

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JULY/AUGUST 2015 | VOL. 65 NO. 11



Salt

v. to season, cure,
preserve, or treat



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MORE THAN TRADITION p. 10

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ON THE TABLE

Back from summer break

by Keith Bassham | Editor

During our summer hiatus, it was inevitable that we should return to a truckload of issues and news, and hardly any of it can be ignored even if we wanted it so. Politics, entertainment, science, religion, sports, economics, and health are today all so culturally intertwined that the old conversational taboo — religion and politics — no longer makes any sense. Welcome to life in the 21st century. And the question of worldviews.

A worldview is a lens we use to make sense of the world around us. We all have a worldview, and our worldviews are shaped and are being shaped often without our knowing it. The Apostle Paul acknowledged that shaping pressure, writing, “... be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind ...” or as one translator puts it, “Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds” (Romans 12:2).

Worldviews are revealed fairly quickly. If you ever find yourself thinking, or hear someone else saying, “That’s just the way things are,” you have found a part of a worldview. You see that quite a bit in social media discussions. We like to think we have formed our conclusions about life coolly and objectively and logically. Nonsense. Much of what we think and believe is in bags that were packed for us - by our ancestors, by our teachers, by the songs and stories we hear — you get the idea. Some is placed there by our experience, and some we actually thought through, and some, if you are a believer, comes to us by faith.

And often, when we see a worldview that seems as though it came from another planet, we are dumbfounded. This is the case, for me at least, when I remember Palestinians dancing jubilantly at the news of the World Trade Center attack, when I see reports of Muslim mass executions of Christians in the Middle East, when an American, Dylann Roof, admits to wanting to start a race war by killing nine people in a church in South Carolina, and when a Planned Parenthood executive is filmed discussing the best way to cause the death of an unborn baby so as to preserve certain “valuable” body parts (who is to receive those body parts, what Planned Parenthood is pleased to call “tissue” is not entirely clear at this point). I wonder how the worldviews that presaged these events came to be.

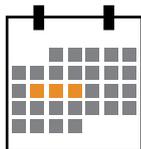
And then I wonder how we, as those who possess Christ, those of us who have become containers of “the hope of glory,” (Colossians 1:27) can best manifest that hope and do some squeezing of our own. If anything has been made clear to me by the recent events, including the recent Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage covered in this issue of the *Tribune*, it is this: the preaching — and the demonstrating — of the Gospel of Jesus Christ must be our priority now and always.

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JULY/AUGUST 2015

VOL. 65 NO. 11

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Hosted by High Street Baptist Church in Springfield, MO, September 14-16, 2015.

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Don’t miss any of the *Tribune’s* digital offerings on our website www.tribune.org. You can find old articles, a digital page-turn version of this month’s magazine, and a link to sign up for the Tribune Update email.

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Executive Editor: Keith Bassham
Assistant Editor: Rob Walker
Director of Office Services: Karri Joy Perry
Email address: editors@tribune.org
Web site address: www.tribune.org

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

A way forward



by Eddie Lyons | President | BBFI

Many of us were deeply saddened to hear the recent Supreme Court ruling that redefined marriage. This is more evidence that our culture continues to untether itself from a biblical worldview of life. After a time of painful reflection I found myself searching for the way to move forward. I have read articles and blog posts and been in many conversations about this ruling. In this issue, *Tribune* Editor Keith Bassham has done a great job to help us as a Fellowship process this new reality. At the end of the day we have to move forward in the new culture and ministry environment in this country.

First, we still believe that God's design for marriage is one man and one woman bound together for a lifetime. While a good marriage is certainly one of life's greatest joys, it is far more than about just the happiness of two people. A good marriage blesses the couple, the children born to this union, the extended families, and their communities. I once had a meeting with our mayor where I asked him what the church could do for our city. He immediately said two things. First, help kids learn to read because we are building prisons based on the projections of how many kids won't read when they get to be adults. Secondly, he said, do whatever you can do to keep families together. He said divorce and the broken family are the number one reasons for poverty in our city. Now more than ever we must continue to build healthy families according to God's plan; which only works when God is a part of it. When we bring people to a healthy relationship with God through our churches, we do more to promote God's plan for marriage and family than any political movement could do.

Second, we need to get off the cultural battlefield and remember that no one is our enemy. We are called to reach everyone with the good news of the Gospel. The bad news is that all of us are broken and in need of salvation. We cannot win to Christ those we do not love. We must find a way to stand by our convictions with firmness while loving those who do not agree with us. This is not easy and only with God's leading will we succeed. But God is our great example of this and can show us how to do it. Paul says in Romans 5:6-11:

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly ... For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

And so we must move forward and be about this ministry of reconciliation.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

All we need is you!



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

"This meeting was amazing!" said one U.S. pastor who attended the Cebu Global Meeting in 2011. He was thrilled to see the number of people at the meeting, not only from the Philippines but also from around the world. Seeing the fruit of the labor our early BBFI missionaries did in the Philippines — reaching people for Christ, discipling them, and starting churches — and the Filipinos' enthusiasm for the Lord and world missions overwhelmed this pastor. He shared with me the impact this life-changing meeting had in increasing his burden and passion for missions. He said, "My church will hear about this and our church will never be the same and missions will be stronger than ever."

"My country can do this too. What the Filipinos are doing for world missions, we can do the same!" was the statement from one of the Latin American guest speakers at the Cebu meeting. He had never seen people outside the U.S.A. so enthused about world missions. Their passion to see people saved globally was strong and exciting. He said, "When I get back to my country, I am going to challenge our churches to understand our responsibility to the Great Commission and we will send out our own also. Just think what we can do for God when we partner with the churches in America!"

One guest speaker, a pastor in central Africa, was so burdened after the meeting in Cebu that he went back and challenged the churches in his impoverished country to begin thinking about missions and sending their own missionaries. God called, and he surrendered. He will be the first missionary sent from their country and supported by their churches.

We saw the Holy Spirit move among the people from the Philippines during the preaching services at that meeting; many surrendered to be missionaries. The fruit from that one meeting in Cebu will not be known until we meet in heaven.

I believe the same will be true with the upcoming global meeting in Korea to be held March 14-17, 2016. I encourage pastors from the U.S.A. to attend this meeting and bring church people with them. It will not only increase your passion for missions, but cause you to rejoice and thank God for the efforts of our Fellowship churches and their missionaries over the past 65 years.

Imagine the impact this meeting will have on the lives of those who attend as they interact with worldwide leaders and speakers. We want to challenge pastors' hearts to share with their people that the Great Commission is for them too. Pray that some young people and couples attending the 2016 Korea Global Meeting will surrender to go to the regions beyond. One thing that will make this meeting a huge blessing and success for the glory of God is — you!

15 reasons why we need to plant churches: Part 2



by John A. Gross | Church Planting | BBFI

The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for (1) the numerical growth of the body of Christ in a city and (2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city.¹

6. Almost every denomination in America is declining because they have been unable to start enough new healthy churches to offset the number of churches that are closing.
7. The most unreached people group in the United States is the 20-something group.
8. Today there are approximately 200 million non-Christian people in the U.S. (The third largest mission field in the world!)²
9. During the decade of the 90s, the United States population increased 11.4 percent (24,153,000 people), while the church membership declined 9.5 percent (4 million 498,000 2410)!
10. No county in America has a greater percentage of church people today than a decade ago! Half of all churches in America did not add one new member through “conversion” growth.³

Another young man who has heard the call: Lynn Phipps grew up on the north side of Houston. From his childhood, Lynn participated in church and Sunday school at New Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, a strong Bible-believing church with sound preaching from Pastor Waley Dunn. Though Lynn was taught the foundations of Scripture, he wandered away from the Lord in his teenage years. Later, he sensed the call of God on his life and found himself in a motel room, all alone, listening to a sermon on the television. He fell on his knees, asked God to forgive him, and surrendered his life to the Lord. He preached his first sermon at the age of 27.

Today Lynn is employed with the City of Houston as a director of maintenance while he builds his foundation and core team. He is taking courses from Liberty University where he is less than one year away from receiving his Bachelor’s degree in Christian Counseling.

Through much prayer and seeking the Lord’s will, an opportunity presented itself in the Angleton area (South Houston) with a debt-free building and land. The people have given Lynn an invitation to come and lead them into the future. With this amazing open door and opportunity, Lynn and his family began to pray and ask for the Lord’s direction in this decision. After seeking counsel from his pastor, friends, and mentors, he continued to pray over the area. Convinced in his heart that this was the Lord’s will, he accepted the challenge and is moving forward with a re-organization that promises to be the ground work for a new planted church in the South Houston area. He is seeking your prayers and support in this step of faith.

¹ Tim Hawks. “The Essentials Training on Church Planting”

² George Barna. *Growing Your Church From the Outside In* (Ventura: Issachar Resources, 2000), 12-13.

³ Neil Cole. *Cultivating a Life for God* (Carol Stream: Church Smart Resources, 1999), 11.



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DIGRESSIONS

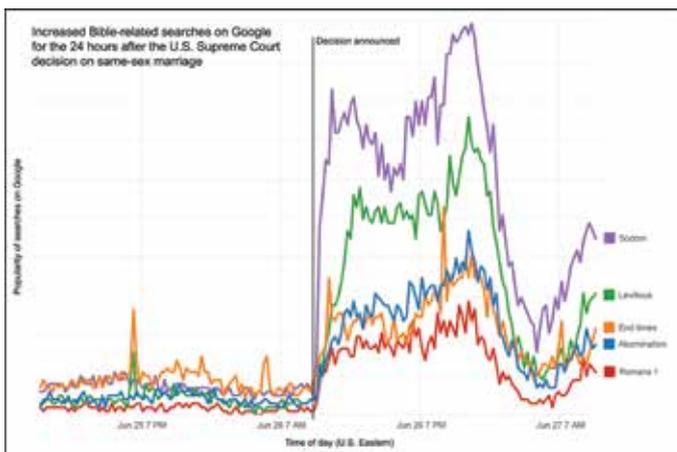
Digressions incontestably are the sunshine; they are the life, the soul of reading. -Laurence Sterne

As seen on Twitter



Explosion of Bible-related Google searches follow Supreme Court ruling

Google saw a surge of Bible-related traffic in response to Friday's Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage. Beyond generic Bible-related searches like Bible verses about marriage, the five queries I could identify with the largest absolute increases in volume were *Sodom*, *Leviticus*, *End times*, *Abomination*, and *Romans 1*.



Source: www.christianitytoday.com, Stephen Smith, June 29, 2015

“Without our traditions...”

A marriage ceremony typically ends with a kiss because in ancient Rome, a kiss was a legal bond that sealed contracts, and marriage was seen as a contract.¹

At Italian weddings, it is not unusual for both the bride and groom to break a glass. The number of shards will be equal to the number of happy years the couple will have.¹

The superstition that the bridegroom must not see his bride before the wedding stems from the days when marriages were arranged and the groom might never have seen the bride. There was the chance that if he saw her, he might bolt. Other sources say that to see the bride in her dress is peering into the future, which can bring bad luck.²

Traditionally, bridesmaids would be dressed in similar bride-like gowns to confuse rival suitors, evil spirits, and robbers.¹

Early Roman brides carried a bunch of herbs, such as garlic and rosemary, under their veils to symbolize fidelity and fertility and to ward off evil. These herbs served as a precursor to the modern bridal bouquet.¹

Wedding bells are an important symbol of a wedding. Traditionally, it was believed that demons were scared off by loud sounds, so following a wedding ceremony, anything that could make noise was used to create a diversion.³

Wedding rings are often placed on the third finger of the left hand because ancient Egyptians believed the vein in that hand (which the Romans called the “vein of love”) ran directly to the heart.¹

The first recorded account of a diamond engagement ring was in 1477 when King Maximilian I of Germany (1459-1519) proposed to Mary of Burgundy (1457-1482) and offered her a diamond to seal his vow.¹

1 *Bride's Book of Etiquette*. 2002. New York, NY: Perigee Books.
2 Lee, Vera. 1994. *Something Old, Something New: What You Didn't Know about Wedding Ceremonies, Celebrations, and Customs*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, Inc.
3 Stewart, Arlene Hamilton. 1995. *A Bride's Book of Wedding Traditions*. New York, NY: William Morrow and Co

Source: www.randomfacts.com

MESSIAH BAPTIST CHURCH, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



MESSIAH BAPTIST CHURCH, Chicago, Illinois. Audience at a Sunday morning service. Wendell Graham, formerly associate pastor of Edgewood Baptist church, Rock Island, Ill., became pastor last April 3.

MESSIAH BAPTIST—CHICAGO, Ill.—Messiah Baptist church is situated in one of the oldest sections, in the heart of the Windy City. The groundwork of the church was laid by Dr. F. S. Donnelson, Director of Missions of the Baptist Bible Fellowship, Springfield, Mo., before he and Mrs. Donnelson and their family went to China as missionaries. A great deal of credit is also due to Ivan Brown, a former pastor. He kept Messiah Church a Bible Believing church. Wendell Graham became pastor last April 3. From last April 3 to June 12

the Sunday school attendance averaged 182 a Sunday. On June 12 the church had a total offering for the day of \$288.66. In the past two and one-half months there have been 31 additions to the church, 15 by baptism. The church contributes to the support of eight missionary families. The deacons are Douglas Warren, Bill Holden, Harold Ward, Don Davis, H. Fellows, and W. Kendall—"Uncle Bill," 94 years old. The trustees are Ted Bartelme,

Walter Bergstrom, Philip Thompson, James Valdez, and Charles Green. Green is treasurer; Bob Weikum is assistant treasurer; Mrs. Spain is our financial secretary, and Mrs. Stewart is church clerk. The Sunday school superintendent is Don Kies. Our great problem is lack of space. We have five classes meeting in the church auditorium. A choir has been organized, and a men's fellowship meets on Saturday evenings once a month. Systematic visitation is done on Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons.

GEORGIA FELLOWSHIP AT BIBLE BAPTIST, STATESBORO, GA.

BY C. G. GROOVER

STATESBORO, Ga.—The Georgia State Baptist Bible Fellowship held its July meeting with Bible Baptist church here. Rev. C. G. Groover is pastor.

It was evident in the enthusiastic meeting that the sentiment for Bible Believing Baptist churches is growing in Georgia. It was decided to have our monthly fellowship meetings on the second Monday of each month. The August meeting will be held with Bible Baptist church, Savannah.

Among the ministers attending the Statesboro meeting, besides the host pastor, were:

John Denmark, Immanuel Baptist, Brooklet; D. W. Griffin, Garfield; J. W. Key, El Bethel Baptist, Twin City; Walter Vile, Calvary Baptist, Glennville; Dan Lee, Bible Baptist Mission, St. Marys; Cecil Hodges, Bible Baptist, Fernandina Beach, Fla.; W. B. Hodges, Liberty Street Baptist, Jacksonville, Fla.; George Hodges, Beaver Street Baptist, Jacksonville, Fla.; W. F. Thompkins, Faith Baptist, McClenny, Fla.; J. C. Cooper, Good Hope Baptist, Aiken, S. C.; and Rev. Joe Lingo and his family, missionaries of the Baptist Bible Fellowship.

ROAD SIGN NEAR
JEROME, IDAHO:
BEWARE OF SKUNKS
CROSSING ROAD

Baptist Bible Tribune
FOR BIBLE BELIEVING BAPTISTS

[Founded June 23, 1950]

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER AT THE POST OFFICE AT SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI.

NOEL SMITH, Editor

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BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP MISSIONARIES' ITINERARIES

HUGHES, BOB

July 24—Trowbridge St. Baptist Church, Rev. John R. Morgan, El Paso, Texas.
July 29—Youth Fellowship, Vidor, Texas.
July 31—Central Baptist Church, Rev. W. H. Fisher, Lufkin, Texas.
August 7—Open.
August 8-13—Grace Baptist Church, Youth Revival, Rev. Bernie Finch, Lubbock, Texas.
September 11—Hamlet Baptist Church, Rev. Mack McCoy, Amarillo, Texas.

LINGO, JOE

July 31—A. M.—Independence, Kansas.
July 31—P. M.—Bible Baptist Church, Rev. Homer Quinlan, Fredonia, Kansas.
August 7—A. M.—Sun City Baptist Church, Rev. Homer Sewell, Sun City, Kansas.
August 7—P. M.—Calvary Baptist Church, Rev. Jack Adrian, Pratt, Kansas.
August 14—A. M.—Haven Baptist Church, Rev. Johnny Morgan, Haven, Kansas.
August 14—P. M.—Calvary Baptist Church, Rev. Paul Morgan, Junction City, Kansas.

MARSDEN, ALVIN

August—Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Michigan.
September 4-8—Fall Fellowship, Twin City Baptist Temple, Rev. Victor Sears,

Mishawaka, Indiana.
October—California.

POWDERS, JAMES

July 31-August 7—Ft. Worth Area.
August 8-11—Texoma Youth Camp.
August 14-17—West Side Baptist Church, Rev. Lonnie Smith, Hutchinson, Kansas.
August 21—A. M.—Mark Baptist Church, Rev. Bob Dwiggins, Mark, Iowa.
August 21—P. M.—Rev. Hammond, Centerville, Iowa.
August 24—Capitol City Baptist Church, Rev. Jim Barnes, Des Moines, Iowa.
August 28—Ottumwa Baptist Temple, Rev. Albert Fringle, Ottumwa, Iowa.
August 31—Unionville, Iowa, Rev. Fay E. Garner.
Sept. 4—Wentworth Baptist Church, Rev. C. C. Power, Chicago, Illinois.
Sept. 5-8—Twin City Baptist Temple, Rev. Victor Sears, Mishawaka, Indiana.
Sept. 11—Rev. Bob Bright, Shelbyville, Indiana.
Sept. 14-18—Odessa, Texas.
Sept. 21—Fundamental Baptist Church, Rev. A. L. Patterson, Sweetwater, Texas.

SCHOTT, RICHARD

July 31—Bible Baptist Church, Rev. Lee Baughman, Mt. Carmel, Ohio.
August 1-5—Indiana Youth Camp.
WILLIAMS, WALLY
July 17—Enid, Oklahoma.

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee; he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.
—Psalm 55:22.

Hollywood Attacked For Distorting Bible Stories

[Religious News Service]

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Rep. Katherine St. George (R-N.Y.) charged in the House that Hollywood was misusing Biblical stories for entertainment purposes.

Mrs. St. George said that Hollywood interpretations of the Scriptures were "distorted, inaccurate, and at times quite disgusting."

"Apart from the revulsion that any informed student of the Bible must feel, from a religious standpoint," she declared, "the glaring distortions and outright falsehoods make these pictures historically useless and quite absurd."

She inserted in the Congressional Record an article published by the Christian Herald, non-denominational Protestant monthly, which asserted that "Hollywood's hottest gimmick is Holy Writ." The article accused Hollywood producers of misinterpreting and distorting material that is of basic importance to the religious faiths of the Western world.

over me

September National Fellowship Meeting

Your love so deep
is washing over me

revitalize

RE · VI · TAL · IZE

- 1. To give new life to
- 2. To give new vitality or vigor to.

Bring the whole staff



High Street Baptist Church, Springfield Mo



FEATURING

women's breakout speaker

MARY SOUTHERLAND

EVENING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



BRIAN MOORE
Crosspointe Church
 Yorba Linda, CA
MONDAY 6:30



GENE APPEL
Eastside Christian Church
 Anaheim, CA
TUESDAY 6:30



ANTHONY MILAS
Granite United Church
 Salem, NH
WEDNESDAY 6:30

SPECIAL GUESTS



DWAYNE WRIGHT
Missionary, Ethiopia
MONDAY



RESTRICTED ACCESS
Missionary
TUESDAY



JEREL BLAND
The Hope Church, Detroit, MI
WEDNESDAY

SCHEDULE

TUESDAY SEP. 15

BREAKOUT 1: 9-10AM

Missionary Trip Strategies
 Gary Wilson, High Street

Small Groups
 Matt Adrian, Crosspointe Church

Children's Ministries
 James Hamilton, Abundant Life

Mary Southerland
 Women's Breakout

GENERAL SESSION 10:15
 Revitalizing Your Communication
 Lonnie Lehman, Granbury Baptist Church

BREAKOUT 2: 11:15-12PM

Revitalizing Your Strategic Plan
 Randy Harp, NorthPark

Revitalizing Through Leading Change
 Ed Trinkle, Canyon Creek

Revitalizing Your Culture
 Keith Harrington, Rock Harbor

Mary Southerland
 Women's Breakout

BUSINESS MEETING 12-12:30PM

WEDNESDAY SEP. 16

BREAKOUT 1: 9-10AM

Worship/Music Panel

How Make Videos At Your Church
 Rob Lyons, High Street/Blake Housley, Park Crest

Church Environments
 Mike Edens, NewSpring

Staying Healthy in Ministry
 Don & Sheryl Rooks

MISSIONS HOUR 10:15AM
 Dr. Jon Konnerup, Missions Director

BREAKOUT 2: 11:15-12PM

Revitalizing Your Vision
 Sean Sears, Grace

Revitalizing Your Volunteer Base
 Mike Haley, Cross Creek

Revitalizing Your Stewardship Strategies
 Brian Moore, Crosspointe

How to Stay Inspired
 Friends In Ministry

GENERAL SESSION 6:30PM

{ The legal history of same-sex marriage }

1996

Early Challenges

2012

Prior to 1996 there was no federal definition of marriage, but the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), passed with large majorities and bi-partisan support, defined marriage for the purposes of federal law as a union of one man and one woman. Parts of DOMA were questioned and challenged in the courts, and the Supreme Court eventually found the section of DOMA containing the marriage definition unconstitutional in 2013.

| More



Meanwhile, prior to 2004, same-sex marriage was not legally performed in any state. The subsequent legalizations in the states came primarily through court rulings and legislation, with the first popular votes in favor of same-sex marriage coming in 2012, and in only 11 states was same-sex marriage enacted democratically. Even though a majority of the states placed one man-one woman marriage definitions in their constitutions, these measures were challenged, and several of the challenges were considered together with *Obergefell* as the court came to its present position and overturned those votes.

June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States decided in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that same-sex couples possessed the fundamental right to marry in any state in the U.S. The decision requires that all states issuing marriage licenses shall provide them to same-sex couples and recognize such valid marriages from other jurisdictions. Before the decision, 36 states and the District of Columbia had issued same-sex marriage licenses.

than tradition

A response to the Supreme Court's decision legalizing same-sex marriage throughout the United States of America

By Keith Bassham
Editor, Baptist Bible Tribune



First thing. The issue at hand is marriage, its essence and definition, the efforts to upend the traditional model, and our response to those efforts. Keep that in mind as we move forward.

Within a day or so after the five to four vote, when the Supreme Court changed, from a legal standpoint, the definition of marriage in this country, the leadership of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International (BBFI) tasked me with writing and publishing a response for our Fellowship. Technically, there can be no single authoritative response from the Baptist Bible Fellowship given our structure and nature, our emphasis on the autonomy and primacy of the local churches, and the worldwide scope of our Fellowship. Therefore, I am writing more *to* our Fellowship than *for* it. Also, note that this article is not intended to address the many complex issues associated with homosexuality — the *Tribune* has done that elsewhere, and will again.

The Supreme Court's decision, while not unexpected by those of us who have been watching this issue closely, was disappointing. But the disappointment was not solely because we dissent from the ruling announced in June. We are disappointed as much, if not more, that marriage itself had already been so devalued by American culture. Whether that devaluation came as a result of laws allowing easy divorce, lack of spousal faithfulness, the seeming carelessness of "living together," the clamor for absolute sexual freedom, or the embracing of a loose sense of morals overall, the idea of traditional marriage — one man/one woman/one lifetime — has been in trouble for a very long time. Or as another published response put it, "the institutionalizing of same-sex marriage did not redefine marriage; rather, it is the fruit of a

redefinition of marriage."

In the face of legal challenges and cultural shifts so astonishingly rapid and profound, we who participate together in the Baptist Bible Fellowship International are called by God to a biblical model in human relationships — emotional, spiritual, and physical — and we therefore look to God and His Word rather than to courts and culture for guidance to determine our own behavior and attitudes regarding those relationships.

Fundamental to that pursuit is the example and teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose teaching was informed by his intimate knowledge of the Father and the Creation narrative of Genesis. He consciously referred to both when he said, "*Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*" (Matthew 19:4-6).

The Book of Genesis, rather than any innate feeling no matter how deep, should be the starting point for any discussion of marriage. Using that source, Jesus gave a biblical definition of marriage (a man and a wife) and the complete catalog of God-ordained genders (only two — male and female), while rightly pointing us to the story and purpose of Creation itself as his authority. New York City pastor and author Tim Keller writes, "In Genesis 1 you see pairs of different but complementary things made to work together: heaven and earth, sea and land, even God and humanity. It is part of the brilliance of God's creation that diverse, unlike things are made to unite and create dynamic wholes

which generate more and more life and beauty through their relationships. As N.T. Wright points out, the creation and uniting of male and female at the end of Genesis 2 is the climax of all this. That means that male and female have unique, non-interchangeable glories — they each see and do things that the other cannot. Sex was created by God to be a way to mingle these strengths and glories within a life-long covenant of marriage."

It is against this background of Creation truth that God announces prohibitions against all sexual activity outside the marriage covenant, including several named forms of fornication — adultery, same-sex sexual acts, incest, and bestiality to name but a few — and faithfulness to God and His Word demands that the people of God obey these prohibitions.

But we also note, since the marriage definition comes to us, in Jesus' words, "at the beginning," the definition is meant for all humanity and not limited only to His covenant people. And though God's covenant people have not always been so faithful and careful with the institution of marriage as they ought, we believe the definition continues to be valid despite the mistakes of humanity and the faulty judgments of courts.

The position of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International on these things, then, is that reflected in Article V of the BBFI Twenty Articles of Faith, appropriately in the section titled "Of The Creation:"

V. Of The Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that



man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind." Since God created mankind into genders distinctly male and female, we believe that the only legitimate marriage is that between a man and a woman. He has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God rejects any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

Noting again that the BBFI is a fellowship of pastors and not an association of churches per se, let alone an association with a denominational structure, while at the same time recognizing the partnership in the Gospel shared by our pastors, missionaries, churches, and colleges participating in the BBFI, our entire Fellowship is urged to:

1. Continue to believe that human government is an instrument designed by God for the good of humanity, and that the American system of representative government and democratic processes, with all its flaws and failures, is still to be prayed for and respected, with the hope that a biblical culture of morality may yet be instilled among our citizenry.
2. Continue to believe that it is possible to live in civil harmony even with those who

disagree with us on these important issues, and that it is our responsibility to love our neighbors, and perhaps even more so when disagreements arise, remembering that all humans are created in the image of God and therefore ought to be treated with dignity (a primal idea in the Supreme Court's decision). Keep that in mind, whether in face-to-face conversation or on social media, always remembering the goal is to win your neighbor with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. Continue to affirm the Creational archetype of biblical marriage, the normative ideal set for us in Genesis and reaffirmed by our Savior in his teaching during his earthly life, speaking the truth about marriage whenever and however we are able, and modeling the truth about marriage in our own families and homes and churches. It is especially important that we model biblical marriage before our children who are often taught quite another thing outside the home.
4. Keep the perspective that millions of Christians have gone before us, living and dying and winning people to Christ, most without the advantages we have had living in this country with its freedoms and generally favorable treatment of the people of God since its founding. Do not squander the blessing that comes with citizenship in a land with a democratic process. Use your privileges well.
5. Related to the above, while a majority of American citizens are said to believe in God, we observe a majority of Americans do not hold to a biblical morality, and

it is futile to expect them to behave as though they do. Some of those people are outspoken in their hostility to the Gospel and to God, and are even pleased to consider themselves enemies. Many, many more, though, are not our enemies in any sense, and should be viewed as broken humans in need of help. John MacArthur has urged us to "be careful not to replace patience, love, and prayer with bitterness, hatred, and politics."

Now is not the time for people of God to panic, to "check out," or to head for a remote location. Rather, let us be confident in the sovereignty of God and in His Word, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).

Let us determine to be faithful to the entire Word of God even if it puts us into the margins of society, remembering the words of Jesus who said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Let husbands love their wives and wives their husbands, and let us cherish and teach our children the truth as often as possible, and to the generations following.

And while we continue to have respect for authorities ordained of God (Romans 13:1-7), we strongly disagree with the court's ruling, and therefore let us pledge that we will not disobey God (Acts 5:29) nor violate the Scriptures for the sake of cultural approval, financial advantage, or any other expedient.

May God bless all our BBFI partners as we communicate the truths of the Word of God with faithfulness to Him and love toward others.

Editor's Note: Prior to publication, this article was reviewed by the officers of the BBFI and deemed to accurately reflect the position of the elected and appointed leaders, agencies, and colleges of the BBFI.



LET THE RECORD SHOW ...

READING ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL



By Doug Kutilek

It is tragic when a people, a nation, a civilization, a church, or a religious movement neglects the study of its own history. Such neglect is inevitable when there is a complete or nearly complete failure to record and conserve accounts of that history, with the result that history cannot be studied.

I believe those associated with the BBFI have only been moderately conscientious in recording its collective history, the history of its institutions, and the lives and labors of its principle figures. However, so that those interested in that history might be aware of available resources, I have cataloged some in this article. While few of these titles are available in print new, many can be readily located through Internet book services. Most can also be consulted in the library of Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO.

The collective history of the BBFI has been reported, but incompletely. There are a couple of books on the events that led to the founding of the BBF in 1950 — *A History of Baptist Separatism* by Billy Vick Bartlett (1972; 79 pp.) and *The Birth Pangs of the Baptist Bible Fellowship, International* by W. E. Dowell (1977; 57 pp.). Bartlett also penned the well-illustrated *A Pictorial History of the Baptist Bible Fellowship* (1975; 145 pp.) which covered the first 25 years (1950-1975) of the BBFI's now 65-year-long history. Though identified as "volume I," no subsequent volumes have appeared. In *Roots and Origins of Baptist Fundamentalism*, edited by J. O. Combs (1984; 146 pp.) chapters 12 (Combs) and 13 (by Bartlett), survey the beginnings of the BBFI and its first quarter century. One theme in BBFI history was traced

in *J. Frank Norris and His Heirs: the Bible Translation Controversy* (1999; 165 pp.) by Doug Kutilek.

The day-to-day events in the BBFI have been recorded in the official organ, the *Baptist Bible Tribune*, as well as in the official minutes of committees, business meetings, the records of the mission office and such over the years, but these are merely the "raw materials" of history, and wait to be mined for information that can then be systematically arranged. The first crucial decade of the then-weekly issues of the *Tribune* have been scanned and are available on CD for purchase from the *Tribune*. Another untapped and disappearing resource is the collective memories of those who participated in events over the decades. Unless these oral histories are recorded, they will be irrecoverably lost.

Early Leaders

In any movement, there are always prominent leaders who set the pace and tone. A series of well-done and documented biographical accounts of 32 different Baptists was published in the *Baptist Bible Tribune* in the late 1990s. These were reprinted in a magazine-format book, *Our Baptist Heritage*, edited by Mike Randall (2000, 95 pp.). Of the 31 men and one woman profiled, half have a BBF connection. This publication is perhaps the first place to begin reading about BBFI history. (Editor's note: more Fellowship biographies were published in the *Tribune* in 2000-2002, but they were not compiled in a separate volume.)

Because the BBFI had its roots in that segment of Baptist fundamentalism led by **J. Frank Norris**, it is proper that we note a selection of the voluminous writings about his life. Norris penned *The Inside History of First Baptist Church, Fort Worth, and Temple Baptist Church, Detroit* (circa 1938; 331 pp.), which has the telling by-line "The life story of Dr. J. Frank Norris." His longtime cohort Louis Entzminger wrote *The J. Frank Norris I have Known for 34 Years* (1948). Among the many other published writings about Norris, are Barry Hankin's, *God's Rascal: J. Frank Norris and the Beginnings of Southern Fundamentalism* (1996); E. Ray Tatum's, *Conquest of Failure? A Biography of J. Frank Norris* (1966); Homer G. Ritchie's, *The Life and Legend of J. Frank Norris, the Fighting Parson* (1991; 323 pp.); and most recently, Pastor David Stokes's, *Apparent Danger* (2010; 391 pp.); later re-issued as *The Shooting Salvationist* (2011; 350 pp.).

BBC professor J. H. Melton compiled the first account of the life of BBC president and pastor **G. Beauchamp Vick**, *The Clergyman of the Century* (1976; 309 pp., quarto). It consists largely of reproduced newspaper clippings and other documents relevant to the life of Mr. Vick, really the raw materials of a biography. Though identified as "volume 1" (of a projected three), no further volumes appeared. Two brief but informative and readable Vick biographies are *From Victory to Victory: a Biography of Dr. G. B. Vick* by Joyce Vick (n.d.; 170 pp.); and *G. B. Vick* (1987; 122 pp); and the second retitled edition, *G. B. Vick: His Life and Legacy* (1998; 144 pp.) by Mike Randall, who was a pastor, BBC professor, Tribune editor, and BBC vice president and president. Following Mr. Vick's death in September 1975, an issue of the *Baptist Bible Tribune*, vol. 26, no. 18, October 1975, gave an account of his life and death.

No biography of **W. E. Dowell**, pastor, executive vice president, and second BBC president has been published, though I understand the Dowell family is preparing such a volume, with a projected appearance in a couple of years.

Noel Smith, founding editor of the *Baptist Bible Tribune* and BBC professor, had his life written, or, rather, mostly compiled from his own writings, by BBC professor and pastor's wife Norma Gillming, *The Best of Noel Smith* (1985; 482 pp.). Smith's death was given full coverage in *Baptist Bible Tribune*, vol. 24, no. 29, January 25, 1974; a complete transcript of his funeral service occupied most of the *Baptist Bible Tribune*, vol. 24, no. 30, February 1, 1974.

Great-granddaughter of **John Rawlings**, Kaitlyn O. Rawlings, wrote an oral history, *The Lord is not through with Me Yet: the Story of Dr. John Rawlings* (2013; 235 pp.)

Pastors

I would venture a guess that no man knows how many different men have pastored churches associated with the Baptist Bible Fellowship (and association with the Fellowship requires nothing more than supporting financially one of the BBFI colleges, approved missionaries, or other of the Fellowship entities). But surely that number, over the past 65 years, must be in the thousands, likely over 10,000. But whatever that number is, a surprisingly few biographies or autobiographies have been written.

Dallas Billington, pastor of Akron Baptist Temple (at one time having 16,000 members and the largest Sunday school in the world), gave an account of his own life in *God is Real: A Testament in the Form of an Autobiography* (1962; 292 pp.).

The life of **Clifford Clark**, long-time pastor of Tulsa Baptist Temple and a strong influence for missions, was recorded in *And God Did It: Dr. Clifford Eugene Clark. A Biography* by Terry Smith (n.d.; 159 pp.).

Jerry Falwell is probably the most recognizable individual ever associated with the BBFI. There are several accounts of his life: *Jerry Falwell: Aflame for God* (1979; 188 pp.); *Jerry Falwell: Man of Vision* by Patricia Pingry (1980; 80 pp., quarto); *Strength for the Journey an Autobiography* (1987; 456 pp.); and what is essentially a second edition of the preceding, *Falwell: an Autobiography* (1997; 485 pp.).

J. Curtis Goldman, one of the longest-serving BBFI pastors, wrote, among several other accounts, *50 Goldman Years Pastoring Temple Baptist Church* (n.d.; 360 pp.).

Art Wilson, pastor, evangelist, and thrice BBF president in the 1950s, wrote, with Jonathan J. Stewart, *Duty, Not Preference: the Life Story of Arthur "Art" Wilson* (1996; 301 pp.).

Missionaries

B BFI-approved missionaries over the years, all told, number 2,012. Though many fewer than the BBFI pastors, they have proportionately received greater attention in written accounts, though it is still rather limited.

Clifford Clark's *Drama in the Real Lives of Missionaries* volumes I & II (n.d.; 163 pp. each) present 20 short missionary biographical sketches; about half of these are about BBFI missionaries.

Fred Donnelson wrote a brief account of the life of Josephine Sweet, *Mother Sweet: Fifty-one Years a Missionary to China!* (n.d.; 78 pp.). He also wrote about his World War II experiences in *Finding Freedom in a Japanese Prison Camp* (1940s; 120 pp.).

Effie Donnelson wrote two accounts of the Donnelsons life and ministry in China and the States, *They Called Him "Mr. Missions"* (1974; 154 pp.); and *Moongate Glimpses of Missionary Life and Work* (1976; 94 pp.).

Lois Donnelson Logan penned *It's Miraculous When God Makes a Way* (1996; 228 pp.), which includes an account of her youth as a missionary kid in pre-WWII China, her months' long incarceration in a Japanese prison camp, and her later ministry with husband Bill Logan as missionaries in the Orient.

The long and remarkable ministry of Elmer and Mary Deal was written by Elmer Deal with Mike Randall in *Out of the Mouth of the Lion*, volumes I and II, bound in one volume (2010; 495 pp.).

Cherie Espinosa wrote the account of her husband Don Espinosa's life and ministry in *The Man Who Wouldn't Quit* (2014; 272 pp.).

Frank Hooge, missionary in the Philippines, wrote or edited accounts of both his own life and that of his wife Elsie Hooge: *Kept in Perfect Peace: Memories of the Life of Mrs. Elsie Hooge* (n.d.; 67 pp.); and, *God's Grace Manifested to Me: the Life Story of Dr. Frank Hooge* (1977; 97 pp.).

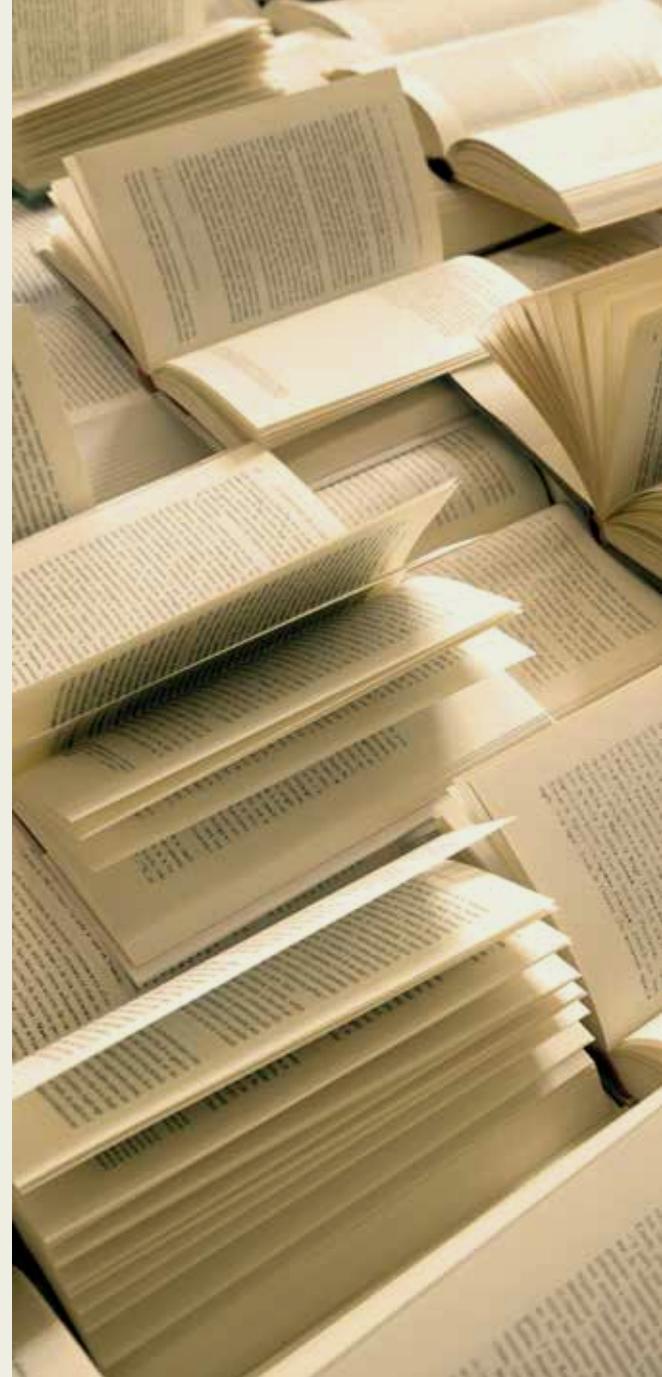
The life of Bob Hughes, missionary in the Philippines, was reported by Monroe Roark in *An Extraordinary Life* (2010; 111 pp.).

Pat Moseley wrote *Under His Wings: the Life of Charles Moseley, Missionary* (1963; 123 pp.), who served in Papua New Guinea.

Winene Nimmo authored *Agaayun Asirtuq* (2011; 113 pp.) about the ministry of Fred Nimmo in Alaska.

Longtime missionary to Mexico Lonnie Smith, Sr. wrote several accounts of life and ministry there: *The History of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International in Mexico* (1987; 68 pp.); *Ten Years South o' Border* (1967; 70 pp.), updated as *31 Years South o' Border* (1987; 70 pp.); and *Anecdotes of a Missionary* (1987; 204 pp.).

Georgia Webb wrote her autobiography, *More than a Dozen: Fifty Years of Ministry in Mexico* (1998; 192 pp.).



Note:

I wish to acknowledge the great assistance provided to me by Director of Library Services at Baptist Bible College, Jon Jones, in locating and gaining access to most of the items included in these articles, *Tribune* editor Keith Bassham for information that I would otherwise have overlooked, and Carole Miller in the BBFI Mission Office for providing the precise number of BBFI missionaries.

Though I have aimed at completeness, I recognize it is almost inevitable that some relevant author or book has been overlooked. I would request that any such oversight be brought to my attention at dkutilek@gmail.com.

Lavern Rodgers | **Japan**

While still reeling of grief from my dear Clara's passing last year, the Lord saw fit to take Jiro Mochizuki shortly after the New Year. Bro. Mochizuki was a 15-year-old teenager when he rode up on his bicycle to see the Americans who came to live in his town, Shizuoka. This was where my first wife, Evelyn, and I began our ministry in the fall of 1950. He was also the first Japanese person I was privileged to lead to the Lord. He later went on to be one of our first Bible college students and married his wife, Toshiko, after graduating. As my first "spiritual son" in the Lord, he has finished 60 wonderful years of ministry. He planted five churches with 25 full-time Christian workers who have come out of his ministry. He was a tremendous servant of our Lord and we will all miss very much.

Ben & Rachelle Metzger | **Argentina**

Flashback — 7:30 a.m., I heard the familiar wake-up bell and a camp counselor telling everyone to get up and get ready for the day. Soon after, as the morning service was underway, young voices lifted up praise to the Savior in song. Then the main speaker for the week was introduced, but no one stood up right away to head to the pulpit.

Flash back to reality — I realized it was my name they had called. For an instant, the memory of past years at this camp clouded the present reality that I had the privilege to challenge these youth from God's Word for the week. What an honor to participate alongside other missionaries and pastors in such an essential ministry: one that helped shape my life when I was a youth. Now it was the next generation's turn to discover what it meant to be the "Generation of Hope," which was the camp's theme this year. We rejoiced in the decisions of four young people to receive Christ as their Savior during that week, and several other decisions to live for the Lord.

Craig & Fran Lingo | **Colombia**

Daniela and Natalia were saved through our evangelistic camps. These events consist of 48 hours where everything — the games, music, dramas, testimonies, small groups, and yes, the teaching — focuses on showing the young person his or her lost condition, the amazing love of God who offered his Son on his or her behalf, the concept of grace, and the purpose of God in providing abundant life. We know we cannot redeem a soul, but we can make sure every kid who goes to camp has received a full dose of the Gospel! Daniela and Natalia began to connect to church and last month they both invited their parents to go to the evangelistic camp for parents. Daniela's father went and so did Natalia's mom and dad. The two girls were also there serving on staff. Everybody on staff was rooting for these three people to be saved. The result, Daniela's dad stepped out the first night, but after being explained the Gospel decided to take time to consider it. Natalia's mother was saved, and her father was not, but they were both in church the following Sunday. So the young ladies came home with a bittersweet feeling in their hearts. Our consolation is the seed was planted ... now God will give the increase. The cool thing is Daniela and Natalia have completed the cycle: they were reached with the Gospel, they connected to church so they could grow, and now they are serving as salt and light in their community!

Steve & Kelli Mowery | **Spain**

The Lord still saves and is still working in the field of Spain. Let me tell you about my barber Pedro. I always try to witness to or give him something spiritual to meditate on when he cuts my hair. I've known him 23 years. Last week, for the first time, I was able to get him to take a New Testament to read. He is a moral, non-practicing Catholic that needs the Lord. Pray for Pedro. Also, a man in our church shared a special testimony of leading his 87-year-old father to the Lord. He doesn't have long to live but placed his faith in Jesus as Savior.

Mike & Caroline Tester | **Hong Kong**

Our music leadership just added another man, Greene Mtonga from Zambia, a first for us. Now we have a Zambian, a Canadian, a Filipino, and a Chinese leading our worship services each month. It's never boring in Hong Kong. I think what we have and experience is reflective of what heaven will be like: "And they sung a new song, saying, Though art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou was slain, and has redeemed us to God by the blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Revelation 5:9).

Renae Thompson | **Germany**

Kurban is a sharp 10-year-old from Eastern Europe who occasionally comes to church. As the spokesperson of his family, since he can speak German with the outside world, Kurban takes advantage of his unique position as king at home. At church he's boisterous and impertinent, and to say he disturbs Sunday school is an understatement. It's hard to keep from sighing when we see him come in, but of course he needs to learn about Jesus too. Please pray for Kurban and his family as well as for the Sunday school teachers and the other kids.

Vladimir & Debbie Lukyanov | **Russia**

Just two weeks ago our neighbor, Nina Vasilevna, lost her nephew to a heart attack. He was 43 years old. She asked why God would take someone so young, hardworking, and good. I asked if he was a believer. Nina said no, but that he was a good person. It was a good opportunity to tell her about Christ. This is not the first time God has brought Nina to our home so we could share Christ with her. She desperately needs him, since she is lost and struggles with her own very serious health issues.

Andy & Lisa Simpson | **Taiwan**

Wu Ryung-hua, who was saved and baptized earlier this year at Dali Faith Baptist Church, continues to grow in the Lord. We gave the responsibility of discipling him to Jiang Gwo-wang, one of our very faithful men, and it has been encouraging watching him care for his "Timothy" and as a result grow spiritually himself. Please pray for Bro. Wu as he faces many challenges, especially since his son is not saved and his wife, although professing salvation, not only attends a church with questionable doctrine but also does not give much evidence of salvation.

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URBAN CURRENT

An urban primer

More than half of the world's population today lives in urban areas. By 2050 this will increase to 75 percent.

Cities not only run the world, they color the entire world. You may live in the back hills of West Virginia, or in the middle of nowhere in west Texas, but you live in an urbanized world.

I hope what follows not only helps you understand the city, but helps you understand the urbanized world you live in, no matter your address.

What makes a city a city?

IMMENSITY - Tokyo, population 13.3 million, is huge. Istanbul, population 14.3 million, is vast. Manila, population 16.5 million, is unbelievable. Houston sprawls forever. The Chicago metropolitan area is roughly 100 miles by 50 miles.

Urban scale can be overwhelming, impractical. This immensity accommodates disparity. Here in Chicago, our glittering Magnificent Mile (Michigan Avenue) is a universe apart from Madison Street cutting through the burned out and beat down West Side ghetto. Immensity accommodates a level of degeneracy. Immensity enables anonymity.

DENSITY - Immensity plus density creates an energy that is invigorating and exhausting. My neighborhood, Logan Square, is roughly a mile and a half wide by two miles long. Eighty thousand people live here. Our neighborhood is surrounded by neighborhoods of not dissimilar size and density. Those neighborhoods are jammed up against similar neighborhoods and so on. So many people in so little space. The noise, the dirt, the search for a parking spot all relate to density. So many sinners per square inch creates a spiritual intensity difficult to fathom. Help us, Jesus!

DIVERSITY - To the density we add diversity.

It is ethnic and socioeconomic. It is also generational, national, and philosophical. It impacts not just the dining scene, but the arena of ideas. Hordes of humanity are jammed together, each person with individual life experience and world view. Competing interests, conflicting ideas, all contribute to the milieu. Wow!

COMPLEXITY - This is not only a product of the above, it is added to the above. Related to the already identified elements, it also becomes its own force and influence. Again, my own neighborhood, due to the political machinations of the Chicago power structure, has seven different city council members, each representing a portion of the community. I have to deal with seven different council members!

We used to do big outdoor back-to-school rallies. One year we noted we had close to 100 grade schools represented and over 25 high schools. Hmmm.

VELOCITY - Now we add velocity. The city is in constant motion and not at a turtle pace. There is an urgency, an energy that permeates the atmosphere. Transiency is just part of this. People come, they go. They rent here for a year or two and then they move over there for a year or two. Or, they move into the city for three years and then are moved on by their company. A couple buys a condo. A couple years later a baby comes. They start looking for a house. Life stages. Career moves. Economics. Family demands. Oh my!

INTENSITY - Immensity plus density plus diversity plus complexity plus velocity equals an intensity that must be experienced to be understood. The confinement of so many people, sights, sounds, scents, movements, dwellings, vehicles, businesses, schools, interest groups, forces, and powers brings an intensity to urban living that is unequaled. Think of the concentration of the forces of spiritual darkness

in a given city. Whew!

Interestingly, this intensity is felt as an exciting energy by newcomers. They don't realize that after a while they will come to resent what they found so exciting. They will likely come to resist the very thing that perhaps drew them in the first place.

Each of these elements can be tracked, studied, dissected, and applied sociologically, politically, historically, spiritually, and ecclesiastically. Each element interacts with and impacts each of these spheres. What does all of this mean in practical terms?

About 30 years into pastoring Armitage, I was told our database contained every name we had ever collected from people attending anything at our church. I never knew this. I thought when people moved, died, got lost, we deleted the names. Not so. At that time, we had over 35,000 names. I know for a fact that many people have attended services and other activities and not filled out a registration card. I estimated we had a minimum of 50,000 people through our doors in 30 years. I realized why I was having trouble remembering everyone's name.

I can also tell you that it may take three hours or longer to make a single hospital visit in a city with more hospitals than some counties have patients. I have visited people in over 70 hospitals in the Chicago area.

Rush hour??? Fugetaboutit!!!

Everything in the city is magnified, multiplied, and intensified: the good, the bad, the ugly.

Paul wrote to the saints in the world's first mega-city, "I am eager to preach the gospel to you in Rome."

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



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In praise of a godly woman



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

On June 1, Barb and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary. Just a few weeks after that day in 1985, we packed our little Toyota and moved to the campus of Baptist Bible College to begin our journey, and like you, we had no idea of what the following decades would bring.

Following our graduation in 1988, I was soon thrust into being the senior pastor of my home church. So not only did our church have a rookie pastor but also a rookie pastor's wife. We had no idea what we were doing, but God began to bless and bless.

Since those early days, Barb has been an example of godly love, kindness, and class to literally thousands of other women. As a pastor's wife she has never — never — been a bad example, said an unkind word, or hurt anyone. She has been the most kind, unselfish, humble, loving, and helpful example of a Christian and pastor's wife I could ever imagine possible.

She doesn't sing or play the piano, but for 25 years "Miss Barb" found her favorite ministry leading the little ones. Hundreds of boys and girls looked forward to their favorite day of the week because they would get to see "Miss Barb." They would call out her name and run to her, getting a hug and telling her something important. Our church grew because of this ministry — the quality, the teaching, the safety, and the care they experienced made parents confident their little ones were protected and loved. Under her care, every one of those precious little ones knew that Jesus loved them, that God created the world, and that they were special.

She has excelled as a loving wife, a mom to four, and in the role as a pastor's wife. She has been a tremendous example of a believer filled with joy, love, peace, gentleness, and kindness. Please know we have had our struggles as everyone else — losing our parents while young, losing a child, going through life-threatening illness, numerous building programs, and just dealing with a growing church is a busy hard life, but through it all I have been blessed with a loving wife that constantly encourages and believes in me.

I alone get to see the time she spends with God and in His Word. I know her love and care for her Lord, her husband, her kids, and grandkids, and now I watch her love on your students here at Baptist Bible College. You can be very confident in the example and love our young ladies are privileged to have.

There is no doubt that in our movement we have failed to properly honor and recognize the women that have made this entire ministry — BBC and the BBF — possible. So I share this to acknowledge that this is not just about Barb, but about ministry wives all over the country and the world. Thank you, ladies.

I am blessed far beyond what I deserve and could never put into words the depth of my love. Thank you "Miss Barb," I love you.

Hard to find the words



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

Words typically come pretty easy for me. I've never been "the life of the party," so I suspect I'm a little below average when it comes to the spoken word (a painful admission for a preacher!). I feel much more at home when it comes to the written word. I enjoy words. My family teases me (and students do, too!) that I invent words to suit me. I am guilty of that. Words are cool and I like them ... but the early summer of this year has left me looking for the right words.

From the perspective of our college, I have been dreading this summer. As last winter piled on us, I knew this summer would be a time of intense fundraising. The costs did not disappear with the finally melting snow. I knew only the churches and friends of our college could help us. I just hate the act of asking. Along with our college trustees, we have asked, and so many of you have helped! The words "Thank You" just don't seem like nearly enough. It looks like by the time this summer ends we will have raised the largest offering in the history of Boston Baptist College. I'm at a loss for words at this response to help us.

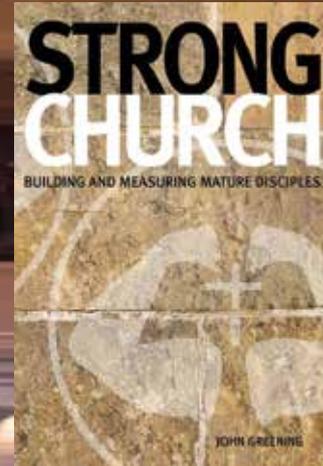
Then, events in our world have continued to leave me looking for words, but for entirely different reasons. The unspeakable mass murder at Emanuel AME in Charleston has been repudiated with words from across the nation and around the world. How can any person be so evil as to kill people because of the color of their skin and after studying the Scriptures with them for an hour in their own church building? Scripture says, "the heart is deceitful, and desperately wicked." For families of "the Emanuel Nine" that wickedness creates pain beyond any words.

Still reeling from that genuinely historic tragedy, we got the next roundhouse blow from the U.S. Supreme Court. I was not surprised by the Court's ruling — I was surprised by how emotionally rattled it left me. I grieved for days (and still do). But I'm still struggling to put it into words. Our nation's highest court redefined the Creator's invention. We, in this country, have — officially, at least — told God, "We will make our own rules, and Your rules won't distract us." I'm not a hater. I interact with dignity with gay persons all the time. I care about them even if I disagree with them. But to declare "as a nation" that we will define our own terms ... I'm speechless.

What a start to a summer! The events have left me, a word-lover, with little to offer. May I suggest the words of the pastor-hymn writer Maltbie Babcock more than a century ago ... "This is my Father's world, O let me ne-er forget, that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet." Those are words for moving forward!

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Ted House succeeds Charles Smith at Bible Baptist in Mt. Orab

The congregation of Bible Baptist Church in Mt. Orab had just received communion this past May 3 when Pastor Charles Smith asked the deacons to join him near the front. After seating the deacons on the front row, he announced briefly that he would be resigning, and he encouraged the church to call his longtime associate, Ted House, to be their new pastor. The congregation responded with "Amen," and the transition was immediate.

The transition is yet another example of the leadership ability of Charles H. Smith. Born near Sterling, MI, and raised during the Great Depression, he married young and began his family as a farmer. He listened to A. C. Edwards, "The Christian Soldier of the Air," on the radio, and in 1953 visited Grace Baptist Church in Saginaw, MI. He had never been in a Baptist church before, but that morning he walked the aisle and received Christ. The next week, his wife Nancy came to Christ at the same altar.

Smith was called to Gospel ministry in 1960 under the ministry of A. C. Edwards, and went on to pastor churches in Michigan, Florida, and Ohio. He had been pastor of the 1,500-member Mt. Orab church 33

years. Known statewide and nationally for his prophecy teaching and preaching, his leadership in mentoring and church planting has been noted. Active in the Baptist Bible Fellowship, both in Ohio and nationally, he has served both, and about 30 students from his

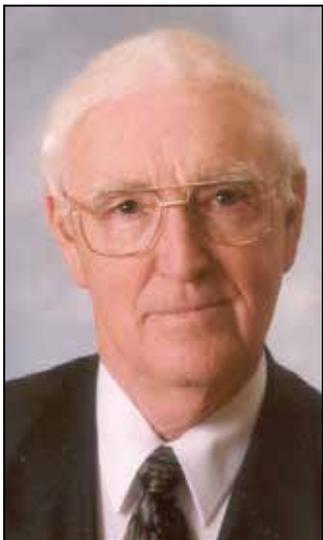
was running fewer than 100 in attendance. Today the average attendance is 400-450, and their ministry reaches into four counties, with broadcasted programs and services on a network of 17 radio stations reaching nearly 17 million people.

Pastor Smith and Nancy have been married more than 60 years. They have eight children, a number of grandchildren, and more than a dozen great-grandchildren.

Ted House, Smith's successor, is a Michigan native. Saved at the age of 17 at Ambassador Baptist Temple in Wyoming, MI, he married his sweetheart Carol in 1981. He graduated from Baptist Bible College, in Springfield, MO, with a B.S. in Pastoral Ministries. After his third year of college he accepted the pastorate of Beth Haven Baptist Church in Walnut Grove, MO. He was ordained there in 1990 and served four years. In February 1994, he joined the staff at Bible Baptist Church, Mt. Orab, to assist Pastor Smith.

The new pastor is looking forward to what Christ has in store for the church. He said, "I love the local church, the Bible, and the hymn book! God is still in the business of building his church."

Charles Smith notes that he resigned from the church, but is not retired. He is available for meetings and prophecy presentations. He can be contacted at (937) 515-1426.



Charles Smith



Ted House

ministry have attended Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO. Others have gone out from Bible Baptist with Smith's practical training and started churches in Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana, and Southern Ohio.

Bible Baptist Church, started in 1964, recently celebrated its Jubilee anniversary. When Pastor Smith came in 1982, the church



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HOPEWELL, VA

James and Rosalie Maggard feted at 50th anniversary of pastoral ministry

Broadway Baptist Church of Hopewell, VA, celebrated 50 years with Pastor James E. Maggard and his wife Rosalie June 7, 2015. Many current and past members, along with visiting pastors, missionaries, and other ministry friends were present to help the church celebrate this milestone Jubilee for Pastor and Mrs. Maggard.

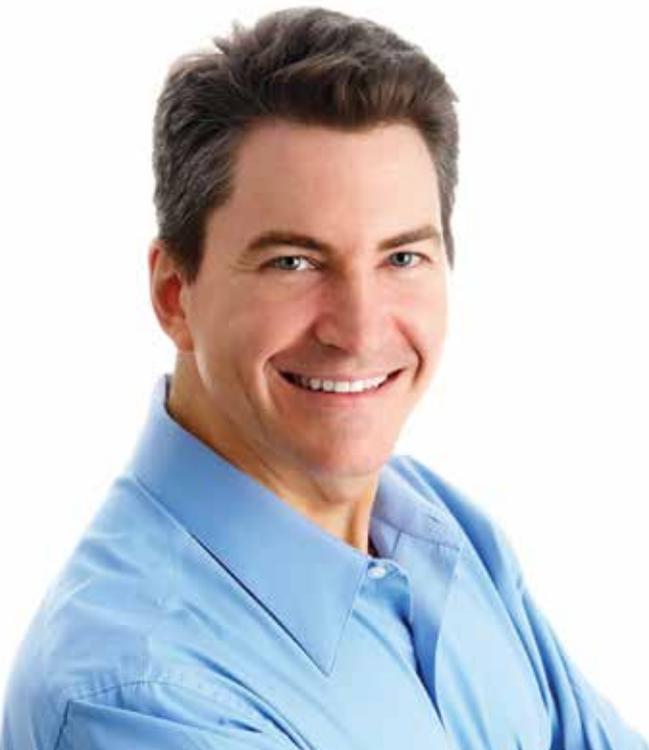
Maggard began his ministry with Broadway Baptist June 5, 1965. He had graduated from Baptist Bible College two years before, and he had been the pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Republic, MO, while a student. He has been an active leader in the state and national fellowships, and founded Broadway Christian School, which can now boast that it has educated three generations of students.

Jerry Davis, Maggard's son-in-law, has succeeded to the position of lead pastor, while his mentor and predecessor has been named



James and Rosalie Maggard

Pastor Emeritus. Mrs. Maggard is the church's pianist. Their son Ron brought the Jubilee message during the event (available at <https://worldlink.wordpress.com/2015/06/08/jubilee-shout-for-joy/>).



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Missionaries reflect on annual BBFi reunion

BBFi missionaries, Mission Office staff, and invited guests made their way to Branson, MO, for the Annual BBFi Missionary Reunion in mid June. For several days, these couples, singles, and families, both young and well-seasoned, listen and learn, renew friendships and make new ones, and they bask in the company of loved ones in a relaxed and safe environment — a strange but welcome environment for many who attend. The missionaries themselves are the reporters for this article, and the lead article comes from Gail Gritts, missionary to England. Shorter reports come later.

Article by Gail Gritts

I don't like going to camp. I like camping. I like having fun. However, the expectation always makes my heart race and my nerves feel like they will explode. That is how I felt as we drove down Highway 13 toward Branson for the 2015 Missionary Reunion. Silly, I know, especially when I had voluntarily signed up and was excited to see friends and have some fun. Yet, this always initially frightens me. Over the years, I have found it best to push through my fears and apprehensions because the blessing is on the other side.

Reunion is a perfect word for this adventure. Like a family, the Missionary

Reunion draws us together around God's Word, shared experiences, and a unified goal. The Word was brought through Pastor Archie Emerson. He challenged us to examine our missionary hearts. We faced questions like:

"What gleams from your eyes?"

"Where do you turn when you are at the end of your rope?"

"Are you doing it God's way?"

"How do you view your calling?"

"Is your spiritual heart healthy?"

Missionary colleagues shared testimonies applying truth to the reality of the missionary experiences. We were exhorted to allow God to give us much more "muchness," not to be afraid to ask God questions, and to do so inquisitively, not accusatorily. We heard about the rats we all face, and the times when we are told, "It can't be done." However, in each testing, the reality of God's ability reached through the fears and apprehensions we face in ourselves and on the field.

Every family reunion has an element of recreation. The children and teens were treated lavishly by the generosity of those churches who gave financially and with hands-on workers. And we missionaries also enjoyed winning prizes. Amazing how fun it is to spin a wheel or race to the front with an object in

order to be rewarded with a prize! Watching a group of missionaries bowl never fails to create joyous chaos as well! Our sincere thanks go to all who gave in order that our family reunion could be laced with joy.

Reunion is also a time of renewal.

Personally, I was able to see my dear friend, Susie Smith, whom I had not seen in several years. We both marveled that friendships are not divided by absence. We rejoiced in having time to share and renew our friendship. Tom and I were also renewed by seeing dear colleagues, Gene and Glenda Worley, with whom we served in the early years in England. Nothing can take the place of dear friends and the blessing it brings to the heart to be renewed by their friendship and strengthened in camaraderie.

Renewal also comes as we make new friends, put faces and personalities to names we have heard or read about over the years, and come back to identifying with the reason we are missionaries in the first place — our calling.

To be renewed in purpose, in love, and in spiritual energy is the blessing that lies on the other side of fear and apprehension. I, for one, am so glad I pushed through.





Other missionaries reports:

"I would not have gone to the retreat (no matter how many people said it was always fun) if Mary Herman had not obligated me to do so. I was truly blessed. I enjoyed the speakers starting with Jon Konnerup, the lady missionaries that gave devotions (shared tough times and how they came out of them), and especially Pastor Emerson. When I go through hard times I tend to lose sight of the bigger picture. These speakers helped me to recapture the big picture."

Raquel Avila (Peru)

"The 2015 Missionary Family Reunion was such a blessing. It had been 11 years since we last attended. The venue in Branson with the hotel, attractions, places to eat, and best of all the refreshing Word and sweet fellowship makes all the difference. Looking forward to our next time to attend."

Paul & Ellen Byars (Philippines)

"After many years of not being able to attend, we were very pleased to make it to the BBFI Missionary Reunion this year. It was a wonderful time of reconnecting with dear friends and making new ones. We also enjoyed sharing ideas and mission strategies amongst each other. We were very encouraged by the messages and testimonies. We enjoyed spending time with the staff as well and getting to know them better. We definitely left refreshed, challenged, and renewed. It was well worth the two-day drive there."

Dwayne and Valerie Keefe -Australia

"The BBFI Missionary Reunion was a lot of fun. I really wasn't sure what to expect before coming. It was great being with other MKs my age who have gone through similar experiences as I have had. The leaders were awesome too, teaching us a lot and making sure we had a lot

of fun. I left with some life-long friends. I would like to thank the churches and individuals who gave and prayed so we could have such a great time."

Austin Keefe (Son of Dwayne and Valerie) - Australia

Note - The retreat is subsidized by pastors and churches who faithfully give to the Missionary Care Offering. The offering has allowed missionaries who are often unable to attend because of finances to make the trip to reunite and be encouraged by the care and support of Mission Office personnel and other missionaries from around the world.

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LESTER HALL

Lester Fred Hall, 89, of Springfield, entered glory Friday, May 22, 2015, having served faithfully in the Gospel ministry 53 years. Mr. Hall was born July 1, 1925, in Chadwick, MO.

He is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Madena, two daughters, and five grandchildren. A memorial service was held May 27, 2015 at Cherry St. Baptist Church in Springfield.

MESQUITE, TX

R. D. WADE

Longtime BBFI Pastor R. D. Wade left this life July 11, 2015 at the age of 84. Born May 7, 1931, in Burns City, TX, he was the pastor of First Baptist Church of Meadowview (Mesquite, TX, and formerly known as Pleasant Grove Baptist Temple in Dallas, TX) 43 years. All told, Wade served in ministry 63 years, pastoring in Belton, Gainesville, Denton, and Austin, TX, and in DeQuincy, LA.

He founded Temple Christian School in Dallas where countless young men and women were educated in a Christian environment. Considered a "friend of missionaries" by scores of missionaries, and with a special affection for Mexico, he led a number of evangelistic camps and revivals south of the border.

He was preceded in death by his wife Eeva, and is survived by four children, 15 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren.

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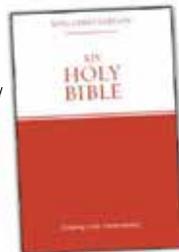
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Pastor turned layman remained faithful to God and church

By Ray Brinson

I have had the privilege of pastoring Victory Baptist Church in Nixa, MO, 17 years. Nixa is a bedroom community south of Springfield on Highway 13. As pastor, I came to know very well one of the men responsible for the church's existence — James Faulkenberry.

James had been in pastoral ministry from 1958 through 1993. During those years he served Bible Baptist Church in Neodesha, KS, Fellowship Baptist Church in Liberal, KS, Central Baptist Church in Lindale, TX, and Calvary Baptist Church in Parsons, KS. Settling in the Springfield area, he went to work for C. Meeks Lumber, but when his daughter Betty asked, "Daddy, what are we going to do for church?" he responded, "I guess we can start one."

And that was the beginning of Victory Baptist in Nixa. A group of about 15 began to meet in the basement of Happy Days Daycare in Nixa, and on Wednesday nights the group would go to James Faulkenberry's home. James Faulkenberry and Clell Wieneke took turns preaching, and about six months later Jim Cooper became pastor of the church.

South Campbell Avenue Baptist Church agreed to be the mother church for Victory, and it was organized in April of 1994. Four years later, in September 1998, I was called as pastor.

It was important to James, indeed to the whole church, that the pastor be a shepherd-leader, but they also wanted a Bible preacher. He recalled for me that one congregation he had led asked him to leave, not because of besetting sin or anything like that. They felt he preached out of the Bible too much!

Not long after I became pastor, the church purchased ten acres of land, and then we built our first building in May 2001. The second building was a Family Life Center bringing the total square footage to nearly 30,000 square feet, and our property

and facilities are appraised at \$1.2 million dollars. Victory Baptist Church supports more than 35 mission projects and we average 125 in Sunday worship services.

One year ago this past April, we honored James Faulkenberry and his pioneering vision by dedicating our auditorium naming it the "Faulkenberry Chapel." We did not know that almost a year later to the day, James would go home to heaven. All the years of my ministry at Victory, we always referred to James and Bernice Faulkenberry as "Papa" and "Mema." We owe them much, and James Faulkenberry will never be erased out of my memory, for "... he being dead yet speaketh."



James (Papa) Holly Faulkenberry, age 93, of Nixa, MO passed away Saturday, April 25, 2015. Born June 6, 1921, in Bowie, TX, he served his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. January 18, 1946, he and Bernice Jones were united in marriage. Mr. Faulkenberry had served as a Baptist minister for 35 years from 1958 until 1993. James was a member of Victory Baptist Church in Nixa.

Survivors include his wife, Bernice, four children, six grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.



AUGUST 2015

PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1  MISSIONARY Bill & Dorothy Merritt <i>S.M.O.R.S.</i>
2  CHAPLAIN LT Joseph & Magen Isip <i>US Army Reserves</i>	3  MISSIONARY Tony & Joy Anzalone <i>Ecuador</i>	4  T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY Michael Cox <i>Mexico</i>	5  MISSIONARY Brian & Rebecca Wright <i>Wales</i>	6  MISSIONARY Ruth King <i>Japan</i>	7  MISSIONARY Doug & Donna Stamper <i>Kenya</i>	8  MISSIONARY Tim & Jenelle McCown <i>Japan</i>
9  MISSIONARY Mary Homer <i>Retired</i>	10  MISSIONARY Josh & Amanda Allred <i>Mexico</i>	11  MISSIONARY Missy Sanders <i>Bolivia</i>	12  MISSIONARY Scott & Norma Edwards <i>Portugal</i>	13  Workers in Restricted Countries	14  MISSIONARY Tom & Carol Wallace <i>Ireland</i>	15  BBFI MISSION OFFICE Finance/Accounting Dept. <i>Springfield, MO</i>
16  MISSIONARY Don & Debbie MacFarlane <i>Canada</i>	17  T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY Josh & Erin Taylor <i>Honduras</i>	18  MISSIONARY Michael & Tammi Nelson <i>Australia</i>	19  MISSIONARY Mary Herman <i>S.T.E.P.</i>	20  MISSIONARY Kevin & Kristina Brown <i>Croatia</i>	21  MISSIONARY Larry & Dixie Quade <i>Wales</i>	22  MISSIONARY Craig & Amanda Dyson <i>Ethiopia</i>
23  BBC PRESIDENT Mark Milioni <i>Springfield, MO</i>	24  MISSIONARY Michael & Cristy Wyatt <i>Japan</i>	25  MISSIONARY Boyd & Donna Lyons <i>Philippines</i>	26  MISSIONARY Sabrina Shangle <i>Ireland</i>	27  MISSIONARY Garry & Nancy Matheny <i>Romania</i>	28  BBF Builders	29  MISSIONARY David & Karen Freeman <i>Nepal</i>
30  MISSIONARY Jim & Becky Carter <i>Alaska</i>	31  MISSIONARY Dustin & Carla Reinhardt <i>Chile</i>					

As is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.
Martin Luther

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