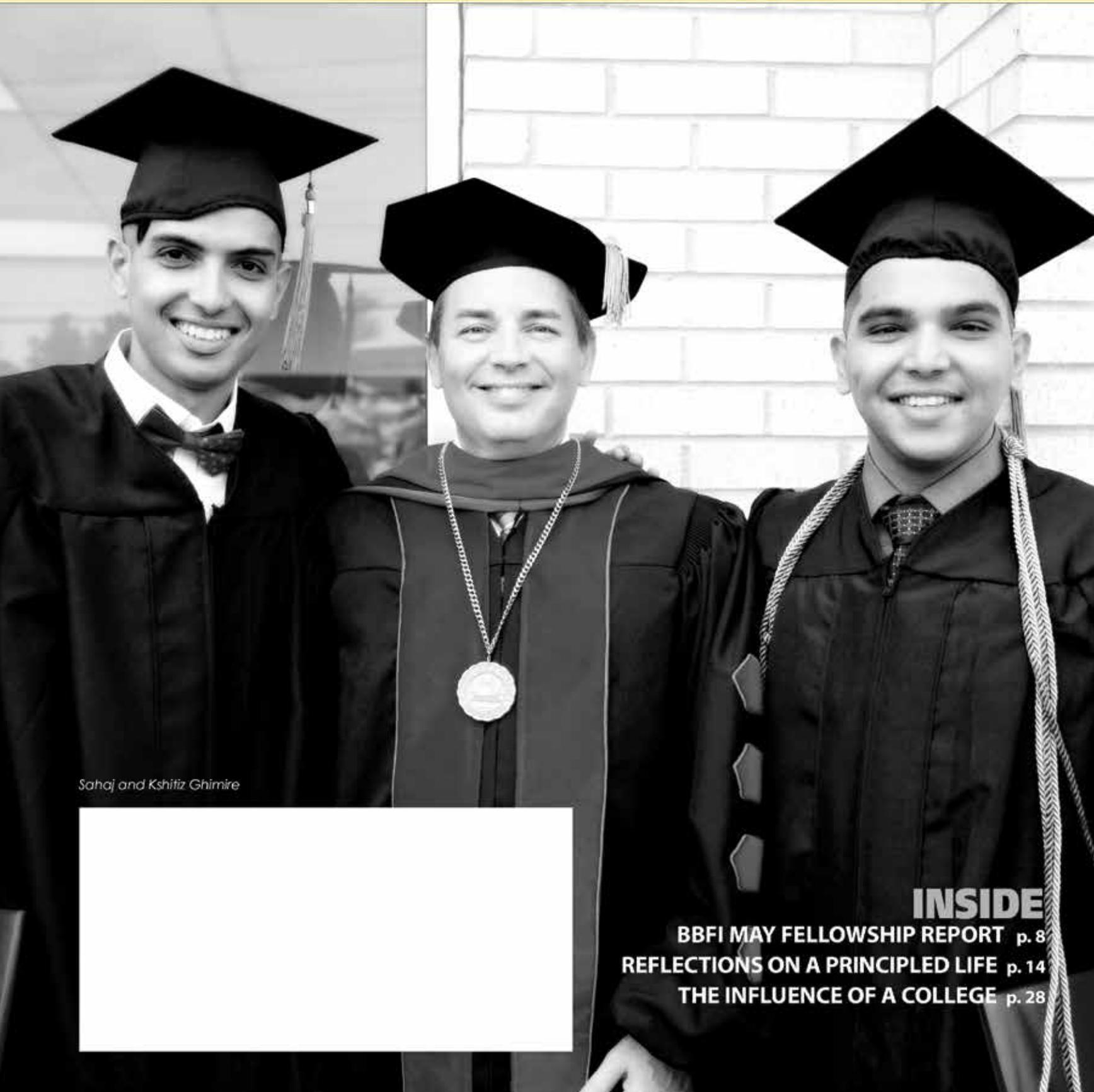


# BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JUNE 2015 | VOL. 65 NO. 10



Sahaj and Kshitiz Ghimire

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ON THE TABLE

## A part of history

by Keith Bassham | Editor

Another Graduation Fellowship Week and another school year is in the books. This was something like my 40th Fellowship Week (I missed a couple here and there since 1972), but of course the last 20 required no travel on my part. As a semi-official quasi-host (I actually do host friends in my home during the week), the meetings are more work than when I was a pastor visiting from out of town, but I enjoy the flood of memories that come with the meetings and worship and banter with friends in the halls and on the campus lawns. Those who missed the event can scan the photo essay in this magazine for pictures and highlights.

We had barely processed the information about the Vanuatu cyclone when word came of the Nepal earthquake. Nepal has been featured in the *Tribune* recently, and we had two Nepalese brothers graduating from BBC (photo, front cover), so we took more than just a glance at the news (see BBC President Mark Milioni's column for a little more about the brothers' experience). The Gospel is beginning to make some significant inroads in that nation "at the top of the world," and though we cannot be happy about suffering and tragedy, they do create opportunity to do good and to allow Christians to shine. You can contribute with confidence to some relief efforts through the BBFI Mission Office ([www.bbf.org](http://www.bbf.org) or [www.bbfmissions.com](http://www.bbfmissions.com)), and we have some information on page 5 of this issue.

One other event took place during Fellowship Week. Our great friend and BBFI pioneer missionary to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Elmer Deal, was taken from us to heaven. Even at the age of 89, years older than a reasonable retirement age, he was making plans to return to Congo just as he had since this Fellowship was still in its infancy. Our first missionary to Africa, Elmer is part of a singular generation of spiritual giants, a group who went when the going was tough and stayed when it would have been more prudent and far safer to leave, who forewent the comfort of family and friends so that strangers could become part of the family of God. We will miss him — and others of his generation — greatly in the days ahead.

The *Tribune* publishing schedule changes a bit as we go from spring to summer. This issue's publication is delayed beyond the usual date so we can report the Fellowship Week activities. And there is no *Tribune* published in June so we can do some house-keeping with our records (our fiscal year ends in June), update and upgrade, if necessary, any computer software or hardware without disrupting workflow, and we take our vacations in June. Someone is usually available to answer the phone, and we will monitor email, and we can always process subscriptions and offering checks of course, but after this issue of the *Tribune* you will not receive another magazine until sometime in July. Have a blessed and safe summer.

*Keith Bassham*

# BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JUNE 2015

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

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**Cover photo by Luke Turner.** Special thanks to BBC's Luke Turner for providing access to his photographs from Fellowship Week to help our reporting on the events of the week.

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

## Inspired by the Fellowship



by Eddie Lyons | President | BBFI

We are a Fellowship of pastors, leaders, and people who have a dream to take the Gospel to the world. Each time we meet as a Fellowship, this remains the primary focus. This last Fellowship meeting brought me to that moment of inspiration. I found myself very grateful to be part of a group who keeps “the main thing the main thing.”

Mission Director Jon Konnerup reported we reached a milestone as a Fellowship because we have given more than \$1 billion to missions. Our Fellowship provides a path for those called by God to serve around the world to be equipped, trained, and supported. Once again missionaries and chaplains were approved and sent out. We also witnessed the recognition of those who have served for 30 and 50 years. We also celebrated the home going of one of our great pioneering missionaries to Africa, Elmer Deal. Church attendance in the Congo was in the tens of thousands each Sunday because of this Baptist Bible Fellowship missionary. We celebrate the rich legacy of missionary endeavors even as we send out new missionaries whose stories are yet to be written. I get to be a part of this Fellowship, and that inspires me.

We were on the campus of our first school, Baptist Bible College, in Springfield, MO. We were glad to hear of the resurgence of this school. Most of the speakers were students at this school. There is nothing like hearing from your peers who share your heart for ministry and are glad to give their lives to the mission. When they preach, they do so from a depth of conviction and years of service. The preacher-to-preacher sermons are unique to these kinds of meetings and are powerful to inspire.

The week of our meeting, the world dealt with the devastating earthquakes that killed thousands in Nepal. That news was not general news to us but personal, because two of our BBC graduates, Kshitiz and Sahaj Ghimire, were from Nepal. These two men are the sons of a pastor who was brought to Christ by BBFI missionary David Freeman. When our church took up an offering to help Nepal, we had them share a word. They had not seen their parents for three years or more and were excited their parents were coming to their graduation. The earthquake made it impossible for them to leave and so they would miss the graduation of their sons.

Our hope is that the compassionate response given in the name of Jesus will unlock the hearts of many who have been resistant to the story of Jesus. Our gifts can be used of God to open previously closed hearts to the gospel. A donor has offered to match up to \$50,000 given for Nepal Relief by July 1. Please go to [www.BBFI.org](http://www.BBFI.org) and help us reach that goal.

Once again our meeting reinforced my love for a Fellowship that is all about the Gospel.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

## Are you ready?



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

Have you ever considered serving God in fulltime ministry? More specifically, is it possible the Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart about missions? Here are three items to consider.

### LEARN WHERE GOD IS WORKING

Keep an eye on what is happening in the world and in missions. Research specific regions where you can serve. As a future missionary, it is important to be aware of the big picture and the BBFI Mission Office can help you understand the process. Consider:

- Is God calling me to a specific people or region of the world?
- Have I learned how the BBFI Mission Office can help me? Have I asked them where I can be used?
- Have I sought out missionaries already in the place to which God has called me — if there are any?

*Next steps to take:*

- Read missionary biographies.
- Ask the Mission Office for guidance.
- Take the necessary (or required) classes focused on the theology of missions and the Great Commission.

### BEGIN NOW — DON'T WAIT

Don't wait until you are overseas or in the region God has called you to be a missionary. Become an active member in your local church and begin serving right where you are. Ask yourself:

- Are there ways I can serve my church better?
- How can I think and act more like a missionary starting today?
- What are my spiritual gifts? How can I use them?

*Next steps to take:*

- Write your life's mission statement and use it to prioritize activities.
- Evaluate how you serve now and ask yourself if you are really ready to make extreme sacrifices as an overseas missionary.
- Look for opportunities to serve your church right now by volunteering to help in various ways.
- Identify the skills and spiritual gifts God has given you and think about ways you can use them to serve God.

### KEEP GOING — DON'T GET DISTRACTED

If God has placed a certain location or people on your heart, pray for His clear direction. Prepare yourself through Bible training and mission courses. Keep reading the Bible. Develop your skills and spiritual gifts. Learn to be an effective witness. Disciple new believers in Christ. Contact potential churches about a future internship for training.

The BBFI Mission Office is always available to help you through this process. The world needs more people answering God's call in order that they might hear the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. Will you be one of many who will say, “Here am I; send me!”

# 15 reasons why we need to plant churches: Part I



by John A. Gross | Church Planting | BBFI

The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for the numerical growth of the church in any city. According to C. Peter Wagner, “...planting a church is the most effective evangelistic methodology under heaven.” If you have ever wondered if your city really needs another church, consider this:

1. Jesus’ essential call was to plant churches. Matthew 28: 19-20, The Great Commission, is not just a call for “decisions for Christ,” but to make disciples, to baptize, to teach. Implicit in this command is the incorporation into an interdependent worshiping community involving accountability, care, and spiritual nurture. Acts 2:41-47.<sup>1</sup> We are losing ground in dramatic fashion. Strategically the case is compelling ... and sobering.

2. Eighty-five percent (or more) of all existing churches in America plateaued or are declining. (Most of these churches have completed their lifecycle and are beyond their ability to be revitalized.) Of the 15 percent that are growing, only one percent are growing by conversion growth; most are growing by transfers from other churches.<sup>2</sup>

3. Only 18.7 percent of Americans attend church on any given Sunday.<sup>3</sup>

4. There has been a 92 percent increase in the number of unchurched Americans in the last 13 years.<sup>4</sup>

5. Churches in America lose approximately 2,765,000 people each year; between 3,500 and 4,000 churches close their doors each year.<sup>5</sup>

One of our successful church planters in Ohio is Josh Bevan. Josh has been instrumental in developing and leading church planting throughout the Ohio area. Five years ago Lighthouse Baptist Church in Xenia, OH, started with eight people. Today, the church is thriving with over 5,600 first-time visitors, over 2,700 souls saved, and nearly 450 baptized. The church owns 14 acres of property and they have renovated a 28,000-square-foot facility with a 600-seat sanctuary; they currently average nearly 400 on Sundays and over 300 on Wednesday nights.

LBC is a product of the Baptist Bible Fellowship that has both challenged and supported young men to reach this world by starting churches. May we continually renew that passion and focus.

1 Tim Hawks, Hill Country Bible Church, Austin, Texas.

2 Aubrey Malphurs. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st-Century* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books).

3 “How Many Americans Really Attend Church Each Week” by Justin Taylor.

4 “How Many Americans Really Attend Church Each Week” by Justin Taylor.

5 Charles Arn, “A Response to Dr. Rainer: What is the Key to Effective Evangelism,” *Journal of the American Society for Church Growth*, Volume 6, 1995, page 74.

## Nepal earthquake relief still needed

On April 25, 2015, a 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, with the epicenter near Kathmandu – home to 2.5 million people where career missionaries David and Karen Freeman have served since 2004. With the death toll now exceeding 5,000 and the injured near 10,000 in the region, tens of thousands are seeking refuge in open spaces and temporary camps setup in the Kathmandu valley. More than 80 percent of health facilities in the affected area have been extensively damaged, forcing treatments to be done outside.

It is reported to have been the largest earthquake to hit the small South Asian country since 1934. At least two of Freeman’s church families have lost their entire homes. Assessments are still pending on the church’s 5 story building which houses an orphanage, church auditorium, pastor’s home and missionary’s home while the orphans and many church families are staying in tents. While they are praising the Lord for their safety, things will be in a desperate situation for many weeks to come until clean water, food and shelter are secured.



Kshitiz and Sahaj Ghimire graduated from BBC this month. They are both from Nepal and are the sons of a national pastor. Their father was brought to Christ through BBFI missionary David Freeman. They have a church in the capital and also care for 12 children in their orphanage. Since the devastating earthquake they have been working to meet the needs of people around them in the name of Jesus. Still ahead of them is the difficult process of recovery and rebuilding.

Kshitiz recently recounted his story of growing up and accepting Christ in a country that knows so little about Jesus. In a country deep in Hinduism, only 1% of the Nepal people are Christians. Their hope is that help given will open the hearts of these people to hear the story of Jesus. What they need most is this gospel and we can make a difference as a Fellowship.

**Recently a donor approached us promising to match every dollar raised up to \$50,000 by July 1. Please consider what your church can do to help during this crisis.**

Please send your contributions to “Nepal Relief” to BBFI Mission Office, PO Box 191, Springfield, MO, 65803, or you can give online at [www.bbfimissions.org](http://www.bbfimissions.org) (QR code will take you directly to the Mission Office website to donate).





# DIGRESSIONS

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

-Laurence Sterne

## How Americans feel about their smartphones

Not always needed <b>54%</b>	<b>46%</b> Couldn't live without it
It's a leash <b>30%</b>	<b>70%</b> Gives me freedom
Distracting <b>28%</b>	<b>72%</b> Helps me connect
Annoying <b>7%</b>	<b>93%</b> Helpful
Financial burden <b>19%</b>	<b>80%</b> Worth the cost

Source: www.pewresearch.org

## Survey: How important is church location to church growth?

"Many beliefs about the power of location are simply myths," researchers Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce state in their book, *Places of Promise: Finding Strength in Your Congregation's Location*. "Congregations are growing and can grow in all locations."

In analyzing data from the U.S. Congregational Life Survey, Woolever and Bruce found that the only location factor related to numerical growth was the longevity of the congregation at its current location. Whether a congregation was in the South or the West, a red or blue state, in a growing suburban community or a high-mobility urban community, was not related to growth.

The key to making congregations stronger? Identify the congregation's strengths and prayerfully discern "what God is calling the congregation to be and do in this place," state Woolever and Bruce.

"What are the unmet needs in this community, and what can our congregation do to meet those needs?" is a question that should be asked, Woolever says. "If you do that, your congregation's location is not a liability, it's a place of ministry."

**35%** of numerically declining congregations were located in growing-population areas.

**24%** of "numerically plateaued" congregations were located in growing-population areas.

**38%** of numerically growing congregations were located in growing-population areas.

Source: www.thearda.com, "Places of Promise: How location matters to congregations" by David Briggs, March 16, 2015

## Barna: Top 25 cities by unchurched population

1. **San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose, CA** - 61%
2. **Burlington/Plattsburgh, VT** - 55%
3. **Boston, MA/Manchester, NH** - 53%
4. **Portland/Auburn, ME** - 52%
5. **Chico/Redding, CA** - 52%
6. **Las Vegas, NV** - 51%
7. **Seattle/Tacoma, WA** - 50%
8. **Albany/Schenectady/Troy, NY** - 50%
9. **Phoenix/Prescott, AZ** - 49%
10. **New York, NY** - 48%
11. **West Palm Beach/Fort Pierce, FL** - 48%
12. **Tucson/Sierra Vista, AZ** - 48%
13. **Portland, OR** - 46%
14. **Los Angeles, CA** - 45%
15. **Philadelphia, PA** - 45%
16. **Hartford/New Haven, CT** - 45%
17. **Flint, MI** - 45%
18. **Denver, CO** - 44%
19. **Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto, CA** - 44%
20. **Providence, RI/New Bedford, MA** - 44%
21. **Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo, CA** - 44%
22. **Orlando/Daytona Beach/Melbourne, FL** - 43%
23. **Spokane, WA** - 43%
24. **Rochester, NY** - 43%
25. **Buffalo, NY** - 42%

Source: www.Barna.org

## More immigrants to the U.S. identify themselves as religiously unaffiliated

Immigrants to the U.S. are increasingly identifying themselves as religiously unaffiliated, that is, atheist, agnostic or having "no religion in particular," according to a new Pew Research Center study of America's religious composition. Indeed, recent immigrants (those who have arrived since 2000) are as likely to have no religious affiliation as the country's overall adult population.

The 2014 Religious Landscape Study, a follow-up to the Pew Center's first Religious Landscape Study in 2007, found that one-in-five immigrants said they did not belong to any religion – an increase of four percentage points since 2007, when 16% said they did not associate with any faith tradition.

Source: www.pewresearch.org, Caryle Murphy, May 2015

# In the NEWS of the WEEK

## BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH Gene A. Lowry, Pastor Richmond, Virginia

To The Tribune:

God has been good to us over the past month in giving us 41 additions to the church by baptism and by letter. April 1 we had 281 in Sunday school. April 24, Bro. Bob Daniels from Timberlake Baptist church, Lynchburg, supplied our pulpit. We had 221 in Sunday school that day. May 1 we had 255 in Sunday

school, and May 8 we had 205.

We are trusting that God's blessing will remain upon us as a church, and upon our Fellowship and our College—of which we are very proud to be a part.

May 1, the Lord blessed us in enabling us to raise enough money to pay cash for a used bus. The offerings for that day totaled \$578.48.

**GENE A. LOWRY.**

A successful Fellowship meeting was held in First Baptist church, Pleasanton, Kas., **Rev. D. J. Sawatsky**, pastor. Among the speakers were **Ray Smith**, Xenia; **Lew Cass Bennett**, Hamilton; **Ernest Kober**, Chanute; **Glenn Stark**, Yates Center; **Don Franklin**, Fort Scott; **Leslie Sawatsky**, Holden, Mo., and **Claude Cravins**, Fort Scott. Special music was rendered by **Mrs. Ray Smith**, accompanied by **Mrs. Lew Cass Bennett**.

For the past five Sundays the average Sunday school attendance of First Bible Baptist church, Wichita, Kas., **Doyle B. Hopper**, pastor has been 539. The church has a membership of 787.

## TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH Lloyd Willson, Pastor Abilene, Texas

To The Tribune:

God has blessed us here at Trinity church. I accepted the pastorate last February. Our Sunday school attendance for February averaged 88 per Sunday; for March, 102; for April, 124, and for May, 134.

Our offerings have likewise increased. For February the weekly average was \$111.12; for March \$152.75; for April, \$180.98. May 1 the offering for the day totaled \$137.87.

We are having a real spirit of revival in the church. The church voted to buy a plot of ground, 170x336 feet in the heart of the fastest growing section of Abilene—a block from the new \$2 million high school. Of course we plan to erect building there.

Abilene is growing at the rate of 200 families a week. The city planning board expects the population to reach 100,000 by 1960. The present population is 65,000.

**LLOYD ALLISON.**

Bible Baptist church, Fredonia, Kas., **Homer L. Quinlan**, pastor, had 240 in Sunday school May 22. From the bulletin of the church:

### BLESSINGS LAST LORD'S DAY

Bro. Garold Beard, our missionary to the Navajo Indians, brought a real missionary challenge to us Sunday morning. It was a joy to have him home again. We were also happy to meet Robert Manning, one of his converts from the Indian reservation who has recently surrendered to preach the Gospel to his people. It is wonderful to have a part in such a real missionary work. Pray for Garold and this young preacher boy who wishes to reach his own people for Christ.

At the close of the morning service **Beryl Gray, Jr.**, came to present himself for Scriptural baptism.

From the Gideon Baptist Witness, weekly paper of Gideon Baptist church, Wichita, Kas., **Martin Ralstin**, pastor and editor:

What a day! Our Sunday school was reorganized, that is the Beginners department, Primary department and Junior department. We all worked very hard last week and the Lord gave us 72 more in Sunday school than the previous Sunday, with a total attendance of 249. From 16 to 249 in 10 months time. What a thrill! We give God all the glory. He promises to bless our work and He has. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

There were 86 riding our bus this Sunday representing about 32% of our Sunday school. Only two of our four buses were in operation.

There was a special installation service for all the teachers and workers in our Sunday school with a number of new teachers taking their places for the first time. What a blessing it all was. The wonderful staff we now have will do a fine job with our children.

We don't really know all that God has in store for us, but we are asking for and expecting great things. By humility, lots of prayer and plenty of hard work, the Lord will wonderfully bless. Surely our new church is learning many valuable lessons. When we added more chairs the Lord gave us nearly 100 more people the very next Sunday; when we added more teachers to our crowded Sunday school the Lord graciously responded and helped us to get 72 more pupils the very next Sunday. God honors faith that is active and expectant. Surely we have all been taught a wonderful lesson in faith. May God help our faith to grow in the days ahead.

Tabernacle Bible Baptist church, Joplin, Mo., **C. J. McQuillen**, pastor, had 205 in Sunday school May 15. There were three professions of faith in Christ and two additions to the church throughout the day.

From the bulletin of Central Baptist church, Denton, Texas, **Lester J. Singleton**, pastor:

### FELLOWSHIP

The Red River Valley District Fellowship was held in Texarkana May 5. There were two car loads of folk from our church that attended the meeting. It was a good day and enjoyed by all that were present.

The people of the church did an unusual job of entertaining. It's hard to understand how so small a church could prepare and serve so much food to the

crowd present. The service closed out that night with a double-header. Bro. George Sullivan from Sherman was the first speaker and Lester Singleton, Denton was the closing speaker and when the invitation was given three young people were saved.

The next meeting will be held with the Bible Baptist church of Durant, Okla., Thursday, June 2. Everybody please keep this date in mind.

Our next Youth Fellowship meeting will be here in Denton Thursday night, June 9. Central Baptist church and its young people will be hosts to this meeting. Mothers and Dads, please keep this date in mind and let's have one of the best turnouts of the parents that we've ever had in a youth meeting.

Bible Baptist church, Dallas, Texas, **Loys Vess**, pastor, will conduct its Vacation Bible school June 6-12. **Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Wade** will be in charge of the school. The general theme will be the Parables of the New Testament. The church's missionary offering for April totaled \$486.00.

The average Sunday school attendance of Bible Baptist church, Maplewood, Mo., **B. E. Rodgers**, pastor, for April and May was 125. The church has laid the foundation for a new two-story Sunday school addition to its building.

Babies were honored guests in the Tulsa Baptist Temple Sunday school May 29. The Tulsa Temple defines a baby as being under 2½ years old.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Harry A. Hayes, Pastor Kiowa, Kansas

To The Tribune:

We had a nine-night series of meetings with Bro. Lonnie Smith, of Westside Baptist church, Hutchinson, doing the preaching. There were two additions to the church and a spiritual awakening among the members of our church. Our Sunday school attendance for May 15 was 44, and we had over 50 for the morning preaching service.

In the last 68 years a number of efforts have been made to establish a Baptist church here. This is the first one to succeed. The following is from our local paper:

### Baptist Dedicate Church Building

The first Baptist church of Kowa held dedication services Tuesday evening, May 10.

The Rev. Leaford Cavin of the Eastside Baptist church in Topeka was the guest speaker and gave the dedication message.

Other ministers present were Rev. Bob Mason, Topeka; Rev. Carl Bush, Centropolis; Rev. Jack Adrian, Pratt; Rev. S. W. Herring, Attica; Rev. Homer Sewell Sun City; Rev. Bill DeLude, Anthony and Rev. Harry Bowman of Anthony.

Each of the ministers had a representation from their local church. Rev. Joe Lingo, missionary in Chile, South America was also present.

There were several musical numbers furnished by the visiting towns.

Vocal solo, "Lead Me Gently Home, Father," by Denton Collins of Sun City.

Saxophone solo by Kenneth Adrian of Pratt.

Vocal solo, "Why Should He Love Me So," by LeRoy Hoopes of Anthony.

Vocal solo, "My Mother's Prayers," by Rev. Jack Adrian of Pratt.

The church history was read by Mrs. Paulk, and Rev. Carl Bush gave the dedication prayer.

The church was organized in March of 1954 and Rev. Harry Golden was the first minister.

The present minister and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Harry Hayes came to Kiowa in August, 1954. At that time they were holding services in a building on Main street. In November 1954, arrangements were made to purchase and move a church building that was no longer in use.

This was done and the building was moved to its present location at 8th and Chatham. It was ready for occupancy the first part of December.

The members of the church borrowed \$3,000 to buy this building and are paying it off in monthly payments.

The membership has more than doubled since the church was organized. There were 11 members then and 26 members now. The average attendance is between 30 and 35.

**Rev. Cecil Hodges**, pastor, Bible Baptist church, Fernandina Beach, Fla., has closed a five-day series of meetings with Poplar Spring Baptist church, Garfield, Georgia. There were 25 additions by baptism, two by letter and one by statement. **Rev. D. W. Griffin** is pastor of the church.

Baptist Bible church, Staunton, Va., **S. B. Whitfield**, pastor, had 65 in Sunday school May 8 and an offering for the day of \$122.80. The church conducts the "Baptist Bible Hour" over the Staunton station, WAFC, every Saturday afternoon at 4:45. A series of meetings is being conducted in the church by **Rev. Eugene Wood**, pastor, Buffalo Baptist Tabernacle, South Boston, Virginia. Whitfield will conduct a series of meetings in Evangelical Methodist church, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania in June.

**Jim E. Lugibihl**, associate pastor and song leader of Detroit Baptist Tabernacle, Detroit, Mich., **Harold A. Jessop**, pastor, will be graduated June 10 from Baptist Bible Institute, North Detroit. Detroit Tabernacle church meets in the YMCA building, corner Livernois and Southern streets. The Sunday school attendance is averaging 45.

### THE SUN DO MOVE

●A town council in Northampton, England, reluctantly abandoned a project to censor objectionable sentiments on tombstones.

●It was found that there are 180 feet of silk on an ear of corn, that tears flow more freely from women than from men, except between 30 and 39, that 29 per cent of all footballs are now rubber instead of pigskin, and that only 24 street bootblacks still operated in London.

●The village gravedigger at Mis-sando do Zonica, Italy gave up after 10 years produced only one job—burying his own cat.

●After 35 years in political jobs, including the Presidency, Harry Truman finally got a social security number as a self-employed person. The 100th anniversary of the Rhode Island Red was celebrated



## CELEBRATING THE TIES THAT BIND AND THE JOYS WE FIND



# THE 65TH GRADUATION FELLOWSHIP WEEK

By the *Tribune*, with additional photos provided by Luke Turner

Since 1951, pastors, missionaries, and church members affiliated with the Baptist Bible Fellowship have gathered in May to review Fellowship progress and to cheer one another on in their service for God. The three-and-one-half days of meetings, worship, and good company is often extended by those coming early or leaving late, but whatever the schedule, whatever the weather, and whatever the world's outer condition, the people of the Baptist Bible Fellowship love to be around one another, and Graduation Fellowship Week provides one of the best opportunities to do that.

Meeting host and BBC President Mark Milioni wanted to honor the past but he also wanted to lay out some ideas for the future.

These photos and notes on the highlights will tell the story of how that went.

### MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Three couples and one single career missionary were approved Wednesday. The missionaries and their fields are T.J. and Kimberly Gritts (Spain), Janice Hickey (Ecuador), Jaron and Nicki Rogers (Nicaragua), and Jonathan and Anna Saliba (Colombia). An additional family was approved to go to a Creative Access Nation, and they may be contacted through the BBFI Mission Office.

TEAM (short-term) missionaries approved were Katie Bishop (Taiwan), Michael Cox (Mexico), Lu May (Thailand), Rebecca

McMurphy (Thailand), Josh and Erin Taylor (Honduras), and Michael Todd (Peru).

Military chaplains approved and endorsed were 1LT Joseph Isip (U.S. Army Reserve), 1LT Nathanael Logan (U.S. Army Reserve), and Courtney Merchant (CPT pending commissioning – U.S. Army).

Greg and Nina Hunt (Taiwan and Canada) and Bob and Janice Marshall (Wales) received their 30-year pins, while Dean and Deloris McClure (Brazil), Jerry and Shari Pierce (Retired SMORS), and Frank and Finetti Howell (Retired Philippines) were recognized for their 50 years of service as BBFI missionaries (the Howells were unable to attend).

Two milestones were also announced during the meeting. In the Fellowship's 65-



**ALUMNI & FRIENDS BANQUET**



**PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION & CAR SHOW**



**CLASS OF 1960 REUNION**



# OF THE BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

year history, the Mission Office has processed more than \$1 billion for worldwide evangelism. This past year saw the total given rise to \$1,078,040,254 toward missions through the Baptist Bible Fellowship. Also, Greg Lyons announced the enrollment of their one-millionth camper through the camp ministries in the Philippines.

## COMMENCEMENT

Thursday morning, BBC held its 65th annual commencement. The address was given by Elmer Towns, Dean of the School of Religion at Liberty University and a longtime friend and student of the Baptist Bible Fellowship (an edited version of the address is published in this magazine). The seminary conferred 12

degrees. The undergraduate college conferred 32 degrees and one certificate in the ministry division, and 22 degrees in the professional studies division.

## BUSINESS MEETING

With Keith Bassham's announcement that he will be resigning from the *Tribune* at the end of the year, President Eddie Lyons and the Executive Committee proposed expanding the communication role of the *Tribune* office and renaming the editor's post BBFI Director of Communications. A complete job description and application process will be in place June 1, and those interested in the new position should contact BBFI Secretary Paul Foster at [secretary@bbfi.org](mailto:secretary@bbfi.org).

The Mission Office budget was viewed and approved, and the vice presidents reported the work and progress made by the colleges, APEX (church planting), and other BBFI entities. President Lyons also announced a committee had been formed to review and revise certain parts of the BBFI Constitution and Bylaws to bring them up to date and to reconcile inconsistencies. Paul Foster encouraged pastors to attend the international meeting in Korea next March 14-17. Details are available from the Mission Office and in the *Tribune*. A "Church Revitalization Seminary" will also take place in southern California February 16-18, 2016.

Other future BBFI meetings take place at High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO,



September 14-16, 2015, and Cape Cod Church, Cape Cod, MA, September 19-21, 2016.

**THE PREACHERS**

Preachers Jerry Thorpe, Ben Feldott, D. L. Moody, Eddie Lyons, David Janney, Ronnie Floyd, Mark Milioni, and Ed Trinkle all made it their business to encourage and to inspire a Fellowship to work together, to value one another, to lift up Jesus, to dream, to plant churches, and to take risks. While there was plenty of material to keep up the interest, the preachers were all involved in serious business and they did the work for which they were appointed. It would be difficult to find a more able group to press the causes of our Fellowship.

**THE FAITHFUL**

Three Baptist Bible College professors were presented the Fellowship Faithfulness Award: Shirley McCullough, Bill Dowell, Jr., and Richard Bemarkt.

Shirley McCullough has taught in the Business Department at BBC since 1974, and hundreds of churches have benefitted from her work in the classroom. Dowell is a well-known name at BBC. Bill Dowell, Sr. was one of our founders and served as a BBC vice president and president. His son, Bill Dowell, Jr., taught at BBC nearly 40 years teaching Bible, theology, and communications to countless future pastors and missionaries in the Fellowship. Richard Bemarkt taught at BBC 43 years, covering classes for everything from Greek to youth ministry. The versatility, enthusiasm, and dedication to the students in their charge provide a model for all those who want to have a lasting influence for God in this world.





A FELLOWSHIP CONNECTION TO NEPAL



FELLOWSHIP FAITHFULNESS AWARDS



Gritts



Saliba



Hickey



Rogers

## CAREER

T.J. and Kimberly Gritts — Spain  
 Sending Church: Seminole Baptist Temple, Springfield, MO  
 Contact Info: (417) 881-4200, tj.gritts@bbfmissions.org

Janice Hickey — Ecuador  
 Sending Church: First Baptist Church of Meadowview, Mesquite, TX  
 Contact Info: (214) 391-7176, janice.hickey@bbfmissions.org

Jaron and Nicki Rogers — Nicaragua  
 Sending Church: First Baptist Church, Webster, TX  
 Contact Info: (251) 332-4041, jaron.rogers@bbfmissions.org

Jonathan and Anna Saliba — Colombia  
 Sending Church: Graceway Baptist Church, Springfield, MO  
 Contact Info: (417) 887-0212, jonathan.saliba@bbfmissions.org

One family has been approved as Baptist Bible Fellowship International missionaries to a Creative Access Nation. They may be contacted through the Mission Office.

# NEWLY APPROVED MISSIONARIES

## TEAM

Katie Bishop — Taiwan  
 Host Missionaries: David and Cherie Green  
 Sending Church: Cherry Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO  
 Contact Info: (417) 889-1999, katie.bishop@bbfmissions.org

Michael Cox — Mexico  
 Host Missionaries: Adolfo and April Ruesga  
 Sending Church: High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO  
 Contact Info: (417) 862-5502, michael.cox@bbfmissions.org

Lu May — Thailand  
 Host Missionaries: Ricky and Tammy Salmon  
 Sending Church: Friendship Baptist Church, Wichita, KS  
 Contact Info: (316) 263-0269, lu.may@bbfmissions.org

Rebecca McMurphy — Thailand  
 Host Missionaries: Ricky and Tammy Salmon  
 Sending Church: Cherry Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO  
 Contact Info: (417) 889-1999 or at rebecca.mcmurphy@bbfmissions.org

Josh and Erin Taylor — Honduras  
 Host Missionaries: Miguel and Christina Lopez  
 Sending Church: Calvary Bible Baptist Church, Westerville, OH  
 Contact Info: (614) 891-1250, josh.taylor@bbfmissions.org

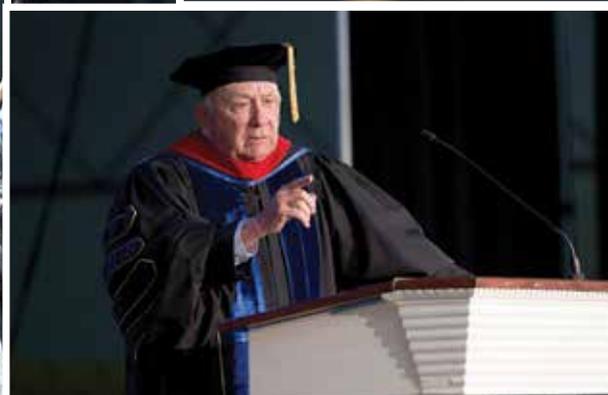
Michael Todd — Peru  
 Host Missionary: David and Tonya Liles  
 Sending Church: High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO  
 Contact Info: (417) 862-5502, michael.todd@bbfmissions.org

## CHAPLAINS

1LT Joseph Isip has been endorsed as chaplain to the U.S. Army Reserves.  
 Sending church: Calvary Baptist Church, Bellflower, CA

1LT Nathanael Logan U.S. Army Reserves  
 Sending Church: Seminole Baptist Temple, Springfield, MO

Courtney Merchant (CPT pending commissioning) has been endorsed as chaplain to the U.S. Army.





# Reflections on a principled

A TRIBUTE TO MISSIONARY ELMER DEAL

*The following tribute was delivered during Elmer Deal's memorial service May 8, 2015, at Tulsa Baptist Temple, Tulsa, OK*

by Mike Randall – Former Editor of the *Baptist Bible Tribune* (1995-2002)

**F**or over a year and a half, I was involved in the process of helping Elmer Deal write his and Mary's life story. Elmer and I were in contact by phone or email on an almost daily basis. By completion, I spent approximately 1,000 hours in interviews, research, discussions, and writing. As you can imagine, I came to know Elmer and Mary quite well. His joke that I knew his life better than he did isn't possible, but I think I know his and Mary's lives well enough to make some

valid observations. I believe several principles guided Elmer (along with Mary) during his six decades of missionary ministry.

#### **The principle of Biblical authority**

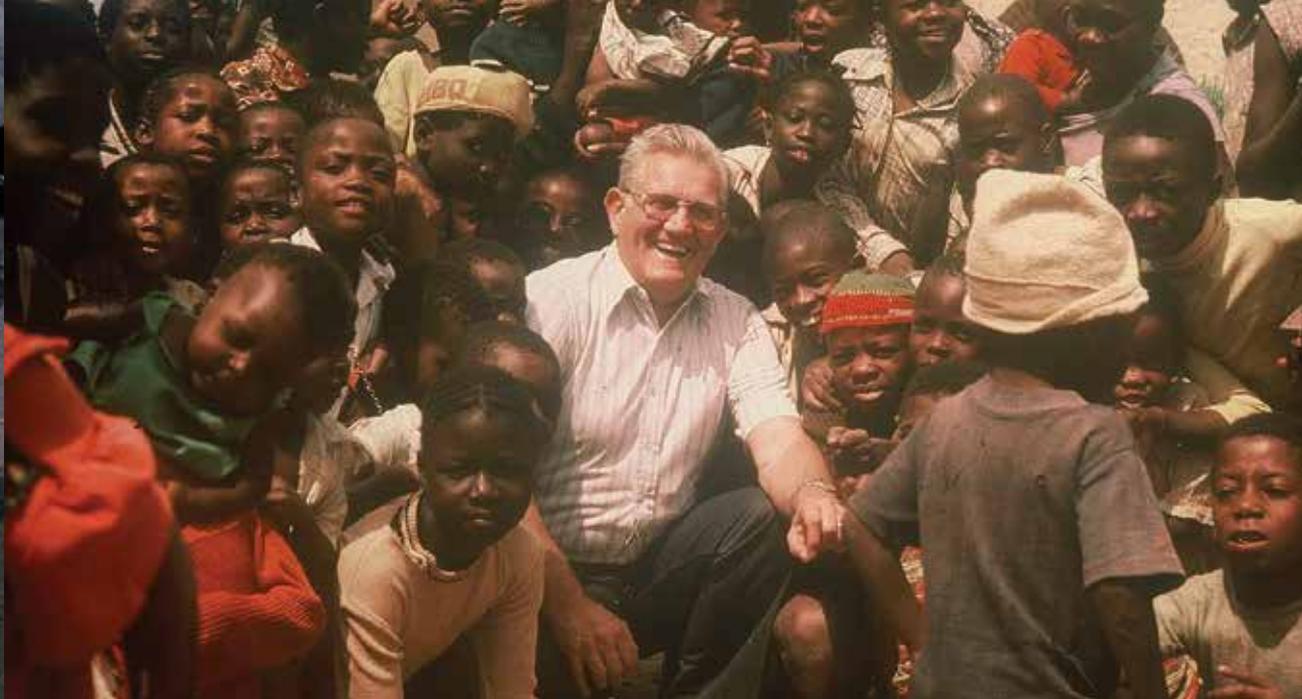
His book, *Out of the Mouth of the Lion*, demonstrates that Elmer and Mary did their best to live life according to the Scriptures. Since their conversion and especially since their surrender to become missionaries, they read their Bible daily. Each year they read through the entire Bible. They discussed it and attempted to practice what it taught. It was their final authority for faith and practice. They constantly claimed its promises in life and prayer. Declaring the Bible's Christ and Gospel was their ministry.

On Sunday, September 17, 1961, crossfire

from opposing forces nearly destroyed the home where they hid under mattresses. They prayed for safety, claiming the promises of Psalm 91:15, "He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him." They felt a wonderful comfort and peace. At that exact time, their home church had an unusual prayer meeting for their safety. God answered. They were delivered from possible death or injury.

#### **The principle of personal accountability**

All his life, Elmer Deal accepted the fact that he was accountable. He was accountable to his parents, accountable to his teachers, accountable when in the army, accountable to his wife and family. Ultimately, he knew he



# life

was accountable to God. This made it easier for him to accept Christ as his savior. This made it easier for him to tithe, giving God ten percent of all God gave him. This helped him surrender to become a missionary. This made it easier for him to be hard working, honest, and reliable. Accountability was the reason he wrote letters to his supporting churches and filed monthly financial reports. Accountability made it easier for him to remain a missionary despite difficulties, defeats, dangers, threats, and losses. It helped him write a daily journal that became the basis of his autobiography.

### **The principle of the Golden Rule**

Elmer Deal tried to live by the Golden Rule, “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them”

(Matthew 7:12). He and Mary were constantly doing little things for others. They hosted guests. They helped people in need. They gave or loaned money and paid the bills of other missionaries or acquaintances. Sometimes they were repaid, sometimes not. It earned them a good testimony from the people they were trying to reach (Luke 6:35). Because they treated others well, the Deals were often treated well themselves.

### **The principle of sowing and reaping**

Elmer Deal believed in the principle of sowing and reaping. He saw his life as an attempt to sow as much good seed as possible, to reap a good harvest. This caused him to take time to teach his converts to read, to know the Bible, and to share it. This caused him to emphasize

honesty and a man keeping his vows to be faithful to his wife. This caused him to invest in the children of his ministry. He often gave time and funds to Kipili, Gregoire’s orphaned son, and the other children of his people. Mary taught the children and their mothers. Elmer led youth meetings to reach young people. He encouraged youth to get educated. Although he focused on planting and building churches, he didn’t discourage his pastors from having schools. He lived with the end in view, looking for a result in several years. This was one of the motivations for all the giving they did to their pastors, pastors’ wives, families, and others. Galatians 6:7 says, “... for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” This practice brought amazing results in their ministry.

### **The principle of Christian friendship**

Over and over again in his life, Elmer Deal befriended, encouraged, and helped non-believers and other Christian missionaries who were not of his denomination. He and Mary had discernment and ability to accept others, maintain their own convictions, and reach out in Christian love. This opened many doors. In fact, it was the written invitation from Brethren missionaries that helped establish them in the country in 1960. Years later in 1987, more written commendations from Brethren and Methodist missionaries helped Elmer and Mary's mission receive government recognition. Their friendship with non-believing businessmen helped them handle funds, obtain supplies, secure safer housing, and other assistance. They earned respect and assistance because of their beneficial attitude and treatment of others, including rebel soldiers. Elmer said his actions followed the example of Christ, who identified himself as "a friend of publicans and sinners" (Matthew 11:19). He also cited Mark 9:38-41 and Romans 12:20-21, saying, "We have enough enemies. We don't need to make more by the way we treat others who don't believe as we do."

### **The principle of Gladys Brown**

Gladys Brown was Elmer Deal's favorite teacher from high school. He spoke with her after he surrendered to be a missionary. She encouraged him with these words, "Mind your own business. Stay out of the way. Do what God wants you to do." These three ideas stuck. They helped guide his ministry. He stayed at doing the things that needed to be done, the grunt work of day-to-day ministry. He didn't toot his own horn or seek recognition. He sought the Lord and His guidance. God answered with protection and provision. Elmer felt Mrs. Brown's admonition paralleled Paul, who wrote, "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands ..." (1 Thessalonians 4:11).

### **The principle of the Good Samaritan**

Many times in his life, Elmer demonstrated the spirit of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Early in his Congo ministry, Elmer was driving home from a preaching opportunity at the jail and came upon a crowd of Africans. A native on a bicycle had been hit by a car and was lying on the road. An elderly white man

had been assaulted by the crowd when he tried to intercede for the Europeans, whose car was involved. At his own peril, Elmer rushed upon the scene, dispersed the crowd and took both the injured to the hospital. Another time, Elmer and Mary were staying at a cabin on Lake Kivu. In the morning, they found a badly beaten Batusi woman on their porch. As they put her in their vehicle, a crowd of Hutus gathered and warned them not to help their enemy. They shouted and threw rocks as the Deals drove away.

### **The principle of contentment**

Elmer and Mary Deal learned early in their ministry to do without. They lived by the principle of contentment stated in 1 Timothy 6:7-8, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." After national independence in 1960, Elmer experienced the agony of finding their first African home vandalized. Windows were smashed, doors broken in, and contents stolen or ransacked. Sadly, he wrote Mary, who had been evacuated, and reported that many of her



cherished possessions were gone. She didn't even cry. Several times more, when they had to be evacuated to safety, looters took most, if not all their possessions. They learned that contentment comes from being in the center of God's will, not from being in the center of material things.

### **The principle of divinely appointed authority**

Romans 13:1-7 says, "... the powers that be are ordained of God ... Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake ... Render therefore to all their dues ..." Elmer believed they must function within the framework of the government and laws of the country. In instance after instance, he and Mary submitted to army, police, judges, magistrates, bureaucrats, and officials. They did it to evict an illegal tenant from an apartment they rented. They did it to get in and out of the country. They did it dealing with rebel soldiers. They did it to settle property disputes. They did it to obtain government recognition of their mission. They did it, though it required extreme patience. It was what the Bible said to do.

### **The principle of indigenous leadership**

As a young Christian, Elmer Deal learned from Bob Geisinger, the director of the John 3:16 Mission, that to minister, you must trust those you have won to Christ (2 Timothy 2:2). Elmer lived by this principle in the Congo, entrusting African leaders like Gregoire, Musa, Bulaya Jean, Delphin, Matembo, Mukendi, Twite, Celestin, and others with money, responsibility, and authority. From time to time he was disappointed, but often he was rewarded for empowering indigenous leadership. These are the leaders who spread the Gospel beyond their area and helped Elmer Deal plant 175 churches in the Congo. Elmer believed the success of future ministry depends on godly, trained, and empowered indigenous leadership.

### **The legacy of a principled life**

In six decades of ministry, Elmer Deal survived four civil wars, numerous personal perils, losses, triumphs, tragedies, and achievements. His spiritual leadership, godly influence, and wisdom brought thousands of Africans to Christ, planted 175 churches

in four provinces, established many schools, one Bible institute, two medical clinics, and a Fellowship of Congo churches who continue his work.

Elmer's life revealed God's direction, provision, protection, providence, and grace. When the Simba Rebels took control of the Deal's area in 1964, they announced that any Americans were to be arrested and executed. For three harrowing weeks, Elmer and Mary were under house arrest with other missionaries. When British citizens were evacuated, so were the Deals, their identity undetected when Simba Chief Soumialot personally gave them permission to leave. During their whole confinement, not one African would tell the Simbas that the Deals were American. Such is the legacy of Elmer Deal's principled life.

Paul could have written 2 Timothy 4:17 about Elmer, "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."

We have lost and heaven has gained a great hero and missionary giant.



## W. A. CRISWELL — Master pulpiteer and stalwart for the faith

When a boy was born into the Criswell home in Eldorado, OK, in December 1909, the parents named him W. A. — just initials, no names. Only years later, when a passport application required the initials stand for something, did W. A. adopt the names Wallie Amos, his father's name, making himself a junior. When he died at 92 in January 2002, W. A. Criswell left behind a remarkable legacy of long and effective service to Christ to several Baptist churches, especially First Baptist Church of Dallas, and to the Southern Baptist denomination of which he was a part.

W. A. was raised in Texline on the New Mexico border in far northwest Texas. There he was converted to Christ at age ten in a revival meeting conducted by Johnny Hicks of Dalhart, TX; he sensed a call to preach at 12. W. A. lived in Dalhart during his high school years and was licensed to preach at 17.

Influenced in part by a young evangelist named John R. Rice, W. A. attended Baylor (1927-1931) where he majored in English. He continued his education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, (1931-1937) where he earned both Th.M. and Ph.D. degrees.

During these years of formal education, Criswell pastored several small churches. Upon graduation, he was called to pastor in Oklahoma, first at Chickasha (1937-1941) and then Muskogee (1941-1944). He quickly became widely known for his fiery and fervent Biblical preaching as well as his administrative skills. When the legendary George W. Truett died in 1944, First Baptist Church of Dallas, where Truett had pastored for almost half a century (1897-1944), sought out 34-year-old W. A. Criswell to be their pastor. Criswell told them more than once that he wasn't interested, but ultimately God persuaded him to accept their call.

How does one follow a legend? In this case, magnificently. Though First Baptist was a large and wealthy congregation (over 7,800

members with a 75-year history), Criswell was not content to simply coast on past achievements. He reorganized the church's many ministries, greatly expanded most of them, and initiated many new ones. By the end of his ministry there, the church had over 26,000 members, being among the first "mega-churches," and making it for many years the largest Southern Baptist church in the world. Its facilities occupied five city blocks in downtown Dallas.

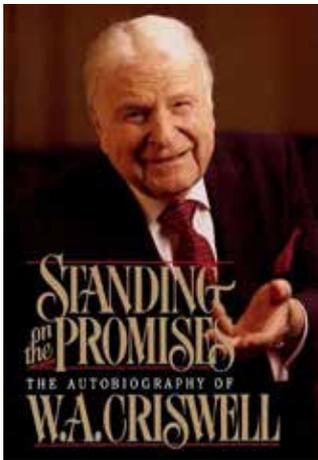
Criswell was most at home in the pulpit. He usually preached 45 minutes to an hour, and often lamented that he didn't have enough time. He preached at First Baptist some 4,000 times, with many of these sermons broadcast live by radio or television, and recorded for later publication in book form. Not long after going to Dallas, Criswell began preaching through the Bible "from Genesis to Revelation." The Old Testament occupied three-and-a-half years, while the New Testament took more than 13!

He wrote some 54 books. Among the most notable is *Why I Preach that the Bible is Literally True* (1969), a strong defense of inerrancy against the attacks of apostate professors in Southern Baptist seminaries in the 1960s. This book may well be identified as the catalyst that led to the conservative resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention in the 1970s and 80s (Criswell was president of the Convention 1968-70, when the book was published); it earned him the unending hatred of those in the SBC who had abandoned the historic faith of Baptists. His *Criswell's Guide for Pastors* is a distillation of half a century's pastoral experience.

In theology, Criswell vigorously proclaimed and defended all the fundamental doctrines of the faith. He likewise adhered to those Biblical truths that are characteristic of Baptists — believer's immersion, local church autonomy, and the rest. In eschatology, after an extended personal struggle, he became a strong dispensational pre-millennialist. He also preached against Darwinism.

Retiring proved among the greatest challenges of Criswell's long ministry. He had originally thought to retire at age 65 (after 31 years at the church), and then decided to try to match Truett's 47 years. A successor was chosen in 1990 (after 46 years, Criswell becoming at age 80 senior pastor), though this successor resigned (for cause) after two years. Another successor followed in 1992, with Criswell now pastor emeritus, a title he retained until his death in 2002. (This massive and very challenging congregation has been under the able leadership of Robert Jeffress since 2007).

W. A. Criswell: the authorized biography was written by Billy Keith (*Revell, 1973*). It is anecdotal and chatty. Criswell's autobiography, *Standing on the Promises* (*Word, 1990*) is very much better. Leon McBeth's *The First Baptist Church of Dallas: Centennial History* (*Zondervan, 1968*) has, inter alia, an extensive account of the first 24 "Criswell years" at FBC. The *Tribune* also published an article about W. A. Criswell in its April 15, 2002, edition, not long after his death.





# URBAN CURRENT

## Places of Grace

**F**loyd and Rad certainly stood out when they showed up in our tiny congregation in the hood. I had been pastoring a couple years. Obviously not from around here, they did seem familiar with church. Conversation revealed they were both from Arkansas; one from a Baptist church, the other from an Assembly of God church. Maybe they were 20 years old. My guess is they met in high school.

They, like thousands before them, had fled home and familiarity for faraway, big-city anonymity. I'm not sure why, but they didn't hide their homosexuality from me. I'll never forget the anguished question during one tearful conversation with Floyd: "How can this be wrong?" He was overwhelmed with need, emotion, passion, and counterfeit love.

I have to say, getting to know them as individuals radically changed my rabid hostility toward those I before would have called "perverts." I didn't change what I believed. My conviction that God's Word is true was not threatened. I had an overwhelming desire to be a channel of grace and, as John puts it, "love in truth."

It was God's truth and love by God's definition that eventually contributed to Floyd and Rad drifting away from the church, looking for something else I could not offer.

Let me tell you! I'm as opinionated a person as you'll ever meet. Furthermore, I am able to passionately, hey, vehemently articulate my views. I'm especially dogmatic and emphatic when it comes to behavior I don't engage in, and I can really preach against that stuff!

Many of us have gone through a process to get where we are today. We used to regularly rant against "easy targets" like communists and hippies, and these days those targets have been replaced by homosexuals, transgender, and "gay marriage" (as if there really were such a thing). And some continue to rant rather than to take a Bible approach.

Should we ignore these things or begin to accept them? Of course not, but we need to confront them biblically. After all, we are not just guarding our culture. We are not just doing battle with sinners. We are representing God and His grace as well as His warning.

I am constantly impressed with the love and grace God's people show to sinners in general, various and sundry groups of strugglers in particular.

Jesus' harshest condemnations target self-righteous religious zealots. His greatest compassion is expressed to those most ignorant of, rebellious toward, or distant from God. He said, "I didn't come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Paul's life was given over to preaching Christ crucified, buried, and risen.

I have spent several decades now beating the drum of "what I'm dealing with in the city today, you'll be dealing with everywhere else tomorrow." This month, gay pride parades will march in places that 20 years ago would have been unthinkable. So-called gay marriage is sweeping the land.

Fifteen years ago I saw homosexual radical activists making influential inroads in our local public high schools. I said back then, the churches of America, specifically youth groups, would be dealing with homosexuality and general gender confusion of all kinds soon enough.

As if children and adolescents needed more sexual challenge.

Policies, procedures, guidance protocols, along with counseling for youth of varying sexual identities and categories of confusion are multiplying by the minute.

If you have ten kids in your youth group, most have been exposed to pornography. At least one of them is experiencing same-sex attraction or gender confusion. Many kids in our churches think if people love each other it's nobody's business what they do.

It goes without saying, those who are

determined to pursue any kind of sin are not going to be comfortable or in close fellowship in a Bible preaching church. That said, there is a whole slice of "sinnerdom," and for sure some wrestling with same-sex attraction, who would seek help from people they knew loved them. Is that not the spirit of Jesus?

How do we communicate God's love?

How do we communicate God's love to those who are out of bounds in any way, shape, or form? Think over-indulgence. Adultery. Consider any form of destructive behavior. What about unnecessarily angry people?

How do we express God's love to those who are way, way out of bounds?

Is God's love unconditional? Is the love I live, preach, teach, and lead our congregation to demonstrate just as unconditional?

Should the church be the last place these out-of-bounds people think of for seeking help?

Do the kids attending our churches know these are safe places to bare their souls and share their secrets?

Understand me. There is always someone reading between the lines looking for compromise if not sellout, and I am not advocating in any way changing or messing with what God says about any particular sin. I am saying our churches need to be havens of hope, dispensaries of love and deliverance, places of grace.

The rebels and unrepentants will cast themselves into an eternity without God ... but they should go with the knowledge we loved them. Those willing to believe God's promises, trusting Him for rescue, willing to fight the flesh in fellowship with God's people should never wonder if they have a home.

by Charles Lyons, Pastor  
Armitage Baptist Church,  
Chicago, Illinois  
[charles.lyons@armitagechurch.org](mailto:charles.lyons@armitagechurch.org)



## Well done, thou good and faithful servant



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

One of my favorite things about Fellowship Week is reuniting with old friends and with my heroes; people who have faithfully served the Lord with their lives. Their faithfulness serves as an encouragement to us all. This year we honored three very deserving recipients, Shirley McCullough, Bill Dowell, Jr., and Richard Bemarkt with the Fellowship Faithfulness Award.

Shirley McCullough has taught in the Business Department at BBC since 1974. Her teaching helped shape the ministries of many. She said, “It is a humbling experience witnessing students become vessels fit for our Master’s use.” She introduced the concept of pre-registration and the use of computers to the BBC campus. These words may best describe her, “I am a teacher: It’s who I am. It’s my passion, my calling, and my world. I am not in it for the income, I am in it for the outcome.” Well done, Mrs. McCullough.

The name Dowell is very well known at BBC. Bill Dowell, Sr. was one of her founders and served as the first president. Bill Dowell, Jr. taught at BBC for nearly 40 years, teaching Bible, theology, and communications. Countless numbers of students learned how to study the Bible and how to be a pastor under his leadership. Well done, Dr. Dowell.

Richard Bemarkt taught at BBC for 43 years. He reflected, “The last 43 years have been both the most challenging and rewarding years of my ministry. Anytime I visit a church or camp, I always come in contact with former students I have had the opportunity to influence for the cause of Christ. What a blessing that is to me.” Well done, Bro. Bemarkt.

There were many more in attendance who are heroes of faithfulness. Rick Blue and Mike Harmon completed their Bachelor of Science degrees this year. What a pleasure to shake their hands as they walked across the stage. Our speakers for the week have proved faithful even through the difficulties of life and ministry. Our students have also been examples of faithfulness. Kshitiz and Sahaj Ghimire completed their finals week at BBC while suffering the grief of the devastation of their hometown due to the earthquake in Nepal.

We also celebrate the faithfulness of those who could not attend Fellowship Week this year. Mr. and Mrs. Ghimire were scheduled to be at graduation, but the needs of their ministry and country kept them in Nepal. Elmer Deal, a BBFI missionary hero, was called home only three days before Fellowship Week began. I am sure he is hearing, “Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

BBC is a testimony to the faithfulness of those she has served. We would not exist were it not for the faithful giving and support of our churches, alumni, and friends. Because you give, we are able to continue to train men and women to take the Gospel of Christ around the world. I encourage you to become one of our faithful supporters today.

## Open mic



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

Scary! Any event where people have access to the mic to say what they want to say — open mic — can go just about anywhere.

We do open mic here at Boston Baptist College quite a bit. Usually, it’s something of a student talent show, done for the sheer entertainment value — some inspiration thrown in, too — and it’s fun if a bit unpredictable. But this week, at our special Senior Day chapel, we had open mic. I was terrified to try it; I’m so glad we did. I actually had other stuff planned as well, but we never got to it. Once we shut down the mic, there was only time for our wonderful tradition of small group prayers over our graduates. What we heard had been the perfect introduction for those moving prayers.

For those of you who invest in this ministry, I wish you could have been in the room. Sure, a few of us in administration and on the faculty threw in our two cents, but this was almost entirely students saying to their friends things that needed to be said.

“You’ve grown up ... you’ve become a man of God,” one student slowly worded, as he looked at his graduating friend.

“I admire you. I admire the way you live now.”

One of my favorite lighter moments: “I’m going to make even better grades than you have — you just wait and see!”

Sure, an open mic can open the door to the craziest things, but it can also open the heart to see what is really in there. I do not understand, but I know it to be a reality, it is so much easier to say something critical than to say something encouraging. And sometimes it is easier to say nothing at all! But some words are crying out to be spoken. Everybody needs to know when they have done well, when they have made a difference, especially when they have modeled Jesus to others.

I told the students they will almost certainly never live in an environment like we have in Boston ever again! Oh, I know we don’t have all the bells and whistles, and I would sure like to have more of those. But we have a treasure, an environment that is “real,” and real young people who are learning, growing, maturing, serving, and yes, even loving.

I looked at seniors sitting together on one side of the room, and to my knowledge, every single graduate of Boston Baptist College this year is going immediately into some kind of church service after graduation. One hundred percent! They will be in our Baptist churches making a difference. Celebrate that! It isn’t really a surprise, since they are already doing that now, but that is no small and certainly no automatic matter!

I watched, listened, laughed, and even choked up a bit. I heard words that revealed the kind of place Boston Baptist College is. There are days in the long struggle of it all when I sometimes wonder if all of this is worth it — all the work, the sacrifice, the emotional roller coaster, the disappointments, and yes, even the criticism. The answer came, amazingly enough, from an open mic. No need to fear.

SPRINGFIELD, MO

## Public comment and notification of scheduled accreditation visit

Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO, is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will host a visit October 13-14, 2015, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Baptist Bible College has been accredited by the Commission since 2005. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college:

Public Comment on Baptist Bible College

The Higher Learning Commission

230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500

Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission's website at [www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org).

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing.

All comments must be received by September 18, 2015.

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LOS ANGELES, CA

## Baptist Tabernacle of LA celebrates 40th anniversary

Pastor R. L. Hymers and the congregation of Baptist Tabernacle of Los Angeles observed the church's 40th anniversary April 12, 2015. The date coincided with Pastor Hymers' 74th birthday.

Pastor Hymers says the Tabernacle is just one of two Gospel churches in the inner city of Los Angeles (The Salvation Army is the other), and yet it boasts a strong attendance among college students. The church evangelizes on seven campuses and visitors from those campuses attend each Sunday. More than 20 ethnic groups are represented among the congregation.

The sermons preached by Hymers are translated into Mandarin and Spanish simultaneously, and all sermon videos are available on the church's website and YouTube.



Baptist Tabernacle Assistant Pastor Kreighton Chan presents a birthday cake to Pastor R. L. Hymers on the church's 40th anniversary. From the left – Robert Leslie Hymers III and his wife Jin, Pastor Hymers and his wife Lleana, Kreighton Chan, MD, and John Wesley Hymers.



KANSAS CITY, KS

Eight preachers from the Adrian family were present at a Kansas Fellowship meeting held at Liberty Baptist Church in Kansas City, KS, April 14., and someone thought to get a photo. From the left Tim Adrian, Ken Adrian, Bob Adrian (host pastor), Tyrone Adrian, Todd J. Adrian, Jonathan Adrian, Bruce Adrian, and Ron Adrian.

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## 50-year-old Grove, OK, church renovating for wider ministry

In its 50th year, Independent Baptist Church of Grove, OK, is going through a major transformation. When Pastor Marty Hughes was challenged by a 2014 Fellowship Week message from Wichita's Mark Hoover, he went home with and spoke that challenge to his people "to remove the unspoken barriers that keep our church from reaching our city for Christ."

Hughes said, "If we truly believe we are living in the last days, what must we do to make the most effective and productive use of the time that remains?" The result has been a year-long effort by him and the church to revitalize and renovate.

Easter Sunday last month, the congregation relaunched with a new name, Grace Harbor Baptist Church, and with over 200 in attendance in their newly renovated facility. Grace Harbor is putting the finishing touches on their renovation with the hope

of being completely finished before their 50th anniversary celebration in August.



CHESANING, MI

## MI church hosts Harney and Kool Kids

Chesaning Bible Baptist Church hosted Steve Harney and Kool Kids Ministries with Nights of Illusions March 24-27, 2015. Pastor Walt Yeomans said, "The Lord blessed beyond our wildest dreams." Twenty-seven people trusted

Jesus as Savior during the four-day event.

The meeting began with 52 people present Sunday morning. On Tuesday night 102 were present and Wednesday night 101 were present. Yeomans said the building was packed with several first-time visitors. Steve Harney was also able to speak to over 600 students at the local elementary school. Yeomans says, "Our people worked hard, prayed much, and trusted God to do the incredible. CBBC started three years ago with eight people. Our people are excited about our future as we try to reach our community for Christ."



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CLIO, MI

## Vertical Life Church celebrates first year

Vertical Life Church began as a small group Bible study that met on Sunday nights at a local coffee shop in Clio, MI, September 1, 2013. The study, led by Joey Henry, ran about 30, but grew to a weekly gathering of 50 by Easter Sunday 2014.

Henry says, "It was clear that the vision God gave the leadership team of VLC was coming to fruition. So that Easter we dedicated ourselves together by officially organizing our church." In a special service held at Bible Baptist Church in Birch Run, MI, the church was officially organized and Joey Henry was ordained. The real launch took place May 4, a few weeks later.

That launch drew a record attendance of 100. Henry says, "We had just as many kids in our kids ministry as we did adults in the main worship experience! Since then we have seen many decisions to follow Christ, baptisms, and new members joining the team to partner with what God is doing here!"



Luke and Amie Beuthin, Joey and Toni Henry, Kevin and Julie Smithwick, and Jason and Kristin Tanner.

The church has been fully funded internally and is currently meeting at the Clio Area High School Auditorium on Sunday mornings for worship. Five Lifegroups meet throughout the week, there is a monthly outreach to a local homeless shelter, and the church has taken on their first missionary for monthly support as well other local ministries.

Today, the church is averaging 120 in attendance with plans set to baptize 13 in a special service at the end of June. Henry says the church has a great base of volunteers

making up his team, and "we look forward to the future as God continues to use us to spread the Gospel as he gives us favor to change hearts and lives."

The leadership team for Vertical Life Church consists of Joey and Toni Henry (lead pastor and V-Life Kids Ministry director), Kevin and Julia Smithwick (assimilation pastor and nursery coordinator), Luke and Amie Beuthin (pastor of discipleship and women's ministry leader), and Jason and Kristin Tanner (V-Life Youth pastors).

# BBFI NATIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2015

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## Two BBC grads recognized as outstanding teachers

The Missouri Association for Colleges of Teacher Education (MACTE) recognized Courtney Lyons and Emily Rhoades as two of the state's Outstanding Beginning Teachers at the organization's spring conference.

Courtney is a 2014 graduate of Baptist Bible College and is currently teaching fourth grade at Robinson Elementary in the Aurora Public School District, David Mais, Principal. Emily is a 2013 graduate of Baptist Bible College and is currently teaching second grade at Whitson Elementary School in the Topeka School District, Jessica Figueroa, Principal.

At the MACTE conference, a total of 61 outstanding teachers were recognized for their excellence in serving children during their first two years of service in school districts across

Missouri. Thirty-six of Missouri's private and public institutions of higher education, offering state and nationally recognized programs, honored these professionals who completed education programs at their respective institutions. Award recipients were selected based on evaluations of outstanding graduates

completed by their college or university, and recommendations from the school district which deemed the teacher as highly effective in their first two years in the classroom.

Courtney is the daughter of John and Jacquetta Davidson of Springfield, MO. She graduated from Hillcrest High School in 2008. Courtney resides in Aurora, MO, with her husband, Noah. They attend Aurora Baptist Temple where Noah serves on the church staff as the minister of music.

Emily is the daughter of former BBFI missionaries Jeff and Paula Rhoades of Topeka, KS, where they reside. Emily lived with her parents in El Salvador for ten years. She attends Topeka Baptist Church where her father Jeff serves as the outreach pastor.



Cheryl Page, Dean of Continuing Education and Division of Professional Studies Chair at BBC in Springfield, MO, stands between outstanding beginning teachers Courtney Lyons and Emily Rhoades.



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## WITH THE LORD

TULSA, OK

### ELMER DEAL

Longtime BBFI missionary Elmer Lee Deal, 89, went to be with his Lord May 1, 2015. He was born August 11, 1925, in Rocky Comfort, MO, and shortly after his high school graduation he was drafted and served during WWII as an army infantryman in the Pacific Theater. He was honorably discharged in May 1946. Two weeks after his discharge from the Army, he and his wife Mary married.

In 1952 the couple were converted through the ministry of Tulsa Baptist Temple. They became active members of the church and surrendered their lives to reach the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They entered Baptist Bible College to prepare for missionary service. He also attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, IL, and the University of Brussels in Belgium. Elmer was ordained June 12, 1958. He served the Lord faithfully for 59 years. Elmer and Mary ministered to the people of the Congo who became their converts, their co-laborers, and their family. Mary passed away in 2008.

The couple had no children, but Elmer is survived by several nieces and nephews. Services were held May 8 at Tulsa Baptist Temple, Tulsa, OK, and a graveside service followed at Owsley Union Cemetery in Stella, MO.

BONNER SPRINGS, KS

### ED FULLER

Edwin Rex Fuller passed from this life May 1, 2015, at the age of 55. Born January 1, 1960, in Salina, KS, Ed graduated from Bible Baptist High School in 1978 and from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, in 1982. He received additional degrees from Heritage Baptist College in Little Rock, AR, and Salt Lake Baptist College in Salt Lake City, UT.

Ed married his wife Sandra in 1980. He served as a pastor in Kansas and as a missionary to Papua, New Guinea. The family returned to Kansas and Bible Baptist Church in Bonner Springs in 2003.

Ed is survived by his parents, his wife, three children, and one grandson. Services were held May 8 near Oak Hill, KS.

POWDER SPRINGS, GA

### SHIRLEY BASKIN

Mrs. Shirley Jane Baskin, age 81, entered the presence of the Lord May 17, 2015. She was the wife of longtime BBFI preacher Jack Baskin. Born May 27, 1933, in Belle, MO, she served many years faithfully in the ministry alongside her husband.

She is survived by her husband and four children. The funeral service was held in Clarksville, AR, May 20, 2015.

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# The influence of a college

Elmer Towns - Co-Founder & Professor, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

Photos by Luke Turner

*Abridged from a commencement address at Baptist Bible College, May 7, 2015*

The influence of a college is not measured in its buildings, nor its academic programs, nor its library, or even its faculty. The influence of a college is measured by the results of its graduates. And the greater influence of its graduates, the greater the influence the college has in the world. Today, I want to demonstrate that Baptist Bible College has a greater influence than most realize.

Let's compare the influence of a college to the influence of an automotive manufacturing plant. If the buildings of an automotive plant are elaborate and have the greatest engineers in the world, and the greatest equipment to assemble the cars, and the greatest workmen on the most modern assembly lines ever; yet, if the factory turns out baby carriages, it's not a great automobile manufacturing plant.

In the late 60s I annually published a list of the 100 largest churches in America in *Christian Life Magazine*. I was impressed with these churches but was curious to know what colleges or seminaries influenced the greatest churches. I included a questionnaire: "What seminary/college influenced you to lead one of the largest churches in America?" I expected well-known academic colleges to dominate the results. So, I constructed a chart including well-known institutions such as Wheaton College, Biola University, all the Southern Baptist seminaries, Columbia Bible College, Bob Jones University, etc. Most of the well-known colleges were not included in the survey.

To my amazement I found 23 of the largest churches in America were led by pastors who either attended or were associated with Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO.

I flew to Springfield unannounced to examine the causes for its greatness. The first door I entered was the library and saw approximately 5,000 volumes on the shelves, all in one room.

Where are your stacks?" I asked the librarian.

"You're looking at them."

I was amazed. I had that many books in my library at home. It was not the library that produced great leaders.

I asked some who were the best Bible teachers and then attended their classes. I expected to find an outstanding teacher hidden from public view. Their classes were good, but about the same quality I had seen at Columbia Bible College. It was not the teachers that produced great church leaders. Then I went to chapel to hear John Rawlings, vice president of the college and pastor of Landmark Baptist Temple, the fifth largest church in America.

Rawlings spoke on the Great Commission and passionately challenged the students to reach as many lost people as they could in obedience to the command of Jesus Christ. Then he concluded his sermon, "Young People, when you graduate, get in your jalopy, and go to some God-forsaken place like Keokuk, IA, and capture that town for Christ."

Rawlings riveted my attention! I had never heard such a bold visionary sermon ... and in my heart I agreed with what I heard.

It was then that I began to see that the greatness of Baptist Bible College was in its graduates who spread out over America and the world to build large churches, reach lost people for Jesus Christ, and ultimately "capture their towns for Christ." (In 1973 Jerry Falwell and I published a book, *Capturing A Town for Christ*).

Building a great church is like planting a great farm and expecting a great harvest. Jesus explained

the secret of a great harvest, "*Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold!*" (Matthew 13:3-8).

There are five factors that contribute to a large harvest: (1) seed, (2) soil, (3) sower, (4) sun, and (5) water. These are among the five factors that have produced the greatness of Baptist Bible College.

The seed is the Gospel that must be planted, and must be sown into the ground. The more seed that is sown, and the wider spread over the soil, determines the greatness of the harvest.

The seed is the Gospel, "The gospel which I preached to you ... that Christ died for our sins ... that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:2-5). Remember, Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1:16). The graduates of Baptist Bible College knew the power of the Gospel, learned how to preach the Gospel, and went everywhere preaching the Gospel. That's the secret of the greatness of the college.

But Baptist Bible College did more than plant great churches; it was the seed from which great colleges were begun. The greatest seed of Baptist Bible College was planted at Liberty University that has become the largest Christian university in the world with over 97,000 enrolled online and over 14,000 in its resident program.

The poet Wordsworth described these college growths over 200





years ago:

“The Child is father of the Man;  
And I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural piety.”

The greatness of Baptist Bible College is seen in others who have gone on to do in ministry what they learned from Springfield; the graduates stood on the shoulders of those who went before them to reach higher and do more for God.

The second factor for the great harvest was the soil. Note quickly that three types of soil did not produce a crop, i.e., the hardened pathway, the rocky soil, and soil infested with thorns and weeds. But good soil brought forth a harvest, some 30, 60 and 100 fold. The soil represents the human heart and culture where the seed of the Gospel is planted.

Baptist Bible College created an evangelistic culture where students learned the Great Commission and evangelism. It was a culture that motivated them to soul winning. They knew an evangelistic culture in their local church was greater than just a Monday night soul-winning visitation program, or a one-week evangelistic crusade, or a class in soul winning. The harvest focused all they did in ministry.

The seed of the Gospel is like the small acorn, which when planted produces one of the largest trees in the world. Life in the seed is reproduced in the tree, therefore we can find all the demands of Christian living, and essentials of doctrine in the seed of the Gospel. When the Gospel is properly preached, churches will live biblically and believe correct Christian doctrine that will result in right Christian passion to win the lost.

The third factor in a great harvest is the sower. The sower must be smart; he must know when to plant the seed to get the best results. He must know where to plant the seed, he can't grow tomatoes on Myrtle Beach, nor can he grow peanuts in hardened clay soil. He must know how to plant the seed, making sure the seeds aren't too close to choke one another, or too deep so that the new sprout can never reach the sun, or too shallow where birds can eat it.

Wise church planters, like smart farmers, know how to plant a church that will grow and produce a great harvest for God.

The fourth element is the sun, which stands for the prayers by the pastor and the people. Just as plants will not grow without sun, so churches will not grow without prayer.

As a young boy mowing my family lawn, I used to complain about a

big metal cover for the water meter in front of our house. I couldn't push the mower over its edges, and I had to trim around its edges. Then one day I discovered if I took off the heavy metal cover, stuck all the long sprigs of grass underneath the cover, they would die a natural death. After that, I had an easier time mowing and trimming the grass. I let the sun — or lack of sun — help keep the edges trim and neat. So, if we don't have the right amount of prayer by the soul winner and church, souls will not be won to Christ. Therefore, great soul-winning pastors and churches are characterized by great prayer meetings and individual intercession.

The fifth factor of a great harvest is water, the Word of God (Ephesians 5:26). Too much water will drown the new seed and will destroy the harvest. Not enough water will allow the sun to bake the soil so seeds will never make it out of the ground. But on the other hand, too much sun will kill the young plants before the harvest is reached. Therefore, great soul-winning pastors love the Word, teach the Word, apply the Word, and keep the Word of God as its focus for spiritual help.

### MY CHALLENGE:

**VISION:** Graduates, you are “sowers going forth to sow.” Plan today to have the biggest harvest possible. Great sowers who work with great energy and with great direction produce the greatest harvest.

**DEDICATION:** Spiritually commit yourself to make your contribution to God's harvest as great as possible.

**VOW:** Determine to stay true to the values and principles you have learned at this institution. Don't turn to the left or the right, and don't forsake what you have learned.

**YIELD:** Give yourself 100 percent to God, knowing He must work in you and through you to produce the harvest.

**REMEMBER:** Never forget your ultimate priority to your local church, no matter what your ministry. Remember, when you minister in an organization that Christ loves, you will have His best blessing. “Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Ephesians 5:25).

The greatness of Baptist Bible College sits before me today. It also will leave these classrooms to enter the greatest challenge Christianity has ever faced. Determine you can do everything that Greg Lyons has done for God, yet do more. Determine you can do all Jerry Falwell has done for God, yet do more. The field is before you; go make the harvest as great as you possibly can. Amen.

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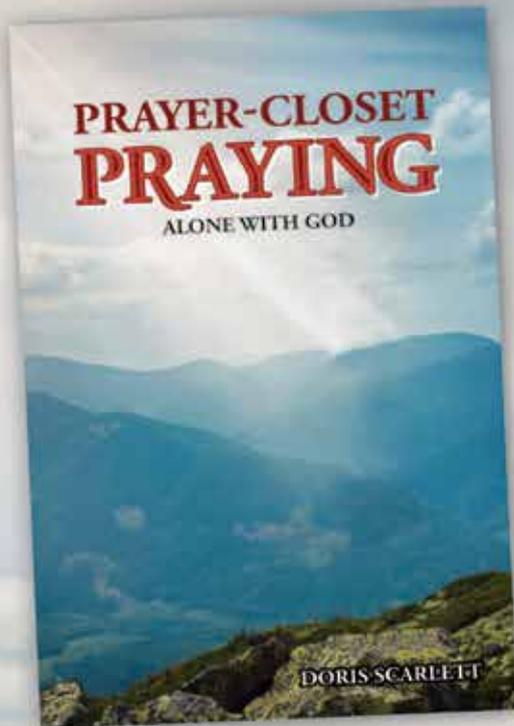
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JUNE 2015

# PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  MISSIONARY <b>TJ &amp; Kimberly Gritts</b> <i>Spain</i>	2  CHAPLAIN <b>Lt. James &amp; Jessica Updegraff</b> <i>US Army Reserve</i>	3  MISSIONARIES <b>Ron &amp; Katherine Reasoner</b> <i>Russia</i>	4  T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY <b>Lu May</b> <i>Thailand</i>	5  MISSIONARY <b>James &amp; Cristina Sinde</b> <i>Greece</i>	6  MISSIONARY <b>Frank &amp; Mary Bosler</b> <i>Korea</i>
7  MISSIONARY <b>Sasha &amp; Maria Rasmussen</b> <i>Argentina</i>	8  MISSIONARY <b>Joel &amp; Wendy Solomon</b> <i>Chile</i>	9  MISSIONARY <b>Jim &amp; Mary Garrison</b> <i>Retired</i>	10  MISSIONARY <b>David &amp; Mary Moody</b> <i>New Zealand</i>	11  MISSIONARY <b>Randy &amp; Sandy Roberts</b> <i>Costa Rica</i>	12  MISSIONARY <b>Vernon &amp; Mary Smith</b> <i>Tanzania</i>	13  <b>Workers in Restricted Countries</b>
14  MISSIONARY <b>Steve &amp; Kelli Mowery</b> <i>Spain</i>	15  <b>BBFI Mission Office Staff</b>	16  MISSIONARY <b>Wade &amp; Donna Rasmussen</b> <i>Zambia</i>	17  MISSIONARY <b>Mike &amp; Lenore Mislan</b> <i>Philippines</i>	18  T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY <b>Rebecca McMurphy</b> <i>Thailand</i>	19  MISSIONARY <b>John &amp; Pearl Mikulski</b> <i>Alaska</i>	20  MISSIONARY <b>Max &amp; Jennifer Kennedy</b> <i>Nicaragua</i>
21  MISSIONARY <b>Ben &amp; Rachelle Metzger</b> <i>Argentina</i>	22  MISSIONARY <b>Dan &amp; Debbie Morris</b> <i>Mexico</i>	23  <b>Baptist Bible College faculty and staff</b>	24  MISSIONARY <b>James A. &amp; Amy Smith</b> <i>Japan</i>	25  MISSIONARY <b>Joe &amp; Mary Ann Mohler</b> <i>Belgium</i>	26  MISSIONARY <b>Bill &amp; Rhonda Smith</b> <i>Belize</i>	27  MISSIONARY <b>Chris &amp; Lisa Moore</b> <i>Kenya</i>
28  <b>BBF Builders</b>	29  MISSIONARY <b>Dean &amp; Deloris McClure</b> <i>Brazil</i>	30  MISSIONARY <b>Brent &amp; Sheila Moeller</b> <i>South Africa</i>				

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



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