from the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel met in the hotel where they began talks that led to the historic 1993 Oslo Peace Accord.

Interestingly enough, in researching this story, I discovered three verses which we don't have in our hymnals. It would seem beyond doubt that Mr. Spafford knew the Lord personally. I am quoting a few phrases: "Christ hath regarded my sinless estate and hath shed His own blood for my soul...My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more...For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live."

The rest of the Spafford story about their work was tremendous but it would seem, that based on the word of this hymn, we don't really know the rest of the story. Only in Heaven will we know.

(Editor's Note: The research for this article was gleaned from several Internet venues.)

# Upcoming Events



## Youth Retreat and Talents for Christ April 5-6, 2019

Calvary Baptist Church, Bloomsburg  
Special Speaker:

Evangelist Erich Brooks

**Deadline for Registration – March 20<sup>th</sup>**

See [www.parbc.org](http://www.parbc.org) (Teen Activities)

## Spring Conference - April 29-30, 2019

Crescentville Baptist Church, Philadelphia  
Hosts: Pastor Charles Dear and Congregation  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Mike McCubbins  
(See biographical sketch in this issue)



## Fall Conference - September 16-18, 2019

Open Door Baptist Church, Greensburg  
Hosts: Pastor Joshua Franklin and  
Congregation  
Guest Speaker: Evangelist Ron DeGarde



## Churches Searching for a Pastor

Springside Baptist Church – Distant  
Bethel Baptist Church -- Erie  
Garden Heights Baptist Church – Erie  
Calvary Baptist Church – Union City  
Tidioute Baptist Church--Tidoute  
Worthington Baptist Church – Worthington



## PARBC Spring Conference Guest Speaker

### Crescentville Baptist Church Philadelphia, PA



**Michael David McCubbins** was born into a conservative Jewish family and raised in a conservative Jewish synagogue in Norfolk, Virginia. The synagogue, Congregation Beth El, is the oldest conservative synagogue in the state of Virginia, and all of Pastor McCubbins relatives were members there.

Pastor Michael McCubbins met his wife Elaine while studying at Bob Jones University. They were married in January, 1967. In 1968 Mike took the pastorate of the Baptist Church in Bear Creek, Missouri and later was the assistant pastor of First Baptist Church in Bristol, Pennsylvania. It was at First Baptist Church of Bristol that Mike was ordained and then commissioned as a missionary. The McCubbins family went to Paraguay as missionaries in January 1971.

They first worked in the rural town of Itakyry, with Guarana speaking people. From there they moved to the jungle where their job was to contact a group of nomadic Indians called the Guayaka, or Acha. After the contact, Mike, being a trained linguist, worked on putting the Guayaki language into written form.

After their first furlough, the McCubbins went to Asuncian, the capital of Paraguay, where they were involved in church-planting. Mike started the Maranatha Association of Baptist Churches and served as its president for the first four years. He founded the Maranatha Baptist Bible Institute and Seminary and served as its president for eight years. He also taught classes and wrote the course books for more than half of the subjects.

The McCubbins still have an active part in the ministry in Paraguay. They return almost every year to give Bible conferences and offer counsel and encouragement to the pastors. By 1983 the work was in national hands and the McCubbins began seeking God's direction for their next place of service.

It soon became clear that there was a tremendous need for church planting among the millions of Spanish speaking people who had immigrated to Los Angeles. Confident that this was God's will for them, Mike and Elaine moved to Los Angeles in 1984.

After arrival in Los Angeles, Mike and Elaine planted a bilingual church within the city limits of Los Angeles, and a Spanish-speaking church just outside of L.A. They have planted two churches in Chihuahua, Mexico, and have a branch work in San Juanito, and another in El Ranchito, Mexico.

Mike has written more than one hundred books, mostly on theological studies for the Bible College. Since arriving in Los Angeles they have also started the Bible Baptist College and Seminary and have started branches of the college in more than one hundred and twenty places with over one thousand students. Mike has recorded all the classes on DVDs and presently serves as the president of the Bible College. The college now has graduates in New York City, Puerto Cortes, Honduras, Chontalpa, Mexico, Los Angeles, California, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Greenville, South Carolina, and several other cities in Mexico. There are several hundred students among the Tzeltal Indians in Chiapas where the classes are translated into Tzeltal. Mike has also recorded classes for the Latin American Video College.

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# The Grapevine

(Taken from the Hufhand Report by  
Dr. Lawrence Hufhand)



**Did you know?** That Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, and Benito Mussolini were all nominated to receive the Nobel Peace Prize? Sic!!!!

**Did you know?** That the liberal left is now saying that the Red MAGA is the new hood of the KKK.

**Did you know?** That the State of New Your is set to make abortion legal right up to the day of birth. Sickest!

**Did you know?** That the Supreme Court set aside nationwide orders from three federal judges and ruled the Defense Department could now enforce President Donald Trump's policy that effectively bans transgender people from serving in the military. Hooray!!!

**Did you know?** That Lady Gaga is an ordained minister and she is claiming that because Karen Pence is teaching Art in a fundamental Christian school, that opposes the homosexual agenda, that neither she nor her husband represent what Christianity is all about. Some one needs to strip Lady Gaga of her credentials!!!!

**Did you know?** That during WW I, Bibles were given to all soldiers with an inscription written by General John Pershing and President Theodore Roosevelt. WW II Bibles were inscribed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and President Ronald Reagan declared 1983, "The Year of the Bible," They were not passed out to the military; although, they were offered to all servicemen. In 1990, President H. W. Bush signed a Congressional Joint Resolution declaring 1990 as "The Year of Bible Reading." On the other hand, the Obama Presidency practically outlawed the Bible as it relates to the military.

**Did you know?** Isn't it interesting. The first act of the Democrat House is to try to eliminate God from the oath witnesses have to take in front of House Committees. Makes you wonder doesn't it?????

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