

The Deep South Sword of the Lord Conference 2012  
Lighthouse Baptist Church  
Host Pastor: Dr. Randy Tewell  
Theodore, Alabama  
July 29 – August 1, 2012

Before I begin I must tell you a little about who I am and how I came to be involved in such a high profile event. I am currently on staff at Lighthouse Baptist Church and as you may very well know also require that my attendance is mandatory at all services. I did not attend any of their prestigious colleges and in fact attended one and graduated from another heathen secular college. I cannot tell you in what position I serve in order to hopefully protect my identity, but I still wanted to share just how crazy these people really are. I hope that I can relay the agony that I experienced over the four days of the conference and show that these people really have no idea what they are talking about and in reality lack the ability to even put together a message that makes any sense or even comes close to relaying what the Holy Spirit is trying to teach us through the scriptures. I know it will be hard to follow, but I will be presenting the information as it was spoken to us during the services with very little commentary from me. I figure it would be more fun to come up with your own conclusions about what was said and to leave any comments for everyone to read and enjoy. I know I will. Believe me I am on the short list for excommunication from the fold, but while I'm there I might as well have some fun while I wait for the Lord to lead me to my next assignment. So without further ado I present you with the Deep South Sword of the Lord Conference 2012.

The Lighthouse Baptist Church was founded in October of 2001 after Randy Tewell answered the call to pastor the former Theodore Heights Baptist Church. He moved his family all the way from California to lead our fine church. I would love to tell the whole story of how this came to be, but it's too long a story and I'm sure that it would be all too familiar with most of the readers on your sight anyway. The conference began on Sunday July 29th with morning and evening services. Invitations were sent to pastors all over southern Mississippi, the state of Alabama, and the Florida panhandle. It concluded with the Wednesday night service on August 1st. This also served as our church's annual revival service we usually hold at this time each year. Dr. John Hamblin served as the primary speaker and Dr. Shelton Smith, although very weary from the national conference the week before, also served during the middle two days of the conference.

Dr. John Hamblin is an evangelist to the local New Testament churches all across the nation. He is from some town and church in Michigan, and he has been in evangelism for over 32 years. This is an amazing feat since he preaches the same 3 or 4 sermons everywhere he goes. The one thing I can say for Hamblin is he is always entertaining and does do a very good job at keeping you awake with all his antics and hollering from the pulpit. He walks the aisles and interacts with the congregation so you better pay attention. By the way he hollers the entire sermon, but I decided not to put my notes in all caps so just pretend that when you're reading you do so as if it is being screamed at you. Dr. Shelton Smith on the other hand is not very

entertaining and I found him to be very arrogant and boring. He hates liberals, children, puppy dogs, other denominations, the government, the NIV Bible, women, and I'm fairly sure he probably doesn't care too much for himself either. He has served as the editor of the Sword of the Lord newspaper for the last 17 years out of that town in Tennessee that I can never remember how to spell. He spent several years before that pastoring somewhere in Maryland. But, enough of all the nice words and serious tone, let's get to the craziness.

Day One: Sunday, July 29, 2012

A.M. Service: 11:00

Speaker: John Hamblin

Before I begin I encourage you to read the scripture before you read the following and ask the Holy Spirit to share with you the purpose and the message contained in those verses. I think it will help when reading to really get a good idea just how much these guys take the scriptures and come up with such elaborate sermons usually containing a lot of fluff but no stuff. The scripture for this message was John 20:1-10 and it is the story of the discovery of the empty tomb by Mary Magdalene and what Peter and John found when they went to the tomb.

Even though this is a conference we held to our usual Sunday morning routine. The choir opened the service with a special song. I didn't catch the song as I was making my way to my seat after fulfilling my duties at the welcome center of the church. After that the Pastor Tewell came up and welcomed everyone to the service and said a few random things. After a couple more specials and standing several times for congregational singing, the offering was taken and we were on our way to the message. We began the service promptly at 11:00 but at I looked down at my phone to check the time I realized 32 minutes had passed. I guess it is true that time flies when you're having fun!

Dr. Hamblin takes control at 11:32am and now the real fun begins. He starts out telling us how great it is to be back and he has looked forward to being here ever since he left last August. He tells us how Dr. Tewell and his family (by the way his son is on staff as the youth pastor and vice president of the church as I like to say) are some of his favorite friends and that our church is one of his most favorite places to preach, and he tells other churches all over the country how awesome our church is. All I can figure is we just pay him more than other churches he preaches at because we sure don't do anything special, and most people try to avoid him all together while he is there. At this point he tries to be funny and he tells us the only thing he doesn't like at our church is the fact the pulpit is too tall and our usher coats are the ugliest he has ever seen. For some reason several people found this funny and there was lots of laughing all over.

He proceeds to tell us to be in our place for the entire conference, bring lots of visitors, and there are great things in store. Our place is in front of the fundamental pulpit and not the television. Don't miss a single service.

Scripture: John 20:1-10, but he preaches almost exclusively from verse 4 only. He has us underline the words ran and outrun in the verse. This is the story of Peter and John running to the empty tomb. We stand for the reading of the scripture and then he gives his standard prayer. Most of the staff has it memorized because they have heard it numerous times over the last three years.

After we sit he rants about the KJV being the inspired, preserved words of God, and we should hear about the incarnation and resurrection more than just twice a year.

He tells us ran means to move fast, and outrun means left behind in running.

Though his study he has determined that John was probably much younger than Peter because he got to the tomb first. Glad he could share that with us considering how much bearing that has on the story! He tells us that those that dash to the empty tomb will always delight in the truths they will discover there.

Through his study of this scripture he has discovered 3 thrilling truths as I will now share with you.

**1. The bone yard that is barren.**

John found an empty evacuated space. From this point he jumps all the way back to Adam's disobedience in the garden and tells us that Mr. Death is an uninvited guest at this point and he points at you telling you you're next. Not sure what he meant by we are next but I locked my door that night just to make sure he couldn't get to me.

He quotes a very strange and long poem at this point that I could not follow and had absolutely nothing to do with the sermon. At this point I am already dazed and confused but I purposed in my heart to carry on so I could share all the joy with you also.

He proceeds to tell us a story about the painting that shows the devil playing chess with a young man. It appears to him the devil won and the young man believes this also. He has never played chess with the devil, but he has played monopoly with his sister who may or may not be the anti-christ. Not sure about the point of his story, but he rambles on about victory over the grave. Just a side note, one of our assistant pastors had this painting on his office wall and it looked really cool.

**2. A body cloth that is becoming.**

John tells us they see Jesus gone, but everything is left orderly, but the head cloth is lying separate from the body cloth.

- a. He then tells us everything in the Bible is supposed to be there. This napkin or head cloth reminds John about the crown of thorns that Jesus wore. This is the first time during his sermon that he mentions Jesus. We were so much of a sinner it took a redeemer that gave everything of himself. It started at the head and went all the way to his feet.
- b. Recalls his cross of torture. He tells us people think that Jesus hung on a golden jewel encrusted cross. This is a major cause of problems in our fundamentalist churches. I must say this is the first time I have ever heard anyone say anything about a cross made out of anything other than wood. Must be something common in his part of the country. By the way it was an old rugged cross in case you were wondering.

- c. Recalls his coming of triumph. He will come back in the clouds and tells us a story about a cloth napkin and how the servants would know whether people were coming back to the dinner table by how the cloth napkin was placed on the table. Once again I learned something new, and now I am really just praying that he will shut up and put me out of this misery. He also told us another riveting story about Scottish sailors on a fishing vessel and how they could see their families in the binoculars, but one of the wives wasn't there. She was waiting for him at home. The sailor rebuked here because others were watching and not waiting. Still hoping this ends soon. He quotes 1 Corinthians 1:7 which tells us that they were waiting for the Lord and watching Christians are working for the Lord.

### **3. A belief that was bolstered.**

Verse 8 shows us that they saw and believed. Peter and John finally understood the teachings of Jesus at this point. At this point he starts quoting the words to the hymn: Up from the Grave He Arose. I would probably be asleep at this point but he was yelling so loud it would have not been possible. He then tells us that victorious resurrection is the proof to any question.

Quote: I feel a preaching storm about to break in this service (I just really want to go home at this point and I am praying that the storm moves on and the damage left in its wake is kept to a minimum).

At this point he finally decided to close the service but not before another fantastic story. He tells us a missionary story about Mecca and Jerusalem. I take it was a conversation between a Muslim and a missionary. The Muslims find Mohammed in his tomb, but the Christian finds an empty tomb. There were two keys to this story: 1. The tomb was vacant, and 2. The throne is occupied. There were several amen's at this point.

So finally at 12:03 the invitation finally begins. He tells us there are two types of people: those saved and those lost. He is a very insightful man and I imagine it took someone with superior knowledge to come to that conclusion. At this point the sale pitch begins with the goal of getting every living, breathing human being to come bow down at the altar. I am afraid a preaching storm may be about to break out again of even worse a second sermon. He then wants to know if we are Bible saved and does your salvation experience match what the Bible says. We are only one heartbeat from hell and you need to recognize that Jesus died for you.

Then the hand lifting portion of the invitation:

1. Lift your hand if you are Bible saved.
2. Lift your hand if you want to be Bible saved. He then points out a lady to the pastor's wife how raised her hand.
3. Lift your hand if you are a Christian and god had spoken to you (I thought they believed that only the mog could hear the voice of the Lord)

4. He starts laying it on heavy at this point to coax some more out of their seats
5. Do you need to follow in believer's baptism and there are those of you out there that need to join the church today.

I'm not sure why I felt the need to count but at this point 23 people went to the altar while the choir director sings: Nothing between the Lord and the Savior. He is also hollering at a fever pitch over the music and singing trying to get that last person to come forward. Finally the invitation ends at 12:13pm. We have prayer and one baptism and two families join the church. One family used to go to our church and had just moved back to town, and the other is the son of an evangelist that is moving to our area and our church is going to help support. That is a story for another day. We finish with prayer and are dismissed at 12:20pm. Not bad considering how long winded Hamblin can be at times.

Day One: Sunday July 29, 2012

PM Service: 6:00PM

Speaker: Dr. John Hamblin

So we come back for round two and I have prayed all afternoon for the strength to endure another marathon sermon. As you know the farther you get into one of these events the longer the services become. We also have an ordination service scheduled for the evening which promises to add at least another 30 minutes to our night. Mind you I have to be back at 7:00 in the morning so I'm looking at the prospect of severe sleep deprivation from all the festivities.

We stick to our usual schedule for a Sunday evening service, although most of the fluff that takes place has been condensed in order to give Hamblin more time to teach us something. What that may be I don't know but it promises to be entertaining. I expect a little more screaming and a little more controversy seeing as how the Sunday night crowd is always the more faithful in their eyes.

So I will skip all the details with hymn choice and special music, but I do want to share that we learned a new but old hymn called "Oh How it Saves." The significance of this is last year the church presented him with a hymnal from Billy Sunday's song leader for over 20 years Homer Rodenhever. This hymn was sung as every revival service Billy Sunday had during those 20 years and apparently it was his favorite. We get to tell our grandchildren about this great experience. He also claims to have the only audio recording of this song in the entire world and conveniently has it available on CD at his book table. We must be the luckiest people in the world.

This is a one verse sermon and it comes from Act 8:9. The title of the message is why the devil hates revival. He begins at 6:33pm and keeps to his routine as we stand and read the verse and he recites his well planned and rehearsed prayer. We then sit and the teaching begins.

After we sit he begins to tell a story about the special music he hears in the churches that he visits. He tells us that our music is awesome and how that the specials in other churches is just standing up and singing and then sitting down and he just can't see how that could be do special. He proceeds to tell us how much he loves our pastor and church and loves the fact that we are a fundamental church with no hint of evangelicalism. He also tells us how privileged we are to be hosting a Sword of the Lord conference and how churches would kill for the opportunity.

He told us how he spends most of his summer preaching tent revivals and how hot it is in some places. He told a joke about how the mosquitoes came flying in singing "Nothing but the Blood," and he got a few laughs. He also told a joke about how he lost his voice and told us his wife said it was the best week of their marriage because he couldn't talk. I could actually see how pleasant that could have been for her.

He gets into his message and tells us the devil hates God's son and great spiritual awakenings. The saint can count on Satan crashing the party when the savior is doing something compelling and powerful. He will show up before, during, and after the service. The devil is opposed to everything we are doing. He talked an awful lot about the devil during this sermon, and it still amazes me that the devil is talked about more than Jesus

1. The Christ is Exalted:

In verse 5 of Act 8 Phillip preaches Christ to the people that are present. He then jumps into a story about how John R. Rice preached wickedness of men and repentance. He preached the power of the Holy Spirit. He then quotes the first two verses of a John Wesley hymn, but I didn't catch the name. He then announces that Billy Sunday is his hero and quotes him several times. We then get a story about a preacher who was loved by his people but it seemed his preaching was devoid of message (he probably graduated from the same fine institution as Hamblin because all his yelling is devoid of a message). A member left a message on the pulpit one morning and it said: Sir that we would see Jesus. He mediated and this and there was a change in his heart. After the next service he found a note that said: then were his disciples glad when they say the Lord. A neat little story but not sure what it had to do with the message or scripture. He never really elaborated on this point other than the devil doesn't want Christ to be exalted.

2. The comrade is exhibited:

We should have good repot and good will among friends and family. The fundamental pulpit will pick the climate of the fundamental family (or message). The devil knows if we are pushing each other and he will not be able to hinder us. It is amazing to me how much credit and power he gives to the devil. I understand that he is a spiritual being but they way he talks about the devil he is almost as powerful as God. I think this is very dangerous and misleading to people who are not very strong in the faith. But back to the message. The devil's main tool in 2012 is the internet:

- a. Facebook (and the place erupted with amen's). Hamblin refers to this as wastebook. For the record I do not have a facebook account, but it is a personal decision and not because it could possess my computer. He really cannot stand how people just post their everyday business on their wall page and if he could he would write who cares all over your wall. At this point he says welcome to the summer meeting. With that said he does have a blog and a twitter account. People are acting a fool on the internet. He reminds you it only takes one click. We need to bring harmony to the house of God.
  - i. Through the savior we experience
  - ii. Through the scriptures we embrace. Everyone has the same Bible in a fundamentalist church and everyone is therefore on the same page. He tells us how fortunate we are that our m-o-g brings in evangelist that hammers the Bible into us where we get our message, methods, and ministry.
  - iii. The sinners we evangelize. You're not a good Christian if people have to find out about a fallout with someone on facebook. Before you talk



about your issue with the person with whom you have had a falling out with, go soulwinning with that person. Supposedly this will help with the healing process.

- iv. His glasses come off at this point so I'm pretty sure he is about to get really serious.
- b. He now decides to tell us that he loves the history channel. I must tell you this trip down the rabbit trail literally lasted 15-20 minutes. I suppose at the end of this story he made a point, but by the time he got done I had totally forgot what he even started talking about. So while he was out of town at a hotel room (I guess we should be thankful that he didn't follow in most fundies foot steps and used this time for extracurricular activates) he discovered that his room had a television. He discovered the show Swamp People, which he dearly loves and enjoys more than anything else on this earth, at least for the sake of a good illustration. He is really excited at this point also he is all over the auditorium going up and down the aisles. He tells us how he watched the first episode and God must be really good because he blessed his television with a second episode. However, his wife called and interrupted his viewing and he had to get her off the phone so he told her he was really in the middle of an important project and to call back later. She called back again later and he got her off the phone then too. Glad to see how much he cares for his wife, she must feel like the luckiest woman on earth. So his point was to catch alligators means working together which I believe he was referencing to the fact that we should go soulwinning together instead of falling out with each other. Not sure about that, but hey I just trying to stay awake right now. Got a lot of amen's though.

### 3. The Christian is excited.

There was great joy in the city according to Acts 8:8. There is always joy when there is revival. He realized he doesn't have to endure but enjoy the Christian life. I glad he is because I am miserable right now. He is on the happy train and wants you to be on the happy train and he ain't about to be getting off any time soon. I need to call the hotel and make sure he didn't find the mini bar. We can't afford for him to be getting on the happy train every night he is here. The devil knows when revival comes and the Christian is happy. As Christians we should smile all the time. Where does the devil hit you the hardest: your joy. He goes on to tell us that the devil is a fundamentalist. This does explain a lot about what goes on in a fundamentalist church. The devil knows the Bible and the joy of the Lord should be our strength. It is now 7:18 and he decides now would be a good time to close the sermon.

In closing he tells a story about a great earthquake in San Francisco. There was a women how refused to leave her house. It was destroyed, but she managed to salvage a rocking chair. She then sat in it in front of the wreckage all while whistling victory in Jesus. San Francisco was destroyed and she was just happy because God was changing things. He then goes on to tell us that Shelton Smith had told him he had never heard a sermon on why the devil hates revival and Hamblin was the first.

We then have the required invitation that followed the same pattern as the morning service so I won't spend any time on it now. I think you know how it goes. We finally finish at 7:28.

Bonus: I'm going to include notes from the ordination service that followed for absolutely free. This is the first I have ever experienced so I thought I would share with those that have never had the privilege of attending one.

We ordained the three youngest members of our staff. The story of laying on hands and prayer from the book of Acts was referenced and we recognized this doctrinal integrity. They were warned to watch their marriages and how the wives should support their husband in the ministry (you better be submissive or else you'll be responsible when your husband fails).

Seven truths Hamblin gives to the young pastors:

1. Be a student of the scriptures
2. You may do more than those who trained you, but you will not know more than those who trained you
3. If you only have a fundamental head but not a heart you will jump the fundamental fence
4. Success comes from time spent alone with God
5. Moral failure is the greatest, most grotesque of all failures
6. You have fingerprints of other upon you. Never forget! Be proud!
7. Never monkey with the King James Bible and don't let others mess with it either.

Wives are his biggest supporter. Ladies are the greatest cause for preachers to fall or fail.

Hamblin then gave a prayer of ordination and dedication. The certificates were then presented.

We had a few announcements, Hamblin gave a sales pitch for his book table, and then finally at 7:56pm we were dismissed.

Day Two: Monday July 30, 2012  
PM Service: 7:00PM  
Speakers: John Hamblin and Shelton Smith  
Two Sessions

Session One:  
Dr. Shelton Smith

Dr. Smith took the pulpit at 7:15PM after a brief introduction as well as a congregational hymn and some special music.

Smith preached from Titus 2:1-15. He tells us that Paul wrote this epistle to his young protégé Timothy. Don't be fooled by the number of verses, he only used verses 11-15. Paul sent Timothy to the church because they had gotten out of sorts. A preacher's job is to reorganize the church when it gets out of sorts. This is just sound doctrine. He mentions that we need to get in front of people and give it to them straight. He refers to verse the beginning of the chapter where it gives instructions to specific groups of people: aging men, aging women, young women, young men, and servants. He tells us in verse 10 to do things honestly not dishonestly just to make a buck. Adorn the doctrine. I thought the purpose of a fundamental church was to make a profit. I guess it just depends on your point of view.

At this point he gives a quote that I have heard several times, but still makes me just shake my head and wonder why: "Make God look good in all things." Act like a Christian and make God look good in everything you do. They just don't get it do they.

So here we are at the key part of the message beginning in verse 11. Grace has appeared to all men. It is a limitless grace and is available to all people everywhere. For some reason he just went off on a rant about Calvinism. He said you can't spend 10 years on an island and come out a Calvinist. He might have mentioned reading your Bible for those 10 years, but I can't remember for sure.

1. We have an awesome God who has provided amazing grace to us. He shows us the way to get in. We can't get ourselves in by works (even though they put a great emphasis on works) and we can't buy our way into heaven. We are morally bankrupt and we get birthed into the family (heaven). The ransom has been paid. He then tells us that poor people can get in just as easy as rich people. A story follows about lady that called his church and wanted someone to come by and see her. He and another person went to her apartment and she invited them inside. She had visited the church the last three Sundays and wanted to know how to join the church. She asked one question: what does it cost to join? His answer: someone paid the whole price. He tells us that some mainline liberal churches come by and tells people how much they need to pay to the church to be able to join. But, he's going to teach her how to tithe and give and it's up to her whether she will or not (we all know that there won't be any pressure to tithe and give faith promise and to the upcoming building project, right HAHahaha). He never mentioned

who paid the price during the story so I hope he managed to at least mention Jesus in their conversation.

2. He shows us how to live once we are in the family.

He will teach us how to live and to soberly refer to thinking right. He gives us a quote that I may never forget: If your thinker will think right your doer will do right.

3. He sees us through in this present world.

Do not blame God for all the disasters and catastrophes that happen in your area or in the world. The devil is responsible as he walks around like a roaring lion. He refers to I Peter 5 and says God does not build a fence around you. It's not God's plan. We live in a world where bad stuff happens. Go to God, go to church, and go to the people in church. Stuff happens and you get hurt. God promises to go with you. To sum it up, he basically says that God doesn't protect you from bad things, and sooner or later something bad is going to happen and you just need to deal with it. Notice the he doesn't build a fence around you statement. He contradicts himself in the Tuesday morning service by telling us the opposite.

4. He is going to take us out of this world.

When the horn sounds we'll be on our way to heaven. He tells us a story about the town he lives in Murfreesborough, TN (population: 110,000). There are 9 McDonald in the city limits. So he goes to the airport on the way to Alaska. Had to fly on an airline he doesn't use normally so we know there is going to be a serious problem. He went to the counter and there is no record of his payment for tickets. They discover that he has been booked on their sister airline so they send him to their counter. Guess what, they don't have record but show him booked on the first airline. He goes back and forth a couple of times and after an additional charge of \$150.00 the problem is solved. He went to Alaska and everything worked out fine. But when the trumpet sounds you are on the way to heaven and there will be no standing in line saying we can't find your records. Gravity will be cancelled when the trumpet sound.

5. He agrees to free us up. Free from all the penalties of your sin.

We have been redeemed as Jesus paid the whole debt. Jesus cleans us up. He lets everyone in no matter what their condition. Dr. Smith says he has baptized a lot of smelly people. He just gets them saved and baptized. We have to give these people the same time. It's a process. New converts are like babies and the seasoned saints need to set an example for the new converts. He then gives another quote that makes me cringe: We have to catch the fish, but God has to clean them. I guess he doesn't think the Holy Spirit has a part in that.

6. He fires us up.

We need to be zealous of good works. We will want to be in church. The fire will burn inside us and we will want to be there.

He finally closes the first session at 7:52PM and we have a short break with some special music while people go and chug a few red bulls to stay awake for the second session.

Second Session  
Dr. John Hamblin

The second session opens promptly at 8:00PM. After a special music group Hamblin takes the pulpit. He is preaching from John 2:1-11, but as you have seen we will be talking about everything but his selected scriptures.

He makes sure to tell us once again that Billy Sunday is his hero. He has been blessed by the special music and Shelton Smith is one of his five favorite preachers. But for the first time which is very surprising he finally mentions his mentor: Dr. Tom Malone. For those of you that don't know he keeps a picture of Dr. Malone in the front of his Bible and looks at it before every sermon he preaches. He usually tells lots of stories but for some reason he didn't speak too much about Dr. Malone this time through.

What we get to know when you get to be God's water boy.

This passage of scripture is the story of Jesus turning the water into wine at the wedding feast. So from this point on he refers to the servants in the story as well as us as Christians being water boys. In this passage we see the first miracle, Passover, and cleansing of the temple. Only the servants that are doing what others deem menial are able to discern what God is saying or showing. The world is looking for stars, but God is looking for servants. May God take an eternal pen and write this on our hearts. Yes he really said that. More than once during the week.

#### 1. The Lord's presence.

The Lord and his disciples are given an invitation to the wedding. The servants were whispering amongst themselves that they were looking on the Christ. They knew he was there before anyone else. I didn't see that in the passage, but that's why he gets paid the big bucks. Spending time in His presence helps every part of our life. It changes prayer, preaching, and personal soulwinning time. He kept on at this point but he was hollering and ranting so fast I could not keep up with him.

#### 2. The Lord's plan.

The servant understands that being one of the water boys is part of God's plan. At this point, and believe me I have been waiting for this ever since he gave the passage of scripture, he goes on a rant about how this was a non-alcoholic beverage. He begins by yelling that it is a sin to give your neighbor strong drink. Jesus was not a bartender (first time I ever heard it put that way, although it never mentions in the scripture that he was tending bar so I have to agree with him there). If you believe that you interpret scripture like a Jehovah witness especially if you believed he turned water into an alcoholic beverage. You drink because you want to. He is about to pop at this point and I'm not sure if my heart

can handle anymore much less his. He goes all over the place talking about drinking castor oil and alcohol and giving it to your friends. He tells us if we ever hear a preacher condone liquor get up and walk out. The master did not use the disciples but the servants. He gets somewhat back to his original rant and tells us that Jesus uses the unnamed servants as they are not named anywhere in the scriptures (I'm a little disappointed, because I just knew if he could read their minds and was privy to what they were whispering, he would surely know their names). Just get water for Jesus. By the way the six water pots mentioned in the passage is equal to 140-150 gallons of water. He just keeps telling us to get water for Jesus (He must have been really thirsty). He then jumps to Matthew 26:30 and tells us that the hymn is the chose method of music. Music should not make you shout, snore, or wiggle but is should make you worship. He says it shouldn't make you feel like you at an American Idol concert. He can also tell the direction of the church by the music and songs that they sing. Just know this: a God called preacher knows he is supposed to preach the Bible and knows what to do in the pulpit. This is the message of the call. We also have the mandate of the Christian where he told a story of the old Rhyman Auditorium, and how some preacher gave a sermon on the same spot that county singers sang their evil songs. I was too tired to write the whole story and it didn't make any sense anyway.

### 3. The Lord's Power.

People need to see how the Holy Spirit articulates. His disciples believed him because His miracles at the wedding. There hasn't been a storm in their lives year, but they could look back at the miracle and realized Jesus could handle the storm. Here on out they know what God can do. He tells us that he believes that the invitation is the most important part of the service. He then told a story about John R. Rice and Jack Hyles and how one of them made the rain stop at one of their tent services. Also told a Tom Malone story, and at the end there was a great invitation and 60-70 preachers came to the altar.

If we get the water He will do the miracles. We cannot do the supernatural but the simple and get the water for Jesus. He then tells another story in closing about a brother and sister how decided to come to the final night of a tent revival all because an invitation blew across their yard as they got out of their car and it stopped on her ankle. Long story short they were saved and are now working in the church. It wouldn't have happened if someone hadn't littered the neighborhood with church invitations. He finally gives the invitation at 8:56PM.

The invitation is the same as before so I won't bore you with any further details. We close in prayer at 9:02 and dismiss after another short sales pitch for the book table.

Day 3: Tuesday July 31, 2012

AM Session: 10:00AM

Speakers: John Hamblin and Shelton Smith

Two Sessions

The AM session is specifically for all the preachers that were invited and were able to come. The staff was also invited so I figured at least it would kill two hours of my day and I could get out of a little work. A meal was also served at the conclusion, but I declined the invitation because that is just too much fundie for me to handle. I also didn't take detailed notes like the main services because to be honest with you I could barely move my fingers from all the writing the previous service. But I wanted to share a little of what went on as this was mainly for full time ministers and pastors.

Session One

Dr. John Hamblin

Hamblin spoke briefly from Acts 27:29. He was having trouble with his voice and it appeared he wasn't feeling very well. He was short and to the point and didn't elaborate too much on each point. The story of Paul and the shipwreck is found in Acts 27 and in verse 29 it talks about throwing out the anchors. So he came up with four anchors of the Christian life. I'll let you read the story for yourself.

He gave us the four anchors of the Christian life

1. Prayer: It is important for times of supplication.
2. Promise: There is a promise tailor made for you.
3. Peace: Didn't give much for this point.
4. Perseverance: You don't want to jump ship now. Now is not the time to quit. All were safe that was on the ship.

He then shares a story about Stonewall Jackson's horse and how it is stuffed and housed at the Virginia Military Institute. His horse was very motivated and it wasn't the biggest or the best horse out there, but it was Stonewall's favorite. The story had a point but I just wasn't paying as much attention as I should have been. But he wasn't nearly as animated as the other services so he wasn't as entertaining.

In between sessions our pastor Dr. Randy Tewell stood up and gave us a bonus message rambling on about Hamblin's messages and how privileged we were to have him and Shelton Smith with us. He probably talked for about 15 minutes but to be honest I just tuned him out, because he never has anything to say of relevance anyway.

Session Two

Dr. Shelton Smith

Smith started out by telling us every church should be a lighthouse (referring to the name of our church Lighthouse Baptist Church) and the good news is good news. There are those not being a lighthouse because they are not out soulwinning and they sit back and wait for people to come to their church. He then told us a story of how he started out at his church by finding old visitors cards and he went right after those people and started building the church. He even had some deacons tell him they didn't like what he was doing and he talked them into giving him 3-4 months and if what he was doing work he would change. Well needless to say for time's sake it worked and they started going out with him and wouldn't you know they started inviting other people out and they were just one big soulwinning family.

He gets into his message and he goes to Psalms and starts going through going to all the verses that have blessed in it. He starts out by telling us that blessing appears other places in the Bible not just in the Sermon on the Mount.

How to get the blessing of God on your life.

1. Psalms 1:1-3. The three conditions of this blessing:
  - a. Do not walk in the council of the ungodly. Don't call the psychic hotline or Oprah.
  - b. Don't stand in the way of sinners. God has standards and commandments. God is building a fence to keep us from falling off the cliff. A contradiction from his Monday night message where he told us God does not build a fence around us. Stuff happens. I won't spend too much time here, but he should make sure he is consistent when he stands before the people and preaches. How is it he can build a fence to keep something bad from happening to us, but last night he basically told us that God doesn't protect us from bad things that could happen to us.
  - c. Don't sit in the seat of the scornful. Don't let stupid set up shop where you live.
  - d. Be doers of the law and delight in it.
  - e. The guy who gets it is like a tree planted on the river. You have to be connected to the source to get the blessing of God like a tree planted by the river.
2. Psalm 32:12. Blessed are they that put their trust in Him. If you don't have it figured out, faith it out. Do it even if you don't understand.
3. Psalm 32:1-2. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven. Most of us have high self esteem issues. Your sin is covered and your account with Christ is rich and full.
4. Psalm 33:12. Blessed is the nation who's God Is Lord. A whole nation can get a blessing. At this point he tells us that killing unborn babies (54,000,000 total) will not get us a blessing. He hates liberals and liquor. Our founding fathers were not liberal like liberals today. He also believes using paddles is not a form of child abuse and we need to get back to this type of discipline. The state shouldn't have a say so in how we discipline children.
5. Psalm 37:23. Our seed will be blessed based on what we do in our life. If we do right our children will be blessed.



6. Psalm 41:1. We should consider the poor. Liberal preachers believe this means we should help the poor. Smith believes it says we should only consider the poor. If a smelly man walks in we ought to scoot over and give him our seat. Nothing more. This is someone that Jesus died for. We should treat them like we want to be treated. He begins to refer to them as those people. This is why we run buses every Sunday so they don't have to be in our services and we can let them have their own place to worship separate from the regular services. Don't treat them like you treat a fast food worker; treat them like they are a real person. You be able to lead them to Christ. Does anyone else see anything wrong with his opinion of poor people and how we should treat them? I'm too angry to really elaborate any further. I think you understand.
7. Psalm 84:4-5. We are blessed by hanging around God's house. You'll be praising the Lord. Every church has backsliders for members. We are also blessed when our strength is in God. Men like to feel big and strong, but only if we tap into what God had given us. The guy who is truly strong in God can handle the tuff stuff in life.
8. Psalm 89:15. We are blessed when we know the joyful sound. Not by hearing but knowing. Told a story about a foreign couple staying in a hotel. Someone pulled the fire alarm but they didn't evacuate the building because they didn't know what that sound was. They could have died if the building had been on fire. You can take Bible classes no matter your income. A diploma doesn't mean you have arrived. Blessings come from soul winning, reading your Bible and doing all the commandments that your pastor has placed before you.

Thankfully he stopped here because he said he could go on all day. We had prayer and a short invitation where every preacher in attendance went to the front or as close as they could get to the front. We ended at 11:46 and I left for a while for lunch to gather myself to survive the rest of the day and the upcoming night.

Day Three: Tuesday July 31, 2012

PM Service: 7:00PM

Speakers: Dr. John Hamblin and Dr. Shelton Smith

Two Sessions

Session One:

Dr. John Hamblin

We began at 7:00PM and went through the same routine as the previous night. We had quite a few preachers stay over for the evening service.

Hamblin chose Acts 16:25-34 as his scripture passage for the evening.

How to lead a jailor to Jesus. We were water boys last night, now we are jailors tonight.

The Phillipian jailor was converted while Paul was in his prison. The jailor is a representation of a hardened sinner. He asks us to put the name of our jailor (hardened sinner) next to verse 34 in our Bible.

1. Rejoice in spite of problems.

Paul helps begin a moving time of song and praise. Paul and others were then case into prison and the continued worshipping even after they were beaten and placed in jail.

2. Really care about people.

Paul cared about the jailor enough to cry out that all the prisoners were still in the jail before the jailor took his own life in anticipation of the coming punishment for allowing the prisoners to escape after the earthquake. Nobody will get saved until someone cares enough about them. They need to have somebody to love them and be concerned about them. We need to have a heart for hurting people. Jesus was never rough on sinners but was rough on the religious type. They had religion but no relationships. You can be a reverend and still be lost. Acts 3:6 shows spirit filled disciples and Luke 10:33 gives us the story of the good Samaritan. He then tells us a story from the civil war of a confederate soldier who couldn't take the cries of the wounded soldiers crying out for water. He went to the commanding office begging him to allow him to take water to those soldiers out on the battle field. But he not only took water to the wounded confederates he also took water to the wounded union soldiers. That is how much he cared for people.

3. Reveal salvation's plan.

Paul and the others with him were personal soul winners. Paul accompanies the jailor to his home after everything settled down. The passage tells us that the jailor and his whole house got saved including his kids, wife, relatives and possibly even the pets (he got a few laughs out of that one). He said the dog got saved but the cat went to hell. He doesn't like cats by the way. We need to be giving the people CD's, DVD's, books and a KJV Bible. The

gospel still has the power. He tells us our theology has a problem is you don't like: John 3:16, Invitations at the end of the service, and the Roman's Road.

Quit whining about every trial and tragedy that comes into your life. He finishes his sermon and its now 8:02PM. He gives a short invitation just in case but nothing over the top.

We have a short intermission and some special music before the next session.

Session Two

Dr. Shelton Smith

Sr. Smith has chose Hebrews 11 and 12 for his scripture passage. Don't get excited though we don't read both chapters he just picks through them to get his points.

Chapter 11 is the roll call of the faithful.

Chapter 12 is based and the roll call and what they were there for.

Wherefore or Therefore means what is it there for. All those mentioned in chapter 11 are in heaven and ready (they have a full view of everything). One day we will graduate to where they are. The cloud of witnesses is looking down on us ready to give direction and advice. The Lord said that the Christian life is like running a race.

1. The weight mentioned in verse 1 is anything that keeps you from succeeding. It is usually that thing that you like to do and you don't think there is anything wrong with it. It could hinder you. Lay aside your weights. If there is any doubt through it out.
2. Lay aside the sin which besets us. If Dr. Smith owned a baseball team he would tell the player before he signed him that he could use drugs, alcohol, tobacco or steroids. I think he mentioned short hair and no facial hair also. Basically he would tell them how they should look and think. I believe he wouldn't have a very good team but he just wants them to be at their best at all times. Teaching on sin doesn't make everyone rejoice and have fun but we still have to do it. We need to identify these things so we can run the race. You can't run the race if you don't enlist. Quit wasting time, make it happen. Runners race in all kinds of weather; that's just what they do. We let the least little thing keep us from running the race. Nobody set's their own course. God has already laid it out for you (He just doesn't put a fence up to keep you from falling off the cliff, or does he?) Look at chapter 11 if you want good advice. He went on to a few of those mentioned in chapter 11 as if they were standing in the balcony talking down to us and giving us good advice. I assume this would be different than what they accuse the Catholics of doing (praying to the saints), because all those in chapter 11 were surely fundamentalists. He even gave us a few that were not mentioned in chapter 11 as a bonus.

3. Look unto Jesus. There is a place for you in the church if you sign up to run the race. If you leave the track you are going to crash during the race. If you don't like what the preacher said come to the altar and take it up with the Lord. There is no way to turn back without repentance.

Don't listen to the liberal clamoring voices. Liberals are blood suckers. Can you tell he doesn't like liberals? They are doing everything they can to silence the Christians. More Christians are being led into court and jails today than at any other time in our history. I feel like I need to interject here, but apparently he doesn't know very much history pertaining to the history of Christianity. If I'm not mistaken and correct me if I'm wrong is this the first time in the recorded history of humanity that Christians have been persecuted. He claims to read the Bible, but it appears he skips over all the stories of people being cast into furnaces and lion's dens, and being stoned to death, and thrown in jail and taken before the courts. I guess in his eyes it's just never been this bad. I really need to stop now before I get myself in trouble.

He decided that we should sing that great hymn: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus. We sang 6 verses even though there were only three in the book. People are already running down to the front even before we started to sing. He kept working the crowd through it all trying to get every last person down front. To keep it going we even sang 4 of the additional 15 verses he wrote for this hymn. I wish I could have got a copy of the additional verses so I could share them with you. So at last we came to the end of the evening.

After another plug for the book table out back he went on a mini rant about how trashy Christian music is today and he has some of the good stuff on the back table and we should make sure we stop by and pick some up. He never said why it was trashy, but apparently he doesn't have to explain his beliefs or actions to us. Just take his word for it. So we close in prayer and dismiss at 9:11PM. Yes sleep deprivation is really setting in at this point. But only one more night to go.

Day Four: Wednesday August 1, 2012

PM Service: 7:00PM

Speaker: John Hamblin

We had our normal routine for a Wednesday night service. However I chose not to take notes for this service because to be brutally honest with you I just couldn't take it anymore. I don't ever remember what the service was about. I decided to enjoy the time with my wife and just stare and act like I was paying attention. My wife had been sick Sunday until Tuesday and I had barely seen her all week with having to be there all day and all night. I know that he hollered as loud as he could and he preached until almost 9:00, so if you thought we were going to get a break with just one preaching that night you were most definitely mistaken. So I decided to give a summary of what I experienced throughout the duration of the conference and to give warning that if your church decides to do this, run away as fast as you can and don't look back. I think this constitutes cruel and unusual punishment as outlined in the Constitution.

I learned several things through all this, but the most important lesson or message I can give is make sure you are reading your Bible every day and asking God to show you through his Holy Spirit the message he has for you in the scriptures. The Bible warns us all throughout about false prophets and doctrines, and how we can discern whether or not we are in their presence. I have never in my life seen men stand in the pulpit and spew so much garbage and personal opinions about life and what they think is right in their eyes and then try to cram it down our throats. The misuse and twisting of scriptures is so rampant I'm not sure there is hope for any of them in the near and distant future. The fact that they can stand there read a scripture and then totally disregard or manufacture something that is not even in the passage still totally amazes me even until this day, but it also scares me because people are going to hell everyday because they are being led away from Christ and his grace by their false teachings. You would think when you gather with other Christians to meet and worship and praise our Lord that He would at least get a mention during these sermons. These people are not worried about doing the work of the Lord which is very evident in their attitudes, lives, preaching, and their focus on numbers and money. It is a numbers game with them, and I believe in their eyes he with the most toys amongst his peers wins the game. How sad to have to live out your life that way. This experience has done nothing but bring me close to Jesus and He has shown me so many truths through the lies that I have been told. My prayer is that the people trapped in these churches will see the light and stand up and run these guys out of the pulpit and give our churches back to God. I think then we would see the great revival that all these morons stand and preach about, but never seek the truth that could save our nation and turn our people back to God.