

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JANUARY 2013 | VOL. 63 NO. 5



We Need **Renewal**

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FEBRUARY
BBFI
NATIONAL
MEETING

18-20 SHILOH HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
KENNESAW, GEORGIA

ENDEAVORING



TO KEEP THE
UNITY
OF THE
SPIRIT

IN THE
BOND OF

PEACE



Vic Bledsoe
Pastor

It is our privilege to host the winter meeting of the BBFI!

Someone has said that, by air, Atlanta is within two hours of over one-third of the nation. We hope you will make plans to be with us in February of 2013. Our theme is "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." It is an urgent work, and it is the exertion of the soul to maintain the unity of the Spirit. Through...

- **Lowliness**, i.e., humility. The Romans and Greeks had no word for humility, it is distinctively a Christian virtue. In fact, when used to describe believers this term was used in a derogatory way. Humility described a weak person. Someone has said, "that humility is such a slippery creature so that when you think you have it you do not."
- **Meekness** is gentleness; angry at the right time and not angry at the wrong time. (I am frequently getting angry at the wrong time and I fail to get angry at the right time.)
- **Longsuffering** describes the persistence of an individual who has as his primary goal, the unity of the Spirit. Patience with men. Lightfoot says, "it is the spirit which refuses to retaliate."
- **Love** is charity. True charity is giving and expecting nothing in return. Our goal in meeting together is simple and not pretentious – endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta!

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ON THE TABLE
2013 is here

by Keith Bassham | Editor

Nearly 38 years ago to the day, in just about this spot in the *Tribune*, Wendell Zimmerman was introducing himself to the Fellowship as the new *Tribune* editor. He chose to include in that edition a transcript of a sermon preached by John W. Rawlings earlier that fall. Mr. Rawlings's text was Psalm 48:9-14, and he stressed the words, "that ye may tell it to the generation following."

In the Bible study feature this month, I make reference to John Rawlings and a message he wished me to pass on to our Fellowship when I visited him in his home in Kentucky this past month. The text of that 1974 sermon and the message he gave me in his own kitchen were very similar. It speaks well of a man whose words are consistent over so long a period of time.

In his sermon, he spoke of his own conversion, of his fear of the Lord, his appreciation for the Fellowship, and, characteristically, of his hopes for the next generation. He urged them to be personal soulwinners. He challenged churches to reproduce themselves in a time frame of months, not years. He said, "We never can move this Fellowship forward like I'm talking about unless there is sweat and toil and labor — house to house, and door to door," and "This is not a swan song or a pep rally. But I'll tell you one thing: If you have been to the cross, if you have been to Calvary, if you have had an experience, if you have had a drink at that fountain, if you have had a look at that bread, and you have put your feet under the King's table, then get with it!"

As I said, I heard pretty much the same thing during my personal audience a couple of weeks ago. His interest remains the same as it was at the beginning of our Fellowship: "that ye may tell it to the generation following."

That, of course, is also the burden and charter of the *Baptist Bible Tribune* as we tell the story of what God is doing among the churches and preachers of the Baptist Bible Fellowship. And as we enter a new year, our Fellowship faces new and greater challenges — a burgeoning population, a nation and a world increasingly willing to accept an adversarial position opposite their Creator, political chaos in that area of the world described by the Bible, and economic uncertainty all around.

Some might want to retreat in the face of those challenges, but the founders of our Fellowship, John Rawlings *et al*, leave us a better example. They were more like that storied military squad leader who urgently radioed his position to headquarters: "Surrounded on all sides by the enemy. They won't get away from us now."

Let us find a place of renewal in this year 2013, for the sake of generations before, and for the sake of those who follow.

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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Part 3 in the series on Psalm 51

I have now been saved twice! **30**
A life spared on earth, and for all eternity



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The *Baptist Bible Tribune* (ISSN 0745-5836) is published monthly, except for a combined July/August issue, by the BBFI, 720 E. Kearney, Springfield, Missouri 65803. Periodical class postage paid at Springfield, Missouri, and additional entry offices.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Individual subscriptions are \$15 per year anywhere in the U.S.; \$20 per year in foreign countries. Postmaster send address changes to: *Baptist Bible Tribune*, P. O. Box 309, Springfield, Missouri 65801, 417-831-3996, fax 417-831-1470.

By-lined opinions expressed in the Baptist Bible Tribune are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editorial staff or the Baptist Bible Fellowship.

PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

A Nehemiah moment



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

Nehemiah is one of my favorite books in the Bible because it is the first book on leadership ever written. In it I see some principles that can apply today in the BBFI.

Nehemiah is the expert wall builder in the Bible. For 90 years Jerusalem sat in ruins. The city walls had been destroyed. The gates had been burned and the people were totally demoralized. And then the Lord brought a man named Nehemiah into the picture. This man faced what seemed to be an impossible task, an unsolvable problem, an unbelievable challenge, and that situation became his finest hour. What can we learn from him today?

Even though God has given us an incredible opportunity, we are facing some problems. Someone has said, “Understanding the problem is half the solution,” and we need to confront some facts. We are a Fellowship of pastors-churches-missionaries working together to accomplish what we cannot effectively accomplish individually. The BBFI family has seen great success and growth but there have been challenges and changes, and the result is that we are not as broad and deep as we once were, but we are not dry bones!

Ronald Reagan once said, “America is too great for small dreams.” I feel that way about our Fellowship. Or Fellowship has many resources with which to accomplish great things for God. We can and will if we focus on the principles of God’s Word, win souls, start and build churches, send missionaries, and stop arguing about minor issues.

Among the lessons we learn from Nehemiah is you can’t solve a problem that you run away from. You can look at the situation in one of two ways. You can stand on the sideline and say, “Things really ought to be different,” or you can get into the game and say, “How can I help make a difference?”

When God wants to accomplish a work, He always prepares His workers and puts them in the right place at the right time. That is why Nehemiah said in his prayer, “Make your servant successful today.” Nehemiah didn’t pray, “God, send a miracle.” He said, “God, send me.” He didn’t pray for a miracle. He prayed for an opportunity.

Dreamers dream about things being different. Leaders determine to make a difference. You see, the greatest ability that Nehemiah had was availability. There are no problems that people can’t solve, but there are people unwilling to solve them.

This is a Nehemiah moment for the BBFI. I am asking you to roll up your sleeves and help rebuild the walls of the BBFI. I am asking pastors to pray for 2013 to be a year of growth for the BBFI. Every state fellowship can work their plan to start new churches, reach out to those pastors who aren’t or haven’t been connected to the BBFI in a long time, attend the national meetings, pray for more missionaries, and encourage our ranks to build greater works for the Lord. We have the opportunity. Let’s take advantage of it.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Looking back for encouragement



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

It is nearly impossible to erase negative memories of this past year or even years gone by. In order to have true joy, we must try our best to break free of the influence those hard times can have on our lives. “New year” not only conjures up thoughts of excitement and anticipation as we look forward to the things it will bring, but it also conjures up fear of the unknown and the uncertainty of the future with its “fiscal cliff,” new taxes, and the economy. As I ponder each of these concerns, I cannot help but be anxious and sometimes afraid of how they will affect our missionaries and mission efforts.

However, one eventful day from the past — Christmas day — gives us reason for hope when uncertainty creeps in and tries to steal our joy. When you think about the difference the birth of baby Jesus has made in the world, this alone should always bring joy to our hearts no matter what may come our way. Jesus came as the Savior of the world!

Actually, Jesus came as the first missionary sent by his Father over 2,000 years ago as the Light of the world. His identification as the Light of the world means He was truly a light that would illuminate the entire world with the knowledge of God and His redemptive love. This Light was meant to shine not only in our hearts, but it was intended to dispel the darkness in Africa, Asia, and every continent — the uttermost parts of the earth. There is one thing we can know for certain about the New Year — God hasn’t changed. He is still in control, and His mandate to us as His children is the same, “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” God is still working, still saving, still drawing people to Himself; and He is looking to us to continue sharing that message wherever we go, wherever we are in the world, and to everyone we meet.

Are you ready for the New Year? Take a moment to reflect on the day Jesus was born. He was born as the Savior of the world — the Light of the world. New years may come and go, but these things remain the same — God, the fact that people are either saved or unsaved, and that God has given us a job to do until He calls us home. Let this new year bring to you a renewed resolve to serve the Lord with gladness as never before — around the corner and around the world.

Are you uneasy about what the new year might bring? Before you move into 2013, stop and look in the rearview mirror of this past year and joyfully realize that God meant it when He said, “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee,” so we may boldly say, “The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear.”

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ENDEAVORING



TO KEEP THE
UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

SPEAKERS

MONDAY EVENING

Keith Bassham *Baptist Bible Tribune* Editor

TUESDAY MORNING

Eddie Goodall *New Covenant Baptist Church, Forest Park, GA*

Harold Payne *Truth Baptist Ministries, Houston, TX*

Karl Skinner *Battlefield Baptist Church, Gainesville, VA*

Carla Slayden *Ladies meeting*

TUESDAY EVENING

Linzy Slayden *BBFI President*

Friendship Baptist Church, Owasso, OK

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Carlton Cooper *Bethel Baptist Church, Richmond Hill, GA*

Gary Favor *Faith Baptist Church, Dayton, OH*

Herb Hubbard *Bible Baptist Church, Savannah, GA*

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Bill Monroe *Florence Baptist Temple, Florence, SC*

Special guests

Old Paths Quartet

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FEBRUARY
TRIBUNE
OFFERING

Strength
COLLEGES
Support
CHURCH PLANTING
Structure
WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

When you give to the 2013 February Tribune Offering, you are doing more than just helping pay for paper and ink.

The *Tribune* strengthens our pastors and laypeople through challenging and encouraging feature articles.

By highlighting church planters and missionaries alongside local church ministries, the *Tribune* supports and promotes the endeavors of the BBFI.

In an age where bold facades often mask questionable entities, the *Tribune* provides a sense of structure and showcases the BBFI as grounded and organized when introduced to those outside of our Fellowship.

That is what we are doing by sharing the good news of what God is doing in the BBFI, and your support will help us continue to do so.

GLOBAL PARTNERS

January 2013

By James G. Smith

MISSION DIRECTORS

JON KONNERUP

PAUL HYLTON

STEVE BENDER

JIM SMITH

Administration

Missionary training

Financial services

▶ **Travel**

Missionary care

One area of ministry performed by the BBFI Mission Office that may or may not be understood is the area of travel.

Our Mission Director, Jon Konnerup, and the associate directors, Paul Hylton, Steve Bender, and myself, spend a lot of time getting from one place to another. Let's explore the many reasons and the benefits of all this travel.

While each director has considerable responsibilities and specific administrative duties, we also enjoy serving the pastors, churches, and missionaries of the BBFI in a more personal way. We pretty much go anywhere we are invited and serve however we can. The foreign trips always have specific causes. The domestic travel is usually to serve a state fellowship or a local church.

We hope you enjoy the colorful and detailed accounts of some recent travels.



WHY WE TRAVEL – Jon Konnerup

Although I enjoy eating exotic foods around the world, I must say that this is not the reason I travel. I have seen some unbelievable sights — both beautiful and heartbreaking. Yet again, this is not why I travel internationally four to five times a year. There are basically three reasons for my travels abroad that I believe not only fulfill my responsibilities as the mission director, but enhance BBFI mission efforts.

The first reason I travel, and the one I enjoy the most, is to encourage our missionaries who have committed their lives to serve the Lord in a foreign country. Having been a missionary kid and later a missionary for 11 years, I have an appreciation and understanding of what our missionaries go through. I know what it is like to live without the common amenities we enjoy, the constant battles with government red tape, and hostile religions. Many of our missionaries live in completely different cultures that speak “strange” languages while dealing with ongoing safety issues. The children’s education, language learning, dealing with traffic, and so many other things on a day-to-day basis that we don’t know about can cause discouragement. Satan attacks these choice servants of God because they are invading his longtime strongholds on people’s lives. So, I visit the missionaries to encourage them, to listen, and to try to be a friend while reminding them they have a host of prayer warriors in their supporting churches, the backing of the Mission Office, and most importantly the power of God behind them. This threefold cord is strong and can help sustain them.

During these trips I get to see and participate in our missionaries’ ministries. It is always a blessing to see them interacting with their people, communicating in their language, and watching God use them as they share the love of Christ. It is a huge blessing to see people repent of their sins and ask Jesus to save them in a different language with the missionary by their side. I think of the hours they have spent witnessing and finally seeing one, or many, turn to Christ and then see them get baptized. What a joy it is for me to experience these life-changing moments and to cheer on our missionaries, encouraging them to keep going no matter the hardships because it is worth it to see these people come to the truth.



The second reason I travel to distant countries is because of invitations extended by both missionaries and national leaders to participate in their ministries. I have preached to pastors in many countries about missions and how to begin the process of fellowshipping together for the cause of world missions. It is so exciting to see this happening in many places today. They no longer want to be on the receiving end — they now want to be on the giving and sending end of world evangelism. I have preached to pastors and Bible school students in different countries on various subjects such as enduring hardships in the ministry, overcoming the adversary, and enduring persecution. I am also invited to preach for anniversary Sundays like the ones in Korea, the Philippines, and recently in Tanzania. What a joy to see churches committed to reaching their communities, their country, and their world.

The third reason for my international travels is to visit places where we have little or no representation of the gospel as a Fellowship. It is said there are still 402 unengaged, unreached people groups. That means there is no one witnessing among them. My desire is to see our Fellowship rise to the task of reaching as many of these as possible. My travels take me to places that often are in complete spiritual darkness. Maybe there is a little candle lit, but the darkness is heavy. So, I visit these likely unheard of places in order to promote their needs and the available opportunity to our churches, youth groups, and colleges. In October 2012, I visited two such places — Namibia and Madagascar. I hope you will read about them in this issue and pray with me that someone would answer God's call to send the light to a people searching in darkness.

I would like to thank the churches who support the Mission Office financially. Your support does so much more than pay salaries for the 18 people on staff. It also enables me and the associate mission directors to make these international trips to be a blessing to our missionaries on the front lines, to challenge and encourage the national leaders, and to promote new frontiers for our Fellowship. Thank you for making all this possible. We greatly appreciate your support — it goes a long way in making an eternal difference in the lives of people around the world.



Athens, Greece (left) and various ministries (below) led by BBFI missionaries



VISITING GREECE — Jon Konnerup

In October 2012, I visited with our missionaries in Greece. The Dimakos and Sinda families, along with Laura Nell Ferrell, have an unbelievable opportunity of reaching both the Greeks and the immigrants moving from all over the Middle East and Africa into Europe through Greece. It is said that 80 percent of all immigrants entering the European Union go through Athens, Greece, making it a very strategic portal with global reach.

I watched our missionaries as they ministered in a variety of activities ranging from evangelism efforts downtown to personal discipleship, from teaching Bible to Arabic-speaking people to teaching Bible to Farsi-speaking Iranians, from training leaders to leading a vibrant multi-cultural church. They have the opportunity to reach out to 17 different nationalities without leaving Athens. I personally witnessed three baptisms — one Greek and two Iranians.

Since my visit, more Iranians have been baptized — some are eager to return to their countries to share the good news of Jesus Christ with their families and friends. Our missionaries in Greece have a wonderful opportunity. Their greatest need is more laborers to enable them to do even more.

“It was such a blessing to us to have our Mission Director, Jon Konnerup, come and visit us in Greece. We were privileged to hear him preach and we were refreshed. Our people enjoyed meeting him and were encouraged by his preaching. They were also encouraged by Chris Beeson’s testimony, who was such a blessing to have around as he also shared his tech skills. We also had the opportunity to go to Patra where we had two pastors and their staff meet up with us. Dr. Konnerup exhorted them to remain faithful in such a difficult field. We truly appreciate the mission director taking the time to come and visit Greece to refresh and recharge us and our people.”

George & Louisa Dimakos



TANZANIA – Jon Konnerup

I was invited to participate in two events in November 2012 with the missionaries of Tanzania. The first one was their national pastors' meeting where they wanted me to inspire the pastors regarding world missions. Pastor Mike Frazier attended the meeting as well and spoke to the Tanzanian pastors and churches about their responsibilities of fulfilling the Great Commission. It was a blessing to see their excitement and energy grow as they considered how they would lead their churches and Fellowship in reaching the world.

In the second event, I taught four sessions on world missions to Bible school students from churches all across Tanzania. I saw their interest as I explained how many people on our globe have still not even heard the name of Jesus. I challenged them to be leaders in their churches for world missions and to even consider going to places that have yet to hear a clear presentation of the gospel. I was then privileged to preach at the annual graduation for their Bible school. I look forward to seeing the fruit of these two meetings in the near future. Because of the short amount of time in the country, I was not able to visit all the missionaries and their ministries. However, the ministries I saw blessed my heart. I met believers in Christ who now have a hope of heaven because of the grace of God and the hard work and faithful dedication of our missionaries.



“He gets off the plane at 3:30 in the morning and stands in darkness waiting for a ride. No welcome signs, flowers, or refreshments. No bands playing or crowds cheering. Only a warm embrace and simple hospitality preclude a whirlwind tour of the country, numerous preaching and teaching assignments, lots of beans and rice, and moving from guest house to hotel. The mission director’s visit to Tanzania was no holiday tour or sightseeing excursion. We put him to work. We picked his brain, and we made him sit through hours of meetings and services in a language not his own.

We are proud of Dr. Konnerup and appreciate his concern, his counsel, and his interest in the ministry and our lives. As mission director he blessed us, encouraged us, and made each missionary feel appreciated. He contributed to our pastors’ meeting, our Bible school seminar, and several church services in between. His greatest contribution, however, was not as mission director, but as a friend. We are grateful for a director who loves, respects, and treats with camaraderie each missionary family on the field. So while we are proud of Dr. Konnerup as our mission director, we are equally glad to have Jon as our colleague and friend. “Karibu tena!” we say in Swahili, “Come again!” You are welcome any time. Next time we promise not to leave you standing at the curb.”

Dave Jones



NAMIBIA – Jon Konnerup

Wedged between the Kalahari Desert and the South Atlantic Ocean, Namibia has great potential as one of Africa’s youngest countries. Global powers ignored Namibia until the end of the 19th century when it was colonized by Germany. Namibia became an independent country in March 1990.

The name of the country is derived from the Namib Desert, considered by many to be the oldest desert in the world. To date, Namibia boasts a proud record of peace and stability for its eleven ethnic groups.

Namibia, about half the size of Alaska, has a population of 2.1 million people. It is governed by a stable, multi-party parliamentary democracy. Namibia has the second-lowest population density following Mongolia. It has a high unemployment rate with half of the population living below the international poverty level. At the same time, this nation has suffered heavily from the effects of HIV/AIDS.

Windhoek, the country’s capital city and commercial nerve center, has an ethnic mix of people making up its population of 350,000. It is a fairly modern city surrounded by several other smaller towns in the northern region and along the coast like the town of Swakopmund. One can see

the years of German influence throughout the architecture and culture.

While the official language is English, most of the Caucasian population speaks either German or Afrikaans. The tribes also have their own respective languages.

The constitution of Namibia allows





BOTSWANA – Jon Konnerup

One country in Africa I had never been to but always wanted to visit was Botswana. Currently, we have two missionary families serving there. Carl and Bonnie Clark are soulwinners and are doing a wonderful job of church planting in Botswana. Their people were so friendly and certainly love to sing unto the Lord. Carl and Bonnie tirelessly serve in the work with complete devotion to their calling. I was personally blessed to spend time with them and to encourage them in the Lord.

It was also a blessing to preach to the Botswanan people in Steve and Pam Workman's ministry. Not only do they have a vibrant, growing church, but the Workmans have a unique ministry with one of the best Christian schools in the nation. The graduates of this school are nationally recognized because of the tremendous education they receive. Steve and Pam devote much time and effort into this ministry that is resulting in young people being saved and living for God. The Workmans also hold camps at this facility. The Rawlings Foundation purchased the school in hopes of establishing camps and a training institution that would enhance the efforts of reaching all the two million people of Botswana. The Workmans' greatest need is having more help to lead the camp ministry and to teach in the school. Anybody interested?

"Botswana is not on the way to anywhere. You don't drop in for a couple of days on the way to someplace else to see an old friend, then move on to your real destination. You have to want to come to Botswana, and it is a trek to get here. Add in hot dusty summers and freezing cold winters, and you can understand why we get very few visitors our way. That is why it was such a special blessing to have Jon Konnerup with us recently. He was able to see firsthand the beauty of Botswana — it truly is an amazing place. Plus he saw all that is involved in our ministry, with our church, our youth camps, and our school. Our church people were blessed by his message that encouraged them to reach out to bring more to Christ. And his explanation of the worldwide work of BBFI Missions made them feel like they were part of something significant and far-reaching.

We were also able to fulfill a dream I have had for several years — to survey a new country that has yet to be opened to BBFI missionaries. Together we visited the beautiful country of Namibia, next door to Botswana, and heard firsthand about the incredible opportunities and challenges of sending missionaries to reach the lost there. Only a personal visit such as this can open someone's eyes to all that is being done in a missionary's life and work, and all that can be done in a country that desperately needs missionaries. I wish to thank Dr. Konnerup for making the trek to Botswana, and to thank the pastors of the BBFI for making this a part of his ministry to our missionaries. We need the encouragement we receive from these visits. They are worth far more to us than you know!"

Steve Workman



for freedom of religion and the country is a secular state. The largest religious group is the Lutheran Church followed by Roman Catholics. Missionary work during the 1800s drew many Namibians to Christianity. However, for many years now, very few churches continue to preach the

true gospel of Jesus Christ. Many cults have infiltrated the religious culture preaching a prosperity gospel. There is much confusion when it comes to the truth of the gospel.

Namibia would be considered a "Creative Access Nation" due to the governmental restrictions of entering missionaries in recent years. They want to know what you will do to help the people. Ministry is very possible if someone has a creative way to enhance and build up the skills of the people. In fact, there are many opportunities to reach out to the people while evangelizing and starting churches both in the cities and rural countryside.

The BBFI has never had missionaries in Namibia. These people need to hear a clear presentation of what Jesus did for

them on the cross. Perhaps you will be the one to enter the country and pave the way for others to follow. Praise the Lord, one family recently answered the call of God to Namibia during the October 2012 Global Awareness Week at Baptist Bible College. Who else will join them?



Have you heard of Madagascar? The extent of knowledge most people have of this country is from recent animated movies. Madagascar, the fourth-largest island in the world, is situated off the southeastern coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean.

In 1897, the island was colonized by France, from whom they regained their independence in 1960. Since 1992 the nation has officially been governed as a constitutional democracy.

Located near the geographical center of the island is the capital and largest city of Madagascar, Antananarivo, with a population of over four million. The buildings and houses of the city are spread across many hills with fingers of valleys nestled between rice fields.

In 2012, the estimated population of Madagascar was just over 22 million, 90 percent of which live on less than two dollars per day. Approximately 43 percent of the population is under the age of 15. The majority of the people form the Malagasy ethnic group which is a mix from Southeast Asia and East Africa. Malagasy and French are both official languages of the country.

The majority of the population adheres to Christianity or traditional beliefs. In 1818, missionaries from the London Missionary Society began to arrive establishing schools and transcribing the Malagasy language using the Roman alphabet. They translated and printed the first book on the island — the Bible.

Today, many who consider themselves Christians have syncretized their religious beliefs with traditional ones, especially those related to honoring ancestors. They practice the ritual whereby a deceased ancestor's remains may be periodically exhumed and rewrapped in fresh silk shrouds before being replaced in the tomb. The Famadihana is an occasion to celebrate the beloved ancestor's memory, reunite with family and community, and enjoy a festive atmosphere. It is widely believed that by showing respect for one's ancestors in these ways, they may intervene on behalf of the living. Conversely, misfortunes are often attributed to ancestors whose memory or wishes have been neglected. A growing percentage of the people practice Islam and Hinduism.

While many in the U.S.A. only know Madagascar through the animated animals on the screen, God loves and knows them the Malagasy people for whom He sent His Son to die. They aimlessly try to reach Him through animism and ancestral worship. They are enshrouded in darkness and live in fear of the next life, counting on their ancestors to pave the way for them. They need to know that their hope for an eternity with God is only through Jesus who will forgive them of their sins and give their lives true meaning.

The BBFI has never had a missionary in Madagascar. While there are a few Baptist missionaries in the capital city and scattered around the island, in order to reach these millions of people, more missionaries are needed and the opportunities for ministry are endless. Can you imagine making a difference in the lives of these people by sharing the love of God with them? Let's do all we can to lead them in finding the only way to God, reaching them with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



MISSIONARY FINANCES — Paul Hylton

Recently I attended a two-day seminar and round-table for mission organizations, sponsored by Mercer, concerning missionary finances and international taxes. This annual meeting allows mission organizations to stay informed of current issues going on in the world that would impact their organization and their missionaries.

During this meeting there were lectures and discussions on four topics — Challenges in Managing Health Care Costs in Today's World, Missionary COLA Review, Tax Equalization 101, and Social Security Totalization Agreements. Health care for missionaries was a large concern for those



BULGARIA & HUNGARY — Steve Bender

At the invitation of missionaries Steve and Janelle Swann, Jenell and I traveled to Sofia, Bulgaria, where we ministered in Mladost Baptist Church.

Jenell spoke to a group of missionary ladies that gathered on Thursday night for a time of spiritual challenge and encouragement. Then on Saturday morning the ladies gathered for a craft time and then to be challenged as Jenell encouraged them from God's Word.

On Sunday, October 21, we celebrated two events with the church family — the 13th anniversary of the church founded by missionary/pastor Steve Swann and the ordination of Zachary Tsvetkov. Jenell sang and I preached the ordination charge to Zachary and the church body. Zachary will soon be assuming the office of pastor. It was a blessing to be a part of the Swanns' ministry as we witnessed the Great Commission being fulfilled. The Swann family has been ministering in Bulgaria for 17 years and is the only BBFI family in the country. Please join them in prayer that God would burden the hearts of someone to help them.

From Bulgaria we flew to Budapest, Hungary, where missionary Patty Peters greeted us. We then traveled to the city of Szolnok and spent time in the Peters' home. We had a great time of reminiscing with Patty as we toured the city of Szolnok and listened as Patty shared her heart for the people of Hungary. On Wednesday I spent time with Dan and encouraged him as he is going through an intense personal attack and some serious legal battles. That

of us attending the seminar. Also, important up-to-date information was provided on situations affecting cost of living in many countries of the world. Some clarity was given on Cost of Living Adjustment tables (used by the BBFI Mission Office) to provide needed adjustments to missionaries' personal compensation. Tax issues are always a hot topic. One thing that has become a major concern for mission organizations and missionaries relates to agreements signed between the United States and 24 other countries that have a potential of affecting missionaries' Social Security benefits. Missionaries who live and serve in the "agreement" countries

must be mindful of certain requirements of paperwork and certificates to stay on the "right side" of the agreement regulation otherwise they could lose a large portion of their U.S. Social Security benefits.

The two sessions of round-table discussions were very beneficial. It enabled everyone to glean information and how-to tips from the experiences of other mission organizations. We discussed things about new and ongoing tax regulation changes in some countries that could drastically affect missionaries, IRS reporting requirements, and issues concerning taxable benefits. We also discussed some important issues such as retired missionaries and retirement

funding, violence/dangers in many countries and crisis action training, missionary volunteers, visa changes in some countries, and training procedures for missionary candidates.

During the Thursday evening meal each table was alive with conversation as we shared with each other our testimonies in different areas of ministry and shared the joys, burdens, and blessings of working with and serving missionaries. Arriving home Friday night I was a little weary but very thankful for the opportunity to be a part of a meeting that enables me to know more and be able to do more for God's very special servants, our own BBFI missionaries.

evening we met with Bible Baptist Church for their midweek service where Jenell sang and I preached. Dan and Patty have served in Hungary for 18 years and are going through a difficult crisis right now. Please remember them in prayer as they weather this storm.



"There are no words to express my thankfulness for having the Benders visit during the most difficult circumstances in our ministry. Being able to visit around Budapest as well as our time here in Szolnok was such a blessing and took my mind off of the circumstances at the time. I appreciate the fellowship and encouragement that I so needed at the time."

Patty Peters

Bethel Baptist, Warrensburg, MO

Bethel's Global Impact Celebration is the most important scheduled event of the year for our church. Steve Bender's indelible impact on the church was seen through his servanthood and humility in and out of the pulpit. His messages were biblical and Christ-centered, precisely blended with personal illustrations. Steve was truly a blessing to the church! I consider it a blessing to have men like him ministering at the Mission Office."

Richard Ricard



HEATHERRIDGE BAPTIST, TULSA, OK – Steve Bender

Jenell and I were the final guests for the missions month at Heatherridge Baptist Church in Tulsa, OK, on Sunday, November 8. Pastor and Mrs. Carter and the members of Heatherridge were welcoming hosts that not only put great effort into the physical preparation for this conference but also into the spiritual preparation. I spoke to a combined Sunday school and presented faith promise giving — challenging both those already involved and those praying about beginning to get involved at some level.

In the morning worship hour, Jenell sang a mini concert after which I was able to preach the Word of God. At the close of the service, faith promise mission commitment cards were received. It was a privilege to see that God is still working in the hearts of men and women and they are still responding to His call.

EAST TEXAS BBF, WRIGHT CITY, TX – Steve Bender

I was recently invited by Pastor Rohn Boone to speak at the East Texas BBF meeting hosted by First Baptist Church of Wright City, TX.

Having grown up in this area of Texas and knowing most of these men and women, I could speak personally to the theme of “Why I Fellowship” — because of their direct involvement in my life from childhood days at Texoma Baptist Youth Camp, their support to my family as a missionary in Korea, and their encouragement as I now serve in the BBFI Mission Office. I thank God for the men and women of the BBFI for how they helped me personally and for their support of each other as pastors and missionaries in fulfilling the Great Commission.

First Baptist Church of Wright City hosted the East Texas Baptist Bible Fellowship meeting in October 2012, with the goal of entertaining, encouraging, and motivating pastors, missionaries, and those involved in ministry. Steve Bender and Mark Milioni preached, and the spiritual impact was immediate and obvious. Steve’s personal testimony was inspiring and reminded us why we must continue to join together to reach the world for Christ. Several of the missionaries in attendance told me that pastors they had never met before came to them during the meeting and pledged monthly support. We forgot our preferences, hurts, and burdens, and for two days we laughed, cried, sang, shared, praised, preached, and fellowshiped! Our church will reap the benefits of this meeting for many years to come, as will missions, missionaries, and ministries around the world.

Rohn Boone

MISSIONARY COMMUNICATION

Nothing really prepares missionaries for the intensity of the week as their planes land in Southern California where they expect to be surrounded by beautiful beaches, blowing palm trees, and the world-renowned L.A. However, those visions quickly fade as they are picked up and whisked away to the serene setting high above the Southern California valley to Ponderosa Pines Christian Camp, affectionately known as PONDO.

On November 4, 2012, Jenell and I joined Pastor Lewis and Karen McClendon and other workshop coaches, Brian and Rachael Weed, to begin the fourth annual Missionary Communication Workshop. Six couples and three single BBFI missionaries attended MCW for the sole purpose of improving their communication skills in three areas: verbal, non-verbal, and written. They embarked upon a very intense week of



CENTRAL BAPTIST, SUNBURY, OH – Steve Bender

One of my favorite aspects of ministry is being invited to preach on missions in a local church. In October I preached in the missions month at Central Baptist Church where it was evident Pastor Herb

Koonce and his people had been preparing for this month.

The newly remodeled building and missions decorations were beautiful. On Saturday morning the men met to focus on leading their families in global missions. I was encouraged by their heart for souls.

Sunday I challenged Central Baptist to commit to praying consistently for missionaries, to support missionaries financially, and to pray about giving their lives to serve the Lord in foreign missions. Pastor Koonce and the people of Central Baptist Church are definitely making an impact worldwide as they send out missionaries.

Jenell and I will never take for granted the invitations to travel and present God’s Word in mission conferences, mission weekends, and ladies retreats.

What a joy it was to have Steve Bender begin our mission conference at Central Baptist. Being a younger church in a new location, Steve not only preached for us, but he also helped set up our mission displays, met with our men for a men’s mission breakfast, and helped us do anything else we needed done!

This was the first time I have had Steve with us and our congregation was truly blessed by his heart for God and for missions. ... I know our missions giving has been affected in an excellent way by his ministry and we definitely want to have Bro. Bender minister at Central in the future.

Herb Koonce

WORKSHOP, VENTURA, CA – Steve Bender

instruction, preparation, and delivery of their “speeches” to be critiqued and coached to become better communicators of the gospel of Christ. It is a joy to see them make great strides in becoming better speakers, resulting in them being sought by pastors

to visit their churches and present their ministries in a challenging yet encouraging way.

Ventura Baptist Church and several other donors give to make this a free workshop for our missionaries. I would

encourage all BBFI missionaries — veterans, deputation missionaries, and those currently involved in an internship — to make every effort to attend the workshop in 2013. Jenell and I are privileged to be involved in such an endeavor.



Steve and Jenell Bender have helped many missionaries at our Missionary Communication Workshop. As part of the coaching team, Steve teaches one of the classes, and both he and Jenell lead a small group. Missionaries benefit from the Benders' experience as missionaries, their knowledge of worldwide missions from their work in the Mission Office, and from their heart for missionaries. By the end of the week missionaries have learned how to give powerful presentations because of the personal time Steve and Jenell have spent with each one of the missionaries in their small group.

Lewis McClendon

 **JIM & SHARON SMITH IN SPAIN** – By Jack & Joy Loveday

Jim and Sharon Smith landed in Madrid, Spain, on August 18. Missionaries Lavon and Carolyn Waters picked them up at the airport and brought them to Mount Calvary Baptist Youth Camp where we were finishing off our fourth week of camp.

We had invited the Smiths to speak for our fifth week of camp, which was going to be four days of practical teaching for those who were actively ministering in the Baptist churches around Spain. On Sunday, Jim spoke at Iglesia Bautista La Cruz in Guadalajara (near the camp), where the Waters serve. In the evening he preached at Iglesia Bautista Bíblica in Móstoles with Marvin and Becky Robertson.

The plan was for the Smiths to arrive on Monday to help us get things going for the last camp. Little did any of us know that the Smiths would be awakened in the wee hours of the morning by a very excited missionary wife, Carolyn Waters, letting them know she had been called to go to the hospital for a possible kidney transplant.

We know God works all things for

good, for He put Jim and Sharon in the Waters' home to be an encouragement to Lavon during that first week following the transplant. And in the midst of all the excitement, we began our workers camp with an attendance of 79. Our theme was “Meet for the master’s use.” Jim preached each night and also taught one of the men’s practical courses in the mornings. Sharon spoke to the ladies in two sessions. What a blessing to have these dear servants speak, sharing their lives and their years of experience.

On Sunday morning, Bro. Smith spoke at Iglesia Bautista Bíblica of Leganés. Missionaries Bill and Therese Williams started his church, and it is now pastored by Harry Garris. Sunday night Jim was with us, preaching at Iglesia Bautista Bíblica in Madrid.

Although their time in Madrid was short, the Smiths were also

able to touch base with missionary Steve Mowery (Murcia) and missionaries Scott and Norma Edwards (Portugal) during the week of camp, as well as minister in four churches in Madrid. God blessed the workers camp, and we are so thankful to have had Jim and Sharon with us, as they shared from their many years of ministry in Ecuador. Our hearts were encouraged by their visit and we are making plans to do it again soon!



The Great Commission is not just a mandate for the North American church. It is a global command to all those chosen to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ. It is a command that crosses all borders, penetrates all cultures, and calls all of Christ's followers, no matter from where they come, to leave their comfort zones, to run the risk, leave their homelands, and go and preach in the darkest corners of the world. The Latin American church is waking up to this challenge.

Two years ago at the first BBFI Latin American Fellowship meeting, held at The Highlands camp of Mexico, international cooperation in accomplishing the Great Commission began. Inspired by the Mexican Fellowship's example, participants from various Latin American countries realized their personal and ecclesiastical responsibility in the Great Commission. Our Mexican brothers have been involved in global missions for many years, sending missionaries to many different Spanish-speaking countries — Argentina, Bolivia, Guatemala, Panama, and Spain, to name a few.

However, through the work of the Holy Spirit, two years ago Juan Rodriguez* and his family surrendered to go to a place that many have forsaken. Last year they arrived in the Middle East* eager to serve their newly adopted people. God has used this family greatly to inspire other Latin Americans to take missions to the extreme. God saw fit to bring Juan to this year's international Latin American meeting. His presence and teaching were a testimony and challenge that Latin Americans can and must do their part in accomplishing the Great Commission. If he and his family were able to obey the call and go to the uttermost, and if the Mexican fellowship was able to take the commission seriously enough to send them, then all the churches of Latin America can and should follow suit!

In 2012, Bible Baptist Congregation of Bogotá, Colombia, pastored by BBFI Missionary Craig Lingo, hosted the second BBFI Latin American Fellowship Meeting. Over 350 arrived at The Highlands Camp (funded in part by the Rawlings Foundation)

in Chinauta, Colombia. Nearly, 100 pastors, missionaries, and laymen came from all around Central and South America. The attendance of the event demonstrates that the Latin American Fellowship is rising up to the global missions challenge.

Jim Smith, former missionary in Ecuador and now serving at the BBFI Mission Office, was the keynote speaker every night. He challenged our Latin American brothers and sisters to take missions to the extreme — to do whatever it takes to take the gospel to those who still have not heard it. His 30 years of successful experience as a missionary church planter and his command of the Spanish language

were essential in making an impact.

An emphasis was placed on working together as a team and crossing borders to unite in the mission of sending missionaries to the uttermost. Paul Byars, BBFI missionary in the Philippines, preached and led a workshop on what God has been doing through the Filipino churches. His testimony greatly impacted attendees because through the Asian Baptist Clearinghouse that was started several years ago, 120 Filipino families have been sent to many different countries of the world.

Many people left the conference with a renewed vision to reach their cities for Christ and to reproduce their efforts all over the world. Many decided to begin giving to faith promise missions. Others stated they believe God has called them to be missionaries. In the follow-up meeting a month after the event, over 30 people attended to find out what their next step should be, half of which were young people under the age of 18.

We are grateful to several others who helped develop the overall theme of the conference, Extreme Missions: Sharon Smith, Fernando Paez (Ecuador), Edwin Hoagland (Mexico), David Martinez (director of The Highlands Camp, Mexico), Alejandro Velazquez (Mexican BBFI Mission Director), David Liles (Peru), and the team from Colombia.



**Names and exact locations have been changed for protection*

 **ECUADOR: GREAT TO GO HOME!** – Jim Smith

What a blessing to be able to go home from time to time. It had been two years since Sharon and I had been in Ecuador, so we were very happy to be able to spend a few days in the country and city that was our home for 30 years!

The main events in Quito were the 29th anniversary of the church we started and a graduation ceremony at the Bible institute. Both events were emotionally thrilling and spiritually edifying. With an attendance of 450, the church rejoiced in the blessings of the past and we sensed excitement about the prospects of the future. The Bible institute has continued and improved in our absence. Plans are being made to greatly improve the technology and to become more effective in training those whom the Lord is leading into ministry.

TEMPLE BAPTIST, MARSHFIELD, MO – By Josh Keeny

Continuing a long history of mission emphasis, Temple Baptist Church of Marshfield, MO, concluded their 2012 mission conference on December 2. The theme was “Consumed with Compassion.” Jim Smith, Associate Mission Director at the Mission Office, brought a series of messages that stirred hearts and renewed a passion to reach people around the world.

The church was blessed and challenged by the TJ Gritts family and the Kevin Pine family as they communicated their passion and desire. Pastor Tim Auten and the church look forward to prayerfully supporting these new missionaries as they labor for Christ in Spain and England.

Veteran missionaries of 30 years to England, Tom and Gail Gritts, also took part in the conference, reporting back to their sending church and communicating the need for laborers in England. Seeing the great need and the fields white unto harvest, the Temple Baptist Church family worshiped, singing the words, “Take this heart, set it on fire, shining in the dark. I want to tell the world of who You are, all I am is Yours!”

FIRST BAPTIST, MILFORD, DE – By David Perdue

It was our privilege to have James and Sharon Smith minister to us recently. Bro. Smith preached in all of our services on Sunday and was a tremendous blessing to our people. In fact, even though our faith promise mission conference had ended over a month earlier, several more thousand dollars were promised as a result of their visit!

Mrs. Smith taught our Ladies’ Bible Class during the Sunday school hour and was also a blessing. Bro. Smith also encouraged our workers at our annual Workers’ Appreciation Dinner the following evening.

On Tuesday, First Baptist hosted the local pastors’ fellowship, the Delmar Baptist Bible Fellowship. Bro. Smith preached and presented BBFI missions very well. Sharon ministered to the pastors’ wives.

Over the years, we have had three of the associate mission directors preach in our church and each one was a blessing and helpful to our church. I highly recommend this exposure to other churches and local BBFI fellowships.



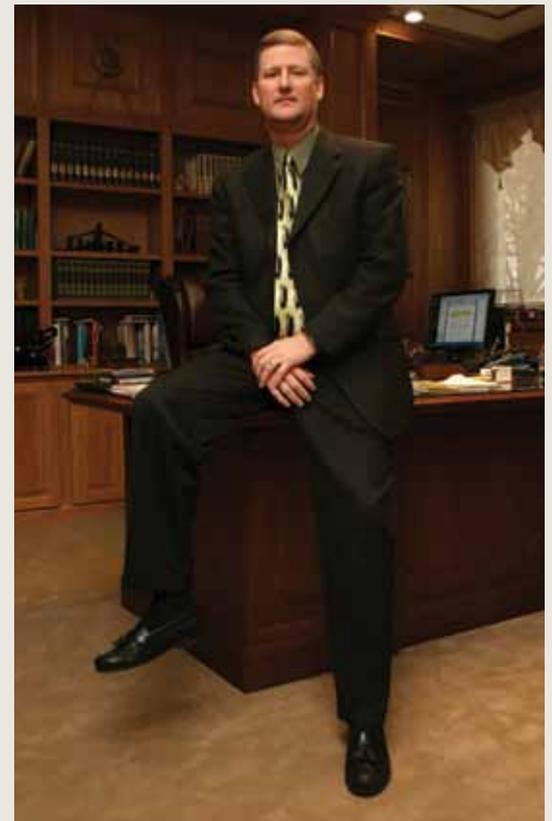
HOW DOES IT WORK? – Jon Konnerup

The churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International have always been a blessing to the Mission Office. We are the World Mission Service Center for the churches and missionaries — basically the bridge between those who send/give and those who go. A unique aspect of the Mission Office is that we do not charge for our services, but rely on monthly support from our churches. Much is accomplished to efficiently and effectively serve over 3,000 U.S. churches and 840 missionaries in 100 countries. Your faithful support not only assists with paying 18 salaries, processing support funds, complying with government regulations, and a host of other day-to-day services, it also enables us to set a foreign travel budget for myself and the associate mission directors.

Because unexpected situations arise on the field that may require the attention of one of the directors, it is difficult to plan and budget for every trip. Several of the directors may be in different countries

at any given time as they deal with these circumstances. Because of the added expenses related to these travel costs, the Mission Office requires the associate directors to turn in any love offerings (honoraria) they receive for speaking in mission conferences or other Fellowship events. These funds are then used to help subsidize their individual foreign travel expenses.

Each director truly appreciates these offerings and understands that by turning them in to the Mission Office, we receive a personal benefit from them as we are enabled to travel internationally to assist our missionaries. We all say, “Thank you for the part you have in caring for our missionaries.” Countless times our missionaries have been encouraged and blessed by a personal visit from one of the directors. Thank you for your monthly support that enables us to budget for trips and for the honoraria that also makes it possible for us to be a blessing to our missionaries.





We Need Renewal

Part three: Psalm 51

- 1 *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*
- 2 *Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*
- 3 *For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.*
- 4 *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*
- 5 *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
- 6 *Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*
- 7 *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*
- 8 *Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.*
- 9 *Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.*
- 10 *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*
- 11 *Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*



These past several months, we have been looking at Psalm 51. Some of the things we have already learned are, first, it is one of seven penitential psalms, that is, the words are those of a person who is sorry for moral or covenantal failure — it is a prayer for forgiveness, and that was in fact the title of our last lesson: “We Need Forgiveness.”

Another thing we learned is that the psalm has a back story, and the back story is identified in the inscription: To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. This was, we said earlier, a blemish on David’s record. David had a lifetime of noble service to God, doing the right thing, acting in an honorable fashion even when being pursued and hunted down by his predecessor Saul. But there is an asterisk in 1 Kings 15:5, where the Bible record is, “David did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.”

And then we looked at the episode in detail, nearly a chapter and a half from 2 Samuel tells us all about what David had done, and how his sin was exposed. And this psalm, according to the inscription, is the result.

In verses 1-6, the psalm begins with a cry



for forgiveness, emphasizing the urgency of the situation with a series of cries for God to do several things: have mercy, blot out, wash, and cleanse — mercy and blotting out for the transgressions, washing for iniquity, and cleansing for David's sin.

One more thing before we get into this lesson. We said that David did not ask for justice. He asked for mercy. Justice, in the case of adultery and murder, would be capital punishment. God in His justice would have been justified (you see the similarity of those words?) to strike David dead. David needed forgiveness, and we need forgiveness.

But, David and we also need renewal. Mercy and forgiveness removes the guilt of sin — renewal replaces the sin with a desire to do right.

Renewal begins with a removal of uncleanness

Verse 6 introduces the section: Sin is forgiven, now it needs to be purged completely from within for a makeover to begin.

6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Hyssop, the hyssop of the Bible, could be taken in one of two ways, and in fact there has been quite a lot of discussion about what this hyssop actually is. A couple of things we do know. First, it had some uses as a medicine. The biblical hyssop, most think, is a plant related to herbs like thyme and oregano, maybe even licorice. So a purging with hyssop would have been like taking a medicine for a cleansing. Most often, though, in the Bible it is related to metaphorical cleansing, usually with blood. It was used in the Passover to apply blood to doorways to identify those who were safe from the death angel. It was used again to sprinkle blood in the cleansing of lepers, and again mixed with the ashes of a red heifer and water to purify someone who had touched a dead person.

All these images would have come up as the phrase, “purge me with hyssop,” was being sung. Israelites, and perhaps even early Christians, would be familiar with all these uses. It speaks of blood, and death, and uncleanness, and the opposites: life and cleansing. In every case, there is the idea of renewal and life. A leper could go back and be with people and commerce. An unclean person could be declared clean and fit to rejoin the village and family. For David, purging with hyssop will make him as white as snow.

I can't read this passage without thinking of

these words:

*“What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
O' precious is the flow,
That makes me white as snow.
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”*

Renewal continues with an intention to please Him

So now we have a clean house, gutted to the frame. What is next? Do we leave it empty? No, David says,

*8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.
10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

David has spent a miserable week or two. In fact, I doubt he has had much peace after what happened to Uriah. Each day, he sees the face of the woman he took by force from her rightful husband. And now, he sees also the face of Nathan his accuser, and in Jerusalem, the city

where God meets with man, and in his palace, and even when he attempts to worship, there is no joy and no gladness. He feels God bearing down on him, breaking his bones.

The evangelist from another generation, A. W. Tozer, once wrote: "It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply." Has God hurt David? I believe in God's sovereignty. I'm not a what-will-be-will-be fatalist, but I don't think God is always anxious about what we might and might not do. And I am certain that he sometimes allows us to do stupid things that he knows will bring us hurt. Could God have prevented David from committing these awful acts?

Peter says of Christ in Acts 2:23: "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." Who is responsible for the death of Jesus? Who is responsible for the pain that David has caused and is now suffering as he composes this psalm? Could God not have just made it so David had to leave Jerusalem, so that he would not be walking around on the palace roof at night, so that he did not take Bathsheba, and so on? But I think David needed to be broken.

"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word." *Psalm 119:67*

"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." *Psalm 119:71*

"I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me." *Psalm 119:75*

"I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word." *Psalm 119:107*

David did not begin to need renewal after Bathsheba. He had begun to need renewal before that, back in those winter days when he was making the decision not to lead his men,

Excerpt from

A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life

By William Law



It may now be reasonably inquired, how it comes to pass, that the lives even of the better sort of people are thus strangely contrary to the principles of Christianity?

But before I give a direct answer to this, I desire it may also be inquired, how it comes to pass that swearing is so common a vice among Christians? It is indeed not yet so common among women, as it is among men. But among men this sin is so common, that perhaps there are more than two in three that are guilty of it through the whole course of their lives.... Now I ask, how comes it, that two in three of the men are guilty of so gross and profane a sin as this is? There is neither ignorance nor human infirmity to plead for it; it is against an express commandment, and the most plain doctrines of our blessed Savior.

Do but now find the reason why the generality of men live in this notorious vice, and then you will have found the reason why the generality even of the better sort of people live so contrary to Christianity.

The reason of common swearing is this; it is because men have not so much as the intention to please God in all their actions. For let a man but have so much piety as to intend to please God in all the actions of his life, as the happiest and best thing in the world, and then he will never swear more. It will be as impossible for him to swear, whilst he feels this intention within himself, as it is impossible for a man that intends to please his Prince, to go up and abuse him to his face.

... It was this general intention (to please God in all things), that made the primitive Christians such eminent instances of piety, and

when he was becoming a typical king, and beginning to think that perhaps he was as great as people were saying. No, David needed to be broken. And now it has happened.

But God does not want him to stay broken. He wants him renewed. And renewal happens after the cleansing, and only after David makes it clear to God (and to himself) that he intends to allow God to fill the void. In other words, he must have an intention to allow God to work. Verse 10 – “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”

How does this happen? Well, if you take something out, you have to put something back

in. And if you want God working in there, you have to intend that to happen. You have to plan for it. It won't just magically happen by itself.

This is the burden of a chapter from a very old book, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, by William Law. Chapter two is titled “An Inquiry into the Reason, Why the Generality of Christians Fall So Far Short of the Holiness and Devotion of Christianity.” In that chapter, Mr. Law uses as an example swearing, that is vulgar and profane speech, among Christians. His observation is that people misuse their tongues because they lack intent to please God. It sounds so simple, almost stupidly so, but this is a very

important part of spiritual discipline. It is not enough to merely will to stop a sinning activity — we must proactively and intentionally build in new habits and practices. I think of Romans 12:1-2 when I think of this aspect of renewal: “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind ...” Read the section of Mr. Law's chapter below to see what I mean.

(Article continued on page 22)

made the goodly fellowship of the saints, and all the glorious army of martyrs and confessors. And if you will here stop, and ask yourselves, why you are not as pious as the primitive Christians were, your own heart will tell you that it is neither through ignorance, nor inability, but purely because you never thoroughly intended it. You observe the same Sunday worship that they did; and you are strict in it, because it is your full intention to be so. ...

... You see two persons: one is regular in public and private prayer, the other is not. Now the reason of this difference is not this, that one has strength and power to observe prayer, and the other has not; but the reason is this, that one intends to please God in the duties of devotion, and the other has no intention about it. Now the case is the same, in the right or wrong use of our time and money. You see one person throwing away his time in sleep and idleness, in visiting and diversions, and his money in the most vain and unreasonable expenses. You see another careful of every day, dividing his hours by rules of reason and religion, and spending all his money in works of charity: now the difference is not owing to this, that one has strength and power to do thus, and the other has not; but it is owing to this, that one intends to please God in the right use of all his time, and all his money, and the other has no intention about it....

They are methods by which we obey the command to “put off” the old person and to “put on” the new person who is in the likeness of Christ. (Colossians 3:9-10; Ephesians 4:22-24) They are “exercises unto godliness.” (1 Timothy 4:7-8)



It's worth it



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

It has been quite a journey. The last six months of 2012 brought incredible change to my life and to the lives of my family, the faculty, staff, and students of BBC, and even their families. It has been a very emotional time, a hard time, a very revealing time, and honestly a rewarding time. Sometimes it seems I am so busy that I miss just taking time to stop and think or look back. But when I do this, one thought comes to mind: It's worth it.

Yes, I am overwhelmed at what we are facing. Yes, I am perplexed at how we are going to make it all happen. Yes, I have concerns. Yes, I have great questions. But I see such potential, hope, and excitement that it drives me to give my all because I know, it's worth it.

I think "Is it worth it?" is a good question to ask when looking at your plans for the new year. Maybe even looking at your schedule for the week, for how you use your money, or even what you watch on television. The reason we don't risk more, try more, do more is because we don't feel it's worth the time, expense, or effort. I tell you from my personal experience — as a parent, as a pastor, as a professor — BBC is worth it.

My wife, in her loving ways, shares verses and thoughts that, while they encourage, they also convict me. Recently on one of "those days" she sent me some verses I needed. This stood out: 2 Corinthians 4:17, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." You know what this means — no matter what we are going through, all the struggles and hard decisions, all the asking, travel, moving, difficult conversations, planning, and praying — it's worth it.

Because it's worth it in 2013 we are going to:

- Recruit students more effectively
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- Respond, listen, and communicate more earnestly
- Reach more for Christ in Springfield and around the world

We all know BBC has been through a lot. We have been the center of controversy, we have been the object of criticism, and we have faced some incredible difficulties. So why are we still here? Why do we continue to exist despite all of our faults and failures? There is just something about BBC that God has used in thousands of lives — degrees have been earned, marriages and lifelong friendships have been made, ministries have been started, untold thousands have been reached for Christ — there is truly a special love in our Fellowship for our beloved BBC. I believe we can all say, "It's worth it."

As a new year gift to you we will be posting a series of messages on prayer. It is our hope that these messages might encourage and help you start your new year off with an emphasis on prayer and seeking God. Please go to: www.gobbcc.edu.

Great



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

Great is a great word! I particularly like it because depending on how you use it you can change — even reverse — its meaning! You just have to love great.

If a meal is great, everybody is happy. But if somebody calls you a great person ... what do they mean? If great is a reference to general persona then smiles all around. But if great means something like great big, well, who among us wants to be great in that sense?

Boston is a great city. Great in populous, great in influence, and for us who live here great even in the sense of desirable. But it is also great as ancient Nineveh was great — with great spiritual issues. Sometimes those challenges seem overwhelming.

The other side of that is to reaffirm just how valuable and needed is a center for ministry education here in this great city. I know this endeavor is a great one — in every sense of the word. But who among us can doubt that our network of churches should have a substantial impact here — an impact in higher education?

It is a great thing what is happening here at Boston Baptist College. I know some talk about Boston as a "regional" school to often imply it is somewhat a lesser enterprise. Truth is, every endeavor is at some level "regional" ... impact logically declines the further away you get from the source. That's why Dr. Fred Donnelson's famous line, "The light that shines farthest shines brightest at home," is so wise. I offer a great observation ... it is a remarkable not regional matter that from Boston, this great center of history, education, and influence, we wage the battle in our times for the cause of Christ.

There is great cost in this. I don't write about it all that often, but you have to know that what we do here is very expensive. Compare real estate prices with where you live. Our dedicated staff probably pays two or three times what many of you pay for the modest homes in which they live. It's a deliberate choice — a great one, as in large in number, significant in impact, difficult to accomplish. Yet, the meaning of what we do here is also great. Who would imagine a thriving Biblically driven education of highest quality in the Athens of America? And who would dream that only the BBFI, among all the conservative Christian movements, can claim such an accomplishment? (I for one think it is okay — I think it is great — that we celebrate great things. Sometimes we talk about our woes too much.)

And who cannot be impressed with the great young men and women from all over the country and the world who are studying in Boston? They laugh in our student commons, they study in our classrooms, they pray under our trees, they sit in our dorm rooms late at night and dream great dreams for God.

These are great times in Boston. I hope you understand exactly what I mean!

A lesson from the election – talk to the city

President Obama is an urbanite. The people who put him in office are urbanites. In my November 2012 Urban Current, “You Live in an Urbanized World”, I told you in so many words who was going to win the election.

Joel C. Rosenberg writes in his November 8, 2012, blog summarizing a digest of red-tinted statistics “One would think that such a dynamic would have helped Romney win ...”

No, Joel, we don’t live in that world anymore, and Henry Graber tells us why: “Why has the question of American cities, which not long ago were the site of massive federal government intervention, nearly to a fault, been entirely absent from political discourse this fall? Largely because urbanites vote so reliably for Democrats that they tend to be ignored by both parties. We’ve scarcely heard the candidates, one of whom lives in Chicago, the other in Boston, even use the word city” (theatlanticcities.com – November 6, 2012).

In the last half of last century, American cities were emptying. Now they are burgeoning. Large minority groups — read black, brown, and the poor — are being pushed into surrounding suburbs and counties changing voting patterns in those regions, even as center cities fill with post-moderns of many backgrounds.

Steve Huntley opined in *Chicago Sun Times* November 9, 2012, Romney “lost for tactical and strategic reasons. The strategic cause of Romney’s defeat was his poor showing with America’s changing demographics. Latinos are of particular concern as they are the fastest growing minority group.”

In an interview with Diane Sawyer, Speaker of the House John Boehner, responding to the observation that his party’s gotten “too old, too white, and too male,” said “Well, Republicans need to learn — how do we speak to all Americans? You know, not just people

who look like us and act like us, but how do we speak to all Americans?” Seriously Mr. Boehner? Finally in 2012 you’re thinking about learning to speak to “all Americans”?

There has been a lot of talk about how to “talk.” Huntley specifically cited Romney’s “harsh immigration rhetoric during the primaries,” were digging him into a deep hole. He went on, “Social issues, especially abortion and contraception remain vital to women. It’s one thing to be pro-life, but quite another to advance the toxic notion of ‘legitimate rape’ or assert that a rape victim becoming pregnant, is God’s will.” In fact, the two senators whose careless language lost their senate seats were in red states, but red states that have big, blue regions called cities.

Lydia De Pillis writes in the *New Republic* November 12, 2012, “The GOP can’t afford to ignore cities anymore.” “Mitt Romney’s failure to understand America’s changing demographics, led to his own undoing.” She continues, Republicans will “need to get over their cultural aversion to the metropolis.” Republicans didn’t see cities as “something to be solved but something to be exploited,” explains Princeton University history professor Kevin Kruse. Kevin Phillips, in 1969, wrote *The Emerging Republican Majority* in which he outlined a “southern strategy” to wrest white people away from the Democrats by demonizing the black inner cities. “If you look at who he’s talking to,” De Pillis writes, “it’s a suburban strategy.” In 1980, Ronald Reagan won the presidency without carrying a single major city.

Okay! Where do I stop and ask, “Does anybody see a parallel?” I care about politics; I care far, far more about the Kingdom of God. White evangelicals abandoned the cities. We are still paying the price. Not politically. Spiritually. Our motto appears to have been, “But seek first the American dream and all its benefits, and if you have any time, money, or love leftover, go to

an urban rescue mission every now and then.” You can almost overlay every political piece I have cited above with an evangelical layer. The stories are so similar.

1. White evangelicals left, neglected, or ignored cities. Mind you, God never left.
2. This exhibited a certain blindness at best, hypocrisy at worst, as the world they prayed to reach moved next door.
3. Mainstream evangelicals moved more into an “us-and-them” view rather than “pitching-their-tent” among them. See John 1:14. The prevalent, cultural homogeneity seen and heard becomes increasingly obvious. The homogeneous Christian clique remains seemingly oblivious.
4. The white evangelical establishment is increasingly isolated from the cultural engines and influences they could have been observing (Acts 17:22), salting, and lighting.
5. They are left to become experts at talking to themselves instead of skilled in speaking to a post-modern mind, leaving churches looking less like and less connected to the world everyone lives in.
6. This becomes a set-up for, among other things, missing or being disconnected from the rising tide of Hispanic presence.

Where matters. The Holy Spirit led Paul to cities to plant truth-bases called churches because he who impacts cities influences the world. Reach the city — touch the world.

That’s how I see it. I could be wrong. But I don’t think so.

by Charles Lyons, Pastor
Armitage Baptist Church,
Chicago, Illinois
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Baptist Bible College hosts pastors for discussion, input

Baptist Bible College hosted a group of about 30 pastors and other interested individuals for a time of questions and updates in conjunction with the annual meeting of the college's trustees in mid-November. The additional meetings were in response to President Mark Milioni's announced agenda to involve and engage pastors in the college's development.

The meeting took place November 15-16 immediately after the three days of annual trustees meetings and was designed, according to Milioni, so he could "hear from those that support and send students." He says, "The leadership of BBC wants to make sure we are working together with pastors and churches to accomplish common goals."

The days were broken up into seven different sessions. The pastors were given short introductions to the topics and then were asked to give their input on topics. The topics were General Concerns, Finances, Connecting with Students and Churches, Values, Fellowship Week, and Best Training Characteristics.

"We received tremendous input and it allowed everyone to know how valuable they are to BBC," said the president, who is still in his first year of office. "I was excited about the

response, the turnout, and the excitement. I love pastors and I do understand their busy schedules as well as their deep concern for BBC. They need to know how much we truly love and appreciate them and their churches. Having them here has given them a new confidence in sending students and in what we are all about."

Milioni intends to have further such meetings, and he and the administration are considering how to have similar input meetings with church staff members as well.

CHESANING, MI

Michigan church "restart" growing

Walt Yeomans began a church "re-start" project in May with a building and nine acres of land with nothing owing. He reports that 14 people have trusted Christ as Savior, and November 11 there were 52 people in attendance. The church is in the rural farming community of Chesaning,

northwest of Flint, with about 1,000 households residing in the town according to the 2010 census. Walt and his wife Susan are 1976 graduates of Baptist Bible College. He says, "It is refreshing to see the Lord do a great work here. Prayer, going door-to-door, and loving people still works."

We Need Renewal

(continued from page 19)

Renewal is complete when God fills you with His Spirit

11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

The fact is, again, God would have been justified in walking away and taking away all the presence of God from David, and yet He will not. You could make the case that David was speaking from ignorance, or that there is a difference between the Old and New Covenants where the Holy Spirit is concerned. But I think that David is just being very honest here in his brokenness. And the irony here is that a haughty unsaved man would never say these things — nor would a carnal man who was wanting to bargain with God, or someone who wanted to pin God down on a theological point by saying, "My theology says you won't leave me, so I feel pretty good about that." No. These are the words of a broken man who has been redeemed by God, who knows that a theology held only in the head is useless when you are dealing with the God who requires truth in the inward parts. David is giving God what he wants: honesty. And he is honestly saying that regardless of how spiritual we may believe we are (and many nonbelievers think of themselves as spiritual), we are spiri-

tual zeroes without the presence of God's Spirit within us: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

Just after Thanksgiving, I visited with BBF Founder John Rawlings in his home near Cincinnati. The old gentleman, nearly 100 years old, is nearing heaven in his journey, and he asked me to communicate a message from him to the preachers of our Fellowship. That message is this: take the example of David, fall on your faces before God, plead with him for renewal through the power of His Holy Spirit, and make

a covenant with Him for the new year to be holy men and spiritual men that we might be concerned for the souls of men and women, and for the condition of our churches, that we place ourselves totally into God's hands and be bold for Him with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Rawlings had some difficulty breathing and speaking, but the fiery energy of the founder's youth is not yet quenched, and his wish is that the Baptist Bible Fellowship finds renewal as we face the middle of our sixth decade of ministry. And I join him in that wish.



BANGOR, ME

Bangor Baptist to build student center

Bangor Baptist Church and Senior Pastor Jerry Mick broke ground with a short ceremony November 11, 2012, and construction began November 26, 2012, for the new Trudy Wilson Thrive Student Center. The final phase of con-



From left: Jerry Mick (Senior Pastor), Glenn Wilson (building to be named after his wife, Trudy Wilson Thrive Center) Pencil Boone (Youth Pastor), and Dale Porter (Porter Construction Company).

struction will be completed late spring or early summer 2013.

The student center is the culmination of a series of emphases on children and student ministries in response to a large number of young families moving into the area around the church. Pastor Mick developed a plan that would provide childcare and training, including extensive remodeling to convert the church's auditorium balcony into a 6,000-square-foot children's center and hiring staff to handle the outreach.

In 2009, Pastor Pencil Boone was added to the church staff and launched Thrive Student Ministries. Each Sunday after the morning worship, the auditorium is set up for

a student service called Refuel, but after three years the church leadership approved a new 8,000-foot building devoted to the teens.

The new student center will feature an open design with a diner on the left side of the building, a game room on the right, with a fireplace and lounge area on the back of the building. The stage will be flanked by two classrooms for Wednesday night and Sunday morning Thrive activities for high school and middle school students. The mostly open floor plan design will create an illusion of space and warmth with the main center part of the building having a "Maine Lodge" feel and the wings giving off a more industrial feel. The building will be equipped with wifi and a courtyard for summer barbeques! Mick says, "With the help of the Glenn Wilson family, the \$850,000 project will be paid for in the next three years."

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SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

Mrs. Maudie Meek awarded doctorate by seminary

Seminario Biblico Bautista (Bible Baptist Seminary) of San Jose, Costa Rica, awarded Mrs. Maudie Meek an honorary doctorate during commencement exercises in November. Mrs. Meek, along with her husband, the late Jeff Meek, founded the seminary in 1971 shortly after the couple went to Costa Rica as Baptist Bible Fellowship missionaries.

The Meeks, approved in 1956, served in Chile before moving to Costa Rica, and the first few years they were the only teachers in the school. However, soon the seminary was educating and training national pastors who continue to serve in Central America.

Randy Roberts, the current head of the seminary, joined the teaching staff in 1992, but in 1998 the school closed due to Jeff Meek's failing health. Roberts received the seminary's charter in 2001, and he reopened in a new location with new teachers and students. Mr. Meek died in 2005.

This past September, in Canton, OH, the seminary was approved as an affiliated institution of education by the BBFI, making it the second such institution to receive such approval. Roberts says, "The school has changed drastically in the last few years, adding many new students and faculty. But one thing has not changed, the mission and vision that Jeff and Maudie started some 41 years ago."

To recognize Mrs. Meek and her faithful service to the ministry in Costa Rica, the seminary's board of directors awarded her an honorary doctorate November 20.



Mrs. Maudie Meek (center) is presented her doctorate by Ramon Perez, who is married to Mrs. Meek's daughter, Annette (holding the flowers). They are flanked by the graduating class of 2012.

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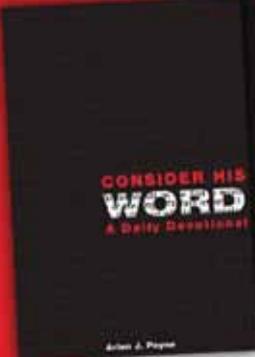
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JACKSON, MS

Bill Fluker, church, celebrate 7 years in Jackson, MS

Pastor Bill Fluker and the members of Grace and Mercy Baptist Church, Jackson, MS, celebrated their seventh church anniversary November 25, 2012. Pastor Fluker, moderator of the Brothers of Cyrene, is the founding pastor of this congregation and their theme for the occasion was, "We've Come This Far By Faith."

Members and visitors gathered in the sanctuary for congregational singing, special music, testimonies, and great preaching. Brothers of Cyrene Pastor Raymond Bell was the special speaker for the celebration. After the service the crowd gathered together for a Thanksgiving meal.



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LOUISVILLE, OH

Group from Louisville Baptist Temple experiences mission needs of the Bahamas

Recently, 25 members from Louisville Baptist Temple, pastored by Michael Harmon, journeyed to the island of New Providence in the Bahamas for a week-long mission trip to work with CHAMPS Missions and BBFI missionaries Rick and Fran Schuessler. On an island normally thought of as paradise, the team quickly learned of both the physical and spiritual needs of those living on the island.

Mission team members ranged in age from 12 to 70, and the team took part in organizing



a vacation Bible school at a local church, led nightly park ministries throughout the island, did door-to-door evangelism, taught classes in a weekly church service, ministered to local pastors, and worked at a camp ministering to Hatian teenagers. With more than 80 souls won for Christ and countless seeds planted, the team returned to Ohio with a rekindled passion to spread the gospel.

Rick and Fran Schuessler started CHAMPS Missions to provide opportunities for individuals or groups to fulfill the Great Commission throughout the Caribbean — Haiti, Curacao, Trinidad, and the Bahamas. There are a variety of ways to serve with trips focused on medical clinics, evangelism, vacation Bible school, or construction. For more information about CHAMPS Missions visit www.Champsmissions.org or email Rick Schuessler at Rick@champsmissions.org.



Editor's Note:

In the November 2012 issue, we ran a missionary letter from Sabrina Shangle and we listed her field as Iceland when it should have been Ireland. Ms. Shangle was approved as a BBFI missionary to Ireland in 1994.

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LUBUMBASHI, CONGO

Congo churches mourn loss of leader

By Mike Randall
Former Baptist Bible Tribune editor

Large crowds mourned the loss of Congo BBF President and Congo Baptist Bible College Vice President Twite Mutombo Seraphin in two services held recently at the group/school facilities in Lubumbashi and the Cindy Coleman Baptist Church in Likasi. Pastor Twite, as he was known, had been released from a hospital several days earlier where he had been treated for a severe case of malaria. He suffered a relapse while teaching at the college and died shortly thereafter. He was 58.

Pastor Twite accepted Christ as a young adult under the ministry of Pastor Tshibambe of the Katuba Baptist Church. Shortly after, he enrolled and excelled in the Bible correspondence school of Twala Duniho, daughter of former BBF missionary Tommy Duniho.

Twite began his ministry as a youth leader in his home church. In 1982, he planted what became the Cindy Coleman Baptist Church of Likasi. Observing his leadership potential, BBFI missionary Elmer Deal encouraged him to participate in the work of the Congo BBF. He accompanied Deal on many trips to visit and minister in Congo churches. Twite became the fellowship's general secretary and representative to the Congo government in 1991. With Deal's assistance, he took general education and seminary courses toward a bachelor's degree, which he completed in 2001. He was near completion of a master's degree when he died.

An effective pastor, preacher, teacher, soul winner, and leader, Twite was a strong unifying influence among the Congo pastors and often was an agent to solve problems and motivate action. He played a key role in establishing a national headquarters for the Congo fellowship in Lubumbashi and establishing the Congo Baptist Bible College. He taught Bible doctrine, Christology, cults, and the book of James at the school, and served as vice president. Deeply committed to evangelism, Twite planted five churches over 30 years of ministry.

Ample references to his life and ministry are found in Elmer Deal's autobiography, *Out of the Mouth of the Lion*. Of Pastor Twite, Deal said, "He was a great pastor and loved to preach and teach the Word of God. He was well known, loved, respected, and had a lot of friends. It is no wonder that his funeral services were similar to that of a government official. I loved him too and thank God to have worked beside him



so many years. His wife, Ilunga, and their seven children also miss him very much. Two sons are in the university working toward degrees. He was a good man, a good father, and a faithful servant of the Lord. Please pray that God will raise up more godly Congolese leaders like Pastor Twite."

CEDAR PARK, TX

SHARON JEAN COURTNEY



Sharon Jean Courtney, wife of long-time BBF pastor Ed Courtney, graduated to her heavenly home November 22, 2012. Born November 19, 1937, in Abilene, TX, she was saved at Trinity

Baptist Church in Abilene under the ministry of Howard Ingram in 1962. As a result of her testimony her husband Ed came to accept Christ on Mother's Day the following year.

Gifted and talented as an artist, she learned to play the piano and was a seamstress; even making most of the clothes for her children and her husband. She also wrote and had several articles published in the *Baptist Bible Tribune*. Mrs. Courtney has battled cancer since 2004.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Ed Courtney, five children, 18 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

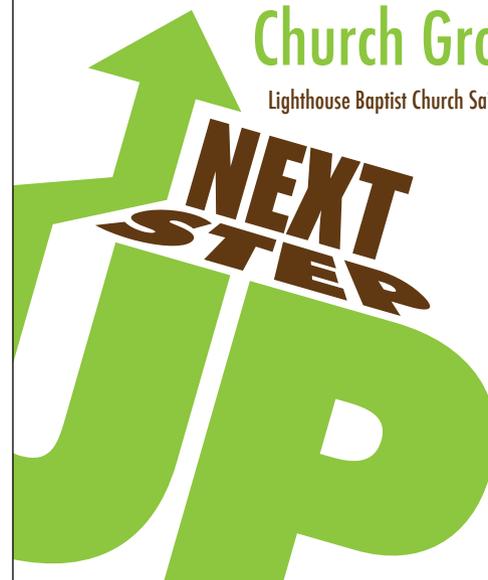
Funeral services were held at Victory Baptist Church, Cedar Park, TX, November 26, 2012.



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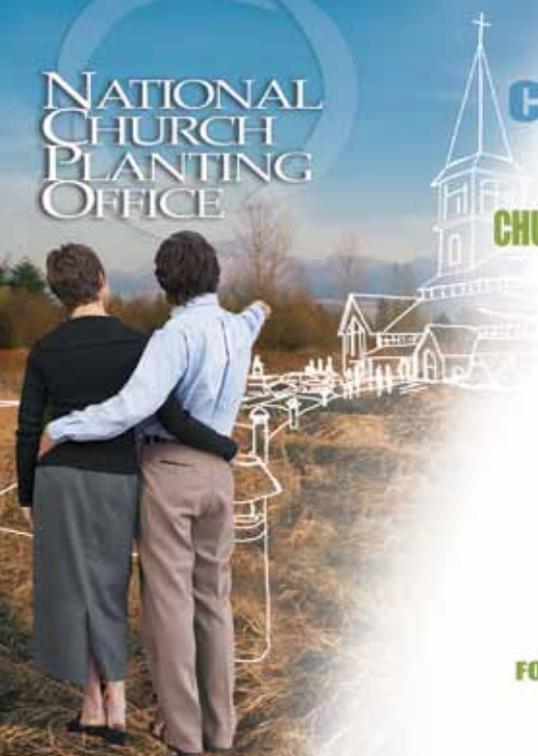
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• **Living Water Baptist Church**, 7752 Ave. F, Mobile AL 36608
251-631-3008 www.lwbcmobile.com
Pastor James Richardson

ALASKA

• **Anchorage Baptist Temple**, 6401 E. Northern Lights, Anchorage, AK 99504, 907/333-6535, www.ancbt.org. *Pastor Jerry Prevo*

ARIZONA

• **Thomas Road Baptist Church**, 5735 W. Thomas Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85031, 623/247-5735. *Pastor Daniel Dennis*

ARKANSAS

• **Berryville Baptist Church**, 112 E. Fancher St., Berryville, AR 72616, Phone: (870) 423-2340, *Pastor Deryl DeShields*

CALIFORNIA

• **Calvary Baptist Church of Oakhurst**, At the corner of Highway 49 and Redbud (location only), 559/641-7984. *Pastor Bob Wilson*

• **The Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle**, 1329 South Hope St., Los Angeles, CA 90015, 213/744-9999. *Pastor Dr. R. L. Hymers, Jr.* sermon manuscripts at www.realconversion.com

• **Ocean View Church**, 2460 Palm Ave., San Diego, CA 92154, 619/424-7870 www.oceanviewchurch.com
Pastor Jim W. Baize

• **Calvary Road Baptist Church**, 319 West Olive Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016, 626/357-2711, www.calvary-roadbaptist.org *Dr. John S. Waldrup*

CONNECTICUT

• **New Testament Baptist Church and School**, 111 Ash St., East Hartford, CT 06108. 860/290-6696 *Pastor Michael Stoddard*

DELAWARE

• **Southside Baptist Church**, 4904 S. DuPont Hwy. (US 13 So.), Dover, DE 19901, 302/697-2411 *Pastor Chris Kondracki*

• **First Baptist Church**, 6062 Old Shawnee Rd., Milford, DE 19963, 302/422-9795 *Pastor David Perdue*

FLORIDA

• **Palm Springs Drive Baptist Church**, 601 Palm Springs Dr., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701, 407/831-0950 *Pastor Scott Carlson*

• **Tabernacle Baptist Church**, 6000 West Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 32808, 407/295-3086 *Pastor Steve Ware*

• **New Testament Baptist Church**, 2050 South Belcher Rd., Largo, FL 33771, 727/536-0481 *Pastor Matt Trill*

• **Trinity Baptist Church**, 800 Hammond Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32221, 904/786-5320 *Pastor Tom Messer*

• **First Coast Baptist Church**, 7587 Blanding Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32244. 904/777-3040 *Pastor Richard Edwards*

• **Harbor Baptist Church**, 428 Tomoka Ave., Ormond Beach, FL 32173, 386/677-3116 *Pastor Ronald L. Todd*

• **Colonial Baptist Church**, 2616 51st Street West, Bradenton, FL 34209, 941/795-3767 *Pastor James Landsberger*

• **Sonshine Baptist Church**, 23105 Veterans Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33954, 941/625-1273 *Pastor William K. Bales*

• **First Baptist Coconut Creek**, formerly Calvary Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 954/422-9611 *Pastor Jerry Williamson*

• **Calvary Baptist Church**, 123 Thunderbird Dr., Sebastian, FL 32958. 772/589-5047
www.calvary-baptistchurch.com
Pastor Clifton Cooley

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newlifebaptistchurch@earthlink.net

• **Suncoast Baptist Church**, 410 Warrington Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33954, 941/625-8550, *Pastor Chip Keller*
www.suncoastbaptistchurch.com

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• **Orlando Baptist Church**, 500 S. Semoran Blvd., Orlando, FL 32807. 407/277-8671, *Pastor David Janney*
www.worldchangingchurch.com

GEORGIA

• **Cornerstone Baptist Church**, 1400 Grayson Hwy., Lawrenceville, GA 30245. 770/338-2677 *Pastor Tim Neal*

• **Central Fellowship Baptist Church and Academy**, 8460 Hawkinsville Rd. Hwy 247), 3 miles north of Robins Air Force Base, Macon GA 31216. 478/781-2981
www.centralfellowship.org
Pastor Rodney Queen

HAWAII

• **Lanakila Baptist Church**, 94-1250 Waipahu St., Waipahu, HI 96797. 808/677-0731 *Pastor Steven C. Wygle*

ILLINOIS

• **Sauk Trail Baptist Temple**, 4411 Sauk Trail, P.O. Box 347, Richton Park, IL 60471. 708/481-1490 *Pastor Bruce Humbert*

IOWA

• **Heartland Baptist Church**, 3504 N. Grand Ave., Ames, IA 50010 515/268-1721,
www.heartlandbaptistames.com *Pastor Randy Abell*

KANSAS

• **Millington Street Baptist Church**, 1304 Millington St., Winfield, KS 67156. 316/221-4700. *Pastor Jeff McCaskill*

• **Friendship Baptist Church**, 2209 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS 67211 316/263-0269, *Pastor Steve Day*

KENTUCKY

• **Florence Baptist Temple**, 1898 Florence Pk., Burlington, KY 41005. 859/586-6090 *Pastor Wayne G. Cox*

• **Oak Hill Baptist Church**, 2135 Oak Hill Rd., Somerset, KY 42501, 606/679-8496 *Pastor Gary Phelps*

MARYLAND

• **Riverdale Baptist Church**, 1177 Largo Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774, 301/249-7000 *Pastor Brian C. Mentzer*

MASSACHUSETTS

• **Temple Baptist Church**, 540 Manly St., West Bridgewater, MA 02379, 508/583-5190
www.templebaptist.info *Pastor Bill Smith*

NEBRASKA

• **Plains Baptist Church**, 2902 Randolph St., Lincoln, NE 68510, 402/435-4760. *Pastor Raymond Smith*

NEW JERSEY

• **Open Bible Baptist Church**, 2625 E. Main St (RT. 49), Millville, NJ 08332. 856/863-0226, Email:gardner07@comcast.net *Pastor Danny Gardner*

NORTH CAROLINA

• **Northside Baptist Church**, 333 Jeremiah Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28262, 704/596-4856 *Pastor Brian Boyles*

• **Mid-Way Baptist Church**, 6910 Fayetteville Rd., Raleigh, NC 27603. 919/772-5864 *Pastor James L. Upchurch*

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Pastor Ralph Sexton, Jr.

• **Central Baptist Church**, 6050 Plain View Hwy., Dunn, NC 28334, 910/892-7914, www.cbcdunn.com
Pastor Tom Wagoner

• **Berean Baptist Church & Academy**, 517 Glensford Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28314, 910/868-5156,
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OHIO

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Pastor Charles Smith

• **Ashland Ave. Baptist Church**, P.O. Box 86, 4255 Ashland Ave., Norwood, OH 45212. 513/531-3626
Pastor Jerry E. Jones

• **First Baptist Church**, 1233 US Rt. 42, Ashland, OH 44805. 419/289-3636
Pastor F. R. "Butch" White

• **Calvary Baptist Church**, 516 W. Sunset Dr., Rittman, OH 44270, 330/925-5506 *Pastor Tim LaBout*

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• **Central Baptist Church**, 2855 Greenhouse Rd., Houston, TX 77084. 281/492-2689 *Pastor Larry Maddox*

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Pastor R.D. Wade

• **First Baptist Church**, Hwy. 64, Wright City, TX 75750, 903/839-2700
www.firstbaptistwrightcity.com *Pastor Rohn M. Boone*

• **North Park Baptist Church**, 4401 Theiss Rd., Humble, TX 77338. 281/821-2258 *Pastor John Gross*

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Talley Rd. Baptist Church, 3120 Talley Rd., San Antonio, TX 78253, 210/862-3108,
www.talleyroadbaptistchurch.org
trbc@satx.rr.com, *Pastor Larry Bruce*

VIRGINIA

• **Faith Baptist Church**, 3768 S. Amherst Hwy., Madison Heights, VA 24572, 434/929-1430 *Pastor Brian Hudson*

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• **Fellowship Baptist Church**, U.S. Rt. 60 E. at Huntington Mall, Barboursville, WV 25504, 304/736-8006 *Pastor Jerry Warren*

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

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I have now been saved twice!

By Chris Moore, BBF Missionary to Kenya

Early one morning, while driving to Maasai Corner, I noticed a large crowd on the side of the road. I slowed to see what was happening and was horrified to see many people beating and kicking a young woman. I drove my truck off the road and into the crowd, honking my horn repeatedly. I jumped out of the truck and pushed my way through the mob that was beating her.

I screamed loudly several times in Swahili, "Please stop! Please do not kill this woman!" Miraculously, they stopped for a moment and turned to me. I asked why they were beating this woman, and they replied that she had stolen someone's phone.

I asked where the phone was and they replied they could not find the phone on her, but she was guilty of stealing it. I asked them if the value of any phone was worth killing this young woman, and their response was, "Yes, we are going to kill her."

"How much did the phone cost?" I asked. They said it cost \$60. I asked again if \$60 justified taking this lady's life and many of them screamed, "Yes, she is a thief, and she must die!"

To the one who appeared to be the leader of the mob, I said I would pay this debt if they would give the woman to me and place her into my truck. Quickly two men grabbed the lady by her hair and dragged her to my truck, and I helped her into the seat. After paying the money to the leader of this mob, I drove back through hundreds of spectators who had now gathered to watch the savage killing that was about to take place.

As I made my way back to the main road, I asked the woman if she needed to go to the hospital. She said, "No." I gave her some towels to wipe the blood from her nose, mouth, and hands. Through her tears, she began to speak to me proclaiming her innocence all the while.

She told me her name was Dorothy, and that she saw the man who stole the phone. She tried to tell the people who were surrounding her, but because she was a stranger to the area they refused to listen or believe her story. Dorothy said she was 23 years old and had an eight-month-old child at home who recently

became ill. This is what led her to the coastal town to find work. She went on to say that over the past few days she was forced to sell her body to strangers for food and a place to sleep.

As Dorothy was telling me her story, she paused for a moment, then looked at me and said something I will never forget. She said, "Today God sent you to save me! You do not know me, and yet you have paid a debt that I could never have paid. Thank you for saving my life!"

As I shed tears with her, I told her I was a Christian, and that Jesus Christ had once saved me from certain death. I told her that it was God's will for me to meet her at this moment because

He has a better plan for her life. I went on to tell her there was no way I could just stand by and watch those people beat her to death, no matter what crime she had committed.

We drove to Maasai Corner to see Pastor Erick Chondo and his wife, Jane. When we arrived, Jane greeted Dorothy in their mother tongue — they were from the same tribe! After dressing her wounds, they gave her some new clothes from the church clothes pantry (hers had been ripped by the crowd) and a good hot meal to eat. She was then able to rest for some hours in the safety of Pastor Erick's home.

When Dorothy awoke, Erick and his wife began witnessing to her. They told Dorothy, "You know, Chris doesn't usually come this way on Thursdays because this is the day that he teaches at the Bible college. But miraculously, God

created an opportunity for Chris to be a good Samaritan and rescue you from that angry mob."

Pastor Erick explained that the God he serves loves her, and that many years ago God sent His son, Jesus, to pay a debt for her by dying on a cross for her sins. There, on the floor of Erick's house, Dorothy cried out to God for forgiveness and asked Him to come into her heart and save her. After an emotional outpouring of gratitude to Pastor Erick and his wife, she looked at them and said, "I have now been saved twice!"



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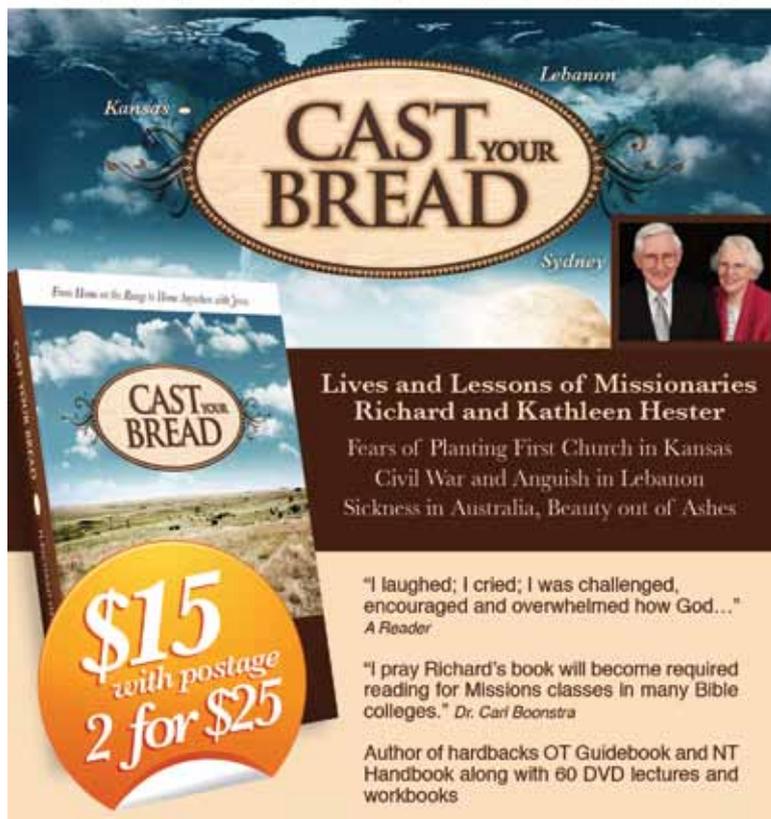
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