

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JULY/AUGUST 2012 | VOL. 62 NO. 11

*B*lessed of the Lord be his land,
FOR THE PRECIOUS THINGS OF HEAVEN, FOR THE DEW, AND ...
for the precious fruits
brought forth by the sun.

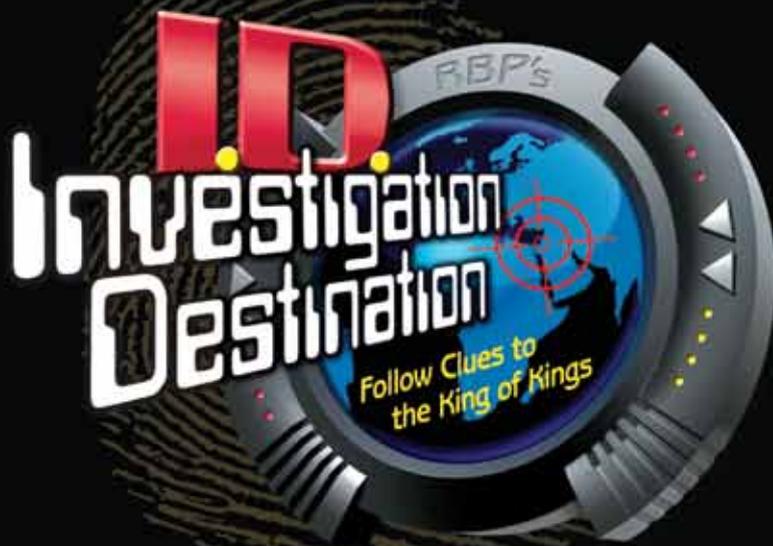
Deut. 33:13-14

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ON THE TABLE

Andy Griffith 1926-2012

by Keith Bassham | Editor

Along with a few million others, I grieved this past month at the passing of Andy Griffith. Not that I idolized him or anything like that. Nor did I consider him a great actor. I think what I was mourning was the knowledge that somehow and in some way Andy Taylor died. That, of course, is not possible since Sheriff Taylor is a fictional person, the same way that Mayberry is a fictional town.

Some cynics would call what I am going through as more along the lines of wistful nostalgia, or in the words of an AP writer, a longing for “the notion of the small town as a manageable, nonthreatening, friendly, finite community ... The black-and-white world that Andy Griffith shaped.”

Well, perhaps. I have recently gone back to wet shaving with an old-fashioned double-edge razor, but there is more to my grief than that. Sheriff Taylor was genuinely decent, and I think Christian, and though he does not address Deity much on screen, when he went to church, he called it “going to preachin.” No half-faith, nominal member of some liturgical church would ever refer to attending worship in those terms.

And the lessons he taught, even when he was caught in a foible or two, were straight out of biblical literature and never got out of style.

One of my favorite Andy Griffith episodes had the townsfolk holding Deputy Barney Fife in ridicule. Frankly, Barney deserved most of what he got, but in this case the hurrah-ing he was getting was over the top. In the meantime, Andy and his girl Helen went abandoned-mine exploring during a picnic. The mine collapsed on the entrance, and Barney, upon discovering the situation, began organizing a rescue. Mayberry citizens were a little skeptical at first, and later after they could not turn up the bodies of Andy and Helen, they began to doubt Barney’s story completely.

In the meantime, Andy had found a back way out of the mine, and he and Helen went back to her place to clean up. Then they discovered what was happening. Barney had the whole town involved in an unnecessary “rescue.” Andy reasoned that if he and Helen revealed themselves to the crowd unhurt and unharmed, Barney would never recover. And so, taking “greater love” to heart, he and Helen go back into the mine the back way, and lie down just in time to see Barney break through the rubble and effect the “rescue.” Outside the mine, he told all the citizens they were fortunate to have a man like Barney in their midst. Andy thought it nothing to appear weak and dependent in order to lift up his friend in the eyes of the people they served together. He had personal capital to spare, and he lent that capital freely. It is a great leadership lesson.

Thank you, Andy, both of you. To Mr. Griffith for giving us Sheriff Taylor, and to Sheriff Taylor for giving us lessons for living.

Keith Bassham

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BBFI NATIONAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2012

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Saved to share



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

King Solomon prayed, “that [God] maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of the people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require” (1 Kings 8:59). What was the cause?

“That the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else” (verse 60).

What a great cause! Is there a cause you can give your whole life to? Surrendering your life to Jesus Christ will give you a passion for Him and for the lost that is indescribable.

One thousand years from now, what will be the only thing that will matter? Will it matter how much money someone makes? Will it matter what kind of car we drive or how big our house is? Will it matter that Oklahoma University won the first ever BCS playoff to be the NCCA National Champions in college football? Will the results of the 2012 Olympics matter? Or how about the elections to be held this fall? One thousand years from now, the only thing that will matter is who is in heaven and who is in hell. And if that is the only thing that will matter then, that should be our concern now.

The real question is: What are we doing of significance today that will matter 1,000 plus years from now?

God did not save our souls just to sit in church. We have a cause. We have been saved to share.

One of the great strengths of the BBFI is our focus on winning souls. We are an evangelistic movement. May it ever be so! Every local church should be full of soul-winners. The faculty, staff, and administration in our colleges should be soul-winners. The students in our colleges should be soul-winners. We should be looking for ways to share the soul-saving, life-saving gospel of Jesus Christ in our communities. We should be teaching it, preaching it, and modeling it!

There is too much work to be done to be petty or selfish or short-sighted. The strong future of the BBFI lies in cooperating together in the great work of world evangelism.

I would like to challenge our Fellowship to designate September as “Saved to Share” month. Let’s share the gospel.

Former Beatle George Harrison said in an interview, “There is nothing more important than finding out what is after death. What happens after we die?” It was Harrison’s faith, the interviewer stated, that got him through his battle with cancer. One of his big solo hits was “My Sweet Lord.” The only problem was that Harrison was not a Christian; his lord was a Hindu god! Although his faith may have helped him through his illness, it will not help him on Judgment Day. This world needs Jesus for that!

Charles Spurgeon once said, “I would sooner bring one sinner to Jesus Christ than unravel all the mysteries of the divine Word, for salvation is the one thing we are to live for.”

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Why are fewer going?



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

This is the third article in a series on why it seems fewer of the younger generation are surrendering to full-time ministry. Following are some additional reasons I believe fewer people are surrendering to serve as missionaries.

8. Confused definitions. Have you heard the saying, everybody’s job is nobody’s job? I believe ideas like this have affected our mission endeavors. Oftentimes, several church ministries are labeled as missions, thus confusing the uniqueness of the role of a full-time missionary and making it more difficult for young people to dedicate themselves to God in service as a missionary. Yes, everyone is to be a witness, but God does uniquely call some to enter the task of bringing in the harvest from foreign fields.

9. Inadequate preparation. There are some who feel that if there is a need, they will just go, try to fit in, and simply share the good news. In their eagerness they cut corners in order to get there. I am thankful doctors and other professionals do not have this mindset, but understand the need to be specially trained for the task ahead of them. Why then should it be any different for missionaries? It is true, God does use people from all walks of life in missionary service, but the need for those who are trained in cross-cultural ministries is a must. It is God’s call and the training they receive will keep them on the field when times get tough. There is a vast difference between going on a short mission trip where you know soon you are headed home, than going to the field for two to four years when you know you have to stick it out and do your best to make a difference. Culture shock is a reality and our people need to have quality training to prepare for this calling.

10. Debt. Debt is one area that keeps many from ever reaching the mission field. Those who know they are called of God and attend college for specialized training leave school with tremendous debt. In order to be a missionary through the BBFI, one’s debt must be minimal. Prospective candidates take a job or two to reduce their debt and end up staying in the secular workforce, never reaching the mission field. Many I have met across the country have shared that God called them, but they didn’t go because they were financially strapped and under the bondage of debt. If more of our churches’ people were out of debt, more could be giving to missions and the deputation process would be shortened for our new missionaries.

Next month, I will conclude this series with a few more reasons why fewer seem to be answering God’s call on their lives. We must all do our part to encourage the younger generation as they consider serving God as a missionary, taking the gospel to places where people won’t have a chance to hear of Jesus unless someone goes to them.

Church planters are the source for new church planters



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

What a joy it was to meet with this new church planter recently and see the work that God is doing with this baby congregation. Join me in praying for David and the people in his community, that the Lord would save many of them and grow this baby church into a mature one.

Nearly nine years ago, God called Pastor Bryan Kelly from his home and career in Connecticut to move to southwestern Pennsylvania to begin casting the vision for church planting through a new church work. Pastor Kelley established Bethel Baptist Church and began reaching out. Little did Pastor Kelley know God began grooming prospects for him even then who would catch the vision.

My brother and I were just teenagers at the time, and came to know the Lord through the ministry of Bethel Baptist Church within the first few weeks. Pastor Kelley then began encouraging everyone to go through discipleship. My brother and I were among the first to commit. As we continued to learn, grow, and serve, God continued to expand our radius, and opportunities to lead. In the fall of 2012, God called my brother, Aaron Douthitt, to plant a church in Masontown, PA. Going into the following year we were all super excited about the new work, and couldn't wait to see how God would continue to move. However, I don't believe any of us could have predicted what would happen next.

In February, another local church, a congregation we knew had been suffering for some time, contacted us asking that we might assume responsibility for their entire property. The property included a church building with several classrooms and fellowship hall, a parsonage, and just under three acres of ground. As much as it broke our hearts to know they were surrendering their work, it would have broken us more to see the grounds used for anything else.



We did some minor remodeling, and re-opened under the new name New Life the first week of June. Since then, we have seen much fruit. This Sunday we will be having our first baptisms — a husband and wife who were saved through the services, and are excited to start discipleship! Please continue to partner with us in prayer, as we look forward to seeing God do His awesome work!

Pastor David Douthitt

Annual BBFI National Election Results

National officers elected to serve the BBFI for terms beginning in September 2012 and extending two years:

President **Linzy Slayden** (2nd term)
 First Vice President **Mike Frazier** (2nd term)
 Second Vice President **Keith Gillming** (2nd term)
 Third Vice President **Dan Lamb** (2nd term)
 Secretary **Bill Carter** (1st term)
 Treasurer **Howard Braymer** (2nd term)

Additional photos from May 2012 Fellowship Meeting





DIGRESSIONS

Digressions incontestably are the sunshine; they are the life, the soul of reading. *-Laurence Sterne*

Abortion strategy discounts Sunday abortions

More and more abortion clinics are offering Sunday abortions, and even discounting those abortions. One pro-life activist says this strategy is in response to the effectiveness of the pro-life movement.

Some of the facilities are offering discounts for women obtaining abortions on Sundays, but Eric Scheidler of the Pro-Life Action League believes he knows the reason why.

“... I think it’s a sign of how effective the pro-life movement has been, especially people of faith, in reaching out to abor-

tion-bound women outside of abortion centers that the abortion clinics are now trying to shift some of their business to Sunday when faithful pro-lifers are most often busy with church services and family activities,” he tells OneNewsNow.

Eric Scheidler (Pro-Life Action League) But Scheidler believes the pro-life movement has become increasingly effective in responding to what he describes as “cynical ploys” by the abortion industry.

“Efforts like the Stand Up for Religious Freedom rallies that I’ve been co-

ordinating and the 40 Days for Life vigils that have been going on now for several years are really helping to build up a very robust activist network,” he explains. “And I think we’re really well prepared to be countering these kinds of moves by the abortion industry and continuing to save babies from abortion.”

Scheidler says regardless of the antics of abortion facilities, none will dampen the efforts of the pro-life community.

Source: Charlie Butts, OneNewsNow 7/11/2012

Atheist files complaint against restaurant over church-bulletin discount

A legal representative is “incensed” that an atheist man has filed a discrimination lawsuit against a family-owned restaurant in Pennsylvania for offering discounts to churchgoers.

Sharon Prudhomme, one of the co-owners of Prudhomme Lost Cajun Kitchen in Columbia, has been in business for nearly 20 years. She offers a 10% discount to customers who bring in a church bulletin on Sundays.

But in his complaint filed with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, atheist John Wolff claims the discount discriminates against him because he does not attend church. The Commission is now investigating the restaurant. Wolff tells the Examiner.com, “In this area in particular, we seem to have so many self-righteous religious people, so it just annoys me.”

That kind of thinking angers Randall Wenger, chief council of the Independence Law Center, which is representing the restaurant owners.

Randall Wenger (ILC) “I think we’re so incensed at this point that God ... religion and particularly Christianity [are] being treated as something toxic and poisonous and undeserving to be in the closet,” Wenger comments. “It’s one thing when government does it — that’s bad enough. But now, for government to be forcing, or trying to force, a private restaurant owner to treat religion as something toxic, I think just has a lot of people upset.”

The restaurant owners have offered various discounts over the years. The church bulletin discount began just over a year ago.

“The agency should have looked at this thing and just thrown it out from the get-go because they’re not supposed to investigate claims that are frivolous,” Wenger asserts. “Here you’ve got somebody who’s basically just saying hey — church attendance is a good thing, and anybody who brings in a church bulletin, we’re going to give a 10% discount on Sundays.”

Source: Russ Jones, OneNewsNow 7/10/2012

No clear Christian leader in U.S.

A Barna Group study illustrates that no single Christian leader captures the attention of the nation’s population. When asked to identify the single most influential Christian leader in the U.S. today, two out of every five Americans (41%) are unable to think of anyone who would meet that description.

Billy Graham is the name mentioned most often in response to the unaided survey question (a measure often described as “top-of-mind” awareness). One out of five Americans names the nonagenarian evangelist, with 19% of adult residents identifying Mr. Graham as the nation’s most influential Christian leader.

Half as many adults (9%) believe “the Pope” or Pope Benedict to be the most significant Christian leader in the nation. Nearly the same proportion (8%) considers President Barack Obama to hold this prominent role.

One out of 20 U.S. adults (5%) think that Joel Osteen is the most significant Christian leader, more than double the proportion that name Charles Stanley (2%) or Joyce Meyer (2%). A variety of individuals — including pastors, ministry leaders, authors, politicians, and other public figures — are considered the highest ranking Christian leaders by 1% of U.S. adults each. These include: Franklin Graham, George W. Bush, T.D. Jakes, Oprah Winfrey, James Dobson, and Maya Angelou. All other individuals are named by less than 1% of Americans.

Source: www.barna.org 11/21/11

In the **NEWS** of the **WEEK**

BY R. O. WOODWORTH

God's blessing upon our Fellowship is not confined to the Baptist Bible College or our missionary endeavors—many, if not all the churches throughout our entire Fellowship, are sharing in the blessings to a lesser or greater degree. The Central Baptist church in Denton, Texas, in which I preached at all services last Sunday has never, in my experience, been in a more prosperous state. Never have I enjoyed such sweet fellowship—such refreshing services—such an abundance of blessing—never, in short, have I been made more conscious of God's presence in a meeting. Dr. **Loys Vess** the pastor has thrown himself, heart and soul, into this work, and a revival church is, so to speak, the result of a mighty ministry. "Truly the Lord hath done great things" for Bro. Vess, "whereof we are glad."

Sunday morning and evening when I looked upon no fewer than approximately 500 people gathered together in their beautiful new auditorium in the city of Denton on such a extremely hot day and for such a purpose, my soul was made to rejoice and to exclaim in fullness of joy, "What hath God wrought?" Yes, and I did rejoice, and the more so when I heard Bro. Vess who supplied for Bro. **Frank Fort**, pastor Berean Baptist church, Houston, Texas, tell me it was to him the happiest day he had spent in a long time. I had full proof of that statement, for I could see it in his face, for he was rejoicing over the 18 additions, 12 of whom came for salvation and baptism.

On Monday morning I had the pleasure of appearing on his radio broadcast with him and I heard him tell of a great revival he is planning to hold under a tent in one of the sections of the city, and that Bro. **Wendell Zimmerman**, pastor Kansas City Baptist Temple, Kansas City, would bring his first message as the evangelist, Wednesday night. I was also pleased to hear Bro. Vess announce a fellowship meeting to be held in his church Thursday, July 31. It cannot fail to cheer the hearts and stir the souls of our entire membership, to know that our old time friends like Bro. **Emmet Duckett** and **Jack York** and **Arthur Williams** were planning to be there to enjoy the fellowship.

The blessing, too, has come upon our students of the Baptist Bible College. My position brings me much in contact with our students, especially with our graduates, and during the past few weeks I have seen God undertaking in their behalf in a mighty way. Bro. **Clyde Boyd** who with the help of Bro. **Loys Vess** recently organized a fundamental testimony in Louisville, Texas, testified that he is experiencing a real revival in his new work.

July 5, Bro. **Ted Culver** was called unanimously to succeed Bro. **Mack McCoy** as pastor of Ridgmere Baptist church, Amarillo, Texas. Bro. McCoy organized the church a few years ago. Bro. Culver will conduct his first service as pastor of the church Sunday, Aug. 30. The same Sunday, Bro. **Robert Loy**, another graduate of the Baptist Bible College, received a call from a fine church in Okmulgee, Okla., recently organized by Bro. **Clifford Clark**, pastor of Tulsa Baptist Temple, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

An interesting report comes from one of the members of the church at Salina, Kas., formerly

pastored by Bro. **J. W. Anderson**, telling us that the church recently extended an invitation to Bro. **Bud Worthington**, another beloved graduate of the Baptist Bible College to succeed Bro. Anderson, an invitation which Bro. Worthington felt led of God to accept. He is now on the field with his family and reports the Lord's blessings are evident on every phase of the work.

Many more of our students are carrying on blessed works in other cities throughout our country. Through their preaching and teaching the Holy Spirit is quickening souls that were never touched before. It is a deepening of the Lord's power. Our enemies have doubted that our work would grow, but God's people are rejoicing that He is "making ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Bro. **J. C. Brown**, pastor Grace Baptist church, Oklahoma City, Okla., sent out last week another shipment of tracts to the Philippine Islands. Included in the shipment were many Bibles for those who had been converted and were requesting them. What joy in many hearts and homes has been caused by the changes effected through the ministry of these tracts. And let us not forget the joy in Heaven over sinners repenting. Bro. Brown has an opportunity now to extend this Missionary work through the means of the tape recorder. He has been invited to broadcast the Gospel over one of the local radio stations in Manila.

Every Sunday there has been abundant blessing upon the services of the Castleberry Baptist church, Ft. Worth, Texas, as we have been reporting; but last Sunday the Holy Spirit seemed to come in special power upon the pastor, Bro. **David Cavin**, and upon the people. The old Devil got a good beating. A Sunday school attendance of 499 rejoiced the hearts of the workers. In the morning service the ushers were kept very busy bringing in extra chairs to seat the crowds, a wounded and weeping soul came to the altar in repentance and faith. Six united with the church. Our readers will be pleased to learn that Bro. **Charles Johnson**, Baptist Bible College graduate, was called as assistant pastor. Bro. Johnson has already moved on the field with his family.

A great host of people in Eklund, Mo., have felt it to be a cause of thanksgiving that God put it into

the heart of Bro. **Don Brown**, pastor of Fundamental Baptist church, Buffalo, Mo., to come there to conduct a tent revival. There is another clause of unbounded thanksgiving, that God has put it into the hearts of the people of Eklund to receive Don so cordially and to support his meeting so faithfully. Never, I suppose, in the life of any now living in that community was there such a revival held and such an universal approval and reception of any meeting of this kind. Bro. Brown is receiving more requests than he is able to answer. He is scheduled to conduct revivals in Crane, Mo., Aug. 3 through 16, in Rose Hill, Mo., August 17 through 30, and in Marshfield, Mo., Sept. 1 to 15.

The work of God goes on in the Tabernacle Baptist church, Roswell, N. M., beyond the utmost calculations though not the lawful and bounding hopes of the pastor, Bro. **Howard Ingram** and his people. Scenes of the most wonderful, rapid and sudden conversions through the summer have occurred, and a wide anxiety is still in the people's mind. The attendance through the summer has been exceptionally good, especially last Sunday when 327 crowded into the limited Sunday school space, one was saved and two were rededicated.

Climaxing a two week's meeting held jointly by Dr. **Loys Vess** and Bro. **Paul Morgan**, missionary for the Texas State Fellowship, new Fundamental Baptist church was organized in Dallas, July 25. The church will be identified as the Fellowship Baptist church, and will be under the care of Bro. Paul Morgan until a permanent pastor can be secured. Negotiations with another denomination for a fine building near the present location of the tent, in which they are meeting at present, is being carried on by Vess and Morgan. The building is fully equipped and easily accessible from all parts of the city.

I want to give prominence to the revival meeting being conducted by Dr. **Victor Sears** in Springfield, Mo., under the auspices of the High Street Baptist church. Dr. **W. E. Dowell**, pastor, opened the meeting Sunday night, July 27, in the big tent on Springfield's southside. Dr. Sears is the pastor of the Twin Cities Baptist Tabernacle, Mishawaka, Indiana. Already large crowds have been attracted and the Holy Spirit has manifested His presence in the salvation of precious souls and in the consecration of Christian lives on the altar of service.

California moves to pass first state ban of gay conversion therapy

The California senate has voted to ban reparative therapy for gay and lesbian teens. The bill, which interestingly enough has been opposed by both the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality and the California Psychological Association (though for very different reasons), now goes on to the state assembly.

Many Christian therapists have abandoned reparative therapy amid broad changes in the ex-gay movement, as well as how Willow Creek Community Church and other groups have ended partnerships with Exodus International.

Practitioners of reparative therapy in the United Kingdom have recently lost their licenses over the disputed practice.

Source: blog.christianitytoday.com, Jeremy Weber

Civil War chaplains

3,694 chaplains were commissioned by the two armies either as regimental chaplains or post/hospital chaplains

4 chaplains received the Medal of Honor; three were awarded for ministering to the wounded while under fire and one for leading a counterattack during the Battle of Atlanta

2,154 Union Army regimental chaplains by denomination

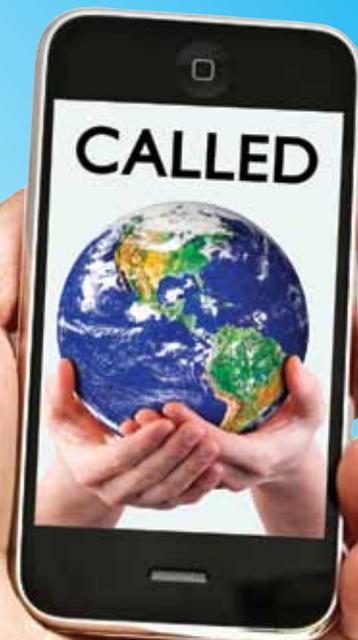
- 38% Methodist**
- 17% Presbyterian**
- 12% Baptist**
- 10% Episcopal**
- 9% Congregational**
- 4% Unitarian/Universalist**
- 3% Roman Catholic**
- 1% Other**

1,308 Confederate Army regimental chaplains by denomination

- 47% Methodist**
- 18% Presbyterian**
- 16% Baptist**
- 10% Episcopal**
- 3% Roman Catholic**
- 1% Other**

Source: civilwartalk.com

Called to Witness



BBFI NATIONAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2012



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DR. MIKE & RACHEL FRAZIER

Dear Friends,

We invite you to Canton, Ohio, for the September Meeting of the Baptist Bible Fellowship!

Our church family has been praying, working and planning for a great meeting in September!

You will find tremendous preaching, uplifting music, as well as some of the greatest fellowship around! Our staff is working hard to make this meeting a memorable one!

We hope to see you in September!

CANTON BAPTIST TEMPLE
CANTON, OH

SPEAKERS



Larry Upchurch
Midway Baptist Church
Raleigh, NC



Nathan Smith
Heritage Baptist Church
Lynchburg, VA



Mel Brown
Edgewood Baptist Church
Rock Island, IL



John Reilly
Beacon Baptist Church
Taylor, MI



Archie Emerson
Ocean State Baptist Church
Providence, RI



Linzy Slayden
Friendship Baptist Church
Owasso, OK



Russell Johnson
International Bible Baptist
Church Miami, FL



Bruce Garner
Cross Point Baptist Church
Huntington Beach, CA



David Gibbs
Christian Law Association
Seminole, FL



David Kratochvil
Nicaragua



James Smith
Japan



LODGING

Limited accommodations available at Camp CHOF. Call Jenny Bennett for availability @ 330.477.6267 x114. Mention Canton Baptist Temple to the hotel you reserve to receive a special rate. Rates are good until August 17, 2012.

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Trip includes: Amish-style meal at Amish Door Restaurant; Guided Tour of Amish Country; Stops at: Lehman's Hardware, Heini's Cheese Chalet, Berlin Climate-controlled Flea Market, Wendell August Forge, and much, much more!

THE STATE CHAIRMAN'S LUNCHEON - WEDNESDAY

No cost, but sign up is required to attend



An untold story from the Civil War

There is a lot we don't know about prayer and other things

By Keith Bassham

One hundred and fifty years ago, in the summer of 1862, our nation was in the throes of civil war. Whether considered to be The Great Rebellion (this was the sentiment in the North) or The War Between The States (in the South), it was the most significant time for the United States since the Revolution, and in many ways it defined the political, psychological, sociological, and religious future of the nation.

As President Abraham Lincoln would state so poetically in 1863, the nation was a mere “four score and seven years” old, very young as empires and nations go. The Capitol was still unfinished and dome-less, the transcontinental railroad was still mostly just “proposed” (Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act July 1, 1862), and the income tax was still a bit in the future (just barely, though ... in 1863 the president and Congress created the office of Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the forerunner to the modern IRS, and enacted a temporary wartime tax. It was allowed to expire in 1872, but the income tax was resurrected and made constitutional

by the 16th Amendment in 1913 ... excuse the digression, but the recent Roberts decision on the health care issue made me look at some old notes on the history of income taxation).

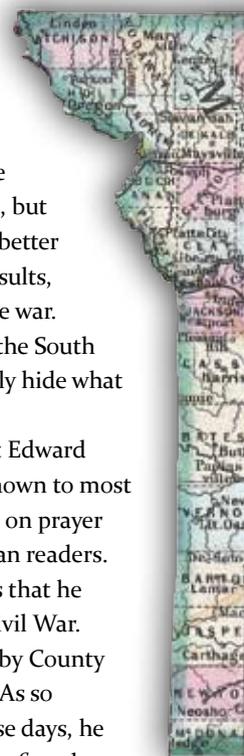
On the other hand, the Civil War was not that long ago in terms of real history. Consider that my earliest memory of an American president was Dwight Eisenhower, who I saw on television in my preschool years. His vice president was Richard Nixon (who was president during my college years), and his name will always be linked with Alger Hiss, who clerked for Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. Holmes, as a young lieutenant colonel, in an action at Fort Stevens near the Capitol in July 1864, is supposed to have yelled to President Lincoln, “Get down, you fool,” when the tall man in his top hat became an easy Confederate target. And in fact, to make the last few links to the Revolution, you can note that Holmes had been mentored by John Quincy Adams, the son of Founding Father, John Adams. We are probably much closer to our nation’s history than we often think, and it makes our ignorance of that

history more the pity.

I believed it necessary to at least acknowledge the war at some point during the sesquicentennial, but I decided I will allow those much better equipped to discuss the causes, results, battles, or what have you about the war. Besides, I tend to take the side of the South (it’s complicated), and you can only hide what is in your baggage so long.

And so, I want to write about Edward McKendree Bounds, or as he is known to most of us, E. M. Bounds, whose books on prayer are well known among all Christian readers. What most people do not know is that he served as a chaplain during the Civil War.

Mr. Bounds was born in Shelby County in northeastern Missouri in 1835. As so many future preachers did in those days, he prepared himself to practice law at first, but not before giving in to a little gold fever in California. Alas, he and his brother found no riches, and so he returned to Missouri where he was admitted to the bar as one of the youngest lawyers in the state.



The Great Awakening of 1857-1858 had reached the Midwest, and Edward responded to God's call. He was ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Church South and began riding an evangelistic circuit.

As a border state, the lines between the Federals and the Confederates in Missouri shifted often, and civilians were caught in the crossfire. In 1861, while pastoring in Brunswick, MO, Edward was suspected of southern sympathy (this would have been assumed, given that his denomination had split from Northern Methodists in 1845, roughly the same time as the Baptists). Biographers differ on the exact order of events over the next several months. One believes Bounds protested the Union occupation of a church building. Others say he believed the Union's demands to sign an oath of allegiance to be unwarranted, and so he refused to sign. Whatever the reason, along with 249 others, he was arrested and imprisoned. A year and half later, he was ordered out of the state and taken to Arkansas to a prisoner exchange camp. In February 1863,

he joined the Confederate Army and served the remainder of the war as a chaplain.

Bounds served bravely alongside his men, even suffering a head injury from a saber in a bloody battle at Franklin, TN, in November 1864. Captured by Union troops on the field, he once again found himself a prisoner of war. He ministered to the wounded and dying in the prison as best he could, and in June 1865, he pledged allegiance once again to the United States of America.

After his release, he was drawn back to Franklin, where he had preached during the war. He became pastor of the Methodist Church, which he found "in a wretched state," and after taking to himself a number of men who joined in extended times of prayer, the church experienced a revival and an outpouring of the Spirit of God as large numbers of people were saved.

He went on to pastor other churches and to do evangelistic work, and even ventured

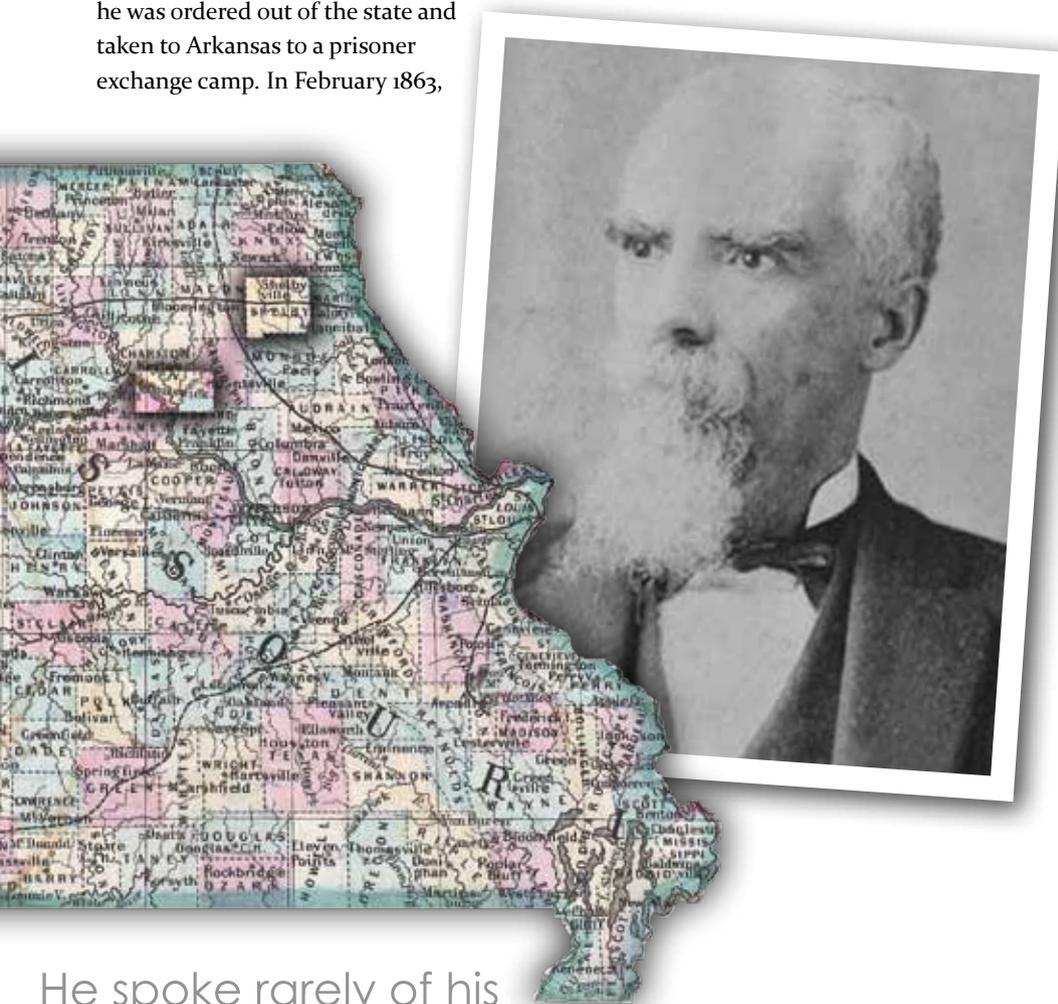
into writing. He assisted in editing *The St. Louis Advocate* in 1883, and later the denomination-wide *Christian Advocate* with offices in Nashville. However, when the AME Church South discouraged churches from using evangelists, he felt he had to resign the denominational position.

He moved to Georgia, where he gave himself to prayer and to books about prayer, only two of which had been published by the time of his death in 1913 at the age of 77. He spoke rarely of his war experiences, but those times and the personal tragedies he experienced afterward (I have no room for details here) must have shaped his activities the last 15 years or so of his life.

We can forgive ourselves if we have used and referred to Mr. Bounds's materials without full knowledge of his experience. Sometimes, though, just as we are ignorant of important pieces of our history, we sometimes leave legacies we know nothing of this side of the grave. Baptist journalist Art Toalston reports the effect Bounds had on another Methodist leader, probably unknown to Bounds himself.

"When I was only a lad," the former president of Kentucky's Asbury College, B.F. Haynes, wrote some 45 years later, "there came to Franklin, Tennessee, where we lived, as pastor of our church, the Reverend E.M. Bounds whose preaching and life did more to mold and settle my character and experience than any pastor I ever had. His preaching profoundly impressed me, his prayers linger until today, as one of the holiest and sweetest memories of my life, his reading of hymns was simply inimitable. Nothing was sweeter, tenderer, or more enrapturing to my young heart and mind than the impressive, unctuous reading of the old Wesleyan hymns by this young pastor ... in a spirit, tone and manner that simply poured life, hope, peace and holy longings into my boyish heart."

After his death, friends and admirers of the old prayer warrior gathered his documents and published six more volumes on prayer based on those manuscripts. Hardly a preacher I know teaches or preaches on the subject without quoting E. M. Bounds, a great Civil War chaplain.



He spoke rarely of his war experiences, but those times ... must have shaped his activities the last 15 years or so of his life.



An excerpt from *The Weapon of Prayer* by E. M. Bounds

“Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity.”

Isaiah 58: 9

“Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”

Isaiah 58: 14

It must never be forgotten that Almighty God rules this world. He is not an absentee God. His hand is ever on the throttle of human affairs. He is everywhere present in the concerns of time. “His eyes behold, his eyelids try the children of men.” He rules the world just as He rules the Church by prayer. This lesson needs to be emphasized, iterated and reiterated in the ears of men of modern times and brought to bear with cumulative force on the consciences of this generation whose eyes have no vision for the eternal things, whose ears are deaf toward God.

Nothing is more important to God than prayer in dealing with mankind. But it is likewise all-important to man to pray. Failure to pray is failure along the whole line of life. It is failure of duty, service, and spiritual progress. God must help man by prayer. He who does not pray, therefore, robs himself of God’s help and places God where He cannot help man.

Man must pray to God if love for God is to exist. Faith and hope, aid patience and all the strong, beautiful, vital forces of piety are withered and dead in a prayerless life. The life of the individual believer, his personal salvation, and personal Christian graces have their being, bloom and fruitage in prayer.

All this and much more can be said as to the necessity of prayer to the being, and culture of piety in the individual. But prayer has a larger sphere, a more obligated duty, a loftier inspiration. Prayer concerns God, whose purposes and plans are conditioned on prayer. His will and His glory are bound up in praying. The days of God’s splendour and renown have always been the great days of prayer. God’s great movements in this world have been conditioned on, continued and fashioned by prayer. God has put Himself in these great movements just as men have prayed. Present, prevailing, conspicuous and mastering prayer has always brought God to be present. The real and obvious test of a genuine work of God is the prevalence of the spirit of prayer. God’s mightiest forces surcharge and impregnate a movement when prayer’s mightiest forces are there. God’s movement to bring Israel from Egyptian bondage had its inception in prayer. Thus early did God and the human race put the fact of prayer as one of the granite forces upon which His world movements were to be based. Hannah’s petition for a son began a great prayer movement for God in Israel. Praying women, whose prayers like those of Hannah, can give to the cause of God men like Samuel,

do more for the Church and the world than all the politicians on earth. Men born of prayer are the saviours of the state, and men saturated with prayer give life and impetus to the Church. Under God they are saviours and helpers of both Church and state.

We must believe that the divine record of the facts about prayer and God are given in order that we might be constantly reminded of Him, and be ever refreshed by the faith that God holds His Church for the entire world, and that God’s purpose will be fulfilled. His plans concerning the Church will most assuredly and inevitably be carried out. That record of God has been given without doubt that we may be deeply impressed that the prayers of God’s saints are a great factor, a supreme factor, in carrying forward God’s work, with facility and in time. When the Church is in the condition of prayer God’s cause always flourishes and His kingdom on earth always triumphs. When the Church fails to pray, God’s cause decays and evil of every kind prevails. In other words, God works through the prayers of His people, and when they fail Him at this point, decline and deadness ensue. It is according to the divine plans that spiritual prosperity comes through the prayer-channel. Praying saints are God’s agents for carrying on His saving and providential work on earth. If His agents fail Him, neglecting to pray, then His work fails. Praying agents of the Most High are always forerunners of spiritual prosperity. The men of the Church of all ages who have held the Church for God have had in affluent fullness

in the daily administration of the Church's benefactions, that the twelve called the disciples together, and told them to look out for seven men, full of the Holy Ghost, and wisdom, who they would appoint over that benevolent work, adding this important statement, "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word." They surely realized that the success of the Word and the progress of the Church were dependent in a preeminent sense upon their "giving themselves to prayer." God could effectively work through them in proportion as they gave themselves fully to prayer. The Apostles were as dependent upon prayer as other folks. Sacred work — Church activities — may so engage and absorb us as to hinder praying, and when this is the case, evil results always follow. It is better to let the work go by default than to let the praying go by neglect. Whatever affects the intensity of our praying affects the value of our work. "Too busy to pray" is not only the keynote to backsliding, but it mars even the work done. Nothing is well done without prayer for the simple reason that it leaves God out of the account. It is so easy to be seduced by the good to the neglect of the best, until both the good and the best perish.

in prayer."

The Apostles were under the law of prayer, which law recognizes God as God, and depends upon Him to do for them what He would not do without prayer. They were under the necessity of prayer, just as all believers are, in every age and in every clime. They had to be devoted to prayer in order to make their ministry of the Word efficient. The business of preaching is worth very little without it be in direct partnership with the business of praying. Apostolic preaching cannot be carried on unless there be apostolic praying. Alas, that this plain truth has been so easily forgotten by those who minister in holy things! Without in any way passing a criticism on the ministry, we feel it to be high time that somebody or other declared to its members that effective preaching is conditioned on effective praying. The preaching which is most successful is that ministry which has much of prayer in it. Perhaps one might go so far as to say that it is the only kind that is successful. God can mightily use the preacher who prays. He is God's chosen messenger for good, whom the Holy Spirit delights to honour, God's efficient agent in saving men and in edifying the saints.

and richness the ministry of prayer. The rulers of the Church which the Scriptures reveal have had preeminence in prayer. Eminent, they may have been, in culture, in intellect and in all the natural or human forces; or they may have been lowly in physical attainments and native gifts; yet in each case prayer was the all-potent force in the rulership of the Church. And this was so because God was with and in what they did, for prayer always carries us back to God. It recognizes God and brings God into the world to work and save and bless. The most efficient agents in disseminating the knowledge of God, in prosecuting His work upon the earth, and in standing as breakwater against the billows of evil, have been praying Church leaders. God depends upon them, employs them and blesses them.

Prayer cannot be retired as a secondary force in this world. To do so is to retire God from the movement. It is to make God secondary. The prayer ministry is an all-engaging force. It must be so, to be a force at all. Prayer is the sense of God's need and the call for God's help to supply that need. The estimate and place of prayer is the estimate and place of God. To give prayer the secondary place is to make God secondary in life's affairs. To substitute other forces for prayer, retires God and materializes the whole movement. Prayer is an absolute necessity to the proper carrying on of God's work. God has made it so. This must have been the principal reason why in the early Church, when the complaint that the widows of certain believers had been neglected

How easily may men, even leaders in Zion, be led by the insidious wiles of Satan to cut short our praying in the interests of the work! How easy to neglect prayer or abbreviate our praying simply by the plea that we have Church work on our hands. Satan has effectively disarmed us when he can keep us too busy doing things to stop and pray. "Give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the word." The Revised Version has it, "We will continue steadfastly in prayer." The implication of the word used here means to be strong, steadfast, to be devoted to, to keep at it with constant care, to make a business out of it. We find the same word in Colossians 4:12, and in Romans 12:12, which is translated, "Continuing instant

In Acts 6:1-8 we have the record of how, long ago, the Apostles felt that they were losing — had lost — in apostolic power because they did not have relief from certain duties in order that they might give themselves more to prayer. So they called a halt because they discovered to their regret that they were too deficient in praying. Doubtless they kept up the form of praying, but it was seriously defective in intensity and in point of the amount of time given to it. Their minds were too much preoccupied with the finances of the Church.

Just as in this day we find in many places both laymen and ministers are so busily engaged in "serving tables," that they are glaringly deficient in praying. In fact in present-

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day Church affairs men are looked upon as religious because they give largely of their money to the Church, and men are chosen for official positions not because they are men of prayer, but because they have the financial ability to run Church finances and to get money for the Church.

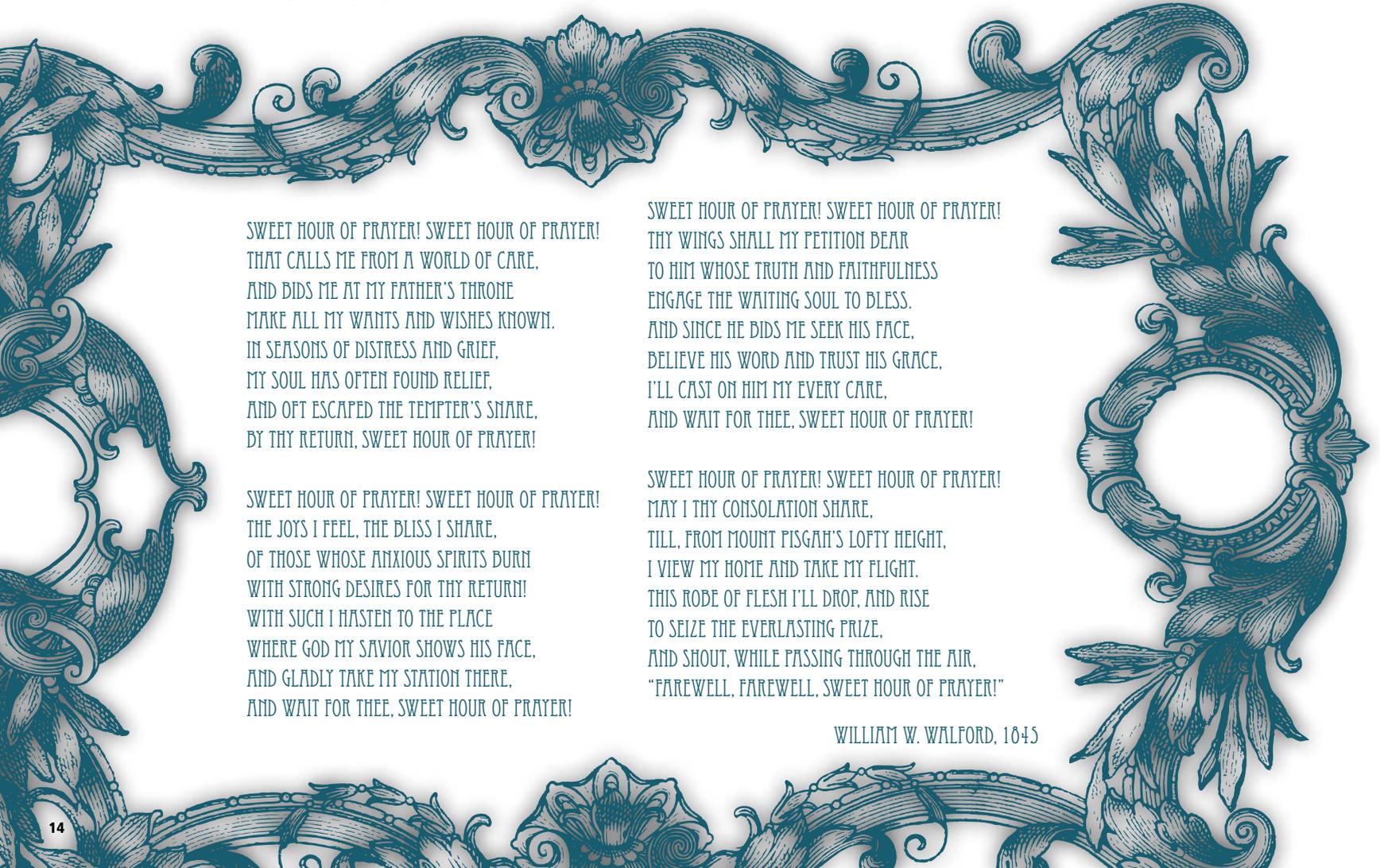
Now these Apostles, when they looked into this matter, determined to put aside these hindrances growing out of Church finances, and resolved to "give themselves to prayer." Not that these finances were to be ignored or set aside, but ordinary laymen, full of faith and the Holy Ghost could be found, really religious men, who could easily attend to this money business without in the least affecting their piety or their praying, thus giving them something to do in the Church, and at the same time taking the burden from the Apostles who would be able now to pray more, and praying more, to be blessed themselves in soul, and at the same time to more effectually do the work to which they had been called.

They realized, too, as they had not realized before, that they were being so pressed by attention to material things, things right in

themselves, that they could not give to prayer that strength, ardour, and time which its nature and importance demanded. And so we will discover, under close scrutiny of ourselves sometimes, that things legitimate, things right in themselves, things commendable, may so engross our attention, so preoccupy our minds and so draw on our feelings, that prayer may be omitted, or at least very little time may be given to prayer. How easy to slip away from the closet! Even the Apostles had to guard themselves at that point. How much do we need to watch ourselves at the same place! Things legitimate and right may become wrong when they take the place of prayer. Things right in themselves may become wrong things when they are allowed to fasten themselves inordinately upon our hearts. It is not only the sinful things which hurt prayer. It is not alone questionable things which are to be guarded against. But it is things which are right in their places, but which are allowed to sidetrack prayer and shut the closet door, often with the self-comforting plea that "we are too busy to pray."

Possibly this has had as much to do with the breaking down of family prayer in this age

as any other one cause. It is at this point that family religion has decayed, and just here is one cause of the decline of the prayer meeting. Men and women are too busy with legitimate things to "give themselves to prayer." Other things are given the right of way. Prayer is set aside or made secondary. Business comes first. And this means not always that prayer is second, but that prayer is put entirely out. The Apostles drove directly at this point, and determined that even Church business should not affect their praying habits. Prayer must come first. Then would they be in deed and truth God's real agents in His world, through whom He could effectually work, because they were praying men, and thereby put themselves directly in line with His plans and purposes, which was that He works through praying men. When the complaint came to their ears the Apostles discovered that that which they had been doing did not fully serve the divine ends of peace, gratitude, and unity, but discontent, complainings, and division were the result of their work, which had far too little prayer in it. And so prayer was put prominently to the front.



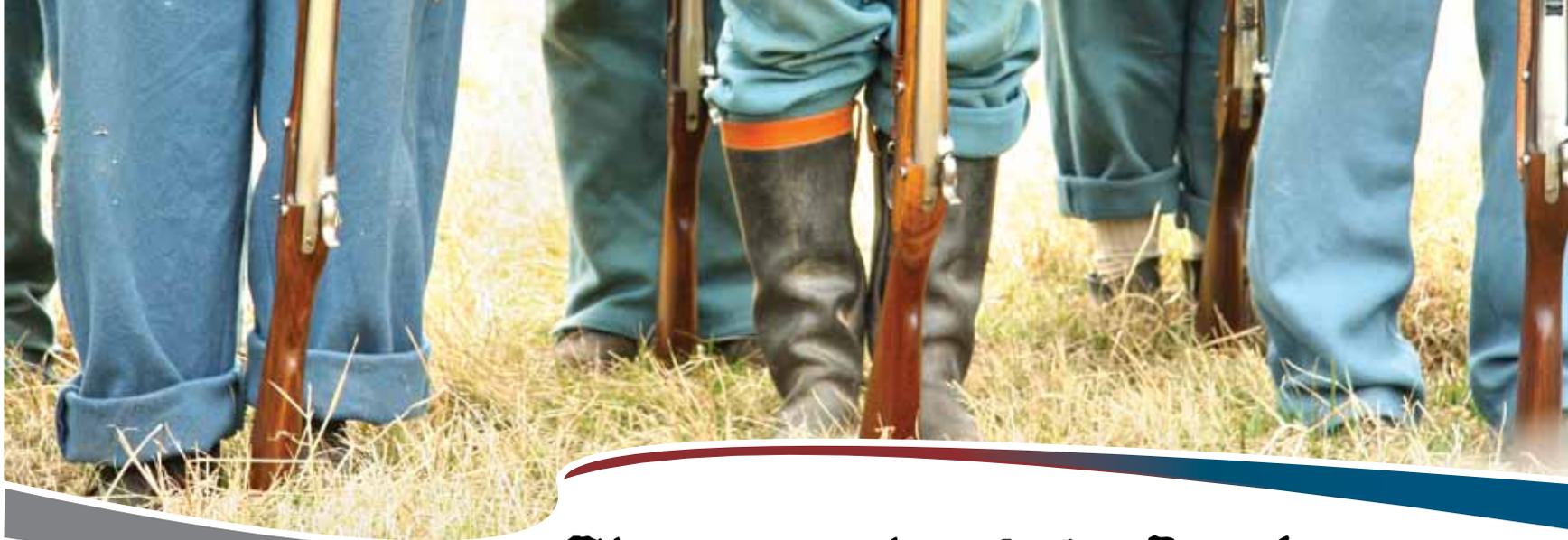
SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER! SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER!
THAT CALLS ME FROM A WORLD OF CARE,
AND BIDS ME AT MY FATHER'S THRONE
MAKE ALL MY WANTS AND WISHES KNOWN.
IN SEASONS OF DISTRESS AND GRIEF,
MY SOUL HAS OFTEN FOUND RELIEF,
AND OFT ESCAPED THE TEMPTER'S SHARE,
BY THY RETURN, SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER!

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER! SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER!
THE JOYS I FEEL, THE BLISS I SHARE,
OF THOSE WHOSE ANXIOUS SPIRITS BURN
WITH STRONG DESIRES FOR THY RETURN!
WITH SUCH I HASTEN TO THE PLACE
WHERE GOD MY SAVIOR SHOWS HIS FACE,
AND GLADLY TAKE MY STATION THERE,
AND WAIT FOR THEE, SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER!

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER! SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER!
THY WINGS SHALL MY PETITION BEAR
TO HIM WHOSE TRUTH AND FAITHFULNESS
ENGAGE THE WAITING SOUL TO BLESS.
AND SINCE HE BIDS ME SEEK HIS FACE,
BELIEVE HIS WORD AND TRUST HIS GRACE,
I'LL CAST ON HIM MY EVERY CARE,
AND WAIT FOR THEE, SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER!

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER! SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER!
MAY I THY CONSOLATION SHARE,
TILL, FROM MOUNT PISGAH'S LOFTY HEIGHT,
I VIEW MY HOME AND TAKE MY FLIGHT.
THIS ROBE OF FLESH I'LL DROP, AND RISE
TO SEIZE THE EVERLASTING PRIZE,
AND SHOUT, WHILE PASSING THROUGH THE AIR,
"FAREWELL, FAREWELL, SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER!"

WILLIAM W. WALFORD, 1845



Clean vessels of the Lord

Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord.

For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your reward.

Isaiah 52: 11, 12

Editor's note: Being mindful that the other Civil War feature in this issue is geared toward the South, and not wanting to revive ancient hostilities, I am including this sermon from a pastor in the Union. The rhetoric (not to mention the grammar and punctuation) is from another day, but the message, emphasizing as it does purity, holiness, fidelity to truth, and the appeal of the gospel, is timeless. I have left it pretty much the way I found it. For a Baptist sermon from the mid-19th century, it is surprisingly brief and to the point, and a good study in how a prior generation handled matters of religion, politics, and the military. We are indebted to two laymen of Rhode Island who heard and appreciated Pastor Caldwell's sermon, and arranged that it be printed and distributed to the troops in the Union and on the field of battle. - KB

Blessed indeed is the army which carries with it the benediction of religion, and sets up its banners in the name of God. It goes as his servant, and he goes as its van and rearward. Such was the grand vision of the prophet, of the marriage, in the history of his nation, of the martial and the sacerdotal, the priest and the soldier; of a march and a procession; of an army and a church; a "sacramental host," bearing the vessels of the Lord, whether Levites serving at the altar, or soldiers serving in the camp; of Jehovah in the midst of Israel, alike when they fought and when they worshipped.

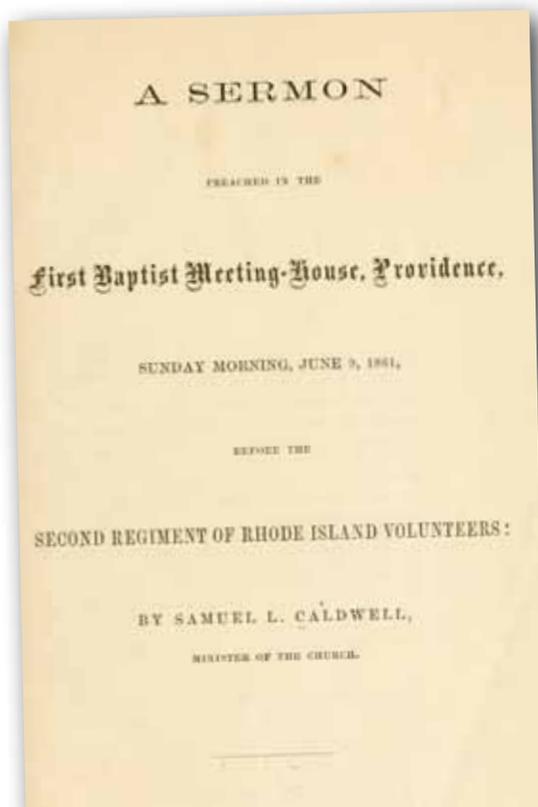
For it is not one God who is in the sanctuary, and another who is in the camp, but the same God, leader and follower of the Hebrews, who goes before and behind our hosts to the battle. He consents, nay, demands, to be served sometimes by the soldier as well as the priest. He strikes the hour when a nation must fight or die.

The musket of the soldier may be a vessel of the Lord, executing the powers ordained of Him, speaking for Him to men who are deaf to other arguments. You may serve God, even as a priest unto Him, with as clear a sense of duty, with a conscience as loyal to Him, in smiting rebellion, as in supporting His worship. Powder may be sanctified by the word of God

and prayer, as well as your daily bread. The magistrate is not to bear the sword in vain, any more than the minister is to handle the word of God deceitfully. The nation which will yield its government and its life, without resistance, will not wait long before it gives up its God. If it is too timid, or too mercenary, to strike for its imperiled existence, its God has already become a tradition, and its existence will soon become a shame. And so, too, when its army is only brute muscle and metal, with no soul behind, or only with a devil instead of God in it; handling its weapons without regard to God, or the things God loves; when righteousness and religion cease out of the conflict; then there is no place for it in the sanctuary of God, only to humble itself in the sackcloth of penitence, and in supplications for a new and consecrating faith.

Therefore, this is the first thing I have to say to you in God's behalf, as you wait here in His house for an hour, on the way to your perilous place of duty: — that you enter upon this service of your country, as on some service for God; that you remember that you bear the vessels of the Lord, and that therefore you must be clean.

1. This God requires, that you go into this work, as into every other, in a spirit of careful fidelity to Him; for this calling of a soldier is



no exception to the usual rules of life. There is nothing in his occupation to separate him from God, — to exempt him from a continual and religious responsibility to his Maker. The sword, the pen, the plough, the hammer, alike you may make vessels of the Lord, by the spirit in which you use them. Indeed, there are special reasons why he who carries the gun, and represents the law and avenging genius of his outraged country, should do it in a temper of the bravest loyalty to God. He who is faithful to the stars of his flag, why shall he not be faithful to his God, who is above the stars of heaven? He who arms himself for law, order, righteousness, — whose first virtue as a soldier is obedience, — shall he break from the orders of his heavenly King, and disown, all moral obligations? Shall he suppress rebellion, while he is insurgent against all heavenly authorities? The Law of God, high, serene, eternal, — it

follows you in the camp and the field. While human laws may be silent amidst the contest of arms, that cannot suspend its tremendous authority. Your friend, or your enemy, it will follow you; sentinel over you as you walk your lonely watch under the silent stars; in the day, shining over your soul brighter than the sun. As you drop your common duties, and take up the sword, think not it is necessary to drop religion, — one of its most sacred sentiments, — any of its divine obligations or affections. Christianity is a religion for man and for life — for life everywhere. Angel of heaven, breathing God's peace; expecting and announcing the final

Holiness to the Lord be written on their very guns, out of whose smoking mouths this cause of God and humanity is looking for its pure and immortal victory.

2. The peril always lies over against the duty, and this is the special peril and temptation to leave God out, and a religious fidelity to him; to disown him, and so to lose the blessings, to incur the risks which go with obedience or disobedience. This is the moral peril of all life. Much more is it of a time like this, the peril of all of life, to forget God; after the godless creed of Frederick of Prussia, to trust the strongest battalions; to burn incense



He who is faithful to the stars of his flag, why shall he not be faithful to his God, who is above the stars of heaven?



Battlefield Ministry



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truce when the sword shall cease to slay; if we must go to the battle, it also will go. Mercy of God it is, that it can go, tempering the dreadful necessities of war; that God has not forbidden it to enter the awful hour when a nation buys its freedom, its security, at the terrible price of blood.

This I say, not for you only, but for all of us, — that our cause is just; that God, in his righteous attributes, is on our side; that this case is so clear, — this war so righteous — so forced upon us by Heaven and earth, — so utterly unavoidable without destroying ourselves, without recreancy to trusts more solemn than were ever laid by the Almighty on any people, without crime against the dearest and divinest things in a nation's life, — that we must try to rise to the level of our cause, and be worthy of it; that we must purge out of our resistance to this most iniquitous and unprovoked aggression, all selfishness, malice, revenge; that we must arm ourselves not only with steel, but with righteousness, which is mightier and more invincible than that. Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord. Let the cause lift and sanctify the spirit of the people, whose it is; especially of these select sons and soldiers of the people, bearers of the flag of our sovereignty through the smoke of battle, carriers of the national authority across every parallel of latitude to the waters of Mexico. Let

to our own arms; perhaps to let the higher and religious life decline. Much more than all is it the peril of life in the camp. It were a false and disreputable modesty if I hesitated to tell you the truth about the life on whose perilous edge you stand. I do not say your camp may not be as pure, as free from reckless passions, as devout in its recognition of God, as beautiful with the humanities and charities and pieties of life, as the peaceful town and home you leave behind. It may be; but not without care, — without some knowledge beforehand of the danger, — without even a more stringent moral and religious discipline than you put upon your life at home.

...

Hold on to the memories of home and the good you leave behind. Carry it with you, — the home, the church, all of your usual life you can, — and set it up wherever your tent is pitched. Ye who remain, keep it round them, by visits, letters, all possible communications, which shall make each man feel that he is surrounded by the vigilance, the love, which serves to keep the heart tender and the life pure.

Again, you go to war, you handle arms, you are to become familiar with physical violence, perhaps to shed blood. You may keep your tenderness, truth, meekness, through it all. Believe not that war obliges a man to be anything but a humane, humble, true man, as



long as Robert Anderson lives on the earth. But where one man does it, ten grow hard, cruel, — their moral natures suffering all the dangerous consequences of a life given to the arts of war and the use of physical force.

There is the peril, too, on the side of the senses, of the appetites; the temptation to foul pleasures, to unclean and intemperate indulgences, provoked by the hardness of the soldier's life, by the unnatural state in which he is placed; the passion for it kept down at home, and fearfully kindled in the exhaustions and excitements of the comparatively wild life of camps.

I do not forget for one moment, I remember with grateful joy, all that redeems you from many of these dangers, in the admirable means which all classes supply to protect, to cheer, to benefit you; the provisions which the State has made; the personal and pains-taking carefulness of our noble chief magistrate, and of your officers; the prayers which rise in clouds to Heaven for every one of you; a chaplain solicitous for your highest welfare; the pride, the affection, the hopes of a whole people which will follow you ; but because there is danger, I speak for God to your hearts, now tender with thoughts of exile from home, and of the unknown fate which lies before you. Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord. For no army is so thick, so pressing, so perpetually on front and rear, as these invisible powers of mischief, assailing all life, and most surely yours; corrupting with secret contagion, digging trenches under your very feet, and wounding with a hurt immedicable by anything but the infinite grace of Christ.

3. There is the duty and the peril, and so also is there the encouraging and yet admonishing fact in the text, that God goes before, and behind, and in the midst, Inspector, Sentinel, Leader and Commander. A pure God, too pure to love sin, or to look kindly on it, walks through the land and through the camp. Oh! Let us see Him whose face shines as the light, and whose purity burns like fire, going in the midst of us. For here He is, inevitable, present always, asleep never, our God to see us, and our God to help us. If we expect Him to help us, we must be careful, we must keep ourselves clean. Our success is to come of Him. If we cast Him out, or try to, if we provoke and offend Him, how soon can He loosen our joints, and turn the mighty energies which now seem

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swinging us on irresistibly to victory, into the unmanageable tempests which shall dash us more swiftly to ruin. Forty years He kept this people of the Hebrews marching across from the Red Sea to Jordan, instead of the month in which they might have crossed it, for the uncleanness, unbelief, sin He found in their camp. We may provoke Him to keep us for a generation in the wilderness, till we are purged by bitter trials, and make clean by adversity, what we would not purify by faith, and loyal love to Him.

And the voice which speaks to all the people, goes to those who carry the standard and bear the arms of the Republic. You are the priests of the Lord. You are anointed, and set forward for this great, heroic, immortal service. Harden not your heart as in the provocation. Be ye clean, who bear the vessels of the Lord.

Be clean, without, within. Count it no impertinence, if I tell you that physical purity is pleasing to God. How carefully He prescribed their washings, how clean He required his priests to be, you may see in the Old Testament. What plagues and death he has bred in the uncleanness of camps, let

military history tell you. For if cleanliness has not always its proverbial neighborhood to godliness, it is close to health; to the best estate of mind and body. Keep the body pure. Keep it under; its fiery and its unclean passions. Wash off all sensualities, as you would the stain of blood.

Above all, it is an inward cleanness God speaks for, — a clean heart, clean unto Him, clean with a holy reverence, with a penitent humility, with a filial trust. For this is the first word of the gospel, and the first necessity of your soul immortal, that it be renewed with the spiritual washing of regeneration, and the turning of the whole heart to God. And when, in the sight of the pure God with whom you have to do, you feel through all your aching soul the defiling, poisonous sin, and cry unclean, unclean, that I am, what shall I do? Look not only to the purity there is in God, but to the mercy there is in the Cross of his Son; to the Blood which cleanseth utterly, and from all sin. When you feel, as you will, how hard it is to keep this commandment of God, — Be ye clean, — and feel condemned altogether by it, know that there is a Fountain open, that the Cleanser is he who once fought the hard battle on Calvary, and conquered, that you might be “more than conquerors.” You will learn, on the field you are going to, as never before, that it is by the blood of sacrifice that God secures the rights, the happiness, the peace of nations, the stability of government, the progress of civilization; and so you will learn to see new meaning and power, and your own life and salvation, in that great Sacrifice in which the most sacred blood was contributed to pacify God's rebellious empire, to reconsecrate His authority, and to purge us all from sin, its dread disabilities, its unclean mark and power. ...

Go; go, with the hope of our patriotism, with the benediction of our religion! God Almighty bless you. God, the all-pure, breathe his purifying, unquenchable life into your hearts! May His everlasting arms clasp you, as no love or prayer of ours can do! And you, whom we shall see no more, if so God has ordained it, into your dying eyes, may a light shine from that radiant Lamb in the centre of Heaven, once slain for sinners, whose merciful look, in that hour, will give such peace as can only come from God; peace like a river, like an infinite sea, on which you shall float into joy which is unspeakable and full of glory.

Arlen & Lana Payne | **Seminole Indians**

Recently, I was given a picture taken at a Fellowship meeting in the early 90s. In the photo were several Seminole pastors and Christian leaders with whom we had begun working a few years prior. All but three of these godly servants have passed on to Glory. The photo reminded me how important it is to raise up Seminole pastors and leaders to serve in Seminole churches. Please pray with me that God would raise up native pastors, song leaders, Sunday school teachers, as well as tribal government leaders.

Jose & Carol Esquibel | **England**

Adam, a Cambridge University employee and a martial arts instructor, is an intelligent man. He was raised in the Church of England, attended Catholic schools, and studied Buddhism and other Eastern religions — but was searching for something more than these beliefs had to offer, something to fill the void in his life.

One day, as Adam was surfing the net, he came across the video “The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus” on our church’s website. After listening to the entire video, he began to question his worldview and understanding of Christianity.

He began corresponding with me via email and the dialogue eventually led to his family visiting our church. I was teaching a series on the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit convicted Adam’s heart as he listened intently. After a few weeks he accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

Adam is growing through discipleship. During one of our sessions, he asked me how to share the gospel with others. What a joy it was to teach him. By the way, Adam and his family are British! A rare conversion indeed.

Pam Rather | **Honduras**

We had over 100 teenagers attend our youth camp with no injuries or mishaps, lots of fun, and a great spirit. Most importantly, there were five who settled the matter of their salvation, and many others who made decisions for Christ and asked for prayer for changes they want to make in their lives.

I was recently reminded of the importance of our youth camp when I attended a wake and memorial service as a family laid their 23-year-old son, Melvin, to rest. He was survived by a wife and a six-month-old daughter. Melvin’s sisters have both been a part of Bible study groups over the years. Melvin was outside his family home when two young men approached him, shot him in the head, and walked away. Senseless violence like this is always hard to deal with — a young man who was trying to work and care for his young family taken away far too soon.

We know that even in this evil world, our God has the final word and we will be victorious in the end, but on this kind of day this is sometimes hard to remember. The family was comforted with Melvin’s testimony of salvation when at 15 years old he accepted Christ at youth camp. Thank God for youth camp and for the faithful workers who work with our teenagers. We never know what the future will bring for our teens.

Georgia Webb | **Mexico**

Yeli had suffered from post-partum depression ever since the birth of her son. She decided she had to do something about it when it affected her marriage, so she moved back home to her parents. She went to a psychologist, but was very unfavorably impressed. The first of this month she came to our church. She says the message was directed at her and when she raised her hand at the invitation, she placed her faith in Jesus Christ as her Savior. She told us she also needed to talk to someone about her problem, so plans were made.

When Yeli came to my house two days later, she said the depression was gone. Obviously the Lord had given her an immediate victory over her problem. I told her this is something Satan will undoubtedly tempt her with again but that she can have victory in the Lord. Instead of the spiritual therapy sessions I expected to have with her, she is coming weekly for new convert classes. She is a great learner both in these classes and at church, where she says all the messages are still especially for her!

Please pray for her continued growth in the Lord.

Susan Perkins | **Haiti**

Have you ever noticed how in the Bible God uses His creation — the wind, a donkey, a great fish, clouds, man, etc. — to accomplish His will? At Christmas time we think of the star that guided people to His promised Savior, Jesus Christ.

Here in Haiti He used a “wandering horse” of a faithful soul-winner of Calvary Baptist Church of Gembal. As the owner searched, he soon found someone who had seen his horse and followed in the direction the horse was last seen going. It took the owner about a week to find his horse.

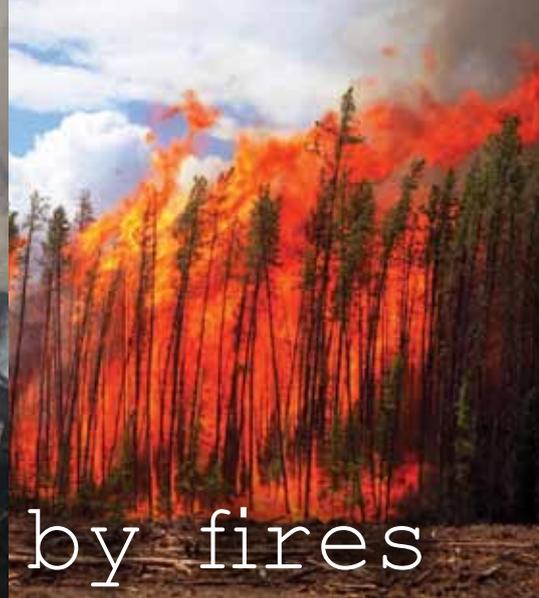
Along the way, he witnessed to people and several accepted Christ as their personal Savior. He asked people “Is the gospel preached here?” They all said, “No, we do not have a church, not even a catholic church.” Along the way he asked, “Can I preach the gospel here?” The response was yes. He found only one that had already accepted Christ. True to his ways, the gentleman returned to visit those he had met and encouraged them in the Word and preached the good news of Christ in an area that had never heard.

It was not long before they decided they wanted a church and Calvary Baptist Church of Beree was started. Please pray for safety, good health, and godly wisdom in taking the good news of Christ to the people in the many other areas, like Beree, that have no gospel witness at all.

Ray & Kristi Rhoton | **Costa Rica**

Three masked men armed with guns entered one of our recent Bible studies and stole everything from those who were present. After holding a gun to one man’s head, they made their point that they weren’t playing around. They took phones, money, jewelry, wedding rings, purses, etc. It was a very scary and emotional experience for all involved. We decided to share this incident with you because it has been such a blessing to watch this small group of people make the decision to stay faithful and stand strong even after such adversity.

Missionary Letters continued on page 24



trial by fires

By Marc Leverett - Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Fort Collins, CO

They have been worrying about “the big one” for years. Certain areas of Colorado have been so dry for so long that many experts predicted a season of uncontrollable wildfires as “imminent.” In addition to the lack of rain in the foothills, thousands of lodge pole pines have been killed by beetles and are so dry they might as well be matchsticks waiting for ignition. Among these trees are where many of our church families live, and where many others hold property.

The High Park fire, just west and north of Fort Collins, was a lightning-caused fire that spread so fast it became a monster overnight. Low humidity, strong winds, and tinder dry ground cover gave us no chance for an early response. Entire neighborhoods were evacuated in such a hurry that many residents had to make instant decisions on what to take with them, and what to leave behind, knowing their homes and belongings may very well be gone forever. Howard, a widower who teaches our senior adult class, whose mountain home was in the area first affected, had to leave so fast that he barely had time to pack some clothes and necessary items for an undetermined stay in town. I asked him what he thought to take with him and he laughingly said, “For some reason I thought to grab my pool cue on the way out.” It’s funny the things you think of when in that kind of situation.

He did stay in town for several days not knowing the status of his property. The fire had spread to other places and away from his area before he

finally got the news that his house was one of those that was lost in the early stages of the fire. A lifetime of memories went up in smoke, and this man, at this stage of his life, is now faced with the decision to rebuild on his property or settle out and move into town. You could see the grief in his eyes.

Several other of our families also had to evacuate, some twice, some three separate times, as the fire moved erratically with the changing winds. One couple hosted another refugee family only to become refugees themselves as the fire threatened their area. Thankfully these did not lose their homes. While they wondered about their property they stayed with relatives in town. We had special prayers in our meetings for them and for others in the state who were also facing impending destruction.

We could see the smoke plumes rising up. As the heat of the day gave rise to the smoke it looked like a volcanic eruption! Several times in Fort Collins, when the wind shifted, we were inundated with smoke, soot, and ash. At times we could see the angry orange flames just across the lake as the fires spread to the east

sides of the foothills. Scary stuff. We had to cancel one Wednesday night service because the smoke was so heavy in town.

It is strange how going through something like this personally sensitizes you to the news reports of fires elsewhere. Other fires popped up all over the state, the most notable being the Waldo Canyon Fire west of Colorado Springs. We watched the news in shock as entire subdivisions were burned down house by house, street by street, and block by block. Every one of those houses belonged to our fellow Coloradans, our neighbors, our friends. Those who lost their homes were sometimes interviewed on the news. Grown men, women, and children cried unashamed on camera as they tried to answer questions from reporters about their homes.

Good neighbors pull together in times like these. Colorado’s churches stepped up to provide shelter, support, comfort, and love for those who had to flee in the night, and for those who have been working so hard for so long to fight the fires. People can’t say enough good things about these heroes, many of them from neighboring states, who work in harsh

and dangerous conditions to contain these fires. Because of their efforts many homes were saved that surely would have been lost otherwise. In a different way, every pastor knows what it is like to work hard and rejoice to see some saved, but also to grieve about those who are lost.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Department of Agriculture

HISTORY

BAPTIST

EDWIN CLARK — Missionary to the Headhunters

In the mountains of North Eastern India is the state of Nagaland. In 1980 the Indian government conducted a national census, and the results from Nagaland vividly illustrated the value and positive effect of missionaries. The census revealed that 90 percent of the Nagas professed to be Christians and 70 percent of the population said they were members of a Baptist church. This is the highest concentration of Baptists in the world. These figures are amazing when you discover that in 1870 there was not one known baptized believers among the 13 Naga tribes.

The conversion of the Nagas began in 1868 when Edwin and Mary Clark sailed from Boston to India. The Clarks had been sent by the Baptist Missionary Union to Sibsagar, Assam, India, as missionaries and printers. After a five-month-long difficult and dangerous journey they reached their destination. Shortly after their arrival, Clark came in contact with some Naga traders. Curious about their origin, he was informed that these men were notorious Naga headhunters who lived in the neighboring hills. He also learned they were receptive to the gospel, and at that time no effort was being made to evangelize the Nagas.

Clark was anxious to make a missionary journey into Nagaland, but the British military, fearing for his safety, refused to allow him to enter their territory. Thankfully, one of Clark's co-workers, a native evangelist named Godhula, volunteered to attempt to establish contact with the headhunters. Godhula, after several months, returned to Sibsagar with a group of Nagas. Nine of the Nagas confessed their faith in Christ and were baptized by Clark.

On December 18, 1872, 42-year-old Edwin Clark, having received permission from the British government, made a trip to Pekahaimong, a village of the A O Nagas. Five days after reaching the village, 15 more men were baptized, and on December 23, 1872, Clark organized the first church of any denomination in Nagaland. The infant Naga church experienced a steady increase in its membership; however, hostility among the unconverted villagers towards the Christians forced Clark and his little band of believers to establish a new village on an uninhabited mountain that they named

Molungyimsen. God blessed the new settlement both spiritually and financially.

Clark faced a formidable task in bringing the gospel to the Nagas. The Nagas did not have a written language, therefore he had to create an alphabet and a speller, and then he had to teach the people to read in addition to translating the Scriptures into their language.



Clark labored among the Nagas 42 years with only two furloughs. In 1911, 81-year-old Edwin Clark's health began to fail, forcing him to return to America. Two years later, on March 18, 1913, Edwin Clark entered into his rest.

In 1911, when Clark departed for America, there were 1,128 baptized Naga believers. Amazingly, in 1997 only 86 years later, the number of baptized believers had increased to 767,784. This remarkable achievement was accomplished through the determination and commitment of the A O Nagas Christians to evangelize all the Naga people. Their efforts sparked a revival that spread like wild fire among all the 13 tribes. Clark never saw this great ingathering, but he planted the seed that produced this great harvest. Modern Baptist missionaries are still planting seeds, and often the harvest from their efforts will not occur until many years after they have laid down their swords.

by Thomas Ray





URBAN CURRENT

City voices

Every Sunday at Armitage Baptist, here in the heart of Chicago, we invite people to give us their prayer requests and praise reports. What follows is a glimpse into our world. Here is a sampling of these unedited notes, minus the often near-illegible handwriting and names. *(Editor's note – Some of these communications may be difficult to decipher due to grammar, spelling, etc. These are not typos. They reflect the reality of the life situations of the communicators.)*

Please pray for the peace and safety of the ___ family in Guatemala. The husband was murdered on Thursday. Now wife is being treated.

I struggle with same sex attraction. I meet very few Christians who understand how to deal with this delicate struggle so I prefer to remain anonymous. With this, I've been bitter at the Christian community. Not mad at God, but at His people, as there's so much misconception or ignorance. Please pray that I'd get past my resentment at the community and be able to draw near to God. That God would change and open my heart for Him to make a recommitment to Him, to repent, to confess, and to surrender my life to Him. I'm very far from Him.

My praise is that God spared my husband's life. He was in jail and the inmates beat him and almost killed him. Please pray for his salvation.

After having a hard week and being depressed I came to church at night and hearing the men singing He is able blessed me. This last week when I had a bad day I remember that song He is able and that help me make it through the week.

I have been delivered from drug abuse and crazy street lifestyles. Now by God's grace I

have a wonderful intimate personal relationship with the One and only true merciful God.

My sisters friend is having problems at home her parents yell at her and she is in foster care. And she has run away from home a lot.

Grampa: he sick Mom: help her, and let her make a decision for me to go live with my dad and God let her say yes Dad: take care of him everyday because a lot of things are happening (13 yrs old).

Prayer request for those affected by senseless death of ____, my son's friend. Peace and comfort to Chris' family and friends during this terrible loss. LORD Jesus help the police dept in search of the guilty parties.

Please keep me in prayer for salvation and for me to accept Jesus as my personal Savior while I'm in Boot Camp for the Navy I going to Graduation Boot Camp in 3 wks pray that I have the endurance to keep up the path I'm on Thank you

This lady is in serious bondage to crack-cocaine. She is open to any help. She has been to New Life but left because her husband was stealing her money from bank and she left. (Her # is disconnected until Tuesday.) Thank you.

I would just like for someone to pray for my family. I can't seem to find a job, my gas is going to be disconnected. My fiancée is locked up away from his family. And just for us to continue to be strong, loved, saved and together.

On Thursday people broke into my apt and stole some irreplaceable jewelry. This act has raised the question of whether I need to move. Please pray with me and for me about guidance. What is God doing now? If I need to move, where? How soon? Obviously this incident has raised lots of questions.

Last month I ask for prayer for my husband who was going to trial because the cops were lying saying that he physical assaulted them. He faced up to a year in jail if convicted. I want to thank you all for praying for him. His trial was on the 14th and before the trial could even begin the prosecutor dropped the charges and the case was thrown out. Thank you for your prayers.

Please pray for me, ____, and my mother ____ also to get a better paying job. My 65 inch TV also. Pray that & get the money for it and me and mother to get two bedroom Apartment some where close around here. I hope I get saved soon.

A prayer request for ____ for his mother had died of an overdose of speed and cocaine which led to a severe heart attack which eventually led to her Death. Thank you

Sister pregnant & being beaten by boyfriend. Sister smoking weed & drinking, needs the Lord

Pray for these, and for those who minister among them.

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



What is happening at your BBC?



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

In these first few weeks of serving at Baptist Bible College here in Springfield, it has been a time of non-stop learning. What does a college president do? Where has this day gone? We need what by when? Who is that, who does what, where is this, I need to be where when?

I will be the first to tell you that this past month has been one of the toughest, yet one of the most rewarding, in my life. Learning much about our finances, getting to know the faculty and staff, watching our awesome crews work over the summer, and spending time with our student travel teams. In just a short time I have learned this — we are blessed! BBC is greatly blessed with great people doing a lot for and with very little.

I have learned that summer is a very busy and important time. During this very, very hot summer, buildings are being cleaned and readied for the fall as lawns, plants, air conditioners, and roofs are being given some tender loving care.

It has become evident in a short time that our campus has some of the most dedicated workers I have ever known. Let me tell you about a couple of very special men: Chris Williams and Seth Cunningham (see photo on page 23). These two men give their service to our housekeeping and maintenance areas. I am so proud of the job they do and the staff they oversee.

Chris came to BBC 13 years ago and has now found himself in charge of our campus facilities. His dedicated effort and faithful staff work hard to make BBC a great experience. Seth has only been at BBC for a couple of months. After learning several valuable trades in the maintenance industry, Seth has given his skill to be used for the Lord here on campus. Both Chris and Seth have chosen to make less income here than they could in the marketplace because they believe in the mission and purpose of BBC. They are committed because we are committed to training those that will reach the world for Christ.

Being an on-campus employee, whether cleaning or fixing buildings that are decades old, can be a very thankless job. They sometimes are not even seen until something breaks or is out of place — then we yell for them to come immediately. But I think our entire Fellowship should be thankful for men and women like this. They choose to take less in order to make it possible for us to train students for the ministry. I am so thankful for their sacrifice and their skills, for their love for the Lord and for their testimony. You may never know or meet them — but they are serving you well by serving your campus and students.

Keep praying for us — we are experiencing God doing some incredible things.

I take it personally



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

A college is a big endeavor. A ministry college is even a bigger one. Boston Baptist College is — by definition and by desire — a ministry partnership with churches who value the next generation of Baptist churches and church leaders. We all have to value today and tomorrow enough to invest professionally and financially in what will only be obvious years from now. Our great staff works to take care of the needs of students, to not only make this a great place to study, but a great place to be. Our faculty (and soon I will tell you how we have beefed it up even more!) ... well, we don't look at ministry theoretically here. Our faculty members not only know their academic disciplines, but they have led churches — many still are doing so. Want a student to learn ministry from people with real life ministry experience? You just cannot do better than Boston — that isn't presidential propaganda, it's just a fact.

My administrators in Boston are amazing — just could not be better. Our trustees are gifted — diverse but united — and work tirelessly for us. We have key supporting pastors and churches that are more than we could ask for. Together, we have defined what we are doing and we are knocking ourselves out doing just that!

But this is personal for me, too. This year my oldest son enrolls in Boston. That doesn't make Boston-quality a bigger issue than we have already made it. It just makes the issue personal — for me. Now I not only have presidential eyes, I have parent eyes. And heart.

All parents know this. When you go to your kid's little league game, you don't just watch the game. You watch the kid. I just attended our son, David's, high school graduation. I saw all the graduates walk across the stage. But I focused on and absorbed one graduate. That young man with (thank God) his mom's smile, personality, and talent ... I took that young man's graduation personally.

I tell you this to make sure you understand Boston for what it is. It is a team effort that each of us take very personally. We want, and will settle for nothing less than, for our students to be in an environment where what you are matters more than what you can do. We want all students, including my firstborn, to see Biblical truth as their highest academic goal, and knowing Christ as the only golden ring there is in this life. I want students to rub shoulders with others who are men and women of character, and thoughtfulness, and adventure! I want my students, and my sons, to be servants — to resist the painful arrogance that can come in youth, to know that we by grace stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. That celebrity status is not the goal — faithfulness is. This isn't just a profession for me or for anybody else on the Boston team, it's our personal mission.

I have spent a lot of time already this summer communicat-

(continued on page 25)

Affiliate status policy for foreign Baptist Bible Colleges

Springfield, MO

By Keith Gillming, BBFI Second Vice President - Education

The Education Committee and Directors of the Baptist Bible Fellowship approved a new policy making it possible for BBFI foreign Bible colleges to apply for affiliate status. This policy was approved and announced by the Fellowship May 14, 2012, at the National Meeting held in Springfield, MO.

There have been several generations of

churches and Bible colleges after 62 years of discipleship in the BBFI, and it is easy for these newer generations to forget their roots and loyalties. This affiliation will not only tie these past colleges and their leaders to the BBFI, but it will anchor them to the doctrinal foundation of our movement. In many countries there is a desire to be connected with an American organization that gives credibility to their college, so this will certainly elevate their prestige.

This benefit is available for all foreign colleges affiliated with the BBFI provided they complete the application and fulfill its directives. There must also be a visit from one of the executive officers as well as an impartial missionary near the college. The application

focuses on compliance to the BBFI Articles of Faith, current accreditation status, professors' qualifications, and other educational, biblical, and philosophical prerequisites. The policy does not confer BBFI-approved missionary status for graduates of the colleges. Missionary approval is a separate issue.

This affiliation status of our great Bible colleges around the world will continue to help the Baptist Bible Fellowship to focus on the international part of our movement and name. Certainly the strongest part of the BBFI is our missionary impact, so this ought to offer strength in the homeland also.

Several colleges have already expressed interest in this new affiliation, and Baptist Bible College of Asia has already applied and has been accepted. We hope it is the first of many. Those who want more information may contact me by email at pastorkeith@yourlbc.com.

What is happening... (continued from page 22)



Chris Williams (left) and Seth Cunningham (right) with Mark Milioni

EDIFICANDO Para el Futuro

Les invitamos a todos los pastores de habla hispana a una reunión muy especial.
 Deseamos proveerles una oportunidad de compañerismo, instrucción, ánimo, descanso y comida!
 Hagan el esfuerzo para estar con nosotros en agosto.
¡Valdrá la pena!

Fecha
 13-15 de agosto, 2012
 Bienvenida el lunes, 13 desde las 4:00 PM
 Empezaremos con una cena el lunes, 13 a las 7:00 PM

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Predicador Principal Pastor Russell Johnson Iglesia Bíblica Bautista Internacional de Miami, FL</p> | <p>Invitados Pastores y Líderes de ministerios</p> |
|---|--|

Antifonía
 BBFI Missions Office
 La Oficina de Misiones del Compañerismo Bíblico Bautista Internacional

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Costo Las comidas han sido provistas. Se está negociando el precio del hospedaje.</p> | <p>Lugar 720 E. Kearney Street Springfield, Missouri 65803</p> |
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|---|---|
| <p>Familia Habrá una sesión especial para las esposas de pastores. Desgraciadamente, no podemos proveer cuidado de niños.</p> | <p>Inscripción Para poder tener todo listo, les pedimos que se pre-inscriban la más pronto posible. www.bbfi-missions.com</p> |
|---|---|

Para Más Detalles
Jaime Smith • 417.862.5001 • Quitajim@yahoo.com

mission: POSSIBLE

Baptist Bible Fellowship
2012 Bible Project
Giving Out 100,000 Bibles In The U.S. !

Let's Get God's Word Out!
"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" Romans 10:17

- *Every church makes an extra effort this year!
- *Complete Bibles, New Testaments, or Gospels of John!
- *Purchase what works for you and your ministry!
- *Use them for Easter, VBS, Friend Day, visitation, etc.
- *Set a goal and let us know that we may rejoice with you!
- *Tell your state chairman or email RandyAbell@aol.com

Resources

ScriptureTruth.com 1-540-992-1273 Gospel of John (\$5.70) Compact Bible (\$3.97)
 C.P.O.com 1-417-891-2200 New Testament (\$1.10) Gift Bible (\$4.37)
 Biblesbythecase.com 1-800-552-6035 Deluxe N.T. with Psalms & Proverbs (\$5.49)
 ChristianBook.com 1-800-247-4784 Value Bible (\$2.49) Economy N.T. (\$1.43)
 Biblesurplus.com 1-800-762-6513 Passion N.T. (\$1.17) Spanish/English N.T. (\$2.50)

Mission Office hosts 38th Missionary Reunion

Springfield, MO

The 38th annual Baptist Bible Fellowship International Missionary Family Reunion was held in June in Fayetteville, AR. Missionaries from all over the world gathered during an unseasonably warm week of reunion and fellowship.

Pastor Keith Gillming from Lighthouse Baptist Church in St. Louis was the guest speaker and was very effective in communicating with and encouraging the missionaries. Counting

the children and youth, 112 people attended this year's Reunion.

Jonathan and Natalie Perry, deputation missionaries to Australia were among those in attendance. They reported, "The reunion was an extraordinary time with BBFI missionaries, the directors and their wives. Pastor Gillming was an encouragement to us through his colorful preaching and practical application. It came at

the right time for our family; to encourage us to stay strong on deputation and remain focused on the goal of church planting in Australia. We cherish our fellow missionaries and share an even stronger bond and friendship with those at the reunion. With everything involved in the week it reminded us of the wonderful support we have from the Mission Office and from our supporting churches."



Missionary Letters (continued)

Larry Rohr | **Brazil**

Luiz Senna accepted Christ as his Savior during an annual VBS. I later visited his parents in their home and Luiz's father, Sr. Elias, accepted Christ as his Savior that day.

About a year later, Sr. Elias stopped attending services. I was concerned because he was sickly and I feared for his health. Upon visiting him, he told me why he had quit coming. The store building where we met was packed to capacity and he had observed that we put new converts to work as song leaders, Sunday school teachers, or as altar workers when they were ready. He felt as if he were useless and taking up a seat someone else needed. I informed him I needed him as my encourager and someday the Lord would show him what he was to do.

Two years later, he came into the church with his face beaming and told me, "I found it! I found it!" My reply was, "Found what? I didn't know you had lost anything!" The Lord had shown him what he could do. Our church was preparing its first building and Sr. Elias did the electrical work for free! In fact, he did free electrical work for five of our churches! Sr. Elias is now in Heaven, but you will meet him there because missionaries were sent to Brazil.



Fred Luter elected first SBC African American president

New Orleans, LA

In what the denomination terms "one of the most historic meetings in the Southern Baptist Convention's 167-year history," messengers meeting June 19-20 in New Orleans elected the SBC's first black president, Fred Luter.



Fred Luter (photo by bpnews.net)

Luter, pastor of New Orleans' Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, came to the attention of most of the SBC in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a storm that flooded the church's building. However, others became aware of his leadership in the early 1990s when the church led the Louisiana Baptist Convention in baptisms. Wayne Jenkins, LBC director of evangelism and church growth, reports that the church baptizes between 250 and 350 people most years. Under

Luter's leadership, the church has grown from a membership of 50 in 1986 to 7,000 less than 20 years later.

Luter, who was unopposed for the presidency, is the first African American president of the SBC. He was also the first African American to preach the convention sermon at the annual meeting in 2001, also held in New Orleans, and in 2011 was the first black pastor elected as SBC first vice president. He was nominated for the presidency by fellow New Orleans pastor, David Crosby of First Baptist Church.

BBFI Gateway Project leader's son killed

Luverne, AL

Ira A. Walton, II, age 33, died June 21, 2012, when a car he was driving was hit when another vehicle crossed a highway centerline. Ira is the son of Ira and Angela Walton. The elder Ira Walton was recently named a leader of the Baptist Bible Fellowship Gateway Project, an evangelistic and church planting effort among black populations.

Remembered by his parents as a hard-working and godly man, the younger Walton leaves behind his wife Sheena and four children.

Ira Sr., asked that the *Tribune* publish his letter of gratitude in the wake of the tragedy. He writes:

Allow me to express my appreciation to those of you who called, emailed, sent cards, flowers, gave monetarily, prayed, and showed support by attending my son Ira Jr's funeral.

Your outpourings of love, support, and prayers during my family's time of bereavement were deeply felt. Ira Jr's passing has left holes in

our hearts that only the Lord and time can heal. The days, weeks, and months ahead will be difficult, especially for his wife Sheena and his four children as they attempt to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives.

Ira Jr's passing has strengthened our family's resolve as we rededicated ourselves to the service of the Lord. We covet your friendship and prayers. May our Father's blessing be a continual shower upon you, your families, and ministries.

Bill Hathaway to be featured on "Unshackled!"

Springfield, MO

Bill Hathaway, who served many years as a BBFI missionary to Japan, will be featured on the Christian radio program, "Unshackled!" in broadcasts scheduled for the weeks of August 12 and August 19. The program will be a drama-

tized story of his conversion.

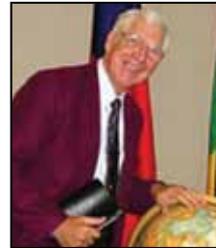
A production of Pacific Garden Mission since 1950, "Unshackled!" is the longest-running radio drama in history. The actors, sound effects, and scripts are reminiscent of the so-called Golden Era of radio. The programs are broadcast around the world almost 12,000 times each week on more than 2,600 radio outlets, in English and in several foreign languages.

At the age of 80, Hathaway

continues an outreach to Japanese locals in the Springfield, MO, area, and travels frequently to do evangelistic work in Japan, as well as training through SOS Soulwinning Ministry. He is

the author of the book, *No More Tears*, designed to help pastors comfort those in mourning. He says, "I consider it an honor they have considered my story to be on 'Unshackled!'"

To listen to the broadcast in your area, or to listen online, link to www.unshackled.org.



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I take it personally

(continued from page 22)

ing personally with Boston students. I know when somebody has a tough academic semester. I know when somebody achieves the honor roll! I know a lot about who is doing mission trips and internships this summer — who just got engaged (yo-ho Nick and Katie) and whose dad just lost his job. This college thing in Boston is intensely personal. I would like to double in attendance to be sure, but I am never willing to lose our personal touch here. That is something all too often overlooked by parents, students, and institutions in the recruitment discussions.

Any college can tell you when your kid is low on money! But who knows if a student is out of fellowship with the Lord? I guess it would be cool to have some big name concerts on campus, but I would rather have big-time

community — a circle of friends and leaders relentlessly committed to knowing Jesus and pouring out our lives to serve him. That's the way we look at it in Boston. We aren't just building "a college." We are building into young people's lives — one at a time — personally.

I have often told our trustees, faculty, and staff that Boston has to be so good we want our own kids to come here. We have to believe that we do young people and their families and churches a favor when we recruit them to Boston. To Boston parents and every church who helps make it possible, just know this — I believe that. I love all my sons, and I don't want anything but God's best for them. I am so thankful to want them at Boston Baptist College. I want your God-called sons and daughters here, too. This isn't just President Melton talking. This is Dave's dad.

Rawlings Foundation, Tennessee Temple, and Highlands Camp join forces for pastoral training in Tanzania

Morogoro, Tanzania, Africa

The Highlands in Morogoro, a camp sponsored by the Rawlings Foundation, provided the site for a week of seminary level pastoral training for 400 pastors in Tanzania May 28-31. Led by Tennessee Temple University President Steve Echols, assisted by TTU professors Tony Crisp and Byron Edens, the sessions focused on pastoral leadership and preaching.

BBFI missionary Bob Dodson, Highlands camp administrator, noted that it was vitally important for the Tanzanian pastors to receive this level of training and is interested in seeing more sessions in the future. Echols, who formerly held a chair of leadership at



From left: Tony Crisp, Byron Edens, Steve Echols, and Pastor and Mrs Ndalima

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary prior to assuming the presidency of TTU in January 2012, led several leadership sessions with content similar to undergraduate level theological course work at TTU. Tony Crisp, a noted expert on the geographical and cultural background of the Holy Land, led studies that

enabled pastors to grasp the setting in which the events of the Scripture occurred. All three TTU teachers preached evening sermons.

Pastor Rejoice Ndalima, a key leader among Tanzanian pastors, organized and convened the pastor's school. He is hopeful that a partnership with TTU and The Highlands Camp can develop which

will allow the pastors to receive accredited course work toward an undergraduate certificate program as a basis for an eventual associate or bachelor's degree.

The event was sponsored by the Rawlings Foundation which provided transportation, food, and lodging for the pastors.

Lighthouse Baptist celebrates 8th anniversary

Chillicothe, OH

Lighthouse Baptist Church and Pastor Ryan Bevan of Chillicothe, OH, celebrated its 8th anniversary on Sunday, May 20, with 1,115 people in attendance including over 400 first-time visitors. For the occasion, the church rented out the local college gymnasium, Ohio University, Chillicothe Branch, Shoemaker Center. The celebration included special music by the church's own singers and the LBC choir, a free steak and baked potato dinner, inflatable games for the kids, special giveaways to the people who brought the most visitors, and a service praising Christ for His mighty works. There were 113 salvation decisions that day, 68 being adults, and more as a result of the follow-up visitation.

Pastor Bevan, his wife, Sarah, and their children arrived in Chillicothe to plant a new

work in August 2003 — sent out of Bible Baptist Church of Wilmington, OH, pastored by Kelly McInerney, and a church plant project of the Ohio Baptist Bible Fellowship. The mission began meeting in a hotel conference center with eight people in attendance. However, it quickly outgrew the conference center and in January 2004 a church was birthed with 45 charter members.

The church met in four other buildings before purchasing their present church facilities with over 21,000 square feet and 15.5 acres for \$850,000. After only five years, Lighthouse Baptist paid off their 30-year mortgage and saved \$800,000 in interest. Due to continued growth, in March of this year the church added a second campus on the north end of Chillicothe.

In 2009 Lighthouse Baptist sent out Josh and Candace Bevan to Xenia, OH, to plant Lighthouse Baptist Church. The church runs nearly 300 in attendance.

"What has the Lord done in the last 8 years?" asks Pastor Be-

van "An Average attendance from eight people to over 500, over 4,000 saved, more than 10,000 visitors, over 1,000 baptisms, offerings that have grown from \$700 to over \$10,000 weekly, 28 monthly mission projects, lives changed, families restored, marriages saved all to the glory of God! The Lord has made this possible through the prayers and support of the Baptist Bible Fellowship, and the sending and supporting churches within the Fellowship. Praise the Lord that He is still building churches today!"



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Indianapolis Baptist Temple plants churches number 16 and 17 in May

Indianapolis, IN

Indianapolis Baptist Temple and Pastor Greg Dixon has announced the dedication of two new church plants in the inner city of Indianapolis Sunday, May 27. The first of the new pair of churches, Keeping the Faith Missionary Baptist Church, is pastored by James Dowdy. The second, Higher Calling Baptist Church, is led by Manuel Vargas.

The two churches, number 16 and 17 for IBT, are church plants drawn from two other churches already begun by Indianapolis Baptist Temple. And their connections go deeper. The Keeping the Faith church is mostly a black congregation, and their pastor had attended Indianapolis Baptist Temple as a bus kid years ago. The Higher Calling church is largely Hispanic. Dixon says their pastor, Manuel Vargas, is the brother of a man who was reached for Christ in Oaxaca, Mexico, by a church-planting team two years ago led by Pastor Dixon. IBT has adopted the State of Oaxaca to plant churches with a national pastor as well.



Indianapolis Baptist Temple's Pastor Greg Dixon with Pastor and Mrs. James Dowdy and Pastor and Mrs. Manuel Vargas introducing two new churches planted through the ministry of IBT.

Dixon says, "If we do what God loves — church planting — God will continue to open doors of opportunity. Case in point, while planning the dedication of the two new churches last week God gave to this ministry a church building in the inner city for them to share. The former congregation, which closed its doors on Sunday May 20, was reestablished under a new name also on May 27, and we count that as church plant number 18 towards the goal of 25 new churches."

Herb Hayes

Baguio City, Philippines

Herb Hayes, BBFI missionary to the Philippines, left this life May 28, 2012, after an illness. He and his wife Brenda have been BBFI missionaries more than 30 years.

Born May 7, 1942, in Marion, VA, Herb gave his life to be a missionary shortly after his conversion in 1961 and entered Baptist Bible College in 1962. Though he was encouraged by several to change his course to music, he graduated from the missions course in 1965. While an intern at Grace Baptist Church in Middletown, OH, Pastor Howard Sears, he heard Bob Hughes speak in a mission conference, and afterward Hayes and his wife gave their lives to become missionaries to the Philippines. They were approved in 1971.

Herb and Brenda were leading Grace Baptist Church in Baguio City at the time of his death.

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

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Old Bible college friendship turns to love

By Carole Chance Ezernack

In the fall of 1956, Baptist Bible College student Gay Chance was looking out her college dormitory window one day when she saw two fellows from Miami ride up in a convertible. When they got out of the car behind the men's dormitory, she noticed they were both wearing shorts. She remembers thinking, "Uh oh! They're going to be in big trouble because it's a no-no to wear shorts on the campus of Baptist Bible College."

Gay later learned the identity of the two guys. One of them was Robert Alvin (Buddy) Mullis. The other young man was Bruce Foss, the person responsible for inviting Buddy to New Testament Baptist Church in Miami, where Al Janney was pastor. Buddy accepted Christ there in 1957.

Buddy and Gay dated a couple of times but did not become "an item." Buddy later began to date Norma West, another Baptist Bible College student, and Gay in turn fell for Robert Allan (Bob) Woosley, whose parents were Fellowship missionaries to the Philippines. The friends became couples: Buddy and Norma Mullis, and Bob and Gay Woosley married in 1960. Buddy soon founded Calvary Baptist Church in Fruitland Park, FL, where he continues to serve as pastor. Bob pastored several churches in the States before he and Gay went to the Philippines in 2000 to begin their service as Baptist Bible Fellowship missionaries there.

The couples continued their friendship, and Calvary Baptist was one of the Woosley's supporting churches. In 2010, Bob began to have serious health problems, and in January 2011, Bob lost his battle with a liver-related disease. Gay was devastated. She had lost her husband of more than 50 years. But even though her days were filled with sadness and loneliness, she decided to continue to serve in the Philippines as long as it seemed to be God's will for her to do so.

As Gay was going through some papers one day, she came across Norma Mullis's email address. Gay decided to reach out to her friend. However, it was Buddy, and not Norma, who responded. Norma was very ill with cancer and was unable to answer the email. Gay wrote a supportive note to Buddy, and then after Norma's subsequent death, the pair continued to communicate by email, not thinking that any feelings might develop between the two of them. Neither had plans beyond friendship.

In the fall of 2011, Buddy learned that Gay was planning a trip to the States for a family visit. She had not seen her grandchildren since 2008 and was badly in need of time with her family. Buddy asked Gay to make a visit to Florida while in the States.

Gay made a trip to Fruitland Park, FL, in January of 2012 to

visit Calvary Baptist Church and, of course, to see Buddy. During the few days she was there, Gay spoke to the church about her ministry, and she and Buddy caught up. They spent many hours talking about their lives and their work ... and more.

When Gay came to the Shreveport area to visit me, her sister, and other family in this area, I noticed a happy difference in her. She didn't say much about her visit to Florida except to say that she and Buddy had a wonderful time.

Shortly after Gay arrived here, Buddy called. When the phone call ended, Gay came to me with a stunned expression on her face. She said, "That was Buddy. He said that he misses me and loves me, that he's tired of beating around the bush, and that he wants to marry me!"

Of course I had already figured out that Gay returned his affection, so it was no surprise when she soon accepted his proposal. Within a few days, Buddy flew to Shreveport to give Gay an engagement ring before she returned to the Philippines.

In February Gay returned to the Philippines to wrap up her ministry there. She also began the daunting task of going through all her worldly possessions as she decided what to throw away, give away, or sell. She knew she could keep very little because of shipping costs.

She and Buddy had originally chosen a later wedding date, but they decided May 4 would be a better time because both of their families would be able to attend on that date. Buddy wanted very much for Gay to return to the States in April so that she could be at his side when his church celebrated its 50th anniversary.

With the help of Del and Lora Hooze (Bob's sister), Perry (Bob's nephew), Mindy Hooze, and some loving Filipino people, Gay was able to arrive in Florida a couple of days before the anniversary celebration.

On May 4, 2012, Robert Mullis and Gay Chance Woosley were united in marriage at Calvary Baptist Church in Fruitland Park, FL, surrounded by family and friends. God truly orchestrated their love story — the joining of two ministries and two families. They are thankful for the joy they are now experiencing and anticipate many more years of dedicated service to their Lord.

NOTE: Gay Chance Woosley Mullis and Carole Chance Ezernack are granddaughters of the late Henry Chance, one of the founders of the Baptist Bible Fellowship.

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