

# Oilfield Christian Fellowship

established May 1991

1 John 1:3 "... Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ."

SEPTEMBER 2010

## COOKIES FOR SOLDIERS

By Tulsa OCF Director Jim Schmidt

**"Taste and see that the LORD is good..."**  
- Psalm 34:8

Many times God gives you great gifts. That happened to our Tulsa OCF chapter and me a few months back. It happened after lunch as we were leaving a restaurant when one of the guys said, "Hey let me walk over to that post office and get a shipping box for my son. I need to send him something tomorrow." Little did I know that the next question

would make such a huge impact on our OCF chapter and me. And, well, let me continue... "Oh, he is over in Afghanistan," said the humble yet, "proud" father of one our few, proud and brave ... a U.S. marine.

"In Afghanistan!" I said. Steve Milinichik said

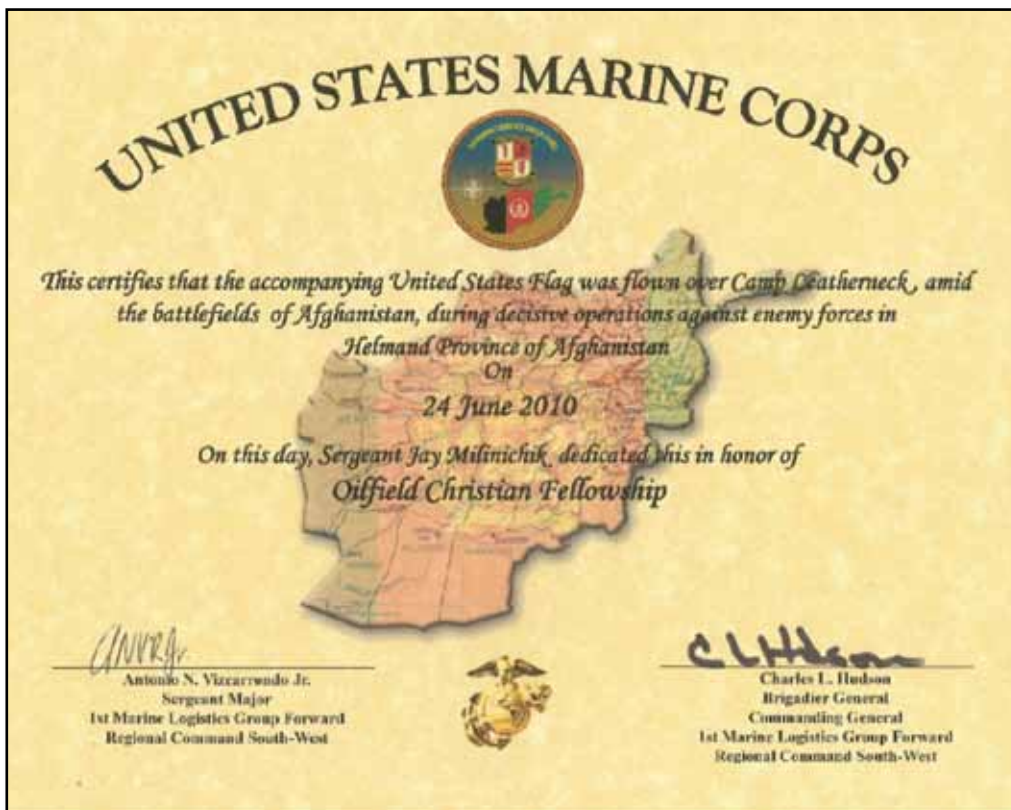


"Yea, he is a marine and I need to make sure he gets something in the mail". "Does he get a lot of stuff?" I asked. "Only if I send it" was the reply.

The next day, at our regular luncheon of the OCF in Tulsa, we took up a collection and asked the café (where we meet) to bake us some cookies. By the end of the lunch we had enough money collected for a couple of hundred cookies and the next day, they were shipped to Sgt. Jay Milinichik of the United States Marine Corps.

At our next monthly luncheon we took up another collection and the café gave their patrons the opportunity to donate. Some of the folks in our

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## Cookies for Soldiers . . . *continued from p. 1*

chapter knew of other soldiers serving overseas, so we gathered those names/addresses and shipped over 1,000 cookies. This month we have another 1,000 cookies ready to mail in the standard U.S. post office priority box for only \$12.50. We put 100 cookies in each box.

Recently Steve Milinichik read



an email his son Jay sent. He said that all the guys appreciate the cookies for soldiers very much. You could hear a pin drop in our lunch meeting as an emotional dad shared the email letter of just what a few cookies can do. Apparently Sgt. Milinichik, breaks open the box of 100 cookies, takes one, and shares the other 99. The soldiers wait in line for some good old-fashioned homemade cookies from America.

Now here is the rest of the story. The other day Steve calls me and says, "I have something up in my office you should see." When I went up to look, Sgt. Milinichik had sent our chapter an official certificate of appreciation signed by his commanding general and (here is where it gets tough, because our chapter was just trying to bless the soldiers) ...they send us a flag flown in battle... in Afghanistan. Yep, it still had the war dust on it.

Last night, I had the distinguished honor of meeting one of

America's great young heroes, Sgt. Jay Milinichik of the United States Marine Corps while he was visiting his dad and home on R&R. The two were about to go to Washington D.C. to celebrate dad's birthday and tour the nation's capital. We shared a steak and then Sgt. Milinichik presented the flag and certificate that had been in his dad's office. I accepted it on behalf of OCF and our members everywhere. What an honor. Little lump in my throat I might add... and yes I got to buy him a steak.

I learned from Sgt. Milinichik that sometimes the cookies are crumbled and melted due to the 120°F weather, but he just smiled and let me know they appreciate every bite anyway. Our chapter plans to continue the effort as we have another 1,000 cookies ready to go.

Hopefully, you will look around

within your OCF chapters, companies, churches, and neighborhoods to find the families of the brave men and women in uniform who are risking their lives for our freedom, and you will pray for these American troops and maybe even collect some Cookies for Soldiers or other gifts too.

**"Preach the gospel  
at all times. Use  
words if necessary."**

**-St. Francis of Assisi**

**For more information on  
Cookies for Soldiers click to;  
[www.cookiesforsoldiers.org](http://www.cookiesforsoldiers.org) or  
contact Jim Schmidt at  
[jim@armadillojim.com](mailto:jim@armadillojim.com).**



# Bird's Eye View

by John Bird

## Making the Grade

— *Winners and losers*

**B**efore you begin reading the following article you have to understand that because of my age, I filter my opinions through a mesh of over sixty years of experiences and observations which has given me a certain degree of wisdom or perhaps better stated, just plain 'horse sense'. Thus I write with a bit of sarcasm some month about subjects that I find rather dim-witted and daft. (Just read the papers or listen to the news; the resources and opportunities for wit and irony are limitless.)

### Just Recently

Here is a sentence from the first paragraph of a local newspaper, dated July 18th; "Students who reach the end of a grading period with a failing

average will now receive grades reflecting their true scores, rather than a minimum mark of 50, thanks to a recent court ruling." (Wow, what a new concept!)

A little background: In May of 2009 Senate Bill 2033 was passed by both Texas legislative chambers and went into effect in September directing the schools among other things to give a student what they actually earned in a course and not arbitrarily be given a score of 50 for just being a carbon footprint on a desk seat. It seems that several districts didn't think that the law applied and they left their 50 grade minimum policy in place. When the state explained that

this was a no-no, the districts filed suit but lost.

First, I'm shocked that this minimum scoring was even practiced and second, I can't believe the state had to take the time and money to defend such a practical ruling. Frankly, it's comic book to me.

No, I didn't have to walk both ways 'uphill' in the snow to go to school when I was a kid but let me assure you of one thing. If I scored a 36 on a test, I deserved it. I knew that I had not studied hard enough and now I had to work doubly hard to make a better grade on the next test to bring the grade up so that I would be able to pass on to the next grade level. (Kids were actually held back if they didn't pass the grade; no social promotions then!). Not only would I save any embarrassment, which was a big thing back in those days to me and my parents, but more importantly I would not have disgraced them, also a big deal back then as well. If one had suggested back then that everyone be guaranteed at least a 50, I probably would have studied even less than I did, just enough to attain the 70 mark. But today little Billy gets a 50 for writing  $3 + 4 = 6$ . ("Close enough; wouldn't want to hurt the little curmudgeons self esteem.")

How have we gotten to this point in our history? Is it the administrators fault or the teachers fault? The answer is neither; it is a societal problem. I believe that most men and women who choose to teach really care about making an impact on student's lives, both from a moral and educational standpoint. Think about it. What other person would take on a thankless job that requires a mountain of nonsensical government paper work, grading papers on



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### The Smile Corner



**A** Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. 'Daddy, what happened to him?' the son asked. 'He died and went to Heaven,' the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, 'Did God throw him back down?'

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, 'Would you like to say the blessing?' 'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied. 'Just say what you hear Mommy say,' the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, 'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

the weekends, dealing with uncaring parents and undisciplined children and lousy pay? And to add insult to injury, most are hobbled from using well rounded study plans, rather relegated to teaching the kids how to pass the TASS test!

What is the problem? Put simply, I believe that one of the problems is that we've moved from absolutes to shades of gray; no winners and no losers, all kept milk toast and traveling down a road of mediocrity or as Judge Robert Bork named his book, *Slouching Towards Gomorrah: Modern Liberalism and American Decline*.

But here is the reality check. There are winners and losers in the real world in real men's eyes as well as God's.

God doesn't want to see losers but some have rejected Him and hence are losers; this is an absolute. In fact the Bible is absolute. In the 16th chapter of Luke we see the 'rich man' who cared for no one in real life, let alone God or the 'beggar' Lazarus who ate the crumbs from the floor of this man's table. He was a loser. ( No, it's okay to be rich, but not lost!)

"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' Luke Chapter 16

This is one of the most heartbreaking stories in the Bible. Here is a man who had everything, but literally had nothing in comparison to the beggar who had God. He was doomed to Hell for eternity with no escape; a 'great chasm' separating him from God. It was too late to accept the grace and mercy of God.

"Friend, if you are lost, which means that you have not surrendered to Jesus Christ and are doomed to the same fate as the rich man, you need to place your trust and faith in Him today. This is not a fable; God is real and Heaven and Hell are real.

Do you want to know more about this Jesus and how to find salvation? Just go to the OCF website: [www.OilfieldChristianFellowship.com](http://www.OilfieldChristianFellowship.com) and look for How to be Saved. From here you can leave a written message or call us and we will explain this free gift of eternity. Heed the rich man's warning today!



# The Elijah Baxter Story

The poem, *Learn to Live a Little*, was sent to me in 2007 by Elijah Baxter and we had a long conversation on the phone after I received it. I was so taken by the poem that I asked if I might publish it in the newsletter to which he said, "No problem." It was well received by the readers and I have read it publicly on many occasions.

When we were preparing to order another 20,000 copies of the OCF Bibles, we decided to make some changes and one of them was to include the poem, so we tried to contact Elijah to make sure it was ok with him to do so.

He did not answer our e mails, nor could we find him in a phone search, nor did Forest Drilling have any record of an Elijah Baxter ever working for them! Finally up against our having to sign off on the next print run, we decided that since he had once agreed to let us publish it in the newsletter, surely he wouldn't mind if we reproduced it in the Bible.

## Mystery Solved

This past July the 4th weekend at Sam Rayburn Lake, where my sister and I have our family's reunion each year, I got a call on my cell phone from a Steven Garland and he says with a chuckle, "I understand that you've been looking for me." Of course not knowing who he was, I asked, "I have?" Again with a lighthearted answer, "Yes, I'm Elijah Baxter, my pen name!"

He apologized for disrupting our retreat and said we could talk later but I said "No way, we need to get caught up on what has been going on in your life and 'where have you been'?" He gave me the following story.

"I had an accident in the oilfield in 2006 and suffered a severe back trauma. Part of the rehabilitation process consisted of narcotic pain killers, along with very little physical therapy.

As time progressed, I found myself taking more and more of my RX medications. Having my pain masked by the narcotics, I was never properly treated and never really healed from this back injury. I eventually had to go to a treatment facility to detoxify from the painkillers.

When I found the oil patch Bible on the rig that day, I was 30 days clean and sober from any and all pain medications. I found it in a pile of beer cans left behind by the previous crew. When I opened it that day, the first scripture I read was, "If I am for you, who can be against you". I immediately prayed, "God please help me, as my wife had suggested I do. And Father please protect me from anything from an illegal or immoral nature. Shortly after this divine encounter with God I wrote the poem, Learn to Live a Little. This happened in September of 2007 and this is when I contacted you from the information in the back of the Bible.

I trust God with all my heart and I am 3 years away from all mind altering, mood changing Rx drugs. Most days, I'm still in constant pain and I've been thru the trials of Job since being injured. I pray continuously on a daily basis and each day I take the opportunity to tell people about God and what He's done for me in my life. I've shared a kind word, thousands of times, about God's goodness and graciousness. Thanks to that little Oil Patch Bible I found on Forest Rig 3."

God Bless!

Steven Garland, aka Elijah Baxter

And then he added:

"In order to get closer to our Maker, sometimes we have to face the trials of Job and our faith is tested. And when this happens we both give in and give up, or we dig down deep and cowboy up and let Him map our way through the uncharted waters.

I am a true believer and if you do like James 4:7-10 says you also can be changed in the twinkling of an eye as me.

*Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sin-*

## Learn to Live a Little

*In the latest God's Word for the Oil Patch; Fuel for the Soul Bible, the following poem is found at the very end.*

The driller said it's time,  
My five point harness buckled tight.  
I step onto the ladder and  
start my prayer to make the climb.

I found that little Bible,  
inside Forrest rig three.  
I read the words inside,  
and learn to really be free.

I climb the ladder slow,  
I pray for strength and light.  
I climb up towards heaven;  
we are tripping pipe tonight.

I stop halfway up  
and I look on past the sky.  
I thank the Lord above me  
for the honor to be alive.

I climb to my destination,  
the derrick, a place of fear.  
I strap in for the evening,  
thank God for being so near.

The blocks are rising so quickly,  
this stand I am holding tight.  
I slam the elevators shut;  
how I love tripping pipe.

As the minutes go on for hours  
at the moment I am soaking wet.  
I thank God for all the farmers  
who need rain to keep me fed

The night is winding down,  
one stand left for the hole.  
I feel warmth upon the derrick,  
for God is my foothold.

I think about a scripture,  
As I let the last stand fall.  
I thank God for my brothers below me  
and I know He hears my call.

I climb onto the ladder,  
but first I look above.  
I proceed on down the ladder,  
knowing that God is love.

I touch the ground in safety,  
it's been a cold and rainy night.  
but I'm filled with the warmth of my Savior,  
it's so good to finally be alive.

The rest of the night I am thankful.  
I pray for people with needs.  
I found this little Bible,  
On that Forrest rig number three.

by Elijah Baxter, Rockwall Roughneck

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# The Elijah Baxter Story . . . continued from p. 5

ners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

*Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.*

*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

I believe my personal Oil Patch Bible to be truth, and as God spoke to me and humbled me thru Jeremiah 29:11-14, my life and my thoughts began to change."

## The Gift

God reached down and touched my soul  
And all I had to do is Let God and let go

The things I know will never be the same  
Cause the Holy Spirit has consumed my brain

Lookin' thru eyes that can see to your heart  
God gives many gifts and this is my part

Your evil ways, you cannot disguise  
The smirk on your face reveals your lies

"Get behind me Satan", I command you today  
Jesus my Savior has taught me this way

The chain of command came down from days of old  
From God, Jesus, the Angels and man, it has made me bold

The faith of a mustard seed, I carry with me  
And James 4:7-10 has taught me to truly see

I resist you Devil, and I rely on God  
The Father of Creation, the Creator of Love

And I read my book and study the titles  
Down on Rig 3, is the Oil Patch Bible

It's published in numbers and given to the masses  
And one soul I know was saved and delivered from the ashes

And the good news will be preached on all the inhabited earth  
For a witness to all and to save God's Church

Pick up your Bible and ask it to reveal  
The power of love and to truly be healed

The eyes of the gateway to the existence of your soul  
God is your Father, Just Let Him and Let Go!!!

-Elijah Baxter

## 3rd Annual Sporting Clay Shoot

### D/FW OILFIELD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHAPTERS

**Place: Alpine Gun Range –Ft. Worth, Texas**

**Date: Thursday, November 18, 2010**

Shooting Starts 1:00 P.M.

Registration 11:00 A.M.

Noon Meal 12:00 P.M.

Noon Meal & Refreshments Provided

100 Bird Course for each shooter (400 total per team).

Each shooter must have hearing and eye protection and attend a short Safety Briefing.

Four (4) shooters per team - 40 Teams - \$800 per team

**All proceeds benefit the Oilfield Christian Fellowship Ministries**

The Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Houston is a: 501 (c) (3) Non Profit Organization  
EIN 76-0515373

Contact Person for Entry Form:

Oilfield Christian Fellowship Sporting Clays:

Steve Boyd

6428 Briercliff Drive

Fort Worth, Texas 76132

817-889-0144

sboyd@integritydirectional.com



### **The Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Houston**

When: 11:45 am until 12:45 pm  
Wednesday September 1, 2010  
Guest Speaker: Karl Kurz, Director CCMP Capital  
Place: Houston First Baptist Church, SW corner of I-10 and 610  
Web Site: [www.OilfieldChristianFellowship.com](http://www.OilfieldChristianFellowship.com)  
E-Mail: [jbirdocf@suddenlink.net](mailto:jbirdocf@suddenlink.net) – Hm. 281 359 1258, 1st Wed. each month

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### **The Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Perryton, Texas**

When: Tuesday September 14, 2010  
Always 2nd Tuesday of each month  
Time: 6 AM Breakfast - \$10  
Where: Smoke House Restaurant – 210 SE 24th Street  
Guest Speaker: Pete DeSantiago  
For more information: Call, Mike Riley  
806-228-8393 or Bill Skaggs (806)-435-0686

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### **The Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Pittsburgh, PA**

Time: 11:30 AM until 12:45 PM  
Date: Wednesday September 8th, 2010  
2nd Wed. each month  
Guest Speaker: TBA  
Place: Tambellini's in Bridgeville  
Web Site: [www.OilfieldChristianFellowship.com](http://www.OilfieldChristianFellowship.com)  
E-Mail: [jteague@newtecheng.com](mailto:jteague@newtecheng.com) – Cell#: 724-331-8638

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### **Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Dallas**

When: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 – [3rd Tuesday of month]  
11:45 am to 12:45 pm  
Where: Brookhaven Country Club  
Cost: Lunch \$25 (no credit cards please)  
Speaker: Mike Blumm  
Project Manager, Dixon Services - Tyler, TX  
Subject: "Cowboy Churches & Prison Ministries - Encouragement You Don't Want to Miss!"  
For Reservations call Hoss Smith at 972.239.3666 or [hsmith@knightoiltools.com](mailto:hsmith@knightoiltools.com)  
NOTE: reservations must be made by Friday prior to the Tuesday Meeting

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### **Fort Worth OCF July Meeting**

Monday – September 13, 2010  
11:30 am to 1:00 pm • Petroleum Club  
Guest Speaker - Dusty Kinchen - testimony  
Contact Scott Royal • 817-266-8384 • [scott.royal@richlandcorp.com](mailto:scott.royal@richlandcorp.com)  
1st Monday each month

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### **Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Oklahoma City**

When: September 2nd, 2010 [first Thursday of each month]  
11:30 AM – 12:50 PM -Twin Hills Country Club (3401 NE 36th, just east of I-35)  
Speaker: TBA  
Just show up (no RSVP needed; cost: \$20)  
Rick Johnson, 405-426-4310 (O), 405-313-9417 (C), [rickjohnson@chaparralenergy.com](mailto:rickjohnson@chaparralenergy.com)  
or Joye Andarakes, 405-426-4524, [joye.andarakes@chaparralenergy.com](mailto:joye.andarakes@chaparralenergy.com)  
Visit: [www.TurkeystotheRescue.org](http://www.TurkeystotheRescue.org)

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### **Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Tulsa**

When: 11:30 AM until 12:45 PM  
Wednesday September 29, 2010  
Guest Speaker: TBA  
Where: Call Jim for meeting place  
Information: Jim Schmidt at 918 810 7114 • [jim@armadillojim.com](mailto:jim@armadillojim.com)

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### **The Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Denver**

When: 12:00 am until 12:50 pm  
Date: Wednesday Sept. 22, 2010  
Place: 1401 17th St., 11th Floor (Alamo Plaza Bldg – 17th & Market St.)  
Cost: \$10 lunch fee  
Web Site: [www.OilfieldChristianFellowship.com](http://www.OilfieldChristianFellowship.com)  
E-Mail: [OCF-DenverChapter@pxd.com](mailto:OCF-DenverChapter@pxd.com) – 4th Wed. each month

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### **Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Midland-Odessa**

[3rd Wed. each month] CALL FOR SPECIFICS  
-11:30 a.m. to 12:45p.m.  
NOTE: Scott and Don are changing Venues: Call for updates  
RSVP by emailing [webmaster@ocfmo.com](mailto:webmaster@ocfmo.com) or call  
Speaker: TBA  
Contacts: Scott Willingham -Cell- (432) 238-0458  
[www.ocfmo.com](http://www.ocfmo.com)

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### **The Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Corpus Christi**

When: 11:30 am until 1:00 pm  
Wednesday, September 8th, 2010  
Cost: \$15.00 (cash or check)  
Guest Speaker: Mr. David Olney, President & Owner of Pay Zone Mudlogging Services  
Place: First United Methodist Church of Corpus Christi  
Web Site: [www.OilfieldChristianFellowship-CC.com](http://www.OilfieldChristianFellowship-CC.com)  
Contact: Greg Garbe or Bo Waters @ 361-693-4001

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### **The Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Tyler**

When: 11:30 am until 1:00 pm  
Wednesday September 8, 2010  
Guest Speaker: TBA  
Place: Hollytree CC Tyler, Texas  
Web Site: [www.OilfieldChristianFellowship.com](http://www.OilfieldChristianFellowship.com)  
E-Mail: [caroline@blockt.com](mailto:caroline@blockt.com), 903-526-4680, 2nd Wed. each month

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### **The Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Fort St. John, B.C.**

No meetings during the months of July and August  
Our next meeting will be @ 7:00 PM Thursday Sept 23, 2010  
(4th Thursday of each month thereafter)  
Fellowship, Coffee, and Dessert at Whole Wheat & Honey Café (100th & 100th)  
A local FSJ oil patch person will share their walk with our Lord or speak about oil patch faith issues  
Tickets available at the door \$7.50 each  
Call Pieter Hoogenboom for more information  
250.262.5747 or 250.827.3936

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### **The Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Grand Junction**

When: 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm  
Thursday September 9, 2010  
Guest Speaker: TBA  
Place: Canyonview Vineyard Church  
Web Site: [www.OilfieldChristianFellowship.com](http://www.OilfieldChristianFellowship.com)  
E-Mail: [ispthn@msn.com](mailto:ispthn@msn.com) – Hm. 970-314-7628  
2nd Thurs. each month

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### **The Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Morgan City**

When: September 24, 2010  
Cost: \$15  
August Guest Speaker: TBA  
Where: Dixie Grill Café  
7408 Hwy 182 E, Morgan City, LA 70380  
Call Greg Roussel: 985.397.2360 [groussel@sewartsupply.com](mailto:groussel@sewartsupply.com)  
Last Friday of every other month

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### **The Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Wyoming**

When: September 20th, 2010  
Where: At the Big Piney Fellowship Chapel  
What Time: 6 PM  
Speaker: TBA  
Contact numbers are Pam Crabtree, 417-880-8727 or Stanley Jorensen 307-679-3350

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### **The Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Covington**

When: September 29, 2010  
(Now meeting every other month)  
Time: 11:30am-12:30pm  
July Guest Speaker: TBA  
Where: Fleur de Lis Event Center, 1645 N Causeway Blvd, Mandeville Louisiana  
Call: Jody Blaylock-504-400-7768 or [jodyb@sundrilling.com](mailto:jodyb@sundrilling.com)  
Normally last Wednesday of the month

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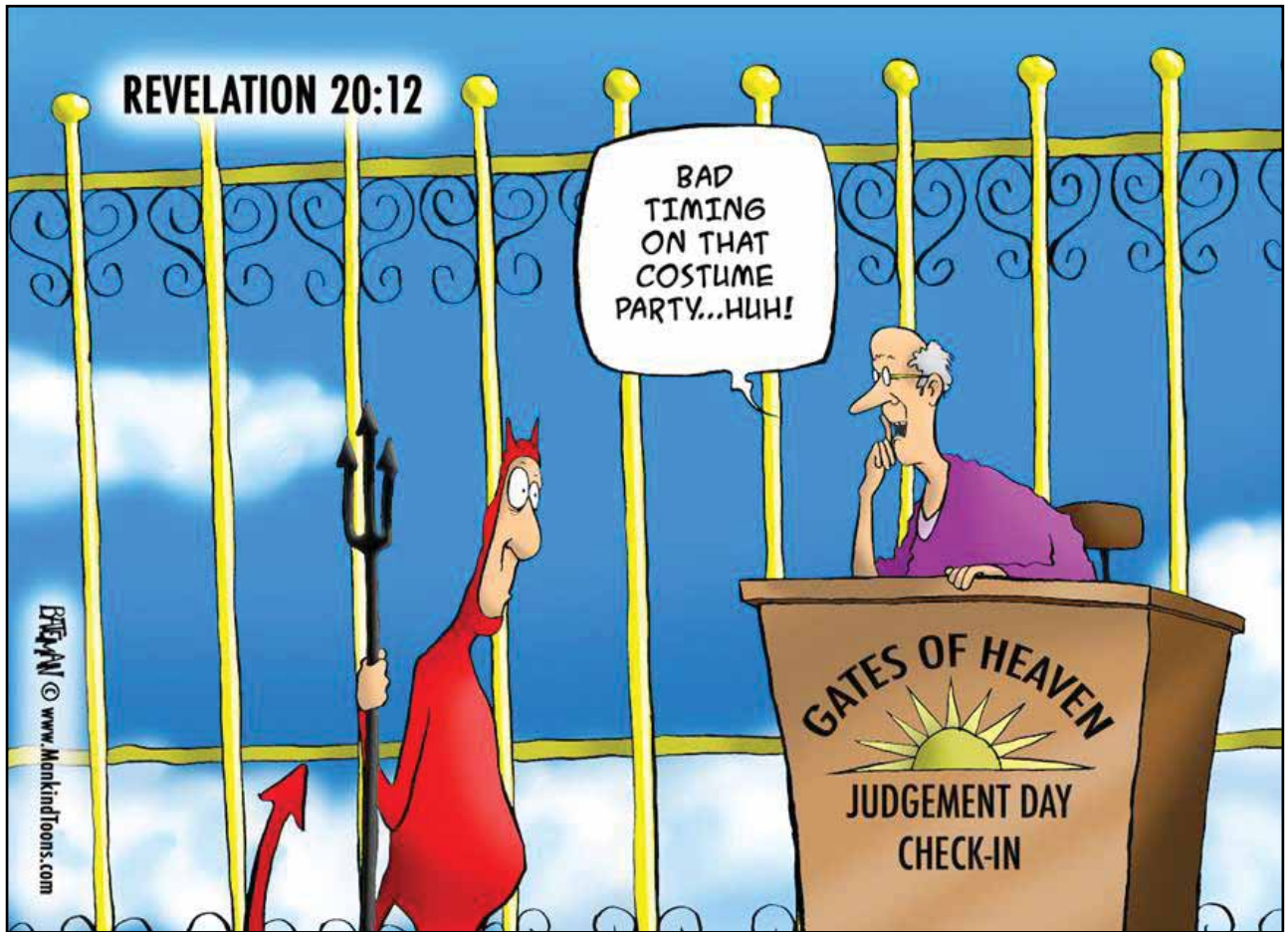
### **Oilfield Christian Fellowship of Lafayette**

Note: Meetings held quarterly  
When: Call Greg for meeting information  
Date:  
Where: First Baptist Church Lafayette  
Speaker: TBA  
Cost: \$15 per person  
For reservations call Greg Bruton @ 337-593-8700 on Prior Monday

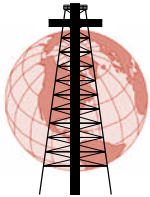
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For concerns or comments call John Bird: Cell: 713-899-1675  
Home: 281-359-1258 • email: [jbirdocf@suddenlink.net](mailto:jbirdocf@suddenlink.net)





Oilfield Christian Fellowship



Attn. John Bird  
1511 Palmetto Lane  
Kingwood, TX 77339  
281.359.1258

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