

Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

January 8, 2019

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



The MH Program

The Meetinghouse is a media initiative hosted by Dr Dwight A Moody to promote conversation on religion and American life. The News, Commentary, and Conversations on this web site will relate religion to every area of life, including the person and the public: from organized religion to spirituality, books and movies, politics and public life, business and enterprise, media and entertainment, and private morality and social justice.

The program features news, commentary, and conversations with noted guests, including, but not limited



The MH Host

Dwight A Moody has fulfilled his ministerial calling as a pastor, author, administrator, professor, social entrepreneur, and radio host.

Born, raised and educated in Kentucky, he has studied also at Jerusalem University College and Notre Dame University. He holds the Doctor of Philosophy degree in systematic theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1982).

Dr Moody has served as pastor of churches in Holton,



The MH Guests

Guests for the MH podcasts are drawn from the wide spectrum of religion in America and include representatives from Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities plus the many smaller groups including skeptics and atheists.

Evangelical, Mainline, Orthodox, Pentecostal, and Roman Catholic Christians will join representatives of all those Christians who don't fit neatly into one of these groups as visitors to The Meetinghouse to discuss the ideas, trends, opportunities, and challenges confronting America's

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 GALA banquet, the 30 sponsors and exhibitors, the 2018 book of sermons, and the work of the AoP board of directors.

[Read the full news brief](#)

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
- Christianity Today
- Charisma News
- Get Religion
- Christian Orthodoxy
- The Muslim News

[Religion 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 rebuttal, 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](#)

Commentary: Archives

Here is an archive of my new series of weekly columns, which began in the spring of 2018. I welcome your feedback using the reader RESPONSE form at the bottom of every page of this web site.

- Twice A Year
- Helping Dr. Mohler
- Reading Thomas Merton
- Meeting Kevin Cosby
- When I Read the Book
- Bohemian Rhapsody: An Encounter
- A Future for Baptist Seminaries?
- Fear in Politics and Religion
- The First Muslim Seminary
- Don't Preach This Sermon
- Read.Talk.Pray.Gossip.
- The Lilly Endowment
- The Christian Tsunami
- Their Words Seem Like Nonsense
- The Big House in the Middle
- The Judge, the Preacher, and the Good Samaritan
- I'll Pass on the Bottle

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 form 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
- Autism 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 Ripkin: Islam and Christianity



Columbia Maynus 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

Raised to Walk in Newness of Life



Free and Faithful 2

Name Your Daughters Hannah



Free and Faithful 1