



# IBFNA

August 2020

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## THE REVIEW

### The IBFNA—A Fellowship for Such a Time as This

By Pastor Mark Strangman, Moderator IBFNA

Not too long ago I was speaking with a 10-year-old girl from our church, and the subject came up about the coronavirus and what restrictions there would be on her school attendance in the Fall. She commented innocently to me, "I figure I will leave all those tough decisions up to the grown-ups." With a grin on my face, I replied to her, "Penny, the grown-ups aren't sure what's going on either!" We both laughed, and we had a nice time sharing together about how the only one who understands truly our current situation is the Lord, so that is whom we must trust.

What a day and age we live in, in the year 2020! None of us ever could have predicted the world would be in such a state of confusion as it is currently. From the political power struggles, to the "mis-informational" media; from the dangerous, sociological slogan of "Black Lives Matter," to the unpatriotic, disrespectful attitude towards our flag and our national anthem by the majority of professional athletes; from the misguided protests and senseless rioting, to the absolute lack of confidence concerning who to trust about the coronavirus and the misunderstanding about our personal health and safety; how can we possibly know what to do?

Just within the last few days of my writing this article, a major personality in evangelicalism and the pastor of a mega church announced that his congregation would not have in-person services at any of their campuses in the metropolitan Atlanta area for the remainder of 2020. He also strongly urged all churches to follow suit and to only have online meetings. As we watch the churches in the state of California being forced to go against their governor if they want to have in-person meetings, one of the major questions in all our churches is whether we should even sing vocally or just in our heart as the music plays.

Even the health advisor to the President recommended that churches not meet together in person, but yet he would not comment whether it was alright for protesters to gather and meet. We are facing a time like none of us has ever seen before, and we just might be on the brink of major persecution against the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Well, allow me to remind you and assure you of that which you already know so well. The great God we serve is still on His throne, and He is still the almighty, immutable God He has always been. James 1:17 tells us that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning." The Lord Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, and His glorious purpose for us and message through us is still the same. I



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GODLY MENTOR

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"DEAR  
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would suggest to you that the IBFNA is an organization that is in place for such a time as this.

As we consider that phrase, we are first reminded of its origin from the book of Esther. As Haman was seeking to destroy the Jewish people, Mordecai reminded Esther that God had placed her where she was in the king's palace to have influence and make a difference in the bitter time of turmoil their people were facing. The Lord used Esther mightily, the people of Israel were spared, and the evil Haman was defeated.

My dear brethren, we are facing an incredibly challenging time in our nation as well as the entire world. I believe that we are seeing a preview of the end-times, and we quite possibly have only a short time remaining to be a godly witness and influence to the lost world around us. People are confused and scared, and we must carry the message of hope and peace to them that only we can share.

But what is the message that we are conveying to those who are anxious all around us? As a Fellowship of Christian brothers and sisters, please allow me to suggest for us four emphases from the first two chapters of the book of James that will have an effective impact upon the message we are presenting.

### We Must Remain Joyful at All Times

James 1:2 tells us to count it all joy when we find ourselves in many trials. The understanding of the aorist imperative here is that we must go through each trial resting securely and completely in the joy of the Lord – to look past the difficult situation and see the loving God who is able to help us through it.

What joy we find as we consider the grace of our heavenly Father that is extended to us! James will go on to say in chapter 4 that the Lord is prepared to give us even more grace as we come to Him humbly and surrendered, which is where we truly find joy! Knowing that He is ready, willing, and able to carry us through this and any other trial we will face gives us the confidence to bear up under the pressure of the trial, and to be an example of joy to everyone around us.

The world cannot know this joy apart from the Lord Jesus Christ and as they see it in us, the Lord will draw them to Him. And incidentally, if you lack wisdom in these trying times, ask of the Lord, and He will give it to you liberally (1:5)!

### We Must Listen To and Help the Fearful

The means by which we can help is the application of God's Word. James 1:19 tells us to “be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath.” Do we have a swift ear and a slow mouth to the lost and hurting people all around us? Whether they be church folk, or family members, coworkers, or neighbors, or even strangers whom the Lord may direct our way, we need to be ready to listen and to speak with care.

Additionally, we must be slow to get offended and to go on the offensive. The grace of the Lord Jesus must flow through us to all around us, but it will only do so as we apply the Word to our lives. James reminds us, as we look into the law of liberty, that we have to make a choice concerning God's Word – will we be a hearer only or will we be a doer? To be a doer is to demonstrate what true religion is. It is not to hear the Word and then ignore it, but to act on it by caring for others. The Lord takes His Word and uses it to minister through us to those who are in need. To bring Christ to those who are lost is the great need of our time, as it has always been. We must have a message that hears swiftly and speaks slowly and carefully.

### We Must Be Ready To Reach All

Recently at the restart of the NBA season, while most players and coaches knelt during the national anthem and wore “Black Lives Matter” t-shirts, one player stood out literally and positionally. Jonathan Isaacs, a player on the Orlando Magic basketball team and a born-again Christian, stood during the national anthem and had a team t-shirt on.

When asked about his decision to stand against the rest of his team he replied: “For me black lives are supported through the gospel. All lives are supported through the gospel.” “We all have things that we do wrong and sometimes it gets to a place that we're pointing fingers at who's wrong is worst, or who's wrong is seen. So I feel like the Bible tells us that we all fall short of God's glory. That will help bring us closer together, and get past skin color, and get past anything that's on the surface and doesn't really get into the hearts of men and women.”

This young man, who testified openly concerning his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, stood with courage and conviction against peer pressure and certain hostility. I do not know specifically about his

church affiliation, but I do know that he clearly took a stand and acted upon his faith.

We have a message that goes beyond any earthly differences like culture, false religion, skin color, or ethnicity. It reaches beyond the issues of the world and penetrates even through the wall of sexual deviancy and serious sinfulness. James tells his readers in 2:1 that they must have their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ with no “respect of persons,” or simply put, without partiality or hypocrisy. These first century Christians were showing partiality to the rich in their meetings while disrespecting those who were poor. They were showing preference based on worldly criteria.

While our message must stay true to the Word of God as we preach a consistently clear gospel, I wonder if we would welcome all to come to hear it. Though we must not compromise our message concerning sin, we also must reach out to the lost where they are in their sin. We must never allow prejudice or preference to interfere with the gospel message. Jonathan Isaacs reminds us that it goes beyond anything in this world. Jesus died to save sinners, wherever that sin might have them.

### Our Faith Must Be an Active Faith

James 4:17 tells us that “faith without works is dead, being alone.” This highly debated passage really shows us the power of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. To have the answer to the greatest need of mankind, the key to their salvation, and to not reach out with it, is to make a mockery of the grace of the

Lord. As James tells us, I will show you my faith by my works!

Jonathan Isaacs demonstrated this with his stand for the Lord in his basketball career. Will we do the same, openly proclaiming our faith to the world around us by reaching out to them no matter what opposition might come. We are heading into uncharted waters in this life, and we must be ready to give an answer for the hope that is within us – that hope that is only found in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The world is grasping at fleeting answers during these troubled times. As we hear conflicting statement after conflicting statement from our political leaders, false reports from the media concerning the true impact of the Covid-19 virus, and politically motivated hate-speech targeted at disrupting our nation, churches, and families, we must project to the world the message of the gospel – the message of hope, joy, and grace. People all around us are lost in their sin without any hope, and no amount of science or health education can change their condition.

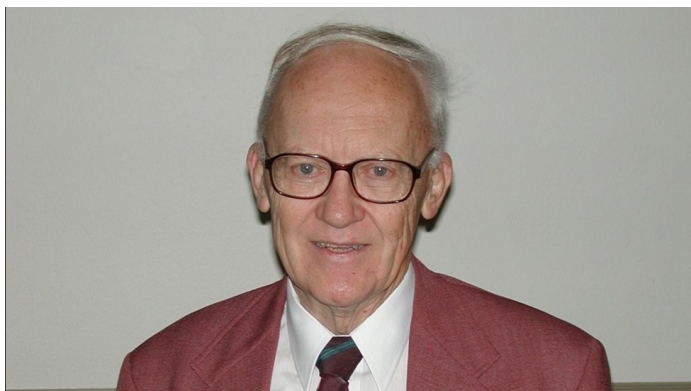
They might come up with a vaccine that cures this virus, but they will still be lost and on their way to hell. There is only one answer to their need, and we must present a message that is clear and direct as we reach them using the guidelines James has provided for us. Let us commit to the Lord that we will proclaim that message without compromise and with every ounce of effort we can muster. The IBFNA is a wonderful fellowship with a powerful message for such a time as this! May the Lord bless us and continue to use the IBFNA for His glory.

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## Remembering a Godly Mentor

By Pastor Justin Kauffman



*Editor's note: Dr. Robert Delnay, servant of Christ and dear friend of the IBFNA, went home to be with the Lord he served faithfully on June 14. This edition of the Review is happy to include two articles from students who loved him. This first is by Pastor Justin Kauffman of Faith Baptist Church in Kittery, ME.*

Psalm 116:15 states that “precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.” Dr. Robert Delnay, a dear friend, example, mentor, and former pastor of mine, passed away Sunday, June 14, 2020,

at 6:15 PM EDT. When I heard the time of his passing into glory, it struck me that he did so on a day of gathered worship. His worship was greatly transformed that day as he passed into the presence of his cherished Lord. Biblical fundamentalism lost a great teacher and godly example.

I first met Dr. Delnay in Florida when I started to attend college at Clearwater Christian College in the fall of 2000. Little did I know that he was prepared to meet me, for my pastor at the time, Jerry Johnson, sent me to Clearwater to be mentored by him. Dr. Delnay and his wife June quickly took me into their spiritual care. They greatly encouraged me through some trying times as I began my college years as a 27-year-old, who never really left Pennsylvania.

Sometime around 2002 or 2003, I had the pleasure of helping to plant Emmaus Baptist Church which Dr. Delnay pastored. For me, this was a great privilege because he was my professor, friend, and pastor. He led the marriage ceremony of my wife Allison and I in 2003, and he and his wife June quickly impacted our young married life. And what an example to follow they were, for the Delnays were the perfect example of Biblical love. We fellowshiped often in each other's homes. The conversations were always meaningful and instructive.

In the classroom, Doc was a unique teacher. He not only taught us academically, but also took every opportunity to give us practical life advice. It did not seem to matter what class I had with him, he would find ways to teach us principles on matters such as marriage and finances and, of course, deep spiritual issues. Most importantly, he lived what he taught! His office door was always open, and he gladly invited you in. He deeply loved his students and cared about their spiritual wellbeing.

Dr. Delnay greatly impacted my life. We both belonged to the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America (IBFNA). One year when the conference was in Connecticut, our flight home to Florida was delayed. The Delnays were on my flight, and when the delay was announced, Doc looked at me and said "it is time to learn hermeneutics." So there in the airport, I had my first hermeneutics "course" with him.

I learned so many things from him over the years. I even find myself today using some of his expressions in the pulpit. One of my favorites is "keep

short accounts with God." I strive to love my Savior as much as he did, and that is a tall order. I can honestly say that Dr. Delnay was one of the most spiritual men that I ever knew.

This is just one "snapshot" of the kind of mentor Dr. Delnay was. He had so many other students that could write similar things.

While preparing messages out of the Book of Joshua, I was struck by the ending of the book. Three deaths are reported: Joshua, Joseph, and Eleazar. Why end the book this way? Well, the book emphasizes God's faithfulness, and all three of these men experienced God's faithfulness and were themselves faithful to God and His work for their lives. All three men influenced the people around them for good.

Joshua was known as "The servant of the Lord" and faithfully led the Israelites into the promised land. Joseph was greatly used of the Lord through many trials to deliver Jacob and his family from famine by bringing them to Egypt, where the seed of a nation was born. And Eleazar the high priest, a co-leader with Joshua, helped to lead the spiritual wellbeing of the people. All three men were known for moral character and good leadership.

Why do I mention this account at the end of the Book of Joshua? Because Dr. Delnay also experienced God's faithfulness throughout his life. Doc was also faithful to God's calling and work, and he too impacted and influenced innumerable lives for Christ. As I think of my former professor, mentor, pastor, and friend, I can't help but to think of Paul's final comments to Timothy:

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (2 Tim. 4:5-8).

Dr. Delnay has finished his course, and I am sure he will be well rewarded. My prayer is that many of us who have been impacted by his life will follow his example of caring for others and living for Christ.

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# Am I a Soldier of the Cross? The Life and Ministry of Dr. Delnay

By Matthew Johnson

*Editor's note: Matthew Johnson is the eldest son of IBFNA member Jerry Johnson. Matthew lives in Des Moines, Iowa, with his wife and youngest son. Two other children are in college. Matthew graduated with a bachelors degree from Faith Baptist Bible Collège and a master's degree from Central Baptist Seminary in Minneapolis, MN. He was a youth pastor and missionary to Bali, Indonesia, until he had to return to the U.S. due to health concerns with his youngest son. He spent many years in the business world in the financial markets and is now employed as the financial manager for a large car dealership in the Des Moines area. He can be reached at: Matthew.P.Johnson@mac.com.*

He was a legend. Quiet. Understated. Physically disabled.

On June 14, 2020, he died. He was 93 years old. His wife and fellow soldier, June Delnay, had walked by his side for 69 years.

Dr. Delnay was approximately five-foot six inches and 120 pounds (soaking wet). He wore a prosthetic shoe with a 3-inch sole to compensate for a birth-defect that left one leg shorter than the other. At first sight, he was easy to underestimate. He walked with a limp. He walked alone. He was not a fan of hanging with a pack of colleagues or even the obsequious seminarians who usually sought the company of their most-esteemed professors.

The quiet, introverted professor emanated an aura of other-earthly wisdom. Even if you didn't know Dr. Robert G. Delnay—when he was in the room, you knew you were in the presence of a great sage. When he spoke, which he rarely did in a public forum, in his deliberate, understated, serious tone, EVERYONE stopped and listened.

His classes were unlike any other I had taken in Bible college, or even in seminary in pursuit of my master's degree.

Each class would begin with a four- or five-minute devotional. Strangely, this was not normal—even in Bible college or seminary. The Word of God, to him, was the sweetness of honey from the honeycomb—not merely a textbook to be studied, memorized, and mastered. He wanted to bring the Word of

God to our hearts before he attempted to bring it to our minds.

He would share anecdotes that he found amusing, that he assumed we would also find amusing. They always were. Even if it took us a bit of time to “connect the dots.” The end of the anecdote would be capped off with his trademark wry smile that would serve as the subtle exclamation point. After the devotional message from the Word, he would lead the class in an a cappella rendition of a great old hymn. Often, we would sing “Am I a Soldier of the Cross.” The first verse of that hymn would pierce my young heart.

Three life-lessons I distinctly remember from our devotionals were these.

First, choose a spouse, not based primarily on physical attraction, but, rather, a person you would want next to you in the trenches of a battlefield, a person with whom you would share a foxhole with bullets flying over-head. (War and battlefield imagery were common metaphors that Dr. Delnay would use to describe the Christian life).

To this twenty-year old, the image of a grizzled, battle-tested woman was not the ideal target of my romantic interests. However, twenty-seven years of marriage and 30 years of life experience since his devotional have confirmed the other-world wisdom that he shared with his mostly teen-age students. He was right. Wisdom.

Second, he told us to “keep short accounts with God.” This was an admonition to regularly confess our daily shortcomings to a forgiving heavenly Father. The God of Dr. Delnay was the Father of the prodigal son. Looking. Longing. Waiting for His beloved son to come to his senses and return home. He would tell us that “big sins” are the result of many, many unconfessed “little” sins that grow like weeds and choke out the beauty of the garden.

Do you ever notice how weeds seem to grow much faster than flowers? Maybe that's the lesson. Wisdom.

Finally, he begged us to “guard your quiet time.” I am sure that before bread or coffee touched the lips of Robert G. Delnay for an early pre-class breakfast (no doubt, across a small table from his life-love, June), he had already used those lips to speak to his Master. Confession. Intercession. Praise.

He had already eaten from the Bread of Life—the very Word of God in his personal “quiet time.” Dr. Delnay would say that no flower garden grows without water. Daily water.

No soul is nourished with water before it has been nourished in the Spirit. He begged us to step away, get into the prayer room (Matt. 6:6), and meet God on our knees to beg for daily mercy and grace. To preach the gospel to ourselves first. Then others.

He would talk about men and women in the service of Christ who got so busy with “ministry” and pouring into the lives of others that they neglected to fill their own heart with the water that flows from the Spirit. One can only pour so long before they-themselves are an empty vessel with nothing left to give. You wash out. You quit. Soldiers never quit.

This year I turned 50. Not fun. But along life’s journey, I have attained life experience. “Life experience” is a euphemism for learning from failure. Thirty years later—those three life lessons have never made more sense than they do today.

Dr. Delnay did not have much time for me. He was serious; I was sarcastic. He was steadfast; I was spontaneous. He was measured; I was a teenager who thought too much of himself. He was wise; I was a fool.

Not long after I arrive in the Eternal Kingdom, I will share a bottle of the new wine that Christ has promised with Dr. Delnay. We will sit together, and he will share stories of grace and the wonderful providence of our Master. Maybe, for the first time, I will call him “Bob,” like many of his earthly peers

and friends. Or, maybe I’ll call him by the new name given to him, by Christ (Rev. 3:17). Either way, I’ll finally have a chance to thank him for his ministry to me, for his willingness to live the ascetic life required of those who would be professors in small, unknown Bible colleges and seminaries, and most of all for the wisdom that he offered to a brash teen-early-twenty-year-old who needed those three life lessons more than he ever imagined. Thank you, Dr. Robert G. Delnay. See you soon.

Love, Your fellow soldier, MPJ.

“Am I a Soldier of the Cross?”

By Doris Johnson

Am I a soldier of the cross,  
A follow'r of the Lamb?  
And shall I fear to own His cause,  
Or blush to speak His name?  
Must I be carried to the skies  
On flow'ry beds of ease,  
While others fought to win the prize,  
And sailed through bloody seas?

Are there no foes for me to face?  
Must I not stem the flood?  
Is this vile world a friend to grace,  
To help me on to God?  
Sure I must fight if I would reign;  
Increase my courage, Lord;  
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,  
Supported by Thy Word.

Thy saints in all this glorious war  
Shall conquer, though they die;  
They see the triumph from afar,  
By faith's discerning eye.  
When that illustrious day shall rise,  
And all Thy armies shine  
In robes of vict'ry through the skies,  
The glory shall be Thine.

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## “Dear Brethren” — Good Counsel from an Old Friend

A 2004 Letter from Dr. Robert Delnay to IBFNA Leadership

Dear Brethren, Let us trust that the meetings go well this year. But before we get there, I have a burden. Three of them.

1. Why do we exist? Is it not to articulate several principles? For example,



- 1) Literal Bible. Not versions, but exposition and preaching.
- 2) Separatism, both positional and personal.
- 3) Home for the glory of God and for the imminent rapture.
- 4) Life in the Spirit, a vital walk with God.
- 5) In a word, Fundamentalism. What the General Association stood for half a century ago.

2. Why do we meet?

- 1) Fellowship. I relish it, and I suppose you do too.
- 2) Mutual encouragement. With or without the preaching.
- 3) Exchange of information.
- 4) Convey our values to our young.

We cannot count on our schools to do that. If our kids go in with the above values, they probably will come out that way. But the underclassmen I have met for the last 20 years or so can't relate to the old

struggles, and they sit detached in classes in history, contemporary issues, and even chapel.

3. I propose a sort of covenant or conspiracy among us and the IBFNA leadership, that we resolve on these goals among others:

- 1) To go after young people, especially guys, to disciple and indoctrinate in the above values. Generate convictions. If we don't, who will?
- 2) Encourage them to attend.
- 3) To pray for our June speakers, and urge them to key their messages to convincing the young pastors and members who attend. We've had too many young pastors defect to contemporary sound and what-all forms of materialism. You could give me names.

All well and good to stroke us elders, but if we lose our young pastors and students, what's left of our Fellowship?

I should send this to more of you men, but my computer hates me and likes to balk at what I ask politely.

Love in Jesus.

## 2021 IBFNA Family Conference

June 22-24

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness: 30 Years of God’s Faithfulness”

Grace Baptist Church  
1000 Oakhill Ave.

Attleboro, MA 02703

Host Pastor: Jeff Bailey

Family Attractions: Historic Boston and more

Morning Devotions: Vic Perry

Preaching Sessions: Jeff Bailey, Dan Greenfield (ACCC), Paul Gustine, Mike McCubbins, John Radacsy, Bob Thompson, Mark Strangman

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