It's interesting to me what we turn out to be when we “grow up.” I don't remember how the group began, but I was a part of a group of guys in high school who called ourselves “The Master's Majority.” We took our name from the idea that “one plus God is a majority,” and we met before school once a week to study the Bible.

The years were the mid-1960’s, and our mentor was Joe Blair, the Associate Pastor at the church I attended (we weren’t all from that congregation), and a recent seminary graduate. I don’t remember everything we studied, but I know we studied William Barclay’s commentary on Mark, and I still have that book on my shelf at this moment.

Joe has since had a distinguished career as a seminary professor. Every one of us who was in that group has since become a pastor, a seminary professor, a pastoral psychotherapist, or some combination thereof, and like Joe, we, too, are now nearing the end of our careers.

The name of one of those fellows is written in my Bible—actually in all of my Bibles—at 1 Samuel 18:1, where it is written that After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. There are actually eight names written there, the names of my best friends in each season of my life, and five of the eight are, or have been, pastors.

The first of the eight names is Hulitt Gloer. Hulitt and I became friends in the 8th grade and were inseparable during the five years (yes, 5 years) of high school in Atlanta. Hulitt recently retired from a distinguished career as a Professor of New Testament at Truett Seminary of Baylor University, and we had a guest in worship last Sunday who graduated from Truett and took classes with Hulitt.

The second of the eight names is Dwight Moody (Don’t worry, I’m not going through the whole list; and no, not THAT Dwight Moody. I’m old, but not that old 😊). Dwight and I met at freshman orientation at Georgetown College in Kentucky 50 years ago last fall, and we were roommates and fraternity brothers the last three years of college.

Dwight, too, served many years as a pastor, then as Chaplain of our alma mater, and he has recently retired from being the Executive Director of the Academy of Preachers, which he founded a decade ago. Hulitt, Dwight and I all earned our Ph.D.’s at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Hulitt was New Testament. I was the Psychology of Religion. And Dwight was Systematic Theology.

I think that of the three of us, Hulitt has always been the best preacher, and Dwight has always been the best systematic thinker. And with all this introduction, I have now finally arrived at my point . . . .
One of the things Dwight did while Chaplain at Georgetown was to establish The Meeting House,¹ a semi-syndicated radio show in which he offered incisive and insightful commentary on religious life in these United States as well as interviewing “movers and shakers” on the American religious scene. The busyness of running the Academy of Preachers put The Meetinghouse on hold, but Dwight has recently resumed this work, and I want you to know about it.

The graphics that follow will give you an idea of what’s available. Please check it out. You can find Dwight at www.themeetinghouse.net, and you’ll find it worth your time.

Dave

¹ This is an interesting coincidence of names with the building in which our congregation meets. We are www.themeetinghouse.org, and Dwight’s site is www.themeetinghouse.net.
Religion News: Headlines 1.03.19

This week all the news comes from Atlanta, Georgia, where the Academy of Preachers (for which I have served as founder, president, and board chair) gathered for its tenth National Festival of Young Preachers.

The news summary highlights the anniversary celebration, the six persons honored at the GABA banquet, the 30 sponsors and exhibitors, the 2018 book of sermons, and the work of the AEP board of directors.

Religion News: Archives

Each week Dr. Moody prepares and posts a short summary of the NEWS from the world of religion in the United States. Feel free to contact him with stories you think need his attention; use the contact form at the bottom of this page.

January 3, 2019
December 27, 2018
December 20, 2018
December 13, 2018
December 6, 2018
November 29, 2018
November 22, 2018
November 15, 2018
November, 8, 2018
November 1, 2018
October 25, 2018
October 18, 2018
October 11, 2018
October 4, 2018
September 27, 2018
September 20, 2018

Religion News: Websites

Here are some excellent new-oriented web sites from the broad range of religious life in America (and in some cases, around the world). I draw from these, as well as other sources, to write the weekly summary of the News in Religion found elsewhere on this page. Please contact me using the response form at the bottom of this page to comment on these sites or to recommend another site for this list.

Religion News
American Jewish News
Baptist News Global
Catholic News Service
Public Religion Research Institute
Christanity Today
Charisma News
Get Religion
Christian Orthodox
The Muslim News

Commentary

“Twice A Year”
Dwight A. Moody

“I am, at this point in my life, a twice-a-year church-goer.”

So began the Facebook post by a man in Chicago, brought to my attention by one of his friends, my daughter.

There was a point in my life when I would have taken this as a challenge: for a rebuke, a rebuff, or a list of reasons why that attitude is just so not okay.

In fact, in my early days as a pastor and preacher, it was not uncommon for one of my guild to insert into their Christmas Eve homily a greeting to those who wouldn’t be seen until Easter. Maybe young or cynical ministers still do that.

Not me.

Read the entire Commentary

On the Other Side of Oddville

Here are a few of the articles and stories from my book On the Other Side of Oddville. These were collected from my first series of columns, published by Mercer Press in 2002. You can order a copy by using the response from at the bottom of this page: $20 will cover the cost of the book and mailing. (Checks to Dwight A. Moody).

A Baptist Looks at the Pope
Autumn and Easter
With Both Hands He Carried a Cardboard Box

Featured Podcast

Dwight A Moody: Helping Mohler

Podcasts: General Archive

These PODCasts feature Dr. Moody’s conversations with a wide array of religious leaders talking about ideas, events, books, trends, journeys, movies, churches, conflicts, and well, just about anything you can imagine. Enjoy.

Nik Ripkind: Islam and Christianity

Columba Maynis and the Benedictine Monastery

Terry Ellis: My Journey into and out of Addiction.

Podcasts: Dwight A. Moody

These PODCasts include those that feature Dr. Moody recording his commentaries, books, and other writings.

Orthodoxy

Free and Faithful 3
Rated to Walk in Newness of Life

Free and Faithful 2
Name Your Daughters Hannah

Free and Faithful 1