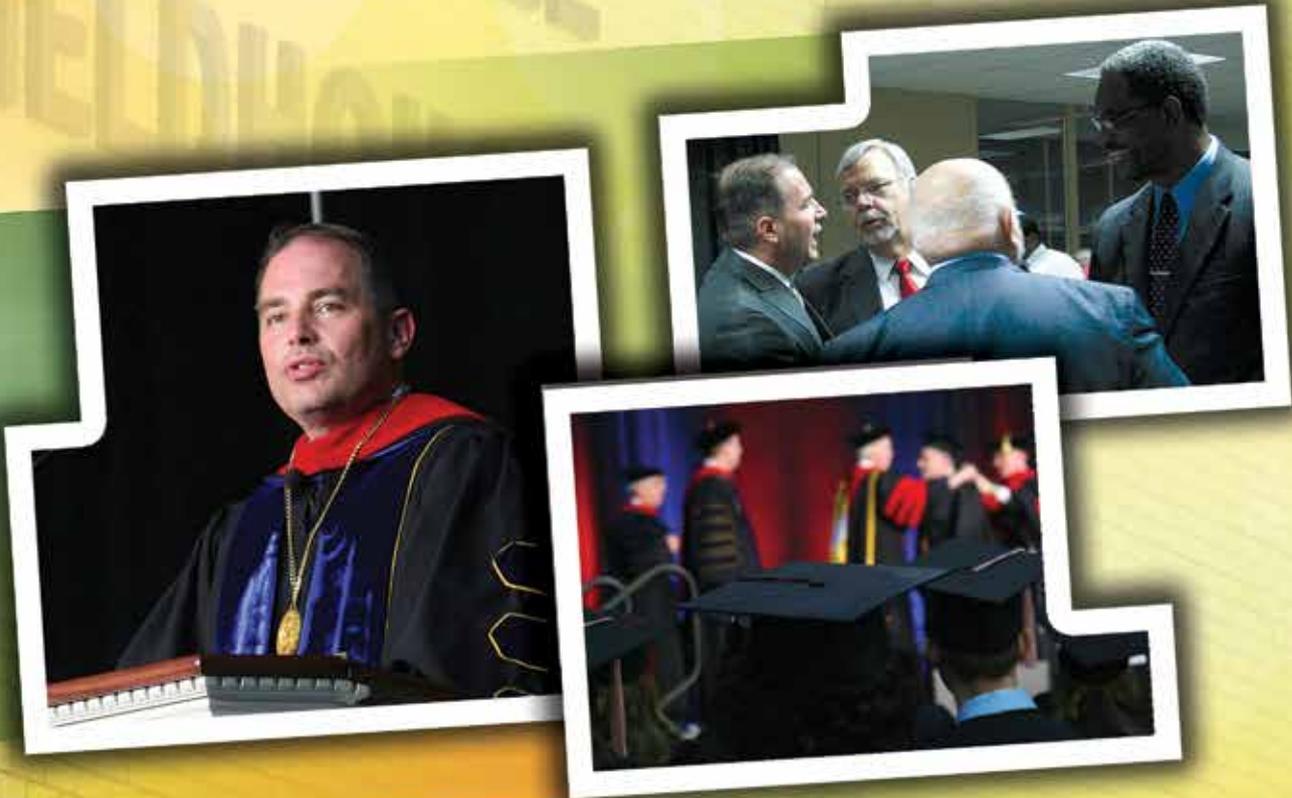


BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JUNE 2012 | VOL. 62 NO. 10



A NEW DAY

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GREG AND MARY ALBERT • WALES

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 Sending Pastor: Matthew Trill
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A family will be going to a Restricted Access Nation (RAN) field as TEAM missionaries to assist veteran RAN missionaries. They may be contacted through the Mission Office.



Newly approved

missionaries

CAREER

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Joe & Darcy Flory

Brandon & Rachel Ivy

Brent & Amanda Longenecker

Ben & Rachelle Metzger

Kevin & Sarah Pine

Wade & Donna Rasmussen



ON THE TABLE
A new day

by Keith Bassham | Editor

I admit it. I do some cheerleading for our Fellowship and the institutions within. I am a firm believer in the maxim expressed by one of Louis L'Amour's characters, "I take the man's money; I ride for the brand."

To reassure, I know something about journalism, and I know something about the purpose of the *Tribune*. I do not confuse the two. The *Tribune* is not objective journalism. We are pro-Fellowship. We have an agenda. This is a must, because no other magazine in the world will report about our pastors, and our churches, and our missionaries, and our work around the world.

This has sometimes caused angst, because regardless of the brand, the *Tribune* is going to be honest. And not all elements of Fellowship life can be approached with the same enthusiasm, and not all news is good. Shadows fall, and no amount of cheerleading can make the dark go away. Even in my own meeting with the directors this past week, I reported a shortfall in *Tribune* revenues, and I had to ask them to approve a deficit budget for the coming year. We have some surpluses to tide us over for a while, and the *Tribune* is not in imminent danger of collapse, but reality is what it is. Facts, as Mr. John Adams has told us, are stubborn things.

But there is a reason for cheering this season. While there is something to praise and/or censure in any meeting designed and implemented by redeemed sinners, the overall effect of this year's May Graduation Fellowship was decidedly, well, hopeful, to borrow a political theme.

That is not an easy place to get to these days in our Fellowship, but with the set theme, It's All About the Gospel, there was bound to be unity as we concentrated on a common purpose. And then, as the week progressed, and as we saw the elder and younger Slaydens (did anyone miss that metaphor?) take the pulpit Monday, and as we heard new BBC President Milioni give eloquent voice to our aspirations, and even in the last-minute Leland Kennedy sermon Wednesday evening when he had to step in for Elmer Towns, I heard a new sub-theme emerge — A New Day.

I was not alone. One leader in our Fellowship wrote to friends on an Internet discussion list, saying that for the first time in a long time he had reason to be hopeful about our future. Another wrote in a more humorous vein, after Mark Milioni spoke, "Some have said that BBC is on life support and has flatlined, and maybe it's time to pull the plug. Well tonight the guy with the toe tag just had to stop his work because the toe wiggled, the flat line started spiking with renewed life ..."

Well, a good speech, and a good night, or even a good week, as not hopeful as they are, cannot substitute for continued faith and work and persistence and clarity. May we push off from this Fellowship Week, and make a new day the new reality.

Keith Bassham

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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The call of the Great Commission is alive within Kenyan churches



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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Finishing is the goal, not simply starting



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

Much is written today about motivation. We buy books, CDs, and DVDs; we attend conferences and seminars; we listen to advice on ways to get started and ways to spark initiatives. Plenty of advice is floating around on setting goals, establishing priorities, and developing a game plan. Much of it is insightful and needed. Sometimes we need to be motivated. Sometimes we need a push. Getting started can be a herculean task. Starting well is the beginning, no doubt about it.

But let's consider the opposite end for a change. Not much is written or said about finishing well. Let's talk about the virtues of sticking with something until it's done; of hanging tough when the excitement and fun fade into discipline and guts. It seems our attention span is conditioned by 30-second commercials and half-hour sitcoms. I observe a generation that has come dangerously near the "I'm-getting-tired-so-let's-quit" mentality. This is true in so many realms. We see it all the time in relationships and responsibilities. We also see it in the spiritual realm as well as the physical realm. Millions of people make decisions for Christ — but where are they after the decision? After the Christian life loses its novelty, it's often discarded like a toy. There is a great market for religious experience, but little enthusiasm for the acquisition of virtue, character, godliness, and hard work. We need to be reminded that the Christian life is a marathon, not a 100-yard dash.

Remember what Paul said — "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). Paul urged Christians not only to start well, but to finish well! So many start the Christian life like a lightning flash — hot, fast, and dazzling, and lasting just about as long. It is sad that we all know people like this. But it is not God's will! He wants us to finish the course — not simply start it. We turn a deaf ear to the Master's encouraging words and listen wholeheartedly to the devil who specializes in helping half-hearted, half-committed people feel comfortable. The bottom line is this: Jesus Christ did not bathe this world in his blood for us to serve the world, the flesh, and the devil. We are bought with a price. We are not our own. We belong to him.

Am I writing to someone who needs some discipline? Am I writing to someone who is weary, discouraged, frustrated, and beginning to wonder if it's worth it? Let me encourage you — God is still on the throne. No matter what comes out of Washington D.C., no matter what church issue you are facing, no matter what financial challenges you are facing, He is in control. Don't quit! We are involved in the greatest work in the world! Let's finish well to the glory of God!

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Why are fewer going?



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

Last month I began a series on why it seems fewer of the younger generation are surrendering to full-time ministry. The task is not finished and the need for the world to hear the gospel has not diminished. Following are some additional reasons I believe fewer people are surrendering to serve as missionaries.

4. The family. It seems today's youth are more likely to stay closer to home. I have met people who wanted to leave home to pursue an education and begin a life of service to God but their parents would not allow it, strongly opposing the idea of their children serving as missionaries — wanting them to obtain an "education," get a "real" job, and live the American dream. We dedicate our babies to the Lord, but when it comes time for them to follow God, maybe to Africa, many parents discourage it. Others think raising children on the field and being away from family for extended amounts of time are significant obstacles and never go.

5. Pluralism. No one likes to be told what they believe is wrong — especially today when many believe all roads lead to heaven. Some find it hard to preach Jesus is the only way, the only truth, and the only life, and try to avoid the hassles and arguments resulting in less of a desire to share the truth not only here but also around the world.

6. Missions awareness. While this is generally not true of Baptist Bible Fellowship churches, many young people are not challenged to consider service as a missionary. Our youth camps should encourage young people to go into the ministry. Watch how many high school graduates are going to Bible college compared to the number enrolling in secular colleges. If they are not informed, they will not be influenced to serve God. A major key to our future missionary force is our youth pastors.

7. Missions theology. Even though many have grown up in church, it might be true that most have never been exposed to nor do they understand the missions theme of redemption that is woven into God's Word from Genesis to Revelation. The paradigm shifts of some of the newer mission philosophies steer away from sending out career missionaries. I am certainly glad the early churches did not do that with the Apostle Paul. We need more to surrender to go in order to evangelize, disciple, and plant churches — fulfilling the Great Commission.

I will continue this series in the following months. In the meantime, let us all do what we can to strengthen our potential force of missionaries sent from our churches to answer the Great Commission for our Commander-in-Chief, Jesus Christ.

Planting not one, but several churches



by Jason Todd | Associate Director | NCPO

The National Church Planting Office continues to provide resources to help our BBFI churches plant new churches in their community and throughout the country. Let me share with you an immediate need with a partnering pastor and church.

In 2003, the Lord led Pastor Bryan Kelley and his wife to plant Bethel Baptist Church in Uniontown, PA, and God has blessed the work there. When the church was planted, Pastor Kelley wanted to plant not one but several churches in the years to follow.

In October 2011, he and Bethel Baptist had the joy of transplanting ten people along with Pastor Aaron Douthitt 16 miles south of his location to Masontown to plant Bridge Baptist Church. After planting Bridge Baptist Church in Masontown, Pastor Kelley planned to plant a church every three to five years. However, God evidently thought he meant every three to five months.

In January 2012, Pastor Kelley had another independent Baptist church in Dunbar contact him about taking over their facilities. This includes a 5,800-square-foot church building, 920-square-foot kids ministry building, and a three-bedroom parsonage that also has a two-bedroom missions apartment in the basement. The church, due to unfortunate circumstances, had received a bad reputation in town, lost many of its membership, and couldn't take care of their facilities.

To make a long story short, Pastor Kelley and Bethel Baptist had everything deeded over to them and closed the church down. Their plan is to raise the money to reopen the church under the name New Life Baptist Church. Pastor Kelley will pastor this church and Bethel Baptist until he is finished mentoring the new pastor for New Life Baptist who is currently on staff with him.

They are currently using the leftover funds from the closed church to make renovations to the facilities, which are debt free. However, Pastor Kelley is trying to raise \$1,300 a month for six months to cover the operational costs of New Life Baptist Church. He believes that with God's help, they will have a new work planted with a core group to cover the operational costs after six months. Pastor Kelley will be pastoring two churches for two years. He will turn the New Life Baptist Church work over to the young man he is mentoring at the two-year mark.

We ask that you pray for Pastor Kelley and Bethel Baptist Church as they do what God has called them to in starting this new work. We also ask that you consider becoming a partner with them financially. If you can help with any amount for six months, please contact the NCPO at (417) 536-8826 or office@bbfincpo.com and we will put you in contact with Pastor Kelley.

It is exciting to see what God has done and is doing with our BBFI churches in the area of church planting!

A resolution regarding same-sex marriage

The following resolution passed unanimously by the pastors meeting in the business meeting of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International, Tuesday, May 15, 2012.

Whereas the assembled pastors meeting in the Fall National Fellowship of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International at Florence Baptist Temple in Florence, South Carolina, September 24, 2003, affirmed that homosexual practice is gross sin and morally reprehensible, and is unacceptable behavior for those who claim Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, and,

Whereas those same pastors also affirmed their conviction that marriage was designed by God, and is a covenant relationship between one man and one woman who shall be husband and wife, and that same-sex unions are a perversion and repudiation of God's design, and in no sense can they be considered legitimate marriages, and,

Whereas recent events have caused renewed public discourse regarding the subject of homosexuality and same-sex marriage, including the approval of a constitutional measure for the state of North Carolina, defining marriage solely as a union between a man and a woman May 8, 2012, and the president of the United States publically declaring his support for same-sex marriage the next day, and

Whereas we believe it important that the position of the Baptist Bible Fellowship be characterized as unambiguous and firm, rather than "evolving" in any sense,

Therefore, be it resolved that on May 15, 2012, the assembled pastors meeting in the May National Fellowship of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International at Springfield, Missouri, do reaffirm their previous resolution of September, 2003, regarding the gross sinfulness of homosexual practice and the sole legitimate definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

National Officer Election

Those pastors who did not cast a ballot in the May meeting but are eligible to vote (defined by the BBFI bylaws in Article III), may request a ballot from the Mission Office (417.862.5001) if they wish to vote in the election for the Executive Officers.

No one, including state BBF officers, is allowed to request a ballot for anyone else. Each pastor who wants to vote must request a ballot for himself.

The ballot, completed with the name of the pastor and church, must be returned to the Mission Office for counting no later than July 1. The election results will be announced prior to the fall meeting.



DIGRESSIONS

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

Movie about online dangers to hit theaters this fall

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A faith-based movie warning parents and children about online dangers will be filmed in part at Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, and is set to debut in theaters this fall.

Finding Faith, based on actual events about a girl falling victim to an online predator, portrays how a model family can be torn apart by tragedy and rebuilt by faith.

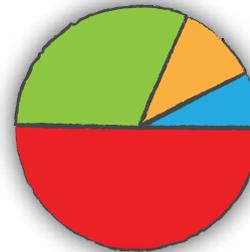
Thomas Road, founded by the late Jerry Falwell, will serve as the host church for the production, which centers on the work of a Virginia sheriff, Mike Brown of Bedford, and the Department of Justice task forces around the nation that have led in protecting children from Internet predators. Jonathan Falwell, the church's pastor, said, "Mike Brown and his team have done an incredible job of prosecuting predators and making families aware of this danger. We are eager to support their efforts."

The full-length narrative motion picture is projected to open in 135 theaters nationwide in November.

Source: Baptist Press, www.bpnews.net

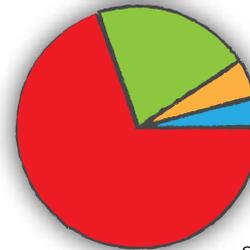
Survey asks about witnessing

In the last month, how often did you witness/share your faith with:



FRIENDS

- 50.4%** Not at all
- 31.3%** 1-2 times
- 10.9%** 3-4 times
- 7.4%** 5 or more times



STRANGERS

- 69.6%** Not at all
- 21.2%** 1-2 times
- 5.2%** 3-4 times
- 4.0%** 5 or more times

Source: www.thearda.com, Baylor Religion Survey, Wave 2, 2007

Launching the gospel into North Korea

While the North Korean government busies itself with threatening nuclear tests and rocket launches, one organization is floating a valuable but illegal payload right across the borders of southern North Korea. The group, Seoul USA, has embarked on a program to launch Bibles and gospel flyers into the closed country via balloons 70 to 80 times a year. Spokesman Rev. Eric Foley says his group is making sure the method is reaching its intended targets. "We've recently been able to track the locations of where the Bibles and flyers are landing using GPS devices that are attached to the balloons," he details.



Even with confirmation by defectors of the effectiveness of the balloon drops, Seoul USA has yet another way to measure its success. "The best information that we have on the effectiveness of the program is that it is the most often complained about by the North Korean government," says Foley. "The North Korean government always complains to the South Korean government that the South Korean government should prohibit organizations from doing balloon launches and radio broadcasts."

Seoul USA partners with the North Korean underground church to do daily radio broadcasts, even though the North tries to jam the transmission. Foley adds that in North Korea it is illegal to possess a Bible, or even to bow one's head in prayer.

Source: www.onenewsnow.com, by Charlie Butts, May 22, 2012

Court: Find non-Christians to pray

In its first case addressing legislative prayer, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that a New York town board's tradition of opening monthly meetings with prayer is unconstitutional because the town should have tried harder to find non-Christian speakers — even if that required recruiting beyond the town's borders.

The town of Greece, NY, has opened board meetings with prayer since 1999. Two residents challenged the practice in 2008 because all the prayers had been offered by Christians. The town then had representatives of Judaism, Wicca, and the Baha'i faith offer prayers, but the residents filed suit once the prayers reverted to Christian-only in 2009 and 2010.

A lower court sided with the town, but three Second Circuit judges reversed its ruling, concluding "an objective, reasonable person would believe that the town's prayer practice had the effect of affiliating the town with Christianity." Not because the prayers were sectarian per se; but because the town's "process for selecting prayer-givers virtually ensured a Christian viewpoint" because the town didn't actively solicit non-Christian speakers or — given that the town has no non-Christian congregations within it — go beyond its borders to recruit them.

Source: Baptist Press, www.bpnews.net, by Jeremy Weber, May 18, 2012

In the NEWS of the WEEK

BY R. O. WOODWORTH

Bro. Wm. Savage praises the Lord for His blessings upon his church in El Reno, Okla., and has given thanks and praise to God for God's blessings upon the revival he recently closed in the First Fundamental Baptist church, Lynwood, California.

Many sinners were saved and some 70 people added to the church. The meeting was a blessing also to God's people, who were quickened and revived exceedingly.

The pastor, Bro. Ralph Irvin, is perhaps the best judge of the work. "The revival is still on; we had seven saved and nine additions to the church Sunday."

When Bro. Savage came to the meeting in Springfield last week he went out of his way to visit a brother who was lost. While he failed to win him, he had the great joy of getting from his wife the confession that she realized she was a sinner and would trust Christ as a personal Saviour.

Bro. Savage is planning a Youth Rally to open June 29, which will feature Bro. Tommy McSpadden, Lebanon, Mo., as the evangelist; Bro. Kenneth McClintock, piano and trombone, Attica, Kans., and Bro. Gary Bill Bryon, Wichita, Kas., song leader. Bro. Bryon is Bro. Savage's own grandson.

On May 11 the pastor, Bro. James Allen and deacons of the Community Baptist church, Garden City, Mich., and the former pastor, Bro. Rupert Waters, as well as about 300 members and friends, met at Warren and Lather streets for a ground breaking rally day.

It was an opportunity to welcome the former pastor, Bro. Waters, and the deacons took part in the ceremonies. Bro. Waters spoke concerning the history of the church. Pastor Allen, who celebrated his third anniversary April 6, addressed the large gathering, following his predecessor. Participating in the services were the following deacons: Robert Burklow, Henry Fortier, David Watson, Sr., Vincent Ravenna, Willy Holly, and John Thomas. Prayer was offered by the Sunday school superintendent, Richard Freeman; \$716 was contributed by the members toward the building.

Bro. Allen having conducted the services and sought for divine blessing upon the assembly, the company was served dinner on the grounds.

Construction of the new building will begin soon.

"Friday night, May 16, closed a two-week school of music reading, choir directing, and a choir organization at the Noble Hill (Fundamental) Baptist church, Springfield, Mo., conducted by James White, who has been teaching Music Theory at Baptist Bible College. Noticeable results were witnessed in the spirituality of the song service the following Sunday. The pastor Bro. Thomas, and song leader both expressed approval of the improvement of the music department of the church. The Sunday services were climaxed Sunday night by the teacher, and Mrs. White uniting with the church for membership."

There has been special effort made in Altus, Okla., by Bro. Wayne Imboden, pastor Tabernacle Baptist church, these past weeks, and is still going on today. God has been very gracious to the church. This is clear from what He has already done for it. The Lord has saved mightily—two young men who surrendered to Christ

last Sunday are rejoicing today in their new found liberty.

When a man has been in the ministry a number of years he doesn't love the Gospel the less but he is apt to think people know all about it, forgetting that a new generation is rising up—and he is anxious to go on to perfection. If he comes back to elementary truth and stays warm, he will not only be favored with conversions but old people whom he might have thought were forever laid up on a high mountain plateau, will be refreshed. Bro. Clifford Clark, pastor Tulsa Baptist Temple, preaches the Gospel in simple manner and as a result his ministry has been blessed to the salvation of a great host of young people. Through him God has attracted fine groups of young Christian workers who have devoted themselves to this one thing, the preaching of the glorious Gospel of Christ—and their efforts are being blessed to the salvation of other young people. Out of this fine group of young people a gospel team has been organized called *The Gospelairees*. They were heard last Sunday night, at 9:30 over station KOME in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Eight of these Gospelairees have definitely and unreservedly surrendered their lives for special service.

The folks of the Tulsa Baptist Temple were blessed last Sunday by the ministry of Bro. Ray Morales and the music on his steel guitar.

Bro. Bill Beall, pastor Southside Baptist church, Denison, Texas, writes with thankfulness in his weekly paper, *Southside Baptist News*, for the gracious work of the Holy Spirit in his congregation. He has just completed the erection of another building. The original building was not large, but year after year it was enlarged. The influence of Bro. Beall's ministry has been remarkable in the city of Denison. Five united with the church May 18. Apart from the conversion of souls, many others have been greatly refreshed and strengthened by his ministry.

I wish to quote an extract from the *Lakeworth Baptist Witness* in reference to the calling of Bro.

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH G. Beauchamp Vick, Pastor DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Sunday, May 25:
Sunday School Attendance 3,823
Offering\$7,304.47
Uniting With Church45

Paul Morgan as Missionary of the Baptist Bible Fellowship of Texas.

Bro. Morgan was pastor at Chickasha, Okla., for several years before he resigned about a year ago to begin a new work at San Antonio. That church is now firmly established and running as high as 100 in Sunday school. I trust that we can have him with us for a service sometime in the near future. Inasmuch as he has accepted the newly formed office of State Missionary of the Texas Baptist Bible Fellowship. Our church has voted to set aside another 5 per cent of our offerings for Missions; \$25 a month of it will be used for this State work.

Bro. Ralph Van Nortwick, editor of the *Lakeworth Baptist Witness* and pastor of the *Lakeworth Baptist church*, Ft. Worth, Texas, reports a total of nine additions for the month of April.

SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT RAMSEUR CHURCH, PARIS, TEXAS

BY LESTER J. SINGLETON

We have just closed a revival meeting at the *Ramseur Baptist Church*, Paris, Texas, with Bro. John Rawlings of Cincinnati as the evangelist.

To me this meeting has been a church revival—many people dedicating their lives to serve the Lord in a more effective way. For instance, our Monday night visitation 66% per cent, with as many as 200 contacts made on a single Monday night and from 66 to as many as 84 definite promises for attendance the following Sunday.

It has inspired the teachers and their work with their classes and for the Lord. Only time will be able to show the real results that were accomplished. I can truthfully say as the pastor that Bro. Rawlings, his zeal for God and his timely Bible messages have done much to help us and the people of our section.

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Father's Day: One dad's don'ts

"For the sake of brevity, and perhaps because I do not enjoy self-inflicted pain, I'll limit the list of mistakes to four. My recollection of these times was painful in itself.

Mistake No. 1: **I stopped studying the Bible with my sons when they became teenagers.** I was consistent with prayer and Bible time with the three boys while they were young. I really don't have a good reason to explain my dereliction of Bible study with them after they reached their teen years. I missed some of the most formative years of their lives by abandoning that opportunity and responsibility.

Mistake No. 2: **I sometimes disciplined my sons when I lost my temper.** I therefore punished them as a result of my anger rather than correcting them in a godly manner.

Mistake No. 3: **I often majored on minors.** Too often I was more concerned about the boys taking time to clean their rooms rather than spending time with me or doing something of greater value. I was fastidious about their bedtimes when I should have had flexibility if they just wanted to talk to their dad.

Mistake No. 4: **I didn't always give my boys focused time.** I remember the time I was working on a book while Art was playing baseball. I was physically present in the stands at the ballpark, but my mind was on other matters. My wife told me that Art was at bat, but I continued to write. I missed his triple that drove in the two winning runs. I will never forget the disappointment on his face when he asked if I saw his triple. I couldn't lie to him. I hurt my son greatly that day.

I am not having a pity party nor do I enjoy recalling my failures as a father. And I am not writing out of a sense of false modesty.

My purpose in sharing a few of the many mistakes I made as a dad is to, by the grace of God, reach out to parents today. I want you who still have your children at home to cherish those days as an incredible gift. I pray that you will make the most of every moment with them. And though it's cliché to say, the time is really going so very fast."

Source: Complete article can be found at Baptist Press, www.bpnnews.net, by Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources. This column first appeared at ThomRainer.com.



A MEETING WITH TWO THEMES

By the Tribune

MAY FELLOWSHIP WEEK 2012

Baptist Bible College Interim President Ron Sears wanted to showcase the *raison d'être* of the Baptist Bible Fellowship when he crafted the theme for Graduation Fellowship Week — All About the Gospel. It was appropriate. The definition of the French term is “the purpose that justifies a thing’s existence,” the why of the Fellowship, the missionary program, the colleges, all that we do as a Fellowship.

During the meeting, however, May 14-17, a subtheme became apparent as attendees and speakers began using the phrase, “a new day,” to describe the effects of the meeting. Thus a subtle blend of the old (such as the video salvation testimonies from BBFI founders and recognition of missionaries with 50 years of service) and new (such as the rearranged seating in the fieldhouse and the installation of a new president for BBC) brought some new enthusiasm — not manufactured or ginned up by the way — to an admittedly aging institution.

The service music was led by Scott Quidley, the gifted music minister of Canyon Creek Baptist Church in Richardson, TX, with able assistance from BBC personnel, including David Giles and students. The keynote sermons by Linzy and Jon Slayden Monday evening set the tone. Jon is Director of Student Life at BBC, and his father is president of the BBFI. Other preachers included Charlie Miller, Michael Haley, Anthony Milas, Ole Konnerup, and former BBC president Leland Kennedy, who stood in for Elmer Towns who was unable to attend. Kennedy referenced the “new day” meme several times. Veteran preachers Jimmy Combs, Al Janney, and Charles Coleman provided video testimonies emphasizing the importance of the gospel and their responses.

In Thursday’s commencement, Jerry Thorpe continued connecting the past with the future as he gave a long list of Baptist Bible College graduates and their contributions to the work of the gospel worldwide. By the end of the commencement 92 students had received



their degrees and begun their own “new day.”

One important event, not usually on the schedule for May meetings, was the installation of Mark Milioni of Medina, OH, as seventh president of Baptist Bible College on Tuesday evening. More than 1,000 stakeholders of BBC attended the formal investiture service, and representatives from every segment of the Baptist Bible Fellowship committed their support and encouragement to the new



president. President Milioni then gave an address laying out a vision and an appeal for the college. BBC Interim President Ron Sears was unable to attend the service due to a death in the family, however, his sacrificial seven-month work for the college was recognized by the BBC Trustees and the pastors. Trustee Chairman Doug Cox said Sears made an invaluable contribution to the institution during his short tenure.

Wednesday was Missions Day at the meeting. New career missionaries approved were Joe and Darcy Flory (Russia), Brandon and Rachel Ivy (Philippines), Brent and Amanda Longenecker (Philippines), Ben and Rachelle Metzger (Argentina), Kevin and Sarah Pine (England), and Wade and Donna Rasmussen (Zambia). TEAM missionaries (short term) approved were Greg and Mary Albert (Wales, with Bob and Janice Marshall), and Jonathan

and Katie Mohler (Kenya, with Randy and Phyllis Stirewalt). One Restricted Access Nation (RAN) missionary was approved (name and field withheld).

BBFI missionaries recognized and receiving pins for 30 years of service were Mick and Kay Baumgartner, Billy and Cindy Hargis, Max and Debbie Harmon, Bill and Dorothy Merritt, Jesse and Glenna Parnell, and Mark Williams (with his wife Debbie posthumously).

Also recognized but unable to attend were Frank and Mary Bosler and Ted and Tonie Farris.

Missionaries recognized and receiving 50-year globes were Elsie Fishgrab (Navajo Indians), Dennis Herring (Canada), and Don and Phyllis Sidebottom (Ethiopia).

BBFI Mission Director Jon Konnerup also announced that the Fellowship directors paved the way for BBFI related international Bible colleges to achieve affiliate status. The first such school to meet the requirements and to be designated an affiliate college is Baptist Bible College Asia in Manila, Philippines. Greg Lyons is the school's president. The status declares the school to be in agreement with the BBFI's 20 Articles of Faith and helps to give international recognition of the college's relationship with the BBFI.

During the business meeting, the ballot for the election of national officers was distributed. The nominations are:

- President – Linzy Slayden (unopposed)
- First Vice President – Mike Frazier (unopposed)
- Second Vice President – Keith Gillming (incumbent) and Billy Hamm
- Third Vice President – Dan Lamb (unopposed)
- Secretary – Bill Carter and Paul Foster
- Treasurer – Howard Braymer (unopposed)

Pastors in the business meeting also reaffirmed the Fellowship's position regarding homosexuality and same-sex marriage in a resolution passed unanimously. The text of the resolution is published in this issue on page 5.

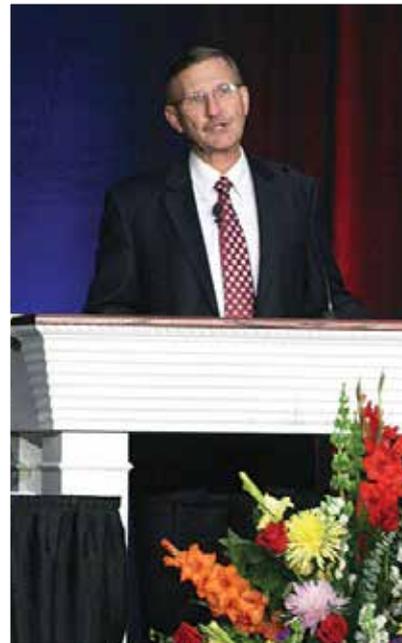
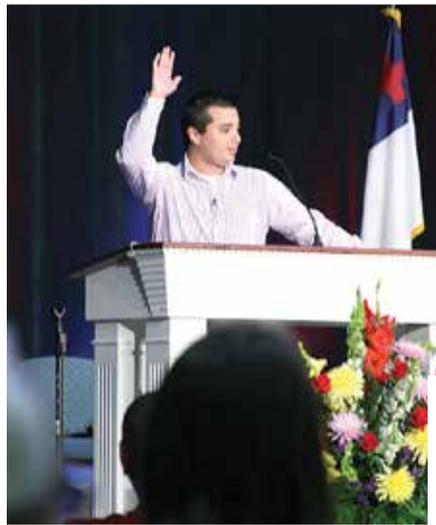
Future meetings of the BBFI

September 17-19, 2012 – Canton Baptist Temple, Canton, OH

February 18-20, 2013 – Shiloh Hills Baptist Church, Kennesaw, GA

May 2013 – Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO

At press time the
MAY COLLEGE OFFERING
was
\$356,565





Meet the new BBC president

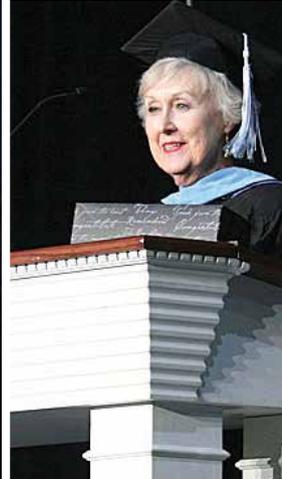
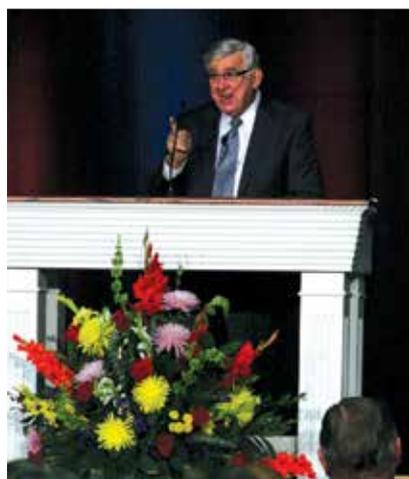
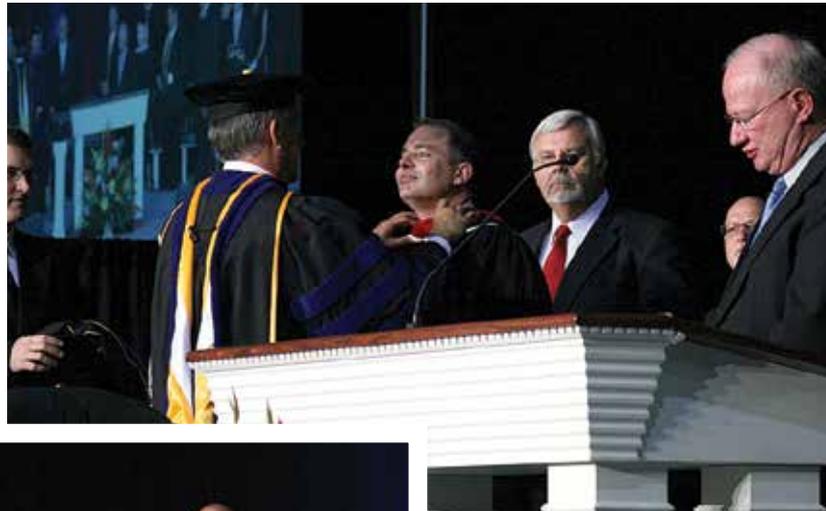
Mark Milioni grew up in Albion, MI. His uncle, Gene Milioni, was a familiar face in the *Tribune* in the early days and he was among those who founded the Baptist Bible Fellowship International (BBFI).

Mark is also the nephew of James and Debbie Goodman. James Goodman is an officer in the National BBFI and is the pastor of Stillwell Bible Baptist Church, Clarksville, AR.

After graduating from high school Mark joined the local police force. In 1985, he and his wife Barbara enrolled in Baptist Bible College where he earned a degree in pastoral ministry.

From 2003 until this month, Milioni had been the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Medina, OH. Under his leadership the church prospered numerically, financially, and spiritually. In addition to his degree from BBC, he also earned a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry and Bible at Luther Rice Seminary, Atlanta, GA; and Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership from Regent University (ABD), Virginia Beach, VA.

Mark has been married to Barbara for 27 years. They have four children, Emily, Brooks, Daniel, and Mariah. Look for more about President Milioni and BBC in the mid-summer issue of the *Tribune*.







Pray
for 東北

3,155 PERSONS
STILL MIS

“EVERYBODY CAME TO HELP AT FIRST.

15,854

ONE YEAR AFTER JAPAN'S GREAT DISASTER JAPAN BBF CHURCHES “GUNG-HO” IN DISASTER AREAS

BY LAVERN RODGERS • BBFI MISSIONARY TO JAPAN

In the year since the monstrous earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011, many of our JBBF churches have been working together, coming and going, to help hurting people in the disaster areas. Our people are answering the call. They make up teams of volunteers and go! They go for a week at a time and do so with great joy. They want to be a part of the cleanup and rebuilding process, however big or small. The volunteers distribute packs of relief food, bottled water, and daily necessities together with Bibles and tracts to open doors for ministering to those who have lost everything.

The national and local governments have done an amazing job of erecting sturdy pre-fab evacuation centers (see photos at right). The drab grey color units, in rows of tiny apartments under one roof, are constructed near hospitals and shopping areas to make it more convenient for the tenants. Each housing site is full of hurting people who have lost everything. They open up and welcome us, especially since we come from so far away. We go first to the managers of the evacuation

centers for permission to deliver the relief packs. The managers often also offer us the small meeting room they have on-site to invite the residents to attend our service of song and encouragement. This opens the door to bring them the gospel of salvation and hope. Seeds are being planted for starting churches.

All of this of course takes money to do. In concert with churches in America, our church family in Japan has been “gung-ho” responding with offerings for this relief work. Our working together and coming from afar has a tremendous impact with these hurting people. It is a tremendous testimony of Japanese and American Christians working together to make a statement: “God loves you and we care for you!”

A special fund for managing relief gifts and expenditures has been set up with two of our leading pastors as custodians and trustees sponsored by the Takiyama Bible Baptist Church, Pastor and Trustee Hideo Oki and Pastor Tokuho Kage of Kohoku Bible Baptist Church as the other trustee. It is the Grace Earthquake Relief Fund.

These two churches working together have been at the center of this relief ministry and have published a fabulous brochure to report of the labors of several of the churches in this volunteer ministry of Grace. The pictures in this article are from this publication. Although the brochure is in Japanese, the pictures tell the story.

Only one of our Fellowship churches had serious damage that had to be repaired or replaced. This is Grace Baptist Temple in Oizumi town in Gumma Prefecture. It was started by Bobby Finch. The pastor now is Aisaku Sawa. The two-story prefab kitchen and storage building was badly damaged and has been replaced with two single story buildings. One has a new kitchen installed to the delight of the ladies. The parsonage was structurally damaged some but was repairable. The block fence toppled and was rebuilt. Pastor Aisaku Sawa and his people send their deepest thanks to the churches in America for the love gifts to make the necessary repairs. Love offerings came from our Japanese churches too.



SING 129,225 BUILDINGS DESTROYED NOW ONLY THE CHRISTIANS KEEP COMING!"

CONFIRMED DEATHS

The Japan National Police has released the dismal figures on the earthquake and tsunami disaster: 15,854 confirmed deaths, 26,992 injured, 3,155 persons still missing across 20 prefectures. The grim report is 129,225 buildings totally collapsed, 254,204 half collapsed, and 691,766 partially collapsed. The World Bank estimates the damage costs \$235 billion making it the most in history for a natural disaster. As of January 23, there are around 338,000 evacuees, most of them in prefabricated state homes.

I have often wondered, and said it out loud publicly, "What will it take to wake up the Christian world again to the need of the gospel for the world's most unreached nation like it was at the end of WWII?" At that time, General MacArthur made an appeal for 15,000 missionaries to come and win Japan to Christ! Fifteen hundred answered that call and came. Lord, are you giving us another call? Lord, please send 1,500 again. And Lord, how many will you send to come and give a bottle of living water in your name to these thirsty souls?





Kenya ready to send their own missionaries

By Jon Konnerup • BBFI Mission Director

“We are ready to do our part in the Great Commission. We cannot be just a receiving nation but sending nation too — taking the gospel beyond our borders to those in spiritual darkness.”

These were the words of one of the national pastors in Kenya who had just attended a mission conference for church leaders.

The three-day Discover Missions Leadership Conference held in April — with over 250 church leaders in attendance, mostly from western Kenya but some from as far away as Nairobi — focused on (1) the meaning of cross-cultural missions, (2) the need for Kenyan missionaries in Africa, (3) the role of the local church in sending missionaries, (4) how to envision their congregations for missions, (5) the importance of training Kenyan missionaries for cross-cultural work and, (6) the possible structure of a clearinghouse for funds from their local churches as they give to missionaries on the field.

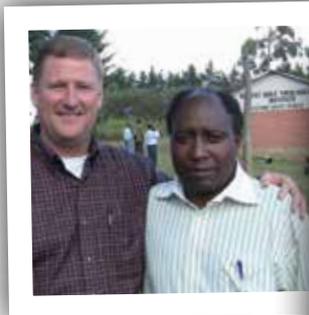
Speakers for the conference were BBFI pastor Don Elmore, BBFI Mission

Director Jon Konnerup, [REDACTED], and Richard Lewis (former BBFI missionary to Kenya and current expert in cross-cultural training). Also, Lorna Geist shared a wonderful testimony from the perspective of a church member about giving to missions. Julius Gitau, a Kenyan missionary to South Sudan, presented a testimony of his ministry. Pastor Paul Gichuki of the host church, Makutano Baptist Church, along with the leadership of the West Pokot fellowship did an outstanding job of coordinating the event sponsored by Lewis Cross-Cultural Training, Inc. (LCCTI).

One of the greatest obstacles of missions in the Kenyan church is finances. Many churches struggle just to pay a pastor’s salary. The Kenyan church has been on the

receiving end of Western funds and support for over 100 years, and as a result they argue they just don’t have the resources to support missionaries. Other countries have made this argument, but they have gone on to recognize their responsibility in the Great Commission. And there in Kenya, as we taught about living and giving by faith, I began to see a breakthrough as the participants caught the vision of the role they could play and the opportunities before them.

A few days after the Discover Missions Leadership Conference, I met with missionaries Jim Eberhard, Jerry Novak, and Ron Enoch, and 35 national pastors to discuss establishing a clearinghouse as a service to current and future missionaries and church planters. Our



At left: Pastor Paul Gichuki (right) with Jon Konnerup. Below: Kenyan missionary Julius Gitau (right).





Above: Conference attendees (left) and speakers (right) Jon Konnerup, Lorna Geist, Richard Lewis, Don Elmore, and [redacted]

missionaries have thought through many of the logistics and have begun an effort to include the local churches and pastors. After sharing some history of other countries' clearinghouses, their organizational structure, and offering a few suggestions, a task force was organized. In the coming months, they will research and report their findings to the pastors. We hope they will create a structure for assisting the churches as they send Kenyan missionaries around Africa and spread the gospel to the regions beyond their borders.

What began with the mission efforts of the BBFI 62 years ago continues to make a difference around the world. Our missionaries have done an exemplary job challenging national churches around the world to respond to the Great Commission — and they are! What is happening in Kenya is happening in other countries as well. May the Lord continue to bless the joint effort as we work with our international partners to enable the light of Jesus to shine in the spiritually deceived, dark places of our world.



HISTORY

BAPTIST

JOHN HARPER 1872-1912 – The *Titanic's* last hero

Hollywood has made several movies about the *Titanic* and its tragic end, but I fear they will never tell the story of John Harper, “the *Titanic's* last hero.”

John Harper was born May 29, 1872, in Houston, Renfrewshire, Scotland, to godly Baptist parents where prayer and Bible reading was a vital part of each day's activities. John Harper accepted Christ when he was 14, and by the time he had reached his 18th birthday he had committed his life to preach the gospel. He preached anywhere he had an open door, but most of his preaching was done on street corners and in parks. He earned the reputation as the greatest open-air preacher of his day.

In about 1895, the Baptist Pioneer Mission recruited Harper to do evangelistic church work. God abundantly blessed his efforts, and in 1897 he founded Paisley Road Baptist Church in a suburb of Glasgow with 25 members. No man in the British Isles possessed more zeal and determination to reach the unsaved than John Harper. The church became a beehive of activity conducting several weekly open-air services and engaging in an extensive visitation program — all designed to reach the lost. The church experienced phenomenal growth and within four years they were able to build a building that was enlarged several times until it could accommodate 900.

In about 1904, John Harper married Miss Annie Bell. Two years later she gave birth to a beautiful girl they named Annie Jessie (Nana). Tragically, Mrs. Harper suffered from consumption, and childbirth complications resulted in her death. The sadness that engulfed John Harper only deepened his relationship with God, and his preaching and prayers seemed to come directly from heaven.

In 1910 he was called to pastor the historic Walworth Road Church in London. During his brief London pastorate the old church took on new life and new converts began to fill the empty pews. In the fall of 1911, the renowned Moody Memorial Church in Chicago invited John Harper to preach a three-week revival that was extended to three months. A pastor said, “God used him while here as I never have seen a man used before.”

John Harper returned to London for only a few weeks when he received a telegram from the Moody church imploring him to return and to preach for an additional three months. He accepted their invitation and initially planned to

sail on the *Lusitania*, but he delayed his voyage, deciding to sail on the *Titanic*.

John Harper, his six-year-old daughter, and her Aunt Jessie Leitch sailed as second-class passengers on April 10, 1912. During the next five (and final) days of his life, he was observed on several occasions sharing the gospel with fellow passengers. On the night of April 14, he was awakened by a loud noise and immediately went to investigate. He learned the ship had hit an iceberg and was taking on water. The captain had ordered the women and children to get into the lifeboats.

He rushed back to the cabin where Nana and Jessie Leitch were sleeping and awakened them. He took his daughter and wrapped her in a blanket, and they headed for the lifeboats. He bent and kissed his precious little girl; looking into her eyes, he told her she would see him again someday.

He turned and headed toward the crowd of desperate and confused passengers. He began yelling, “Women, children, and unsaved into the lifeboats.”

Shortly afterwards, the *Titanic* began to break in half. John Harper gave his life jacket to an unsaved man saying, “You need it more than I do.” At this point people began jumping into the icy dark waters. John Harper was among them. He was seen swimming frantically to people in the water attempting to lead them to Christ before the icy waters became their grave.

A young man drifted by on a piece of wood. John Harper shouted to the man, “Is your soul saved?”

The man said, “No.”

Harper shouted “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”

The man drifted off into the dark but later the current drew him back. John Harper shouted, “Are you saved yet?”

“I cannot honestly say that I am.”

John Harper shouted one more time, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Those were the last words John Harper spoke as the icy waters finally engulfed him. Over 1,500 people went into the water; only six were rescued, one of them the young man John Harper had spoken to. The young Scotsman several months later stood in a testimony meeting and stated, “I listened to Rev. Harper's last message and became a believer in Jesus Christ.”

by Thomas Ray





URBAN CURRENT

The sprawl stops

THE DEATH OF THE FRINGE SUBURB

-New York Times

SPRAWLING SUBURBS GROWTH FALLS TO HISTORIC LOW AMIDST HIGH GAS PRICES

-Associated Press

AMERICAN'S ROMANCE WITH SPRAWL MAY BE OVER

-USA Today

People wondered, "Will the sprawl go on forever?" Apparently not.

Late last year and into the early months of 2012, I began seeing headlines like the ones above.

"Drive through any number of outer ring suburbs in America and you'll see boarded up and vacant strip malls surrounded by vast seas of empty parking spaces. These forlorn monuments to the real estate crash are not going to come back to life even when the economy recovers. And that's because the demand for the housing that once supported commercial activity in many exurbs isn't coming back, either. By now, nearly five years after the housing crash, most Americans understand that a mortgage meltdown was the catalyst for the great recession facilitated by under regulation of finance and reckless risk taking It was predominantly the collapse of the car-dependent suburban fringe that caused the mortgage collapse." (New York Times, Christopher B. Leinberger 11/25/11)

"...residential exurbs that sprouted on the edge of metropolitan areas are seeing their growth fizzle Gas prices are discouraging long commutes. Young singles prefer city apartments. Two years after the recession technically ended and despite some signs of economic recovery, there's a reversal of

urbanites' decades-long exodus to roomy homes and distant towns. The annual rate of growth in American cities and surrounding urban areas has now surpassed that of exurbs for the first time in at least 20 years spanning the most recent era of sprawling suburban development." (AP, Hope Yen 4/5/12)

"The financial and foreclosure crisis forced more people to rent. Soaring gas prices made long commutes less appealing and high unemployment drew more people to big job centers. As the nation crawls out of the downturn, cities and older suburbs are leading the way. Population growth in fringe counties nearly screeched to a halt in the year that ended July 1, 2011. By comparison, counties at the core of metro areas are growing faster than the nation as a whole. ... The foreclosure, the vacancies, the uncompleted roads, it's uncomfortable out there. The glitz is off." (USA Today, Nasser, Overberg 4/5/12)

"Simply put, there has been a profound structural shift — a reversal of what took place in the 1950s when drivable suburbs boomed and flourished and center cities emptied and withered." (NYT, Leinberger)

"The shift is durable and lasting because of a major demographic event: the convergence of the two largest generations in American history, the baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) and the Millennials (born between 1979 and 1996) which today represent half of the total population.

Many boomers are now empty nesters and approaching retirement. Generally this means they will downsize their housing in the near future. Boomers want to live in a walkable urban downtown, a suburban town center or a small town according to a recent survey of the National Association of Realtors.

The Millennials are just now beginning to emerge from the nest This coming of age cohort

also favors urban downtowns and suburban town centers — for lifestyle reasons and the convenience of not having to own cars. Overall only 12 percent of future homebuyers want the drivable suburban fringe houses that are in oversupply For too long, we have overinvested in the wrong places. It's time to, instead, build what the market wants: mixed income, walkable cities and suburbs." (NYT, Leinberger)

"This could be the end of the exurb as a place where people aspire to go when people are starting their families," says William Frey, demographer at the Brookings Institute. "So many people have been burned by this ... first-time home buyers, immigrants and minorities took a real big hit."

There is a lot to digest here. I'll just ask a few questions:

What does this mean for local churches in the exurbs, in the suburbs, in the inner suburban ring, in the city center?

What about the newer churches planted on the urban fringe in the years just before the 2008 economic collapse?

What of the churches that built new buildings riding the growth wave, and then saw 2008 come while still carrying significant debt?

What does this mean for the next generation of church planting?

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



BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Not easy, but worth it



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

With humility and an overwhelming sense of honor I accepted the presidency of Baptist Bible College.

However, it has been a difficult decision. The chief difficulty is — I am a pastor. It is my calling, it is my heart, it is my joy. So now I serve as a president with a new flock, but know that this president is a pastor, and you have a president who will respect, honor, and love pastors.

I believe that Baptist Bible College is here to train pastors, missionaries, and others preparing for the ministry. That is our calling, and that is our purpose, and I want Baptist Bible College to be the premier ministry-training center in the world. When someone, anywhere in the world, senses that call from God, my goal is they should think first about BBC for their education and training.

To begin this ministry with you I would like to ask you to consider the following:

Pray for the college. Please pray for me, the faculty, staff, and students. Please pray for our finances. Please pray for more students. All over America Bible colleges are hurting as fewer and fewer are responding to God's call.

Promote the college. Studies have shown that the greatest influence on choosing BBC is the senior pastor. Please promote BBC to your church and state fellowship.

Protect the college. We have allowed some things to separate us. We need to protect each other and to remember we are in the same army fighting the same enemy.

It has been well said, "We have forgotten how to disagree without being disagreeable. You don't have to see eye to eye to walk hand in hand." Let's join hands, let's come together and build a college and a Fellowship that will change the world.

Provide for the college. I ask you to help us. BBC was designed to be a partnership with the pastors and churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship. Please consider how you can invest in us and help us.

There is no question we face a very difficult job. The president is to set the vision and make plans for the future, raise funds, recruit and retain students, speak at meetings, and work with pastors who all want their way on every side of 100 different issues. I come to a school that is in debt, that is running in the red every month, and that has a declining student body.

But my wife Barb, my greatest support and encourager, with great love and godly wisdom gave me these words, "I'm not telling you it is going to be easy, I am telling you it is going to be worth it."

With those words in mind, I tell you that no matter how difficult — I promise to give my all to train the next generation of world changers, to see young men and women give their lives to serve their Savior in ministry, to fulfill God's calling to make a difference in the world.

Something to smile about



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

I don't smile all the time. It's not that I am mad, but usually I am concentrating. When you are like me — not the sharpest knife in the drawer — and you want to get things right, you just have to think real hard and concentrate. When I do that, I forget to smile. But I am smiling right now.

There are many things that make me smile. I smiled this week when a pastor friend from Virginia sent me an email that 12 people were saved at a funeral he preached! Who couldn't smile at that? I smiled a moment later when I thought of Mary, the mom of a wonderful lady in our church. Mary became my friend during our visits in the last months of her life. She was fun, feisty, but without Jesus. When she asked me to do her funeral — though she clearly told me she didn't have any use for ministers ... but she liked me — I told her, "Mary, you're going to have to give me something to work with!" A few days later, her daughter Barbara won her mom to Jesus. Mary told her the next day, "I took my stand!" And she did. Four days later Mary was in heaven. That will put a huge smile on your face!

Much smaller victories make us smile too. Like when my son, Matthew, makes this funny face or my littlest guy, Joshua, does an imitation of Fozzie Bear. I smile when New York sports teams lose or when college students get an exam back with a better-than-expected grade.

Can I bring you in on one of my Boston Baptist College smiles? I dream for our college to help students from our churches train for ministry ... in our churches. I think the gold standard is for young people to come to Boston, and then go back to the church that won them and raised them and serve that church. BBF churches fund my college, and I get a big kick out of seeing the system work. I have plenty to smile about in the Boston class of 2012.

Adam and Rebecca are preparing to be BBF missionaries, and they are going to intern in the church where they grew up! John is already on staff in a youth ministry where, just four years ago, he was a student himself! Travis and Adam are both serving in their home churches and will step up to greater responsibilities after we put diplomas in their hands. Here is a great story ... Justin comes here from a North Carolina church (his wife, Sarah, deserves a shout out here), does an internship with Clayton Moorman in Maryland one summer, and now Justin goes on staff at Newark Baptist when he finishes at Boston. Show some teeth! This is what we do! And these are just a few of the stories with more in the pipeline.

Smiling is a good thing. Partnering with you to educate these young people is hard work. But it sure does have its moments. Even better than a great Fozzie Bear imitation.

David & Crystal Houghton | **Mexico**

It is always encouraging to see visitors invited by our church members attend services. Two such guests are Maria and her mother. Maria, who has been hearing impaired since birth, has been learning to sign. Maria's mom, who is able to hear, has attended the last few weeks also. It is wonderful to see them both begin to understand sign language, but more importantly their need for a savior. Please pray for the salvation of these sweet, but lost ladies.

Dan & Vicki Weaver | **Belize**

Recently a young man named Raul came into the service and sat on the back row. He listened intently to every word that was spoken. After the service, Raul met me outside and asked if he could come by and talk with me. Later that week, Raul came to my gate and we walked to our feeding center and sat down at one of the tables. He began telling me that for some time he has known that he was heading down a bad road and that he needed to get his life straightened out. He said, "I need God in my life, Mr. Dan." I shared some scripture with him, and it wasn't long before he bowed his head and began to pray, "Lord, my life is all messed up. I have made a lot of mistakes. I want to change but I don't know how. All I know is that I need you. I need you in my life. Lord, I'm asking you to save me right now."

Well, Raul's life has changed. He asked me if I would disciple him, so we began to meet once a week. It is exciting to see his hunger and thirst for truth. Raul never misses a service. Every week he sits at the front with his Bible in hand, a big smile on his face, and God in his life.

Bill & Vicki Hoving | **Puerto Rico**

Lisa was saved last spring and from that night forward she has been a blossoming rose of God's grace and a virtual sponge, soaking up and basking in her new life in Christ. She has grown so much that her shining witness is obvious to all with whom she comes in contact. This is the changed life that her godmother, Lydia, was watching.

Lisa began bringing Lydia to church several months ago, as she continued to share Christ with her. After a recent sermon on God's grace, Lydia walked up to Bill with tears in her eyes and said, "I am lost and there is something missing in my life." That was like music to Bill's ears. After clearly explaining salvation to her, Lydia prayed to receive Christ as her Savior! Through her tears, she exclaimed, "I feel new!" A week later, Lydia and Lisa followed their Lord in baptism! We now have the joy of watching two changed lives grow in Christ!

Mark & Michele Hale | **Portugal**

The grandmother's old car was on the side of the road with a flat tire and she had no cell phone to call for help. I stopped and offered to change her tire and she cautiously accepted. She had no tools, but I had the right ones and within 20 minutes her car was road-worthy again.

She thanked me and I gave her a tract and an invitation to our church. She looked at the pamphlets and scowled and began shaking her head. Handing them back, she simply said, "No, thank you" and got in her now functioning car and drove away without a backward glance.

Cleaning my hands, I asked myself why I bother. But the answer is so clear — because Christ died for every person and they need to have the opportunity to accept him or reject him. That is why we are here and why we will continue to witness to this lost and darkened city.

Tony & Julie Sullivan | **Australia**

Just before Easter, I had a conversation with Joy, a lady in her 80s. She had been attending our mid-week praise service at the nursing home and had shown a lot of interest. As I spoke to her regarding the Easter story, she knew Jesus died and rose again, but she had no idea why. When I explained that Jesus died as a sacrificial lamb for our sins she said, "I understand that!" It wasn't long until she bowed her head, and with passion in her voice, cried out to God to forgive her and to save her. It is not often that we see someone call out to God with such emotion, but this lady knew what she needed and she knew what God was offering.

When I asked her if I could share her decision with my wife, she said, "You can tell the world if you want to!" So that is what I am doing.

David & Joy Speights | **Thailand**

The Songkran festival is the traditional Thai New Year celebration held in April. The Thai people celebrate Songkran by throwing water on each other to symbolize washing away all the "bad" things from life. Everyone sees this as a great time of fun and the entire country is filled with wet people enjoying non-stop "water wars!"

I find it ironic that most Thai people don't grasp the symbolism of the New Year being a time for washing away the bad of the past. As the old hymn says, "What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus." We praise God for the opportunity to share the gospel with the people of Thailand and ask that you continue to pray that many more would come to understand and accept the true washing away of their sins through Jesus Christ.

Oliver & Gloria Williams | **Peru**

The Prison Ministry team from Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Ellisville, MS, was in Lima for our annual medical/evangelism ministry in four area prisons. In four days, over 1,120 inmates and prison personnel heard a gospel message of salvation, were seen by the doctors, and received medicine. On another day, the doctors saw 115 children and mothers in a poverty-stricken area where a mission church has been started. Over 1,000 Bibles were distributed and many salvation decisions were made. It was a joy and encouragement to the team to see people whom they had met years ago testify that though they are still in prison, they are spiritually free and happy to be part of God's family.

Kevin & Sarah Pine | **England**

One of our friends from Great Britain, Matthew Brake, was an 18-year-old atheist. He attended a teen night paintball activity with Kingsmead Baptist Church and was invited to visit church the next day. With great reservation, he attended the service and spent the next week deep in thought. Following the services on the next Sunday, he spent three hours talking with Roger, a great soulwinner in the church. The result, Matthew received Christ! Since that time, he has enrolled in Bible college and is attending Bible studies. Matt has a desire to learn and preach and has a huge burden for the souls of his family and friends. A few weeks ago, we received this message from Matt:

"Hey Kevin! How are things going? By the way, I led my brother to the Lord last week and he is as thirsty as I was when I got saved. Shame you're not here to show him through the book of John!"

LBU breaks ground for new conference center

Shreveport, LA

Louisiana Baptist University broke ground on their new conference center May 3 during graduation week, with construction beginning in a few weeks. The building will house a new auditorium, restrooms, and a serving kitchen which will increase the university's ability to host larger Bible conferences, workshops, and special events. The center will also be equipped with the very latest audio/video technology available to provide more E-Campus classes and stream live Bible conferences and module classes around the world.



Pictured: President Neal Weaver, Executive Vice-President Sandra Cory, Associate Vice-President Mark Crook, and the trustees of Louisiana Baptist University.

Delaware church commissions Josh Todd, Philadelphia church

Dover, DE

Pastor Chris Kondracki and Southside Baptist Church observed Missions Emphasis Day May 6. Josh Todd, sent by the Dover congregation as a church planter to the Philadelphia area, was the guest preacher. During the service, Josh was licensed by the Dover church and he baptized four converts into the membership of True Vine Baptist Church, which is the new church plant in Ridley Park, PA, in the Philadelphia area.

Josh and his wife Vickie plan to "launch Philly" Sunday, July 1, with their first official onsite worship services. The couple's weekly Bible studies have quickly outgrown their home, and a church meeting place will come available in late May. Kondracki says, "The Lord is truly blessing as the Todd family steps out in faith to reach the people of Philly for Christ. Praise the Lord for our newest BBF church plant in the Mid-Atlantic region!"



Josh Todd (left) with Chris Kondracki

New moderator for Brothers of Cyrene

Jackson, MS

In a recent meeting of the Brothers of Cyrene, Bill Fluker, pastor of Grace and Mercy Baptist Church, Jackson, MS, was elected to succeed former moderator Pastor Ira Walton who is now serving with the Gateway Project of Baptist Bible Fellowship International. "We plan to continue the great work that Pastor Walton



Bill Fluker

began — planting churches in inner-city neighborhoods and communities across America," explained Pastor Fluker.

The Brothers of Cyrene was first started for the purpose of fellowship among Bible-believing African American pastors, but out of concern for lost souls in inner-city America the group quickly began a ministry of helping to start soul-winning, Bible-believing Baptist churches. Currently, six Brothers of Cyrene pastors have planted churches, the most recent Trinity Village Baptist Temple in Eastman, GA, pastored by Victor

Baxter. The Brothers of Cyrene work with and through the BBFI, state fellowships, and local churches in their efforts to plant churches and evangelize inner-city America.

Brothers of Cyrene pastors are available to present this ministry in BBFI churches and at state fellowships.

BBFI pastors who wish to birth an inner-city church in their community are asked to visit www.brothersofcyrene.com for more information. You may contact the moderator at wfluker@comcast.net or (601) 278-1523.

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Church serves lunch to h.s. seniors for outreach

Syracuse, KS

Bible Baptist Church and Pastor Bill Roberts of Syracuse, KS, serve lunches to high school seniors each week in their town of about 1,800 people near the Colorado border. The ministry started two and a half years ago when Bible Baptist began looking for a way to give back to their community.

“With a small congregation the possibilities of giving back to the community seemed rather limited,” states pastor’s wife Carol Roberts. “Then we had the idea of a free lunch for the high school kids. After contacting the school and talking to them it was decided that each Monday we would offer a free lunch for the high school seniors who were eligible to go off campus at lunch time. No strings attached.”

Pastor and Mrs. Roberts, along with others in the church, and sometimes the students’ par-



ents, cook the meals — with no obligation from the kids other than enjoying time together and writing down any prayer request they have. Since starting the outreach, 16 to 18 students have been fed each week — a menu that includes spaghetti, hamburgers, pizza, and buffalo wings. “The lunches have become very popular with the students,” says Mrs. Roberts.

At Syracuse High School honor roll seniors are the only students eligible to leave campus for lunch — about 25 students. “They also cannot drive their cars off campus,” explains Mrs. Roberts. “They have to walk or get a ride from a parent. Since the church is only four blocks from the school the kids either ride bikes or walk to the lunches. At times they have walked in rain,

wind, and blizzards.”

When the congregation started the outreach, they were told kids probably wouldn’t attend the lunch. “The first week, no one showed up and we had spaghetti made for 25-30 kids. We froze it, made plans for the next week and just went forward. The next week we had six kids come. It has just continued to grow from there,” says Pastor Roberts. In fact, by the end of last year 12-17 kids were attending each week.

Pastor Roberts states this is the third year the congregation has been ministering to the Syracuse community in this way. “We never ask anyone for anything. We just depend on God to provide what we need. Somehow we have never run out of food. It sure gets low at times, but we always have enough.” He also added, “When we first started, some people were very wary of what we were doing. But now people know our church, they know we love the kids and want to be there for them. You have to see a burden, pray about it, let God open the door, and then watch Him work.”

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Stroke victim determined to follow the Lord’s command

Wichita, KS

Pastor Steve Day of Friendship Baptist Church in Wichita, KS, baptized a man May 6. In itself, that is not a remarkable story, as Baptist churches are known for baptism. However, what made the event memorable to Pastor Day, the church, and Steve Harris, the man who was baptized, were the remarkable circumstances.

Harris, 41, suffered a stroke two years ago, leaving him immobile. One year later, his concerned sister led him to Christ and brought him to church in a wheel chair. At that time, he told Pastor Day, “I’m going to one day walk into the baptistry and get baptized.” On May 6, with determination in his heart, the help of two friends, and a brace on one leg, he followed Jesus’ command with the encouragement of a rejoicing congregation.



Friendship Baptist celebrates 20th anniversary, breaks ground for new sanctuary

Owasso, OK

Pastor Linzy Slayden and Friendship Baptist Church celebrated the church's 20th anniversary with a special day, including breaking ground for a new 1,200-seat sanctuary, remodeled nurseries, classrooms, and other facility improvements. Special guests for the occasion were the Mike Speck Trio providing music.



The church viewed a retrospective video, and each Sunday school class placed an item into a Treasure Chest of Remembrance to be sealed for five years and opened on the church's 25th anniversary.

For the groundbreaking ceremony, Slayden drove a John Deere tractor around the building for the ground breaking, and each family was given a three-foot wooden stake to write their names on and stake the ground. Slayden said, "We did this to show that everyone had a stake in this ministry!"

Slayden also noted, "Ten BBC students came to Owasso to help with the children's ministry so all of our folks could be in the main service."

The day wound up with a celebration dinner at the Renaissance

Hotel in Tulsa where the Mike Speck Trio presented a fun concert, and prizes were awarded.

Linzy Slayden currently serves as president of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International.

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Readers Respond

Dear Editor,

In the April 2012 issue of *The Tribune* an article appeared entitled, "Should churches be tax-exempt? (Yes, and here's why)" by Erik Stanley. I would like to begin by saying I have great respect for the Alliance Defense Fund. Our church, the Indianapolis Baptist Temple, has used their attorneys twice with great success. I recommend them highly.

I agree that 501c3 not-for-profit organizations (churches) should be tax-exempt for the reasons given in last month's article. Social and intangible benefits are good reasons, but these alone fall short when many churches do little to benefit the community much less heaven, and if that is the criteria, government is in a position to determine which churches qualify for exemption and those that do not based upon performance.

Readers, however, may not know there is an alternative to tax-exemption for churches. Historically our Baptist forefathers spoke against incorporation and tax exemption for churches. In the 1700s, Isaac Backus was totally opposed to these practices which gave the state some authority over the local church.

I believe it would be more correct to claim churches are non-taxable because they are analogous to embassies, and thus subject to another Sovereign – God. Tax-exemption can be revoked but non-taxability is a God-given right. I agree with Mr. Stanley when he writes, "An untaxed gospel should be preached in an untaxed church-house, from an untaxed pulpit." Most churches, however, are already paying taxes such as Social Security and unemployment taxes, along with fees of various sorts. Our inconsistency speaks loud and clear. Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesars and unto God the things that are God's." The church belongs to God, period, and owes nothing to Caesar but our prayers!

Greg A. Dixon

Sr. Pastor, Indianapolis Baptist Temple



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Oklahoma church hosts meeting, ordains church planter

Alva, OK

Pastor John Clapp and Bible Baptist Church of Alva, OK, hosted the May meeting of the Oklahoma Baptist Bible Fellowship May 7 and 8. The meeting included an ordination service for a church planter and featured *Tribune* Editor Keith Bassham and Tulsa Pastor Bill Carter.

Monday evening, May 7, the church ordained Dale Rebarchik in the gospel ministry. The ordination council included Pastor Clapp, Oklahoma pastors Paul Foster, Bill Carter, Steve Rains, Bobby Thompson, Guy Nolen, Tim Lindsey, Mike Smith, Greg Baxter, Keith Bassham, and Linzy Slayden.

Bill Carter and Keith Bassham preached in the fellowship meeting Tuesday morning, and Dale Rebarchik

reported the successes of the recovery ministry of Bible Baptist Church.

The newly ordained preacher and his wife Brenda have planted Freedom Bible Baptist Mission as an outreach of Bible Baptist in Alva, about 20 miles away.



Dale and Brenda Rebarchik (center) with speakers and ordination council

New BBF Builders Nat'l Director

Springfield, MO

In the recent May Fellowship Meeting in Springfield, MO, Ron Trosclair was appointed as the new national director for the BBF Builders. Ron's home church is Bible Baptist Church, DeQuincy, LA, where Ron Fox pastors. He and his wife Barb have been full-time missionaries with the BBF Builders for 12 years. They are retired Air Force and have six children, 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren scattered around the U.S.

The BBF Builders are a group of full-time missionaries and part-time volunteers who help Fellowship churches save thousands of dollars in construction costs by providing expertise and labor in the building trades. "Our missionary builders provide the necessary organization and structure around which volunteers are coordinated. We can partner with a local congregation, assisting with nearly all of their construction needs. We don't build the building for them but we help them build it," says Trosclair. The BBF

Builders' mission is to help church planters get into their first building — whether a rented facility needing slight renovations or a new building from the ground up. The BBF Builders work under the National Church Planting Office.

Other full-time BBF Builders include Jack and Sharon Reed (of Bible Baptist Church, Buffalo, MO), Charles and Debbie Rogers (of Park Street Baptist Church, St. Petersburg, FL), and Craig and Leslie Miller (of Cherry Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO).

Lee Beall is the secretary/treasurer for the BBF Builders. Along with his wife Kay, Lee provides financial and administrative support as well as logistical and maintenance support.

The BBF Builders are always looking for volunteers to help on church construction projects and BBF Builder missionaries are available to speak in churches. For more information, contact Ron Trosclair at 318-623-6225 or rontros@yahoo.com.



South Texas hispanic church update

Austin, TX

By Mike Marcellus

Pastor, First Independent Baptist Church

Over 11 years ago Carlos Perez started the Spanish-speaking ministry at First Independent Baptist Church in Austin. Today he pastors the Primero Iglesia Bautista in Giddings.

Miguel Carreon is now pastor of the Primero Iglesia Bautista Independiente of Austin, and they average around 95 in Sunday services.

There are additional Hispanic churches that fellowship together, including Iglesia Bautista Alfa y Omega pastored by Angel de Leon and Iglesia Bautista High Point pastored by Juan Padilla, both in Austin.

These pastors and their churches meet on a regular basis for church-wide fellowship, youth activities, and other events.

Pastor Roy Valez in Mission, TX, also has

a thriving Hispanic church that has proven to be one of the most successful Spanish-speaking ministries in the South Texas region. He has a strong Bible training program for producing preachers.

Joe Warren at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Universal City is partnering with Mario Garcia to begin laying the groundwork to start the Iglesia Vida Verdadera. Mario has five kids and is currently the youth worker at Tabernacle plus has a full-time job.

Tabernacle Baptist is using the Gateway Project model that is being introduced to the BBFI through Steve and Cynthia Johnson. They are working with Mario to establish this new



From left: Juan Panilla, Miguel Carreon, Mike Marcellus, Angel De Leon

work by assimilating those Spanish-speaking families into the culture and to provide an ESL (English as a Second Language) class.

Report taken from April South Texas BBF Newsletter.

Ken Rhoades to resign Sulphur Springs church

Sulphur Springs, TX

After 45 years of ministry, 29 of those as pastor of Central Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs, TX, Ken Rhoades is resigning his pulpit. The church will hold a day of appreciation in honor of Rhoades and his wife Patsy on June 24.

Ken accepted Christ at the age of nine in Borger, TX. After high school, he attended Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, where he met and married Patsy Beesley. After graduation the couple moved to Miami, FL, where they worked with the ministry of Al Janney at New Testament Baptist Church, and in 1967 they relocated to Kansas City, MO, to work with Parker Dailey at Blue Ridge Baptist Temple.

In 1969, the couple planted a church in Twin Falls, ID, where they stayed 14 years. Ken was called to the Sulphur Springs church in 1983.

Central Baptist was organized in 1949 after a revival meeting conducted by John Rawlings

from nearby Tyler, TX. The church has grown and built nearly continuously since the founding. More than 1,100 people have accepted Christ during Rhoades's ministry at Central, three missionary families have been sent, and more than 20 people have been called from the church to serve the Lord full time. Pastor Rhoades also

oversaw the building of a new auditorium, a children's wing, and a family life center, all of which are debt free.

Under his guidance Central gives about \$300,000 to missions annually. Pastor Rhoades's burden and commitment to missions has spurred several personal mission

trips, church-wide mission trips, and recently he was named the field representative for the country of Peru. He has been a consistent leader in the BBFI, serving as a Baptist Bible College trustee, National Church Planting Office board

member, a director of the Texas Baptist Bible Fellowship, and chairman of the East Texas BBF.

Members of Central say they will miss Pastor and Patsy Rhoades observing that God has blessed the congregation through their faithfulness and diligence.



Ken and Patsy Rhoades

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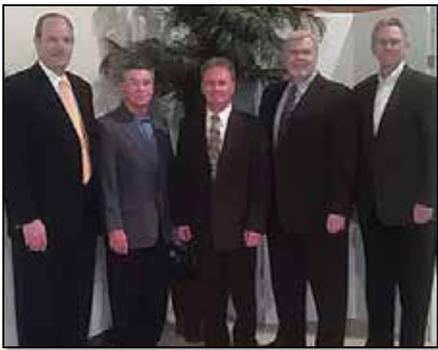
Texas BBF meeting focused on missions

Sweetwater, TX

Pastor Chris Stephens and Broadway Baptist Church hosted the Texas BBF meeting April 16 and 17. The theme was Matters of Missions, and special guests included Mike Haley who spoke on Members to Missions, Steve Bender who spoke on the fact that Missions Matters, Jerry Berry who spoke on the Money of Missions, and Linzy Slayden who spoke on Methods of Missions. There was a panel discussion and question and answer time that allowed pastors to ask specific questions of the speakers regarding their missionaries and mission programs.

At the meeting, the state of Texas presented Sean and Janelle Willeford, missionaries to the Philippines, as part of the Texas Launch and raised over \$900 a month support to help kick start their deputation.

Pastor John Henry Theisen of Aubrey said that for him, "This meeting was a timely reset for my heart in the midst of so many ministry matters vying for our attention."



From left: Steve Bender, Jerry Berry, Chris Stephens, Linzy Slayden, and Mike Haley

The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is the most precious thing known to mortal man because it alone can wash away our sin. This treatise examines the crucifixion of Christ and provides medical evidence that His blood was different from ours in that it was indeed sinless. All Scripture references are from the *KJV*.

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Dan Inman

Lincoln, NE

Pastor Dan L. Inman, 73, of Lincoln, entered the presence of the Lord May 11, 2012. Born March 24, 1939, in Arkansas City, KS, Dan was a graduate of Winfield High School in Kansas, and Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO.

He pastored several communities before coming to Plains Baptist Church in Lincoln in 1990. He retired in 2006, after which he continued to serve the Lord as Pastor Emeritus.

Pastor Inman is survived by his wife Jeanne, seven children, and 16 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services were held May 14 at Plains Baptist Church in Lincoln.

Douglas Robert Todd

Jacksonville, FL

Douglas Todd passed from this life April 4, 2012. Doug had most recently been serving as pastor of The Baptist Church on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation in Fort Thompson, SD. He was a missionary to Native Americans and Alaska. His father and brothers, all out of the ministry of Beaver Street Baptist Church (First Coast Baptist Church) in Jacksonville, are pastors and missionaries.

Doug was preceded in death by his mother, Nancy Todd.

Jerry McDonald

Eufala, OK

Jerry Wesley McDonald, 73, entered glory March 31, 2012. Born January 15, 1939, in Oklahoma City, OK, Jerry grew up in Oklahoma City and graduated from Putnam High School in 1957. After graduation he joined the United States Air Force Reserve. He married Billie Jan Hammer in Oklahoma City in 1958, and he began preaching in 1965. In 1977 he founded Calvary Baptist Church and Calvary Boys' Ranch near Eufala, OK, where he and his family ministered to troubled youth and helped them recover from addictive behavior.

Jerry is survived by his wife Jan, three children, nine grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

Services were held April 5, 2012, at Calvary Baptist Church with Jerry McDonald Jr., Jack Thompson, and Ken Graham officiating.

Charles Puckett

Bowling Green, KY

Charles Herman Puckett left this life April 5, 2012. After serving in both World War II and the Korean War, he entered Baptist Bible College in Springfield. After graduation in 1954, Charles pastored churches 45 years, retiring from the pastorate in 1996.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Betty Puckett, four children, nine grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HAWAII

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

ILLINOIS

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

IOWA

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

KANSAS

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

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

KENTUCKY

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

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

MARYLAND

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

MASSACHUSETTS

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

NEBRASKA

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

NEW JERSEY

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

NORTH CAROLINA

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

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

• **Trinity Baptist Church**, 216

Shelburne Rd., Asheville, NC 28806, 704/254-2187 www.tbcasheville.org *Pastor Ralph Sexton, Jr.*

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• **Berean Baptist Church & Academy** 517 Glensford Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28314, 910/868-5156, www.bbcfnc.org *Pastor Sean Harris*

OHIO

• **Bible Baptist Church**, 990 W. Main, Mt. Orab, OH 45154. 937/444-2493 *Pastor Charles Smith*

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

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

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

OREGON

• **Tri-City Baptist Temple**, 18025 S. E. Webster Rd., Gladstone, OR 97027. 503/655-9326 *Pastor Ken McCormick*

RHODE ISLAND

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TEXAS

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

• **First Baptist Church of Meadowview**, 4346 N Galloway Ave., Mesquite, TX 75150. 214/391-7176 *Pastor R.D. Wade*

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

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

• **Berean Baptist Church**, 302 N. Town East Blvd., Mesquite, TX 75182. 972/226-7803 *Pastor David Mills*

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VIRGINIA

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

• **Central Baptist Church**, 13910 Minnieville Rd. Woodbridge, VA 22193, 703/583-1717, office@cbcwoodbridge.org, *Pastor Brad Weniger*

WEST VIRGINIA

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

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

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He did “faithful” very well

By Steve Van Winkle, Pastor

Fellowship Baptist Church, Bozeman, MT

Twenty years ago this week, in May 1992, I received my first ministry job offer; that offer prompted me to leave Baptist Bible College a year prematurely and launch the journey that has lasted the bulk of my life. The offer was from Dan Inman who had recently taken the reins of Plains Baptist Church, in Lincoln, NE, my home church since 1987.

For me, Plains Baptist remains a warehouse of unusual memories ... I remember prayer requests such as, “Please pray for the man who flashed me this morning.” I watched a person make change in the offering plate one Wednesday evening — honest to goodness, make change.

It’s the church I brought my then girlfriend to after she was saved; it’s where she was baptized and we were married. It’s where we were attending between my first and second year of BBC after our wedding, which is when the pastor we knew well and who had married us, resigned in the summer of 1990.

Upon his resignation, our pastor told us there was a man in Vermont who was interested in the position. The church was down to maybe 25 people, and had fallen into disrepair in all ways imaginable. Even though Cheryl and I were leaving in a few months, I was on the Pulpit Committee. I expressed my thoughts about whether Plains could continue as a going concern in this world.

In the end, the majority suggested we have this person from Vermont come and see how much of a disaster our church actually was in, with the assurance that if anyone would trade a going church in Vermont for what we had, it would have to be of God.

That person was Dan Inman. We scheduled him to preach and get to know what few people remained. That Sunday, a mammoth crowd of 30 or so assembled, and afterward the pulpit committee joined him for lunch at the home of a lovable older lady named Virginia, whose cherry blintzes would make Satan consider converting.

Maybe it was Virginia’s blintzes, but Dan told us he was ready to come be the next pastor if we would have him. Since the only qualification we had for a new pastor was that he be able to fog a mirror, Dan Inman began his final assignment: salvaging the wreck of the SS Plains.

When Cheryl and I later arrived to work for Pastor Inman, we discovered most everyone who had “committed” to support the new pastor was gone. But we set about trying to spruce up the very dated and dilapidated structure. With an indefatigable smile I never fully understood, Pastor Inman managed to eek a little hope out of the remnant that still believed that this church wouldn’t die.

He suffered his first cardiac event while I was with him, and because of this he determined to get healthier. I had been riding a mountain bike as my primary transportation for some time, and he decided a bike would do him good as well. He purchased one and suggested we go riding around town together.

Arriving at the parsonage, I was greeted by one of the funniest sights I have ever seen. He had decked his bike out with a little horn, side-view mirrors, and a tall, orange flag. The only thing it lacked were the cards in the spokes. He wore a helmet that looked a size-and-a-half too small (sporting yet another side-view mirror), gloves, and I think, riding shorts. It was truly a sight to behold.

I confess to having more than a few laughs at that sight over the years, but I mention it now because as I have gotten older, I recognize the sort of — courage — it took for an upper-middle-aged man to try something as foreign as biking, probably knowing he would stick out a little.

Or a lot.

It’s the same kind of courage that I imagine compelled him to follow the Lord to a surefire disaster of a church. Dan Inman did something at Plains Baptist Church I’m not certain anyone else could have: He waited out death until the resurrection. He did it with steady handedness and godly patience and received the rightful, honorable reward of having left his final ministry a much better one than he found.

While contemporary Christianity persists in its rush to celebrate the pyrrhic victories of the over-funded and overexposed ministries to the masses, we should remind ourselves that the bulk of the American church is made up of Dan Inmans.

They are the ministry equivalent of what George Bailey reminded Mr. Potter were the vast majority of people who do “... most of the working and paying and living and dying in this community ...” Men like Dan Inman aren’t noticed often nor celebrated much, but they do most of the ministering and visiting and preaching and studying in this nation, and only the people who have come in close contact with them are able to take up the task of remembrance for their labor.

I remember ... I remember Pastor Dan Inman doing his ministering and visiting and preaching and studying ... faithfully.

Dan Inman died this month. He never pastored over multiple-site services, nor was he ever going to interview Presidents, but what he did was faithful.

Pastor Dan Inman did “faithful” very well.

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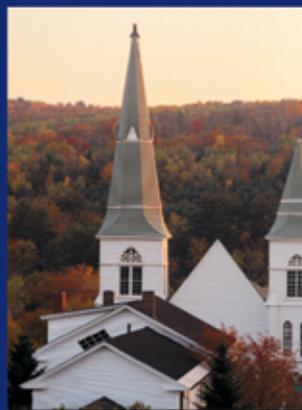
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