

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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TIME FOR A HEALTHY MAKEOVER

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ON THE TABLE

Print is dead...really?

by Keith Bassham | Editor

One of my favorite cartoons is a picture of a crowd standing around a newsstand, each person holding a newspaper with the headline, "EXTRA — Print Is Dead!"

Despite what you may have heard, print magazines are not going away. Alas, some titles will, and I am not claiming the *Tribune* is invincible, but it is by no means inevitable that print is dead.

It is true that the *Tribune* can't include flashing lights, or show Youtube clips, or display pop-up advertising. There are no video games on its pages, in fact, there is no video at all, so DVR-ing the magazine is out of the question (and if it were possible, skipping commercials would still be easier in the *Tribune*).

But you can take the *Tribune* anywhere, read it when the flight attendant tells you to turn off all your electronics, drop it without breakage, get sand in it at the beach, and even spill coffee on it, and it will still work just as well as before. Put one in a folder and store it in a cabinet, and decades from now, its pages will still pour out their information no matter what format the recording devices are using in the future. Try that with your VHS tape of the *Bob Newhart Show*.

At least one study says magazine readership is up the past five years, and the top 25 magazines have a wider audience than the top 25 prime-time television programs. Another says 93 percent of adults overall and 96 percent under age 35 read magazines. Plus, when people read magazines, they are more likely to stay focused than when they use other media, and it is especially true of "inspirational" content. I often hear from people that they read the *Tribune* from beginning to end in one sitting.

These are all good reasons for continuing what we do at the *Tribune*, and that is why we ask once a year for help with the job of publishing the *Tribune*. No other Baptist Bible Fellowship entity finds its way into all our churches and onto all our pastors' desks and into all our missionaries' homes every month (save one) every year. In fact, no other media, print or otherwise, will tell the story of the Baptist Bible Fellowship the way the *Tribune* does.

You can help in several ways. This is the time of year we receive our annual February Tribune Offering from the churches and pastors. Our regular subscribers and advertisers account for about a fourth of our budget. Half our budget comes from churches that support us monthly, usually in exchange for a bundle subscription (most of our magazines are distributed in churches this way). And the annual offering makes up the last of what we need to continue publishing.

Plus, it's one more chance to talk about what we do at the *Tribune*, and that is telling the good news of what God is doing among the preachers and the churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship. Here's to hoping we have great stories to tell in 2011.

Keith Bassham

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Servant leadership today



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBF

Most of us are familiar with the quote, “Leadership is influence.” I heard it attributed to Lee Roberson. Some folks today think John Maxwell first spoke those words. But what makes a leader? Rank? Celebrity? Financial ability? Style? Vision? Personality? Is leadership automatically bestowed by a box on the organizational chart? Where do position and power figure into the formula for leadership? And what is the ideal model for leaders? Is it the corporate CEO? The military general? The political leader?

Jesus answered all those questions in a few words. His views on leadership are conspicuously out of step with conventional wisdom. Our Lord told us “...whosoever desires to become great among you, let him be your minister...the Son of man did not come to be ministered unto, but to minister...”

According to the Lord, the truest kind of leadership demands service, sacrifice, and selflessness. A proud and self-promoting person is not a good leader by Christ’s standard, regardless of how much clout that person might wield. Leaders who look to Christ as their leader and their model of leadership will have a servant’s heart.

I realize those are not characteristics most people associate with leadership, but they are essential qualities of a biblical approach to leadership, which should be the only kind we are interested in. There is a crucial reason for this: Christian leadership always has a spiritual dimension. The duty of leading people carries with it spiritual obligations. Furthermore, leadership is not about style or technique as much as it is about character. There are different styles of leadership displayed in the scriptures — Elijah the loner, Moses the delegator, Peter the brash, and John the tenderhearted. Paul, for example, was a dynamic leader, even when being carried about in chains. He influenced people primarily through his words. Styles varied but all were true leaders.

When Teddy Roosevelt was President, if he read about a need in a certain part of the country, he would go there. When he arrived he would simply ask, “What can I do to help?” He was not there to take over but to assist as a servant-leader. Wouldn’t it be great for our country if our politicians had that mindset today? What if our Fellowship pastors had that mindset today, reaching out to that pastor brother who is discouraged, or helping our Fellowship schools become strong and healthy, or supporting our missionaries who are carving out a work in another culture? Imagine what could happen in the BBF if we all asked, “What can I do to help?”

Our world cries out for pragmatic solutions, easy formulas, or programs to answer every human need. The Lord’s leadership model is as practical and biblical as possible. J. Oswald Sanders once said, “True greatness, true leadership, is found in giving yourself in service to others. We must aim to put more into life than we take out.”

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Year round and worldwide!



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director

At the climax of the Christmas season, neighborhoods are transformed and become bright with decorated homes and colorful lights. These lights evoke happy feelings to all that see them. I admit I enjoy driving through those certain neighborhoods that go above and beyond with their lights and Christmas decorations. Some are even set to coincide with music played on a given radio station so onlookers can enjoy the show as they tune into the related station. Cars line up to see these lights.

As I decorated our own bushes and trees, my thoughts went to what Jesus said in the Bible about Christians being “the light of the world.” We are to shine, drawing attention to Jesus, surely during this Christmas season. However, we should be shining no matter what the time of year. You see, most of the world around us is in spiritual darkness. People do not realize they are in danger of God’s judgment and in need of a Savior.

Only the story of Jesus Christ will bring the true light of the gospel into this spiritually dark world — and that starts with the Christmas story. The angels appeared to shepherds late at night, as they kept their sheep, to give them the joyous news, “Unto you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord.” The shepherds acted immediately on this information and ran to see this newborn Savior. Then, after they had seen him, they went and made known abroad everything that had transpired.



This is exactly what our missionaries are doing, not only at Christmas but year-round. They are telling people who have not heard a clear presentation before that, “Unto them a Savior has come, He is Christ the Lord.” When people realize they have need of a Savior, that they have sinned or broken God’s laws, but that a Savior has come to rescue them, it is cause for great rejoicing over this Good News, no matter the time of year!

As you navigate through this Christmas season and into the New Year, may the lights you see and all the beautiful lighted displays remind you of the missionaries that are lights in dark places year-round. Pray for our missionaries. Keep giving so that they can stay where they are, shining and telling the most wonderful, powerful, life-changing story.

Let the lights also remind you that you need to let your light shine to others this Christmas season. People everywhere need to know that unto them a Savior named Christ the Lord has come!

A letter from an NCPO alumnus



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

“I just wanted to say how much I appreciated your hard work and valuable input at the recent church planting school in Medina. Our host church, Pastor Mark Milioni, and all the presenters did a great job!

I walked away inspired and grateful for what the Fellowship is doing to support and engage in the Great Commission. As an alumnus of BBC Springfield and recent attendee at the NCPO school, I look forward to getting in the trenches with the Fellowship. You're in my prayers and I look forward to building on our relationship

We're excited just the same for what's going on here in South Carolina with Journey Baptist Church. Since we started September 12, 2010, we are averaging in the 60s. Our tithes and offerings are steady and we're beginning to get prospects to join the church. All this has happened within eight weeks.

This fruit is not being delivered at our doorstep at no expense. The fruit that we're beginning to enjoy comes from the labor of our people. Journey has set out to reach every home in the community the old-fashioned way of door-to-door visitation. It has been a great way for the community to get acquainted with the pastor and it has been a great way for the pastor to get to know those who live in his neighborhood. As we go door to door, many have allowed us to pray for them at their front doors. Many have said, 'This is the first time a Baptist preacher has ever come to my home.' Still others have been presented with the gospel. So far we have led two to Christ. Most recently, an atheist was reading the Roman's Road from our Bible when we were interrupted by her neighbor who had an emergency. We've been trying to reach her since then, but so far she hasn't been home. That's okay, someday someone will finish where we left off.

Since starting, Journey has been involved in local festivals and events and has opened its doors to the community for special events. We had a family fun night where 60 showed up. We gained two families out of that event. Currently, our youth are on a camping trip. Several new families are taking part in that.

Journey meets in two storefronts. One building houses the sanctuary, the other building houses a nursery, children's department, and a student center with a full commercial kitchen. We offer three weekly services and Sunday school for all ages. One unique service the church offers to our community is our tutoring service each Wednesday evening. It is a good fit for a church that is trying to meet the need for improving literacy.

Praying for you to reach them, love them, and to teach them. Do pray for us as we continue to search for the lost and care for the saints.”

*Hector Rodriguez
Pastor, Journey Baptist Church
West Columbia, SC*

let the nations rejoice

BBFI GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY 21-24, 2011

The purpose of this historic, international meeting is to see the nations rejoice for God's glorious gift – Jesus Christ. We want to remember the past, rejoice in the present, and renew our efforts for the future. We want to celebrate what God has done over the past 60 years, rejoice in the current opportunities we have, and cast a vision for the future with the intent of coordinating our efforts from each nation to reach out to all peoples with the Gospel.

Those who attend this meeting will see the big picture of God's work around the world through the BBFI. Leaders will meet leaders from other regions enabling them to see they are not alone but all work together to reach our world for Jesus Christ.

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lodging information
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speaker schedule
news updates
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ANTI-FAT PASTOR RECRUITING LOSERS

By Keith Bassham

Pastor Steve Reynolds of Capital Baptist Church in Annandale, Virginia, says he was “sick and tired of being sick and tired,” but that was about five years and more than 100 pounds ago. And going beyond the normal “weight loss is the healthy thing to do,” Steve maintains there is a spiritual component as well.

He talks about losing weight from the pulpit. He stresses the use of the word “body” in the Bible (179 times) and he preaches that Colossians 1:16 states that man is made by God and for God.

Steve’s own story is not unusual for a Southerner and a Baptist. According to him, and there are studies to back him up, Baptists as a group have more obesity than other religious groups (30 percent according to a Purdue University study). He grew up on southern comfort foods and nightly bowls of ice cream. All that changed, however, when his scales topped 300 pounds, and his doctor told him he was a diabetic.

His own Bible study led him to all the “body” passages, but the kicker was the passage in Colossians. In that one passage, he says, “I learned that everything that exists was created by Him (God) and for Him. That included me. If He was in control of all things, then He was in control of my life, and if I’d let Him, He could be in control of my weight issues too. It was a wonderful revelation.”

Shunning standard programs and com-

mercial alternatives, and depending on God to guide him, Steve developed his own weight loss

program using DIET, each letter standing for a key to a better body: dedication, inspiration, eat and exercise, and team. He adopted a label, Bod4God, started on his path toward fitness, and then began bringing his church members along with him.

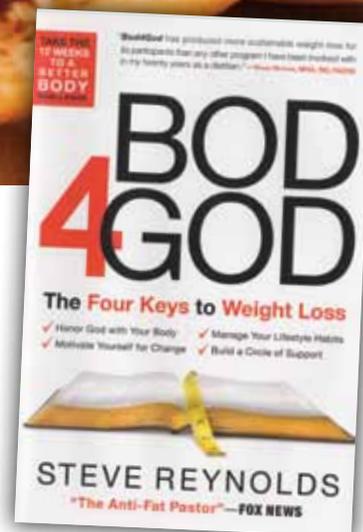
The result has been not only a slimmer pastor in the pulpit of Capital Baptist Church, but positive media attention at the Washington Post, Fox Television News, CNN, and CBN, as people began calling Reynolds the “anti-fat pastor.”

Bod4God today refers to a book, a website, a weight-loss program, and an evangelistic outreach. Weight-loss small group Bible studies and support groups meet at Capital Baptist Church year round, with the classes and meetings open to the public. Steve says they have all kinds of people coming to the meetings. He says, “We’ve even had Muslims want to participate.”

The program is completely portable and similar to the popular Biggest Loser idea. Called Losing to Live, participants compete with team members and other teams over an



Steve Reynolds before and after he lost 100 pounds.



11-week period to lose weight in a supportive environment. The programs include devotions, Bible studies, prayer, weigh-ins, and nutrition tips.

For Steve, the key to long-term weight loss is a spiritual dimension and personal support. He is continually encouraging his fellow pastors with their own weight issues. It works better, he says, if you don’t try to do it all by yourself. “Come on,” he says, “and join a team of losers!”

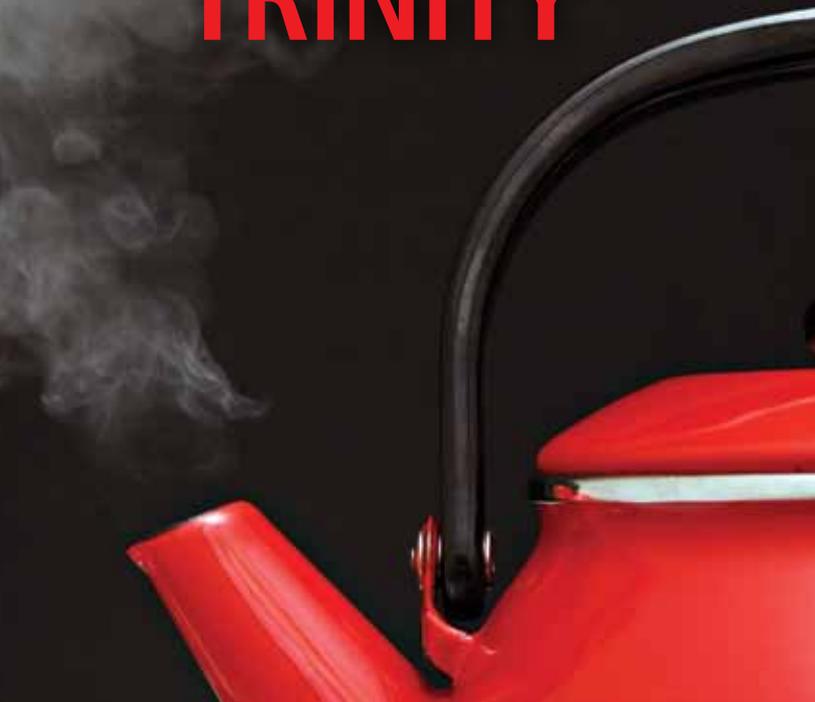
A section of Steve’s book, Bod4God, has been adapted and can be found on page 31 of this issue.

Reynolds and his wife Debbie have three adult children. He is a 1980 graduate of Liberty University and a 1982 graduate of Liberty Theological Seminary. For more information about Steve Reynolds, Bod4God, or Losing to Live, see his website, bod4god.org, or write him at Losing to Live, PO Box 300, Merrifield, VA 22116, or phone (866) 596-6008.



WE BELIEVE IN THE TRINITY SO WHAT?

By Keith Bassham



We don't hear or think much about the Trinity, and I can think of at least three reasons this is so.

First, the teaching concerning the Trinity is something we don't understand very well, or at least we don't think we understand it. It's like eating something we don't like, say spinach or broccoli, even though we know we should. In our heads, we know, or at least we've been told, believing in the Trinity is important, but we aren't sure why. Even on one of the pastors' discussion boards I frequent, most participants assume the doctrine, but there is a collective shoulder shrug when asked to elaborate on it.

Second, since we don't understand the doctrine all that well, and since we don't talk about it very much, we don't see how it matters. When I teach homiletics students, I tell them the question you have to ask at the end of every sermon is "So what?" In other words, as a preacher I am saying, "This is true, and this is true, and this true...so what?" Why does the Trinity matter? Is the teaching of the Bible about the Trinity relevant? Is it vital? Is it essential? If it is, how come I can't see how it is related to how I live out the gospel and worship God? Those are the questions people are asking.

Third, though it's probably not as true in our circles as in others (I observe that conservative Baptists tend to take an interest in theology), in much of the Christian world there is a tendency to be anti-theological. Again, relevance is the operative term here. Often, Christians cannot see how it matters much, especially if the main thing we're about is evangelism. How much theology do you have to know in order to be saved? And if once you're saved, you can't get any more saved than you are, what difference does learning theology make? And even if we do decide to take on some theology, is the teaching of the Trinity equal with, say, justification by faith, or the blood atonement on the cross, or the second coming? There are, in fact, large sections of Christianity where the Trinity appears to have zero impact on what those churches are doing in their worship, prayer, or evangelism.

For whatever reason, I think this neglect of the teaching on the Trinity is wrongheaded, and in a parallel fashion, I give three reasons why.

For one thing, loving God is a priority of life. When asked what is the Great Commandment, Jesus responded, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38). To love God, one must know God, and if the God we know is revealed in the Bible as a Trinity, we must deal with that. Growing in grace and the knowledge of God demands that we know God as He really is.

Then, whether we are aware or not, other basic teachings are connected to what the Bible says about the Trinity. For instance, we learn that in salvation the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all have very specific functions. Our relationships with others, in families, churches, and society, are modeled by the Godhead, and, in fact, our capacity for relationships is based on our creation in God's image. Moreover, the doctrines concerning creation, sanctification, and other areas are touched in some way by Trinitarian teaching. This fact tells me a sound view of the Trinity will provide a good foundation for all other areas of Christian life and experience.

And finally, regardless of what the cults and anti-Bible cultural icons may tell you, the teaching of the Trinity is not a new doctrine invented by a crabby old church-state to keep its people under control. The idea of

the Trinity is as old as the Bible itself. And even though it took Christians a while to formulate it in precise language (anti-Trinitarian detractors are fond of pointing out the word Trinity itself is not in the Bible), the teaching was there in the Bible all along. It was not, as some popular literature (e.g. Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*) indicates, a fourth century invention of the Council of Nicea. One of the characters in Brown's novel says, "...until that moment in history, Jesus was viewed by His followers as a mortal prophet...a great and powerful man, but a man nevertheless. A mortal...establishing Christ's divinity was critical to the further unification of the Roman empire and to the new Vatican power base..." The truth is the Council gave explicit and unmistakable voice to what Christians had believed for a very long time.

What do we mean by the term Trinity? As I have already intimated, the term is not in the Bible, so getting to a biblical definition will have its challenge, because the precise phrases we would like to see are not there. It is not that the Trinity is not there, but rather it is more a matter of getting at the salt in saltwater. As one writer has said, the doctrine of the Trinity is in the solution within the Scriptures themselves, and lifting it out of the solution is the way we see it more clearly.

Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield, a theologian of the 19th century, says as much when he writes: "The term 'Trinity' is not a Biblical term, and we are not using Biblical language when we define what is expressed by it as the doctrine that there is only one and true God, but in the unity of the Godhead there are three coeternal and coequal Persons, the same in substance but distinct in subsistence."

The older, technical language is avoided by a more contemporary teacher of theology, James White, who defines the Trinity: "Within the one Being that is God, there exist eternally three coequal and coeternal Persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

And Wayne Grudem is even more succinct: "God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God."

Some may balk at the use of the word "person," but it does actually serve a purpose. For instance, it is useful to think of the being we call God as a "what" while thinking about the persons of the Trinity (Father, Son, Spirit) as a "who."

But it may help if we take a more inductive approach and see what we find in the Bible. I have an exercise I like to use when I teach on the subject. Read these passages from the Bible, and try thinking about how you would read and interpret them if there were no concept of the Trinity behind them:

Matthew 28:19 – "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Study Note – the word used is "name" and not "names." Using the singular implies a unity, but three persons are mentioned, showing a trinity.

John 14:16-17 – And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:26 – But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Study Note – the Holy Spirit, called here the Comforter, translates the Greek word *parakletos*, which means "one who walks beside another." Also note Jesus uses the personal pronouns "him" and "he" rather than the impersonal "it," showing that the Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, but a person.

John 17:3-5 – And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Study Note – Jesus the Son of God existed and had a relationship with the Father before the earthly birth in Bethlehem. This helps explain the opening in the first chapter of the Gospel of John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

2 Thessalonians 2:13 – But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the

beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

Study Note – here is evidence that God's plan for salvation includes the Spirit, and perhaps even a reference to the Spirit's presence and activity in ages past.

1 Corinthians 12:3-6 – Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

Study Note – here is a picture of involvement of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in different facets of Christian living and service.

Philippians 2:5-6 – Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Philippians 2:10-11 – That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Study Note – a valid paraphrase of verse 6 is, "who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped," or "though equal with God, Jesus gave up the privileges of equality." Two things are apparent in these verses. One, Jesus was a co-equal in the Godhead as the earlier definitions stated, and two, the Son is to be worshipped. If he was not God, that would be idolatry. This should answer the questions of Islam and others who have a regard for Jesus Christ but who refuse to see him as deity, and even say that Jesus made no such claim. In this they are far behind those who saw and heard Jesus firsthand. In John 5, after Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath and declared that God was his father, we read, "Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God" (John 5:18).

There are, of course, many other passages we could turn to, but in just this sample you can see these ideas explicitly expressed.

- Monotheism: there is one God.
- Three distinct Persons, and each are considered deity.
- The Persons are co-equal and co-eternal.

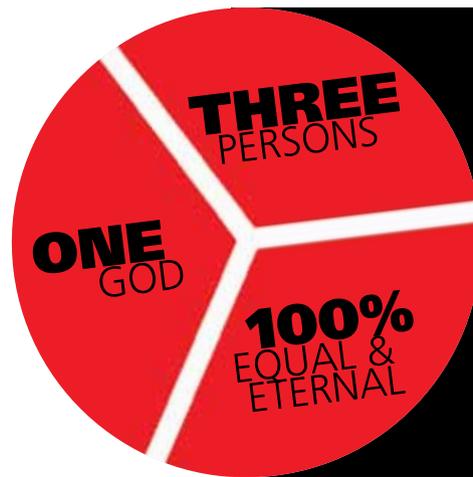
Affirm these three things, and you have enunciated the doctrine of the Trinity.

The bottom line is this:

1. Evangelical Christianity has believed in the doctrine of the Trinity, Triunity, or the Triune Godhead because of the teaching of the Bible as a whole (Old and New Testaments), not because of one or two particular passages.
2. There are many specific passages which teach us there are three distinct Persons who possess deity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, but the Bible also teaches us with equal emphasis that there is but one true God or one Divine Essence or Substance and Being.
3. Taking the whole of Scripture, one can see there are two ideas stressed on this subject — the unity of God as one Divine Being, and the diversity of God in this unity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

as Savior and the drawing of the sinner by the Holy Spirit are but two examples of what the Bible teaches about salvation connecting the process with the Trinity. Fred Sanders has a great story about how as a youngster he came to realize the relationship of the moon and the relative movements of clouds in Earth's atmosphere. At first puzzled that clouds would not go behind the moon, he then deduced the truth based upon some basic astronomy. He says of that realization, "I had in my mind all the information I needed to draw the right conclusion, but I had never put it together. It

see how doctrine can be recognized and taught not by any one particular passage, but by several passages in different contexts. You can see how to do it right, and how some have done it badly. And then, once we learn the proper teaching, we can eliminate sloppy perceptions of God. Donald Carson writes about how in public prayers you can hear something like, "Heavenly Father, we just want to thank you for dying on the cross for us," or someone might end a prayer with, "In your name I pray." I know what the prayer is trying to say, and I understand the connection, but there are other hear-



“The Trinity is lurking in the gospel, just as it is lurking in the life of every believer.”

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

We began this study with the question, “So what?” Why does the Trinity matter?

1. TRUTH – Jesus said in John 4 that those who worship God must worship Him in spirit and in truth. To know and to love God properly, we should know the truth of God, and part of that truth is that He is both One-in-Three and Three-in-One. The question comes up frequently today as to whether Islam’s Allah is the same as Christianity’s God. My answer is both yes and no. Certainly when an Arab Christian addresses God as Allah, they are the same. But Allah as known in Islam can only be God imperfectly known and perceived if He is known at all. Insofar as a Muslim does not and cannot perceive God in a Trinity, he is not worshipping God in truth. And the same goes for any perception of God that fails to take into consideration the true nature of God.

2. SALVATION – The teaching of the Trinity reinforces what we believe and teach concerning salvation. The uniqueness of Jesus

was a situation in which I knew something but didn’t know that I knew it. ...If you trust Jesus to be your salvation, you already know the Trinity. But it’s a great benefit to know that you know the Trinity. It’s a great benefit to know that you’re a Christian because you’ve received a Spirit of adoption from the Father, a Spirit that lets you call God “Abba, Father.”

3. LOVE – The teaching of the Trinity also helps to explain the personality and the love of God. We read that the Father loves the Son, and that the Son loves the Father, and that this relationship has been eternal. This also goes back to the Truth and having a true conception of God. Our nation’s founders loved to speak of God in terms like Providence and the like, but these are deist descriptions of God, not Christian descriptions. The Bible speaks of God as a person who is capable of relationship. This also has implications for our worship and prayer.

4. THEOLOGY – By going over the Bible’s teaching on the Trinity, we learn how to properly appreciate and to interpret Scripture. We can

ers in the congregation who do not. While the three Persons of the Trinity are God, and their work is interconnected, they do have separate functions, and they are not interchangeable. While Jesus is God in the flesh, the Father did not die on the cross. The Son did. And we don’t pray in the Father’s name, but in the name of and by the authority of the Son. Carson says, and I agree, that good understanding of the Trinity will help keep us from using stock phrases and clichés when we worship and pray.

5. LIVING – Finally, living in light of the Trinity makes us more aware of God and His presence. When a person buys a new car, he or she will often remark on how many of that make or model they notice on the road. The cars were there all the time, but we did not notice. Likewise, alertness to the truth of the Trinity will make us more aware of that truth in everyday life. As Fred Sanders puts it, “The Trinity is lurking in the gospel, just as it is lurking in the life of every believer. This Trinitarian reality is going on in our Christian lives whether we know it or not.”



By James G. Smith | BBFI Associate Mission Director

The Philippine Islands became a Spanish colony during the 16th century. The islands were ceded to the United States in 1898 following the Spanish-American War. In 1935, the Philippines became a self-governing commonwealth. In 1942, the islands fell under Japanese occupation during World War II. In 1946, the Republic of the Philippines attained its independence.

Located in Southeastern Asia, the Philippine archipelago is made up of 7,107 islands, between the South China Sea and the Philippine Sea. The climate is tropical. The population of the Philippines is 12th largest in the world, with approximately 95 million people.

The two official languages are Filipino (based on Tagalog) and English. The eight major dialects are Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Pampango and Pangasinan. It is estimated that 80 percent of the population is Roman Catholic and five percent is Muslim.

Baptist Bible Fellowship International has had a presence in the Philippine Islands since our inception.

Frank and Elsie Hooge had been serving the Lord in Colorado when they surrendered to go to the Philippines as missionaries. They arrived for the first time in February, 1948. Elmer and Daisy

Mae Gullion arrived as missionaries to the Philippines in October of 1949.

Both of these families became a part of the BBFI in 1950. Having very little financial support with which to begin, but with a pioneer heart, a dedicated spirit, and a biblical understanding of the Great Commission, the fruitful work of the BBFI in the Philippines had begun! Over the next few years many more families would go to the Philippines, having been sent and supported by BBFI churches.

Some great missionary families were approved by the BBFI in the 1950s:

- Joe and Marguerite Vella, 1951
- L.D. and Mava Lee Woosley, 1952
- Fred and Lorene Null, 1952
- Leslie and B'Etta Funk, 1954
- Bob and Helen Hughes, 1955
- Richard and Mary Schott, 1955
- Bill and Dona Anderson, 1956
- Howard and Eleanor Quinlan, 1957
- David and Uldine Steffy, 1958
- Lloyd and Edith Baker, 1959

Eventually, our contingency in the Philippines would be one of the largest we have anywhere in the world. We currently have 36 career mission-

ary adults serving in the Philippines. That number is second only to Mexico in terms of BBFI career missionaries. They are listed in chronological order, using as our reference the year of their BBFI approval.

Current/Active

- David and Uldine Steffy, 1958**
- Lloyd and Edit Baker, 1959**
- Boyd and Donna Lyons, 1964**
- Frank and Finettie Howell, 1965**
- Delbert and Lora Lee Hooge, 1967**
- Bob and Sue Phillips, 1970**
- Herb and Brenda Hayes, 1971**
- Paul and Ellen Byars, 1975**
- Dennis and Gloria Ebert, 1978**
- John and Pam Quinlan, 1978**
- Mike and Sandy Reap, 1982**
- Greg and LuAnn Lyons, 1985**
- Gary and Jeanie Phillips, 1985**
- Mark and Michelle Johnson, 1986**
- Ed and Joyce Butler, 1987**
- Mike and Lenore Mislán, 1991**
- Lance and Melanie Gotcher, 1999**
- Bob and Gay Woosley, 2000**
- Faye Woods - STEP, 2003**

FROM HERE TO THERE

The divine plan for world evangelization has always been for those who receive to share.

Those who learn must teach. Those who are saved must serve. Those who are found must find. If the gospel has arrived here, we must take it there.

In 2 Corinthians 10:14-16, the Apostle explains that the gospel has been preached "as far as to you" and that if it is going to be preached "in the regions beyond you" it will be because of your increased faith and faithfulness.

We can see this principle in a magnificent way when we look at the work of God through the churches and missionaries of the Baptist Bible Fellowship in the Philippine Islands.

Over the years, there has been a great spiritual harvest throughout the Islands. Many different missionaries with a wide variety of backgrounds, missiological theories, methodologies and personalities have been faithful to proclaim the Good News to Filipinos. Those who have heard and received and been disciplined have felt the same urgency to share the Good News with those beyond them.

We will hear from two key men in the development of the Asian Baptist Clearinghouse, missionaries Lloyd Baker and Paul Byars.

Lloyd and Edith Baker have been missionaries to the Philippines for more than 50 years. Lloyd was invited to preach a missions conference in Borongan Samar in October 1993 at Bible Baptist Church pastored by Peter Ayon. Peter had attended a mission conference in Cebu and met an Indonesian delegate, Pastor Tambunan. This pastor made a plea for Filipino missionaries to come to Indonesia. The Lord touched Peter's heart but he was not sure it was a call.

Peter and Lloyd talked and prayed a lot during the conference in Samar and it was suggested that Peter and his wife make a survey trip. That took place a few weeks later, and when he and his wife returned to the Philippines it was definite God wanted them in Indonesia. Peter Ayon resigned his church and by May 1994 he and his family were ready to start deputation.

American missionaries had been praying for 20 years that God would call Filipinos to the mission field and now that prayer was being answered. Baker knew that some sort of clearinghouse was needed and counseled with Bob Baird, the mission director for BBFI and Dr. Armie Jesalva, the president of the BBFI-Philippines.

They prayed and sought the wisdom of God in organizing an office that would be able to receive monthly support, process that support and send it on to their missionaries.

They all agreed and Asian Baptist Clearinghouse (ABC) was born with Peter and Rynn Ayon as its first missionaries.

Since 1995, Paul and Ellen Byars have been handling the business end and the Bakers have done the field work. The ABC was incorporated and registered with the SEC and BIR as a non-profit religious organization. In 2005, Lloyd Baker felt it was time to step down as director and the board of trustees asked Paul Byars to accept that position.

Q & A with missionary Lloyd Baker

GP: How many missionaries are serviced by Asian Baptist Clearinghouse and in which countries are they?

LB: ABC now has a total of 107 family units (87 couples and 20 singles, 194 adult missionaries) in 35 different countries of the world. Nine of these countries are Restricted Access Nations (RANs). In addition we have missionaries in the following countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Congo, East Timor, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kashmir, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, and Zambia.

GP: Are these all Filipino missionaries?

LB: Actually, among our missionaries we have two Singaporeans (one in Thailand and the other in Indonesian,) one Indonesian going to Hong Kong, one Cambodian in a RAN, and a Pakistani in Kashmir. There are some that have gone back to their own countries after being trained in the Philippines, such as Myanmar and Cambodia.

GP: What are the educational requirements to become an ABC missionary?

LB: All applicants must have graduated from a Baptist college or seminary. Many Bible colleges have been started by the Filipino pastors in the Philippines. However, the majority of our missionaries have come from the larger colleges like Bethany Baptist College in Manila, Asia Baptist College in Sta. Mesa, Bible Baptist Seminary in

Cebu City, Grace Baptist College in Tacloban and others.

GP: Tell us about your staff and how you operate.

LB: We have six full time ladies on the staff. Paul Byars and I serve as the leadership team. Terry Wiese also served on the leadership team for a few years. ABC is duly incorporated and meets all government regulations. We have both an internal and external audit each year. We are governed by a board of trustees, which includes three American missionaries and five Filipino pastors.

We are in our 16th year now and every year there has been growth in the number of missionaries we serve and the funds that we handle for them. The board of trustees meets twice a year, February and July, to interview candidates. Once



The ABC staff ladies: from front Angie Delos Santos, Ann Teresa, Maris Detera, Sol Dela Cruz, Joyce Banan, and Joy Rivera.

a year we hold a missionary training seminar for one week for those who are accepted. Each missionary must attend two seminars, one after their acceptance and the other a year later. In the 16 years there have only been 17 resignations from ABC.

GP: How many churches have been started through the missionaries of the ABC?

LB: A very conservative estimate now would be at least 400 churches started in the countries where the missionaries serve.

Q & A with missionary Paul Byars

GP: To what do you attribute the success of the ABC?

PB: As the challenge for world evangelism went forth in the churches, more and more men and women surrendered their lives for foreign

missions. The missionary family of ABC continues to grow. The financial giving has grown as well. In 1994 there was less than 30,000 pesos processed through the Clearinghouse. Now, several million pesos a month pass through to the missionaries using the Clearinghouse.

GP: Give us an idea of what the future holds for the Asian Baptist Clearinghouse.

PB: The Philippines is standing at the greatest door ever opened to them. The potential is unlimited in what the Lord can do with the Filipino churches and the missionaries they will send out into the harvest field of the world.

The vision of ABC is to serve the missionary and the local church, rally prayer support for the missionary, train and equip missionaries for their ministry, and assist in the sending of missionaries from the Philippines.

The purpose of ABC is to act as a clearing agent for financial support from the local churches to foreign missionaries. The Clearinghouse is simply a bridge between these two essential elements of the Great Commission. The Clearinghouse does not replace the local church as the authority or the commissioning and sending agent of the missionary. Our aim is to do the best and most efficient job possible with the most cost effective method.

The Philippines has made a tremendous step of faith in world evangelism. The local independent Baptist church movement has made the transition from a "receiving nation" status to a "sending nation" status. This is a true biblical view of the Great Commission - from your Jerusalem to the uttermost part of the world.



MISSIONARY REPORTS FROM



Jason and Valencia Goh, Singaporean missionary to Thailand

We've been on the field since 1999. After one year of language studies, we took over Saimai Baptist Church in Bangkok, the capital city, in 2000. By God's grace, it became indigenous after four years and it is still going strong under the leadership of a national, Pastor Noom (photo at right).

In 2005, the Lord led us to Baan Namkem, a fishing village in Southern Thailand to begin a ministry with the tsunami-hit victims. With the BBFI as one of our major donors, a Community Development Center (CDC) was built (photo at left). The sole purpose of the CDC is to use its programs as a platform for church planting. As a result, we started New Light Baptist Church in 2006 and, Lord willing, it will be indigenous by next year (photo at left).



The CDC is also home to MANNA Kitchen [a feeding program sponsored by MANNA Worldwide, U.S.A.] (photo below, left) and a Burmese Christian School (photo below, right). We offer free food and education to 100 children. Plans are being drafted to start a Burmese church through this outreach this year.

We want to thank God for the Asian Baptist Clearinghouse. It has been a great instrument in assisting the missionaries, not only in processing our support, but in being an encouragement and a voice for the ones on the mission field.



Eduardo and Joylet Tamayo, missionaries to Cambodia

I am an engineer by profession but the Lord has called me as His representative in Cambodia. The Lord has blessed us with two wonderful sons: John Edison and Edward John. I've been here in Cambodia for six years now (three years as Bible college dean and professor and three years as an official sent-out missionary). As of today, the Lord has given us two house churches. The name is Seckadaysrolayng Baptist Church (*photos of SBC's first mission conference at right, top and center*). The first house church celebrated its second year anniversary in October and the second house church was just started in August where we started as a student/youth center and eventually became a small group, and now as a very new house church (*photo of children's ministry at new house church at right, bottom*). Other ministries that I am involved with

are the following: Academic Dean and Bible college professor at Baptist Leadership Institute of Cambodia (BLIC), and professor in two other Bible colleges: Cambodia Baptist Bible College (CBBC) and Highlands Institute Cambodia (HIC).



ASIAN BAPTIST CLEARINGHOUSE MISSIONARIES

Eduard and Eden Calibayan, missionaries to Zambia

We have been in Zambia, Africa, for two years with our three children. At first we met in our home for one year, then the following year God blessed the ministry and we moved into our backyard and worshipped God under the shade of the trees. Even though our place is not comfortable for the people, especially during rainy season, souls are getting saved! Praise God for a new 60 x 60 lot where we have built a temporary church building.

Harry and Nenita Arana, missionaries to Indonesia

We are only one year and six months in Indonesia. We have two children, Stephen Jay, 19, and Zyhreene Mae, 18, studying in Manila, Philippines.

We live in Bandung, Indonesia, where we have started a Filipino ministry. We have five teachers attending our Filipino fellowship every Saturday. We just started also our Indonesian ministry few months ago.

Liberty Delos Reyes, missionary to Palau

My sending church is Bible Baptist Church in Cebu City, Philippines. I have been here in the Republic of Palau for almost two years. I am helping with the evangelism and discipleship ministries of Palau Baptist Church. I have led 31 people to the Lord and currently I have eight ongoing Bible studies every week.

German Ponce, missionary to Bangladesh

My wife, Hergenía, and I have five children, Ebenezer, Jemima, Gershon, Jenessah, and Ellah Grace.

After my graduation at Bible Baptist College Cebu City in 1985, I started in the ministry as an extension pastor under the ministry of Bible Baptist Church in Cebu City. I then served in my home church in Malaybalay, Bukidnon as a youth director and assistant to the pastor. And on July 1986, the Lord led me to start a pioneering work in Don Carlos, Bukidnon.

I served the Lord in this church for nineteen and a half years and then I resigned as a pastor to respond to God's call for foreign missions in the country of Bangladesh.

In July 2007, I made my first missionary journey to the country of Bangladesh for a survey. I continued my deputation in the Philippines while processing a missionary visa, and on January 2009 we were able to enter Bangladesh and started the ministry with the Team Bangladesh which is composed of three Filipino missionaries, namely the Manuel family, the Desierto family, and the Ponce family.

While doing the ministry, my wife's physical condition developed a problem. She was diagnosed as having stage III breast cancer and we decided to go home to the Philippines for further treatments. The cancer grew so fast that my wife was not able to survive, and she went to be with the Lord on December 31, 2009.

But God's call is still there. My burden for the millions of lost souls in Bangladesh is still there. I must go back to continue the ministry that has been started. I am scheduled to go back to Bangladesh soon.



Peter and Ryna Lynn Ayon, missionaries to **Indonesia**

We arrived in Indonesia in November 1996. Immediately we went to language school for a year in Bandung, West Java, in preparation for the ministry ahead.

On December 7, 1997 we started having services at our rented house in Semarang, Central Java. At present we have established a church in the city with a record of 110 baptisms. Indonesia has a population of 275 million at present and predominantly Islam, but we thank God for the open doors. Certainly the harvest is plenteous but laborers are few.



Hau Za Kap and Dim Zo Cing, missionaries to **Myanmar**

We started our mission work in March 2008. God has blessed the work with more than 60 people, including young people and children. I have baptized 15 converts in two years of ministry. You can also go to my blogsite at www.myanmarbbm.blogspot.com for some more pictures.



MISSIONARY REPORTS FROM ASIAN BAPTIST

Dr. Felicidad and Rhodora Felicilda, missionaries to **Congo**

Before we surrendered to become foreign missionaries, we were connected with the medical profession and had started medical ministries to assist pastors in the Philippines. In late 2001, we started a church in Talisay City, Cebu, which is now being led by my son, Roudini D. Felicilda, and his wife, Maricel. We also have a daughter, Rhea Faye, who is involved in the music ministry.

We surrendered as missionaries to Congo in answer to the prayers of Pastor and Mrs. Elmer Deal. We are now assisting the churches that he planted in several areas around the Katanga region as an evangelist. We have also started new churches.

Our ministry in Congo involves English language classes to interest people to come, and after the class, we incorporate Bible studies. Through this program, many souls have been saved and we started a discipleship class. Six months later, we started the Bible school. We translated the Bible school modules from English to French so that the students could have reference materials. In the first year, we had 51 students. Only 22 were able to proceed to the second year. We currently have 31 first year students (**2009-10 students pictured in photo at right, center**). The Bible school program involves evangelization, children's ministry, youth group, and music ministry.

We established the Jerusalem Baptist Church. After three years, we had our first mission conference sending out our first local missionary (**photo at right, top**) to Kinshasa, the capitol of Democratic Republic of Congo.

By the grace of God, we were also able to start the medical ministry. We started the Mission Smile ministry, wherein we provide free cleft lip and cleft palate surgeries (**before and after photos at right, bottom**). The ministry has created an impact in the region because congenital defects are considered as a curse to families. In fact, the governor of Katanga congratulated us for starting such a ministry. This program was televised and Shalina Hospital, together with the governor, sponsored some children for surgery. We are praying that the program can continue by training local doctors, if we can get donations or the medical supplies and anesthesia.

We also support local pastors in their ministry by doing leadership and soul-winning seminars. I am helping another church whose pastor died recently. For the meantime that the congregation has not chosen a local pastor to lead, I am the interim pastor. We are praying that this church can grow and someday, they will be able to choose a local pastor.



Juanito and Paz Manuel, missionaries to Bangladesh

We are living and serving the Lord in Dhaka, Bangladesh. We have been here since January 2008. Our ministries include a Bible institute, a weekly children's ministry, a literacy program for poor children, and helping the missions on the Indian border *(photo of border ministry below, right)*.



Jun and Merly Atiga, missionaries to Indonesia

We have been here in Batam, Indonesia, since April 2008. We started the International Bible Baptist Church (English) in 2008 and the Gereja Baptist Independent Indonesia (Indonesian).

Our current ministries are: training pastors and local leaders, evangelism through sports, teaching English in slums and mosques *(photo of children's mosque ministry above, right)*, a feeding program, and a Bible correspondence course.

CLEARINGHOUSE MISSIONARIES

Minda Gallarin, missionary to Thailand

I was sent out from Baptist Bible Church Sta. Mesa, Manila, Philippines, currently serving in Thailand. I've been here for four years and almost seven months now. God gave me the opportunity to help two churches, Saimai Baptist Church under the care of a Thai pastor, Pastor Kittikorn Jaisirisuay, and Ram 2 Baptist Church under the care of a Japanese missionary couple, Hirrokazu and Ayoko Izumi. God is using me for the children ministry of Saimai BC. We

have started an English Sunday school where 18-22 children learn English through the Bible and are fed every Sunday *(photo at bottom, left)*. I am also involved in ladies discipleship and the tract and Bible distribution ministries of this church. Praise God for many who have been reached by the gospel through these ministries.

Also, God has led me to help Ram 2 Baptist Church every Saturday for two years now *(photo at bottom, right)*. In this church, I teach Bible and English language to 15-20 children and English class for 10-20 adults. Afterwards, we have a Bible study where learners have a chance to listen to the Word of God and watch Bible stories in their own language. We have also seen professions of faith through this ministry.



Thaug Ngaih Lian and Ciin Lam Ma'an, missionaries to Myanmar

My ministry now is preaching, teaching, church planting, and equipping leaders for the ministry in each mission churches. I trained the members how to do evangelism, disciple new converts (follow up), and teach sound doctrine and the old-fashioned truth. It is my vision that someday Burmese will evangelize their own people with the pure Gospel from the Word of God. This is my earnest prayer to our mighty God.

After more than seven years of laboring with much fervency of prayer, the Lord has blessed us and enabled us to plant three small mission churches. The pastors of these churches *(photo above, right)* are really struggling to support their families, but in spite of many hardships they are faithfully serving the Lord. What a privilege to work with these faithful men. They are bold enough to stand for God and reach the lost for His glory and honor.

The church that I am now pastoring is around 60 to 70 members. The ministry in Burma has suffered persecution throughout the years. In the 1960s, the government forced all the missionaries to leave including American missionaries. Please pray for us to maintain the ministry strong and more souls to be saved through our ministry.



Roy and Jovie Montero, missionaries to Cambodia

While I was working as an architect, the Lord moved in my life. I left my job, studied in Bible school, and was sent by my church to reach the Vietnamese in Cambodia. We arrived in Cambodia in February 2004. In 2005, we began the Living Hope Bible Baptist Church. We are reaching four main areas in Sihanoukville City.



Our ministries include a bilingual Children's Ministry – teaching Bible stories to two separate classes in the church, one in Vietnamese and another one in Khmer. We also have a youth ministry to the Cambodian and Vietnamese youth in Sihanoukville. It is

basically an evangelistic outreach.

Living Hope Bible Baptist Institute is training Cambodians and Vietnamese to reach their own for Christ.



Abcede and Jovie Garcia, missionaries to Indonesia

We have been serving the Lord here in Bandung, Indonesia, for almost nine years. Praise to our God who called us to a predominantly muslim area. Even though soulwinning in this part of the country is not as open as in other places, we are still reaping souls for Christ. We started our ministry in May 2003 and by God's grace we now have GBII Bethel (photo above, right). The Gereja Baptis Independen "Bethel" was organized in 2006 and is continually reaping souls for Christ. Our church is presently supporting two national pastors and one foreign missionary. Our main desire and prayer request is a place for our church.

MISSIONARY REPORTS FROM

Jojo and Nena Mirafior, missionaries to Cambodia

We came to Cambodia in 1997. We started a lot of English classes in different areas as we work with the government agency which is in charge of the welfare of children. Through this effort, a church was born in Phnom Penh.



God has allowed us to begin three churches. The first church was composed of people with HIV/AIDS (photo below, right). This church is now under the leadership of Pastor Saron (photo below, left), who we trained in our Bible school and Discipleship training.

In over 13 years here in Cambodia, there have been many great blessings that encourage us and some tests that teach us; but mostly we found God's hand moving miraculously and preserving us from time to time. In this time, God has allowed me to train 14 new students and seven men from this group became fulltime pastors. Three ladies who did not have much experience in school were able to graduate and are now working as teachers. Two other men are now employed as translators and interpreters in one big Bible school.

The Bible school that was started by faith had continually persevere and the Lord allowed us to have our third graduation this year having 12 graduates that are now serving the Lord as well in different areas of ministry.



Noriel and Jocelyn Guides, missionaries to Russia

Since our arrival in Russia in December 2009, we have been helping take care of two churches, camps, and a mission conference. We are involved in personal evangelism and teaching. The

Lord has blessed us amazingly. A few months ago, I had no knowledge of the Russian language. Today I am teaching the Word of God in Russian. The amazing work of God!

Michael and Catherine Pabillaran, missionaries to Thailand

We arrived in Thailand last May. We are presently studying the language. Learning the Thai language is very important to us. Thai has five tones that we need to familiarize ourselves with. It is sometimes hard and confusing.

We have begun to communicate, although in a simple way. Thailand is a strong Buddhist country with more than 67 million people. We want to learn their language so we can convey the message of salvation in Jesus Christ.





Jessie and Shalimar Tingson, missionaries in Tanzania

We arrived in Tanzania, Africa, in 2001. For the past 10 years we experienced the hand of God through the ministries He has entrusted to us in Dar es Salaam City.

The Bible Baptist Church in Kimara was organized in April 2004 (photo above, center). Then, other ministries were started out of this church.

In June 2008, the Huruma orphanage was started. We have now 16 children and a newly built home on two acres of property in Goba (photo above, right). Jovin Rwiza was called to the ministry in 2007. He and his family started a mission work in Goba Village located in outskirts of the city since January 2010.

Others ministries we are involved in are youth camps, Bible institutes, and school ministries.

Joseph and Jenny Vee De Vera, missionaries to Cambodia

We just arrived here in Cambodia last July 1. Right now, we are staying with Missionary Mike Valdez and helping in their ministry here in Anlong K'ngan while we undergo language study in Phnom Pehn which will start soon.



We are handling the Sunday youth fellowship and youth weekly evening devotion in the church and in the orphanage. We also do visitation and soulwinning, and helping some Cambodian pastors by conducting seminars and teaching in their churches.

ASIAN BAPTIST CLEARINGHOUSE MISSIONARIES



Kit and Janeth Jamandron, missionaries to Cambodia

I had been in Cambodia for nine years. Three years in the city of Phnom Penh as a single missionary, then two years as a couple studying the language and now we are in Rattanakiri at Bethany Baptist Mission (photos at top). This place is in the northeastern part of Cambodia and near the central border of Vietnam.

We're presently dealing with the indigenous people like the Khmer, some groups of tribe, and some Vietnamese as well. The mission church was blessed by God with effective ministries in reaching these people for God's kingdom. The ministries were English, feeding ministry, prayer meetings, discipleship, Sunday school, language literacy, medical missions (photo above, bottom right), and evangelization.

Josue and Renelyn Satunero, missionaries to Uganda

We arrived in Uganda in 2001. By the enabling grace of God and our faithful supporters we have been here in Uganda. We have started nine churches and four missions. Our ministries focus on evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and training preachers through our Bible seminary. We also have the opportunity to teach the Bible in public and private schools, hospitals, and the prison.



Juanito and Rose Eden Genada, missionaries to Haiti

We have been in Haiti for 15 years. Grace Baptist Church in Gonaives was founded in 1995. Twenty-one other churches have been planted in many different villages around Gonaives.





Elijah and Aurora Rapada, missionaries to Papua New Guinea

We have been here in Port Moresby just a few months. We are helping pastor Tau Abary (photo at right) in the ministries of Shalom Baptist Church (photo at top, right). Already we praise God for His provision, protection, and for the souls who have been saved during our time in PNG. There have been 11 Papua New Guineans and three Filipinos saved.



Freddie and Lilian Arellano, missionaries to Australia

We have been in Australia since 1997, ministering through Bethel Bible Baptist Church (photo at bottom, right) in Glenfield, Southwest of Sydney. We have experienced times of joy in fruitfulness and increase, but also times of hardship, pain, and loss. Our church is very involved in world missions. Our family has been involved in different areas of ministry, including visitation, personal evangelism, Sunday school, youth group, AWANA, music ministries, home Bible studies, and anything the Lord gives as an opportunity.

We are currently supporting 10 missionary families around the globe. Some of them are Australian and some are Filipino missionaries.



Lomer Hope and Grace Ronquillo dela Cruz, missionaries to Cambodia

We were sent by Bible Baptist Church in Cebu City to Cambodia in 1997. We have been involved in the planting and establishing of 17 churches throughout Cambodia.

Some of these churches are house churches. Only eight of them have buildings and properties. We have a Roving Bible Institute that goes around to the five main churches along the main highway, Route 4. Our Bible students go to the different areas and help the preachers.

We have bus ministries and English classes. We have two primary schools.

The preachers and pastors that we have trained to lead the churches are graduates of Cambodia Baptist Bible College. Some of our preachers and pastors have graduated from the Rawlings Baptist Theological College.



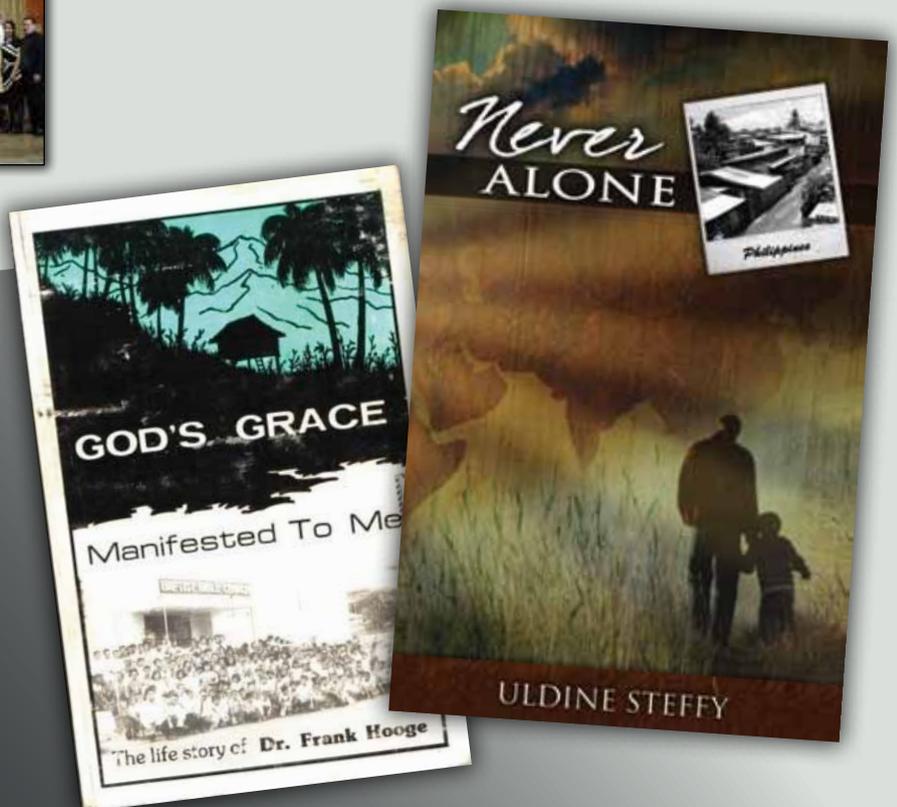
RESOURCES

To know of the pioneer work done by BBFI missionaries in the Philippines going back 60 years, we urge you to take advantage of the resources that are available to you. Look for Frank Hooge's two books, *God's Grace Manifested To Me* and *Kept in Perfect Peace*.

Uldine Steffy has also written a great little book on the experiences of her family in the Philippines, *Never Alone*.

Read updates from current missionaries on their websites, blogs, and on the missionary letter board at your church. Much information is available to our readers at our website.

WWW.BBFIMMISSIONS.COM





FROM EVERYWHERE TO EVERYONE

By James G. Smith | BBFI Associate Mission Director

In his introduction to the historical account of the work of the Holy Spirit in the early churches, Luke the physician quoted Jesus as saying right before His ascension, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

TO THE REMOTEST PART OF THE EARTH

Our goal is ever before us. We have not accomplished the Great Commission until everyone has heard the Good News. It is an ongoing project. Those who are sent must see the importance of continuing the chain. We have always believed that the Lord of the harvest has chosen to use the planting of indigenous, self-governing,

and reproductive churches to get the gospel to “all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues.”

Second Corinthians 10:14-16 “For we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ...having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you.”

IT IS A STRAIGHTFORWARD PLAN

You hear the gospel. You believe and receive the gracious gift of everlasting life. Your faith is increased and you proclaim the Good News in the regions beyond you. When the sharing of the Good News stops, it ceases to be good news.

The same principles that govern church health and church growth can be applied to a missionary movement such as ours. When people in the pew share the gospel with their sphere of influence, the local church grows.

When a church-planting missionary works in his area of harvest with an eye on the greater task of world evangelization, his disciples and trainees will see the need to carry the Good News to other cultures and places. Churches will multiply exponentially.

Our emphasis in this issue of *Global*

Partners has been to illustrate this pattern through the example of BBFI missionary activity to, and then from, the Philippine Islands.

As you have read through these brief testimonies and seen the precious families of these cross-cultural missionaries, we hope your heart has been blessed and challenged. It should bless our souls to think that we have had a part in this great missionary enterprise with our prayers and our financial investment.

To sit and listen to some older missionaries tell their stories of the early years really is inspirational. We think of what was accomplished for the cause of Christ as God worked through the courageous and faithful men and women who blazed the trail for the rest of us. What happened in the Philippines is not unique or unusual. It is certainly exemplary. Similar stories could be told by our global partners in Korea, Japan, Ethiopia, Mexico, Brazil, and other countries where we have long labored. It will take more than a generation or two in some cultures and places to get to the place where we can actually see similar results. We are convinced the plan will work because it is His plan!

KEEPING OUR FOCUS SHARPENED

Our challenge as pastors, churches, and missionaries of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International in our seventh decade is to not be sidetracked by other priorities or seduced by lesser projects! May we always hold high the goal and purpose to proclaim the Good News among all nations, even to the remotest part of the Earth.

By all means, let us continue pressing forward with the Good News. As our faith increases, let's take the gospel to regions beyond ourselves.

BBFI T.E.A.M. in the Philippines

Baptist Bible Fellowship International has a short-term missionary program that we call TEAM, Total Exposure Associate Missionaries. We have people married and single, ranging in ages from 20s to 60s who have been recognized by the BBFI Field Committee and are currently serving in eleven different countries. Our largest TEAM group is in the Philippines. We are listing our current TEAM/Philippines missionaries alphabetically and with the year of their BBFI recognition.

Isaac and Eunice Basilio, 2007
Perry and Mindy Hooge, 2006
Brent and Amanda Longenecker, 2009
Corrie and Jessie Lyons, 2008
Luke and Kelly Lyons, 2009
Trevor and Christi McNellis, 2010
Jordan and Nikki Nisly, 2009

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HISTORY

BAPTISTS

ROBERT ARTHINGTON – The eccentric Baptist millionaire

Robert Arthington, Jr. was born May 20, 1823, in Leeds, England. His parents, Robert Sr. and Maria Arthington, were devout and active members of the Society of Friends. Robert Sr. was a wealthy brewery owner. His wealth allowed young Robert to attend Cambridge University where he excelled as a student.

In 1848, events in his family would produce a major impact upon his future. He, his mother, and two of his three sisters were baptized by immersion and withdrew from the Society of Friends. Robert Jr. found his spiritual home at South Parade Baptist Church in Leeds. In about 1850, Robert Sr. adopted temperance principles, closed his brewery, and refused to sell the business even though he had several lucrative offers.

In 1864, Robert Sr. and his wife died within a couple of months of one another. They left their son a sizeable fortune of 200,000 pounds, or about \$1 million USD at the time. Even though he was an accomplished scientist, Robert Arthington had only one interest, the conversion of the heathen. He invested part of his inheritance, investments that would grow beyond his wildest dreams. However, he committed himself to poverty, depriving himself of all but the barest necessities, choosing to live in only one room of a large and spacious home, cooking his own meals, and wearing the same coat for 17 years, that he might contribute more money to world evangelization.

Why would a man expose himself to poverty when wealth was at his disposal? He had received a letter from a missionary friend which read: "Were I in England again, I would gladly live in one room, make the floor my bed, a box my chair, another my table, rather than the heathen should perish for the lack of knowledge of Jesus Christ." Robert Arthington was determined to make that kind of self-denial the pattern for his life.

Arthington was a premillennialist who believed when

the unevangelized had heard the gospel, Christ would return. Acting upon this belief, he devoted his time and fortune to those parts of the world where the gospel had not been heard.

Due to his secretive nature, no one knows how much money Arthington invested in missionary enterprises. However, we know that in 1877 he gave the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS), which he had supported for years, 1,000 pounds with the understanding they would open a mission in the Congo. He also built a steamboat named "Peace" at a cost of 4,000 pounds. He would later supplement this with an additional gift of 1,000 pounds. This money was given on condition that the BMS would advance up the Congo (Zaire) River with an ultimate goal of meeting a possible extension of the London Missionary Society's Tanganyika Mission (which was also financed by Arthington.)

In 1882, he contributed to the BMS 10,000 pounds to explore the upper Nile region. Arthington's vision was not limited to the Congo. He gave 3,000 pounds to establish a mission in Uganda. In 1889, he established and was the sole supporter of a mission among the fierce headhunters of Northeast India. He also established a mission in Assam (Thailand.) He contributed thousands of pounds to advance missionary work in China. He paid for the construction of a steamer built in America to be used in South America.

Arthington operated his vast missionary interest without the aid of any personal

secretary or assistants. It is hard to imagine how a man who was so interested in money had no idea of the extent of his personal wealth. Just three years before his death, he was shocked when he was informed that his wealth had increased to 1,273,849 pounds (about \$5 million USD.) Arthington willed all his fortune to missions; the Baptist Missionary Society received the majority of the funds. As he approached death, he asked to have read to him the Sermon on the Mount and Psalm 72. When the reading was finished, he remarked: "Yes, it is all there — all!" His tombstone reads, "Robert Arthington, His life and wealth was devoted to the spread of the Gospel among the Heathen."

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**Baptist and London Societies
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Robert Arthington.**

WHOLE WORLD IS THE FIELD

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but Excepts Moslems,
Leaving Them to Bible Agencies.**

The *N.Y. Times* noted the event on January 29, 1913

by Thomas Ray





URBAN CURRENT

Almaty

Just in from Almaty. Yes, Almaty. You know.... Albany, Atlanta, Almaty. Still not ringing a bell? How about Kazakhstan? Almaty, Kazakhstan. Is that helpful?

Okay, could you locate Kazakhstan on a map in three seconds or less? I probably would have needed 30 and counting.

Kazakhstan is the biggest landlocked nation in the world, sharing borders with Russia and China, in the region known as Central Asia. It was the last of the former Soviet republics to declare independence. Today it is known for its vast natural gas reserves. Unknown amounts of Chinese capitol are being invested there since the breakup of the Soviet Union. The country is enjoying a bustling, if not booming economy.

Under Soviet rule, Islam was largely cultural and nominal. Now it is arguably the religion of the nation, quickly gaining definition and fervor. Big money is flowing from nations like Saudi Arabia to build mosques and Islamic schools. The second-largest religion is Russian Orthodox Christianity. The country's constitution provides for limited freedom of religion. Protestantism and Evangelicalism are not welcomed, viewed as a western intrusion. Children 18 and younger cannot be approached directly for religious purposes.

Back to Almaty. Near Kazakhstan's southern border, 6,499 miles from Chicago, this population of 1.5 to 2 million is situated in a bowl surrounded by mountains, visible from most anywhere in the city. Though its environs have signs of habitation dating back to at least 300 BC, its most recent life probably began as a Russian fort. Today, city streets are a blur of vehicles and pedestrians. Stores, shops, and vendors of every description line these busy thoroughfares. In the huge brand-new Mega Center, as big and fancy a mall as anything in the States, the biggest brands in the world are

featured. Step from the marble corridors into the restroom to be confronted by an odor that curls straight hair, straightens curly hair, forces your eyes to water and your knees to buckle. Nope, this is not the West. While thoroughly modern, modernization is not to be confused with westernization. Parag Khanna writes in his piece "Beyond City Limits", September/October 2010, "While western cities have dominated the ranks of leading urban centers since the industrial revolution...a major shift becomes apparent. There is an accelerating asianization." He continues, "For these emerging global hubs, modernization does not equal westernization."

Almaty is comprised of Russians, Kazaks, and Uzbeks. The language is Russian. The dress is western. The sounds of American pop are being flavored more and more by emerging artists who are distinctly Asian.

While there are city buses, a new subway is under construction. However, it seems that a good number of the masses moving around the city are carried in Almaty's unique approach to taxis. Any private automobile can pull up to passengers waiting on the side of the street anywhere and negotiate a price to ferry them to their destination. It's efficient, accessible, and seems to serve the mobile public well.

This year Almaty is hosting the Asian Games. Called the Asiad, this event is held every four years among athletes from all over Asia. The Asian Games are the world's second-largest multi-sport event after the Olympic Games.

A handful of Baptist churches are struggling to emerge from the Soviet era and Russian ways to meet the challenge of a freer Asian-dominated urban center. I spent a week with our partner church, Bethany Baptist. Andrey Zhdanov is the pastor. The church was birthed in 1992 by Calvary Baptist, which was founded under communism. Bethany is made up

of members largely saved during the 90s. The church has a smattering of older Russian women and a fresh influx of Kazaks. Young families are well represented. Bethany is demonstrating that the baggage of the past can be off-loaded in order to be a viable witness in a new generation.

Two years ago, Bethany had its building taken by the government. In the States we would call it eminent domain. The city wanted the church building as part of a larger plot it is developing. The congregation had no choice but to be bought out by the government. Presently renting a small Presbyterian building, they have purchased property and have plans for a new complex which will fill the better part of a city block. Now the city is demanding a swath of one end of the rectangular property for utility use. The church is insisting it purchased the entire plot and needs all of it to meet their needs. Interestingly, they have begun to get some more favorable responses from city officials.

On Saturday night, we assisted with a ministry called English Club. Primarily late-teens and 20-somethings who are taking government-sanctioned English classes, they are looking for any opportunity to practice English. Almost 100 young people enthusiastically crammed into two small classrooms. It was an unfettered gospel opportunity. The hunger for English presents a wide-open opportunity for evangelism.

Almaty reminds me that God has re-urbanized His world in the last 100 years. There are burgeoning cities around the globe needing to be reached and leveraged for Christ's cause.

*by Charles Lyons, Pastor
Armitage Baptist Church,
Chicago, Illinois
charles.lyons@armitagechurch.org*



BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Priority one: spiritual formation



by Jim Edge | President | Baptist Bible College

At Baptist Bible College, our primary focus is ministry preparation. Our students will be key players in a spiritual battle for the souls of men. I am also aware of the fact that our students will make crucial decisions while they are enrolled at BBC. These decisions can be guideposts for the rest of their lives, so I have made the spiritual formation of our students my number one priority.

Roots That Run Deep

I understand the need for a fine general education, an accurate manner of biblical interpretation, and proper conservative doctrine and theology. But, we know our students must be firmly established in their relationship with Christ. Facts are necessary to make important decisions, but there must also be influence, and the most important influences in the lives of our students must be Christ and His word. Our goal is to train every student to discern God's will in every situation.

Nourished By Many Resources

A strong spiritual formation is fostered in many different ways. Springfield is blessed with many BBFI churches of various ministry styles. Our students are required to actively serve in one of these local churches through our Christian Life and Ministry program.

At Baptist Bible College our professors have vast ministry experience and are encouraged to pour their wisdom into the hearts of our students. Our students have access to the best of spiritual counseling through the Counseling Office, led by Bill and MaryAnn Piatt. With their 35 years of experience they lovingly lead students to work through particular situations within a biblical context.

Twice-weekly chapel services have been refreshed and are one of the highlights for our students. They feature great worship and relevant preaching brought by men from across the country.

The Dean of Students Department is concerned with developing spiritual discipline and a Christ-consciousness in our students' lives. For example, our resident assistants are trained to help students with day-to-day spiritual needs through hall devotions and personal contact.

Jon Slayden, our campus chaplain, is deeply involved with our students, giving guidance and mentoring them in important decisions. As president, my office remains open for all students to visit or share their concerns and praises throughout their academic career.

Stability In The Soil of God's Love and Grace

Our students will become like strong mighty oaks whose roots run deep in the fertile soil of God's love and grace. Our graduates will be stable and determined Christian leaders who will give direction to our churches and our Fellowship for years to come. I want to thank each of you who stand behind the students of Baptist Bible College. What greater investment can we make than in the lives of our next generation of Christian leaders?

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE

What I see



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

I took a look in the mirror a couple of months back and didn't like what I saw. There was just — how can I say this? — too much of me. I knew what that meant, diet time, and I've been making some progress on that front. Until last week.

Last week I was wrestling with our 5-year-old, Joshua, when he squeezed my face and said, "Daddy, you're skinny." "Thanks, buddy," I garbled, while he kept tugging and pulling on my jowls.

Then it dawned on me! Joshua didn't think I was skinny. He thought I had a lot of skin...I was "skin-ey." That was no compliment. That was five-year-old for "Hey Pops, you got way more skin than a man ought to have!" Ouch.

What we see and what others see, not necessarily the same thing.

I see Boston Baptist College as a life's work, as a challenge to educate a new generation of Baptist church leaders to take the 21st century by storm. I see our college as a joint effort of churches to make sure young leaders have a place to prepare for ministry with defined doctrine and a passion for excellence and reaching people with the gospel of Christ. I often say that, while almost every other of the 100 or so campuses in Boston is bigger than ours, I cannot imagine that God is doing more anywhere on a New England campus than He is doing at 950 Metropolitan Avenue. That is honestly what I see.

Others see something else. I regularly attend meetings with the other college presidents in our city. I suspect none of them thinks much of our "little" college. We have none of the status symbols they crave. We haven't had our first Rhodes Scholar. We have no meaningful endowment. No Division I sports.

But there is more here than meets the eye. What about students who just a couple of years ago had lives wrecked by sin, and today they are serving the Lord and bringing others to faith? How about the joy of watching students learn to build a biblical worldview, precept upon precept — as we say it here often...to think biblically. Would you prefer a varsity lacrosse program to a student prayer movement? I have worked with 25 students all semester on studying text for biblical truth about the local church. Next semester I will do it all again with a different group of students in a different area of biblical studies. I daily watch profs and staff members give students individualized attention — in the classroom, in the lunchroom, sharing life, and sharing love for Christ. Some may look at this venture in Boston and see little. I don't see it that way at all. And I am pretty sure the Lord Jesus sees it like I do.

So, no matter how you tug this Boston thing, or what way you twist it, call it "skinny" or "skin-ey"...I see good and growing. We are working at it all the time. Hope you notice.

Global Awareness at BBC

Springfield, MO
By James G. Smith

Following the theme “Which Way Are You Going?” Pastor Mike Frazier from Canton Baptist Temple (Canton, Ohio) and Missionary David Liles from Peru joined a group of missionaries comprised of Jose and Carol Esquibel (England), Mike Hillhouse (Burkina Faso), Richie Orrick (Wales), Mark and Amy Pointer (Peru), and Richard and Valerie Smith (Mexico)



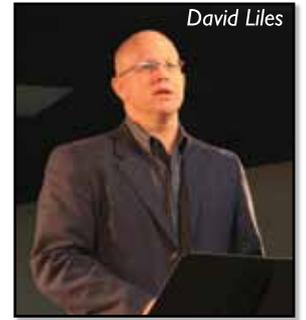
Mike Frazier

to challenge the students at Baptist Bible College the last week of October.

Frazier, who is also the vice president for missions for Baptist Bible Fellowship International, spoke directly to the contemporary and geographical challenges of fulfilling the Great Commission. With current statistics and a clear call to obedience he spoke on three consecutive days on The Global South, The Post-Modern

West, and The Restricted Access Nations. With a powerful biblical basis, the students were challenged with the question, “Which way are you going?”

Liles spoke each day to the “way.” Liles emphasized the importance of prayer and obedience.



David Liles

Overland Park BT surpasses \$10 million in mission giving

Overland Park, KS

Overland Park Baptist Temple and Pastor Tracy Roby celebrated their faith promise mission conference with a Missions Homecoming November 1. All the missionary guests present were sent out of the church, raised in the church, or are presently members of the church. The eight families included: Chris and Stephanie Ballinger, Mongolia; Tim and Barbara Downs, Ivory Coast; Tim L. Downs, TEAM missionary in Belgium; Daniel and Laura Duke, Peru; Rodney and Marilyn Johnson, Haiti; Ken and Debbie

Norris; Navajo Indians; Mark and Amy Pointer, Peru; and a missionary family to a Restricted Access Nation. Paul Byars, missionary to the Philippines, was the Sunday morning conference speaker.

Roby said of the homecoming, “This conference generated a lot of excitement because it was about family, church family and God’s family. We realize that God’s family is much bigger than what happens at our church; God’s family reaches around the world. Every



Tracy Roby

soul reached as a result of missions becomes a part of the family of God. The church considered the conference a little glimpse of heaven. When we arrive in heaven we will all enjoy an eternal reunion with the family of God. We will enjoy the privilege of seeing more than pictures; we will meet face to face with souls reached through faith promise missions. Our prayer is that the family keeps growing.”

Overland Park Baptist Temple mission offerings have exceeded the half-million mark for several years, and last July the church surpassed the \$10 million amount in total giving to missions since its founding. This past year’s mission giving at the church was \$556,710.

Roby says his goal is to have another homecoming celebration in 10 years with twice as many “home” missionaries.

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Midwest pastors study leadership

Ames, IA

Heartland Baptist Church and Pastor Randy Abell hosted a Midwest regional meeting November 8 and 9 with the state fellowships of

Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. It was the largest BBF meeting held in Iowa with over 60 in attendance. The theme was Biblical Lead-

ership with speakers Bob Baker (Missouri), Tim Fleener (Nebraska), and Mark Carter (Iowa).

Abell organized the two-day meeting to give pastors not only great messages from the speakers, but plenty of time for fellowship, Monday Night Football, food, and a heart-sharing panel discussion about the struggles that pastors must navigate through to be effective leaders.



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Missionaries learn communication skills at workshop

Running Springs, CA

Abound Missionary Services held their annual Missionary Communication Workshop November 8-12, 2010, at Ponderosa Pines Christian Camp, located in the San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California. The workshop is sponsored every year by Ventura Baptist Church in Ventura, California, and is free of charge to all qualified BBFI missionaries. All of the sessions are presented by Pastor Lewis McClendon and his wife, Karen, and missionaries Brian and Rachel Weed. Five single missionaries and five couples attended this year.

For many years, McClendon was dismayed at the difficulty some missionaries had raising support. He concluded that poor communication skills contributed greatly to the problem and that quality instruction in dynamic and effective communication could help missionaries get to their fields much faster and help them raise needed project funds. He researched various programs and concluded that the Ken Davis Dynamic Communicators Workshops video series was the most effective and relevant for missionaries.

At first, Ventura Baptist purchased and sent each of their missionaries a copy of the series, yet the quality of the missionary presentations did not improve much. McClendon concluded that something more dedicated was necessary, and also that an important missing element, evaluation, could not be done apart from a

workshop atmosphere.

In 2009, the church agreed to present an annual week-long communication workshop at Ponderosa Pines Christian Camp and sponsor any BBFI missionary who could attend, free of charge. All lodging and meals would be provided. The instruction would be intense, the evalu-



From left: Lewis McClendon, Brian Weed, and Steve Bender

ations honest, and every missionary would leave the workshop with a DVD of himself or herself giving the assigned speeches so they could both view their progress and address any remaining issues. The first workshop was held November 2009 with 22 missionaries attending.

The workshop is structured around three elements. The first is daily instruction in dynamic public speaking. Classes begin promptly at 8:30 and continue until lunch. The second element is daily speech writing. Working with a coach, every attendee must prepare a five-minute speech

every day based on the instructions given in the morning classes. The last element is daily evaluation of the prepared speech. After dinner, in the evening, men and women meet separately to present their speeches. The coaches and other missionaries evaluate each speaker and speech in a positive setting and give suggestions and further instruction for improvement. Each speech is recorded for viewing afterward.

McClendon also presents a special session on writing effective letters and promotional materials, and with Brian Weed holds sessions on how to conduct question-answer times, how to keep focused during interruptions, key points to help the host pastor, and how to stay within the allotted time given for a presentation.

Attending this year were BBFI missionaries Dustin and Carla Reinhardt (Chile), Rica and Cathy Gonciulea (Romania), Dennis and Laura Leavell (Belgium), Sean and Janelle Willeford (Philippines), Jeanette Gillespie (Peru), Jamie Newell (Nicaragua), Rich Moeller (Scotland), and four RAN missionaries. Conducting the workshops were Lewis McClendon, Karen McClendon, and Brian Weed. Assisting them were Mike Keesling, a recent BBC graduate, and Brittany Hahn. During the week, Brittany decided to enroll in BBC's missions major.

Information about the workshop is available online at aboundmissionaryservices.org.

LBU GRADUATES ARE SAYING...



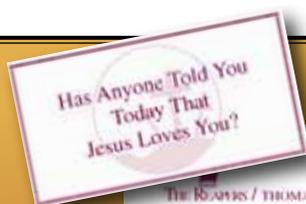
Dr. Larry Maddox,
Pastor,
Central Baptist Church,
Houston, Texas

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East Denver church reaches out to needy

Denver, CO

East Denver Bible Baptist Church and Pastor Loren Richmond held their 13th annual Thanksgiving Outreach November 20-21 while experiencing their greatest attendance ever. The church is just under 10 years old, however, Richmond and his wife started the Thanksgiving outreach 13 years ago. That outreach became the catalyst of the church's startup. The church building was filled to capacity with a record attendance of 241 for the morning service November 21.

This year the church was responsible for 1,000 meals served over two days and 210 food boxes with gift cards for turkeys. Richmond says, "This church has been built from people who have been lifted from the miry clay of jail and addiction in great need of receiving help, but now they are learning how to give."

Denver media gave coverage for the outreach as well. Three Christian radio stations helped promote, and a fourth advertised the event. A local television station reported the ministry activities on Saturday, and the *Denver Post* listed the church online as a place to volunteer to serve the community. In addition, food banks and those who serve the homeless and needy advertised the outreach.

Richmond and Assistant Pastor Paul Sanders extend their thanks to Pastor Bob Adrian and Liberty Baptist Church in Kansas City, who had the Richmonds as guests in the church and sent them back to Denver with a generous offering and truckload of clothing and food for the outreach. Beth Eden Baptist Church and Christian School with Pastor Jim Efaw, Bethel Baptist of Fort Collins with Mark Leverett, Arvada Baptist Church with Pastor Barry Layne, and Little Public Schools have all been huge supporters of this outreach.

The congregation needs a larger facility, and in the meantime, the church plans to offer two Sunday morning services beginning in January. The next project for the church will be the Christmas Outreach on December 19. Those who wish to help this ministry may contact Pastor Richmond by emailing pastorloren@juno.com or telephone (303) 421-9329.

Left: Pastor Loren Richmond.

Right: Volunteers served 1,000 meals at the outreach.



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Bill White

Burkburnett, TX

BBFI Pastor Bill White of Anaheim Baptist Temple in Anaheim, California, left this life November 20, 2010, after struggling against cancer five years.



Born February 9, 1927, he graduated from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, and assumed the pulpit of First Baptist Church of Stanton, a newly planted church. Later, the congregation acquired another building and property, and still later constructed new facilities. When the city of Anaheim annexed the church property, the church became known as Anaheim Baptist Temple. White was the pastor there 55 years.

Bill White was a pilot, a certified flight instructor, and a scuba diver. He created the Fellowship Aviation Communication Training (FACT) to train bush pilots for the mission field and shipped and crated aircraft for overseas mission's work.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Nelldean White, two daughters, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Funeral and interment were conducted at Burkburnett, Texas, on November 23 and a memorial service was held at the Anaheim Baptist Temple on December 4 with Dan Greer and Dennis Carlson officiating.

Stephen Goens

Bedford, IN

Stephen Goens, pastor of Bedford Baptist Temple in Bedford, Indiana, entered glory November 21, 2011, at the age of 60. Born in 1950 in Indianapolis, he attended Plainfield High School, received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree, was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, and had pastored Bedford Baptist Temple since 1978.



Stephen married Sharon Sowders in 1969, and in addition to her, he leaves behind a son, three daughters, and his grandchildren. Services were held November 24 at Bedford Baptist Temple.

George Patrick

Amarillo, TX

George Patrick, retired BBFI missionary to Korea, was home with the Lord November 18, 2010, at the age of 85.



Earl served with the U.S. Navy during World War II. He met the love of his life, Fern Kunz, at Central Baptist Church in Amarillo while on leave in 1946. After the war, he returned home and married Fern. They recently celebrated 64 years of marriage. The Patricks were approved as BBFI missionaries to Korea in 1958.

Survivors include his wife, Fern, a son, three daughters, six grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. Services were held November 23 at Central Baptist Church with Pastor Jerald Chadwick officiating.

Connie Asbury

Jasonville, IN

Connie Asbury, wife of Joe Asbury, joined her Lord November 29, 2010. Connie and Joe were married January 1, 1963. They have been faithful members of Baptist churches in Indiana, Michigan, and Missouri. Joe is known in the Baptist Bible Fellowship for his assistance in estate planning among church members. Connie, a graduate of Indiana Bible College and Wayne State University, was a teacher.



In addition to her husband, Connie leaves behind two children and their families. Services were held at Blessed Hope Baptist Church in Jasonville, Indiana, December 2, with Pastor Jerry Ross officiating.

Jean Yates

Phoenix, AZ

Jean Yates, wife of Pastor Charles Yates long-time pastor of Berean Baptist Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and more recently with Native American Missions, went home November 5, 2010. Born Jean Patrick on December 20, 1929, she served the Lord faithfully as a teacher, choir director, and head of the Sunday schools, and was a ministry partner in every way with her husband of 60 years. In addition to her husband, she leaves behind a daughter, Sue.



Bryan Baier

Sulphur Springs, TX

Donald Bryan Baier, 30, passed away November 17 after battling appendiceal cancer. Bryan was born July 21, 1980, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Don S. and Becky Baier (who currently pastor Seminole Baptist Temple in Springfield, Missouri). He married Melanie Jaquez on April 21, 2000, and they have two daughters: Abbigael and Ella, and are expecting a third child.



Bryan is survived by his wife Melanie, his daughters, his parents, in-laws, and grandparents.

Services were held November 20, 2010 at Central Baptist Church, officiated by Derald Gautier, Kenneth Rhoades, and Bruce Stinson. Memorials may be made to Central Baptist Church Youth, 840 Connally Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.

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(Sources: Constitution and Bylaws of the BBFI and The BBFI Contact Directory)

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Put together a team to help you get fit

Adapted from *Bod4God*, by Steve Reynolds

Put God on your team. There are no excuses for not caring for your own body, the beautiful, finely-tuned machine God gave you as your place of residence on earth. So first, you have to get God on your team. I have a sneaking hunch that He has been hanging around waiting for you to get to this place. He wants your body to be all it can be. He has plans for you and for your life. He wants to help you, and He is able to do “above all that we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20).

Proverbs 13:20 says, “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.” I had to choose wise people to be part of my team. I had to find people who would come alongside me as Aaron and Hur did for Moses, recorded in Exodus 17:12. Every time Moses held up his hands and stood for God, his team won the war. But when he dropped his hands because his arms were heavy, the team lost. Aaron and Hur came alongside to hold up his arms. Your team is crucial for winning the war on obesity. Who is going to hold up your hands? I intentionally sought out people who could help me. There were three kinds of people I chose for my team:

People Who Will Educate You

I chose students of health. I read. I studied. I talked to people who had also lost weight. But first and foremost, I talked to my doctor. You really must make a point to see a doctor before you begin any eating and exercise changes. My doctor played a major role in my weight loss and was always there to ask me how I was doing with my eating and exercising. For a long time I didn't have any good news to report to him. I was a diabetic, and I was supposed to see the doctor frequently. I didn't go because I didn't want him to tell me again and again what I should be doing and wasn't. Maybe you can relate to this. My doctor never backed down. He just kept asking. When I started exercising, he didn't tell me I was doing well to exercise three times a week. He said, “You eat every day, why don't you exercise every day?” I had to acknowledge he made a good point.

Read books, articles, and web pages written by people who can help you learn about good health. There is a huge amount of information available today, so there is no excuse for being ignorant about your health. “But books and magazines cost so much,” I hear you protest. Think of this educational material as an investment in your own body. You are worth it! If you truly

can't afford to own some books, use the public library. You'll find plenty there to educate your mind about good health.

People Who Will Encourage You

Find some people who will encourage you. You need to have role models. As I said earlier, former Governor Mike Huckabee is my role model. I look to him as a great example. I've seen his life, and I've read his book on how he lost weight.

I'm also encouraged when I see all the people at Capital Baptist Church who have lost weight. I know this program — this lifestyle change — works, because I've seen it in action. If I were ever discouraged, all I'd have to do is sit down with Rich or Eric or any of the others and say, “Tell me your weight-loss story again,” and I'd be encouraged to go on. It is truly amazing what these participants, along with God's help, have done about getting their bodies back to health.



People Who Will Equip You

Finally, we all need people who will equip us — those who can show us how to do what we've purposed to do. Many people are the same as I was. They don't exercise. I think it would be great to have a personal trainer working with me on a regular basis, but I don't. However, the first time I went to the gym to exercise, a personal trainer took me around to show me the machines. He explained how to use each piece of equipment at the gym without injuring myself and told me what each piece of equipment would do to help me. He taught me how to build my endurance on each apparatus.

One other equipping help is the Body & Soul exercise program held at our church. Perhaps joining such a program would work better for you than a gym workout. You have to find people and programs that can equip you for the long battle of losing weight. The good news is that after only a few days of exercise, you will begin to feel better than you have in a long time. That's something to look forward to right now. What is true of the spiritual body is also true of the physical, and one can help the other: “The whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:16).

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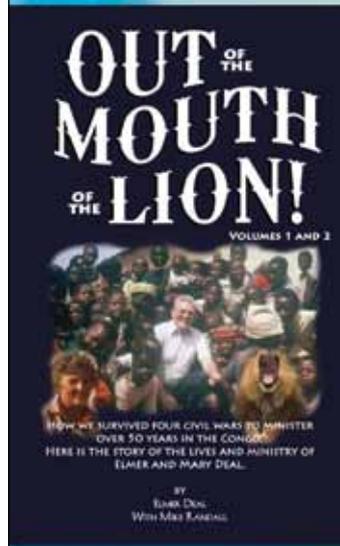
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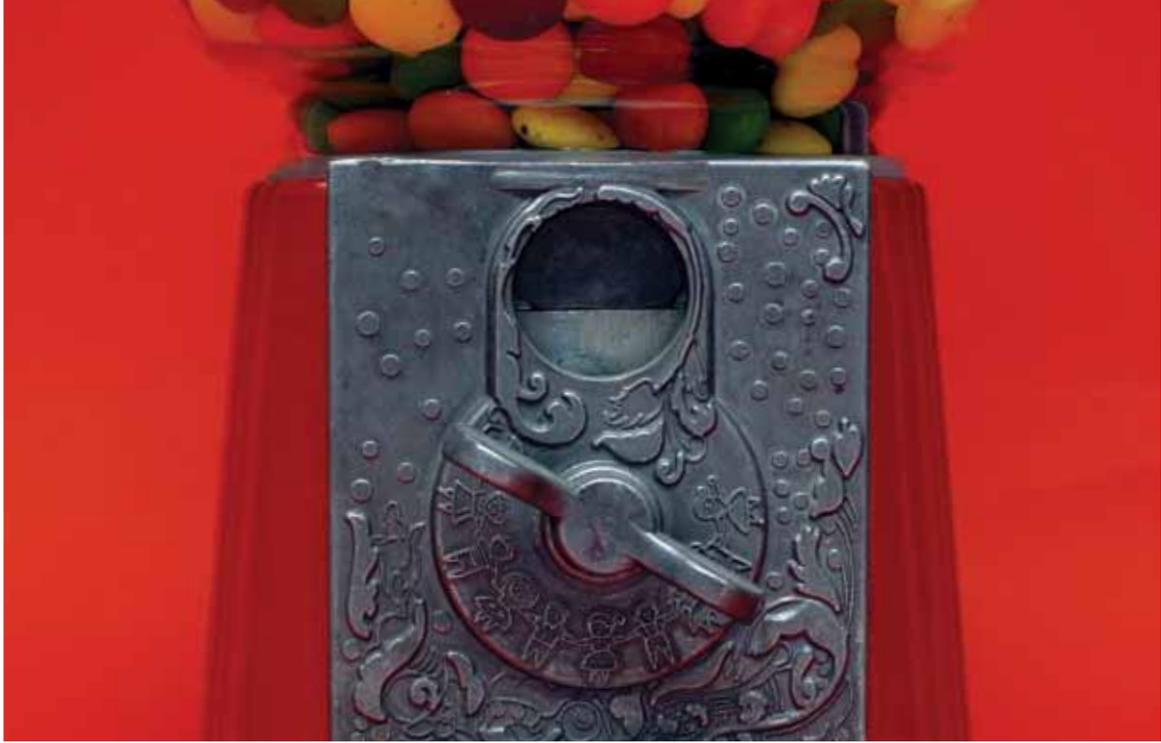
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We have often said we could get by without the annual offering, but you wouldn't like the *Tribune* as much. That offering helps us to do the extras, to place magazines for free where we think they will do good, and to see to it that the Fellowship has a high-quality public face. We also bank on the offering to help us offset rising costs of printing, postage, and the like.

So here is what I would like you to do. If you have participated in the offering before, you know what comes next. We've attached a card to this cover. To make a commitment, fill in the card and put it in the mail. The postage is already covered, but it would help if you could put a stamp on it. If you want to include a check, then put both the card and the check in an envelope, and mail it to the address on the card.

How much should you give? Again, if you participated before, you already know. If this is your first time, a gift of \$15 is what it takes to cover the cost of an annual subscription, and all gifts are appreciated. Why not pay for your subscription and perhaps one more?

Whatever you decide, we at the *Tribune* will appreciate your participation in the February Tribune Offering. All commitments and gifts should be sent so they arrive at our office by March 1, 2011.



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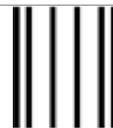
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