

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — OCTOBER 2016

To Vote Or Not To Vote

First it should be established that God expects people to be good citizens in all times and in all places. This can be seen in the Old Testament with Daniel and others like Ester as well as in the New Testament, Jesus submitted to the Roman government by paying taxes, Paul excised his rights in the book of Acts as Roman, he also told us to pray for our leaders in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 so did Peter in 1 Peter 2:13-14. This is just a small sample of living inside of the authority where we have been placed. This is the reason for this article.

We are here in October and in just a few weeks early voting will take place, and then the election itself will have taken place, and on November 9, 2016 we will know who the next president of the United States will be. This has been one of the most discouraging election years I believe in the history of America, and there are all kinds of voices out there advising people. I would like to give some guidance for our people to think about over the coming days as you prepare to vote.

First of all, voting is a privilege given to the citizens of the United States earned by brave men and women who gave all so we could take part in placing people in power. Because of this, you not only have the right to vote, you have the responsibility to vote. Second, your vote honors the people who have earned this right for you, and third, it directs the future of the world and forth it brings honor to God because He allowed you this freedom.

America has a process, right or wrong, she has a process of selecting the candidates. Each party works several years to groom their potential candidates and to place their candidates in the public eye so you the voter will recognize them and identify them with a party. This has pretty much eliminated a third party run in modern times. The last such bid was by Ross Perot in 1992 and 1996, in both elections it could be said he was used to throw the election, he received 18.9 percent in 1992 and 8.4 percent in 1996, in both elections if the loser, a Republican, would have received Perot's votes it would have changed the outcome of the election.

Things to look at: both candidates are immoral choices. Anything that would separate them like abortion, gay rights, drinking, marijuana, or marriage is off the table because both candidates approve of these things. So what can we look at? Some of the conservative Christians say, we just will not vote our



conscience will not allow us to, if we give up an election we have not sold our souls. May I say that the above mentioned two elections had consequences: NAFTA, while started by President Bush, it was ratified by President Clinton in his first term, which helped to ship jobs to other countries, he started dissembling the health care system of America which has led the way for Obamacare, and in his second term he signed into law “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” which has given us Gay marriage. Choices have consequences.

Let us think about what Al Mohler, a leader in the SBC and the president of Southern Seminary said, we can lose to fight another day and not hurt our conscience. There are 3 or 4 chief justices up for appointment by the next president, this is if the next president only get one term, which has not been the case but one time in then last 35 years. So they could appoint as many as 5. These people rule on abortion, stem cell research and marriage. Can we really say we will live to fight another day? So far our track record to fight another day is not so good, we lost the Scopes trial and evolution won, today evolution can be taught in schools but not creation, we lost prayer in schools and today people are removed for public prayer, we lost Roe v/s Wade and over seven billion babies have lost their life, we lost the marriage amendment and North Carolina’s constitution is deemed unconstitutional. So my question is, how many more fights can we lose and still live in a country where we can practice our religious freedoms? No, friends we do not live to fight another day we must exercise our rights even when the choices are hard.

We will have either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump in November, so in my opinion these are your choices to vote for, you vote for one of these and then get busy helping a better candidate be raised up for 2020.

BEYOND THE SUNSET

Author—Virgil P. Brock, 1887–1978

Composer—Blanche Kerr Brock, 1888–1958

*For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then
face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I
know, even as also I am known.*

1 Corinthians 13:12

One of the best-known and widely-used songs in the entire field of gospel hymnody is “Beyond the Sunset.” Mr. Brock has left the following account of its writing:

This song was born during a conversation at the dinner table, one evening in 1936, after watching a very unusual sunset at Winona Lake, Indiana, with a blind guest—my cousin Horace Burr—and his wife, Grace. A large area of the water appeared ablaze with the glory of God, yet there were threatening storm clouds gathering overhead. Returning to our home, we went to the dinner table still talking about the impressive spectacle we had witnessed. Our blind guest excitedly remarked that he had never seen a more beautiful sunset.

“People are always amazed when you talk about seeing,” I told him. “I can see,” Horace replied. “I see through other people’s eyes, and I think I often see more; I see beyond the sunset.”

The phrase “beyond the sunset” and the striking inflection of his voice struck me so forcibly, I began singing the first few measures. “That’s beautiful!” his wife interrupted, “Please go to the piano and sing it.”

We went to the piano nearby and completed the first verse. “You should have a verse about the storm clouds,” our guest urged, and the words for this verse came quickly as well. Recalling how closely our guests had walked hand in hand together for so many years due to his blindness, the third verse was soon added. Before the evening meal was finished, all four stanzas had been written and we sang the entire song together.

Kenneth W. Osbeck, *101 More Hymn Stories*
(Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1985), 48–49.



ANNIVERSARIES

Phil & Marlene Albright	10 October
Jay & Doris Smith	04 November



BIRTHDAYS

Anne Coble	01 October
Larime Glass	11 October
Andy Carter	12 October
Valen Camp	13 October
Jackson Owens	16 October
Jay Smith	17 October
Ginger Carswell	26 October
Barbara Whatley	31 October
Lynn Glass	03 November
Ethan Bell	05 November