

B A P T I S T B I B L E
T R I B U N E

JUNE 2017

Women

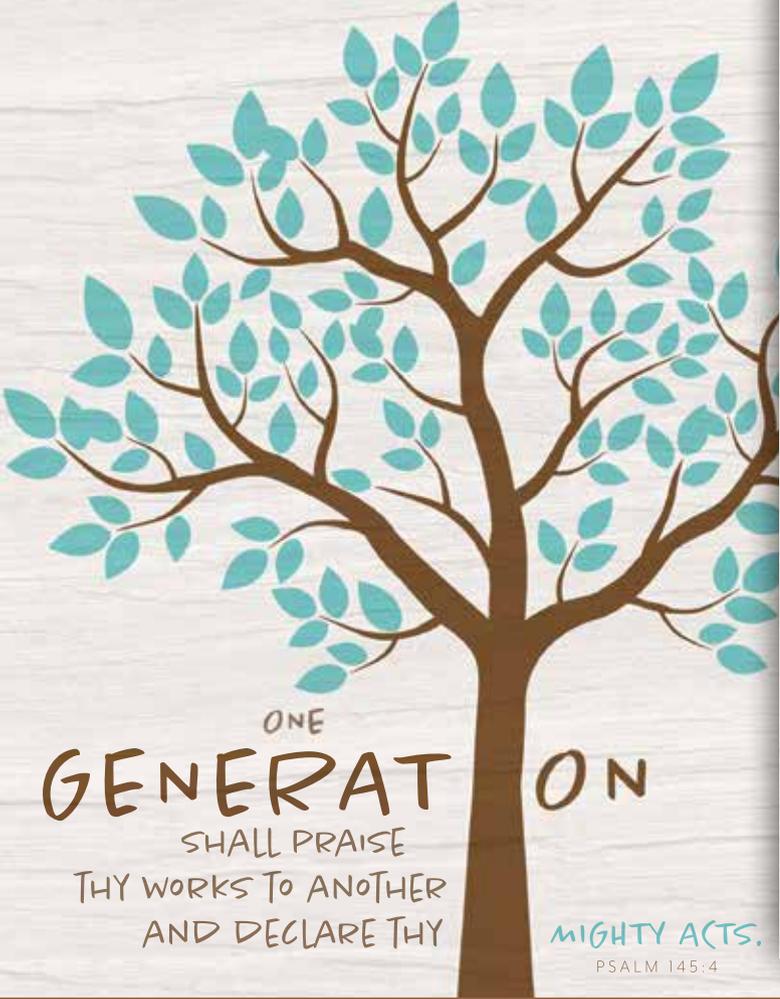
Building community through ministry



p.7 May Fellowship Meeting Report
p.12 Special Feature: Women's Ministry
p.23 Baptist History: Earth's Strongest Man

BBFI

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
OWASSO, OK | SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2017



SCHEDULE

MONDAY

- 5PM - REGISTRATION OPEN
- 6PM - MAIN SESSION
- 8PM - STUDENT MINISTRY NETWORK HANGOUT

TUESDAY

- 8AM - HOSPITALITY CENTER OPEN
- 9AM - BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- 10AM - MAIN SESSION
- 10AM - LADIES MEETING (SPECIAL GUEST: ANITA RENFROE)
- 12PM - BUSINESS MEETING
- 6PM - MAIN SESSION (SPECIAL GUEST: SKIT GUYS)

WEDNESDAY

- 8AM - HOSPITALITY CENTER OPEN
- 9AM - BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- 10AM - MAIN SESSION (MISSIONS)
- 12PM - LUNCH PROVIDED BY FRIENDSHIP (OKLAHOMA BBQ)
- 6PM - MAIN SESSION HONORING GEORGIA WEBB & JERRY THORPE

ACCOMMODATIONS

- | | |
|--|---|
| HAMPTON INN & SUITES (\$89)
9009 N 121ST E AVE
OWASSO, OK 74055
(918) 609-6700 | TOWNEPLACE SUITES (\$89)
9335 N OWASSO EXPY
OWASSO, OK 74055
(918) 376-4400 |
| QUALITY INN & SUITES (\$69)
7653 N OWASSO EXPY
OWASSO, OK 74055
(918) 272-2000 | HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS (\$79)
7551 N OWASSO EXPY
OWASSO, OK 74055
(918) 274-4100 |
| SUPER 8 (\$65)
11604 E 76TH ST N
OWASSO, OK 74055
(918) 609-6828 | LA QUINTA INN & SUITES
8949 N GARNETT RD,
OWASSO, OK 74055
(OPEN IN AUGUST) |

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH | 918.272.2003 | FRIENDSHIPOWASSO.COM

BBFI INTERNATIONAL BAPTISM DAY

This day will be an international celebration of God's amazing grace and His work throughout the ministries of BBFI churches and missionaries.

September **10** 2017

Sign up online and share pictures and videos of your celebration.

BBFIBAPTISMDAY.ORG

BBFI Archive PROJECT

Almost 70 years of history...
...just waiting to be lost.

For more information about the BBFI Archive Project and to see a sample of items that have been digitized, go to **bbfiarchive.org**



ON THE TABLE
Remembering

by Randy Harp | Editor

Less than a week before going to press with this issue, I received word that, after a long battle with Alzheimer's, former BBFI Mission Director Bob Baird had passed away. During his nearly 20 years as mission director, there were 37 new fields opened, 713 missionaries approved, and over half a million dollars processed through the Mission Office. I am confident as he entered the presence of his heavenly Father he heard the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Bob Baird was the mission director the entire time I was a student at Baptist Bible College. He was always looked upon with reverence, and, to be honest, a little fear.

In the last article he wrote as acting mission director he shared seven things he prayed for every day in hopes that it would promote harmony and unity in the BBF. The seven things were:

- 1) be an encourager, not a discourager
- 2) lift up and not tear down
- 3) be a blessing, not a hindrance
- 4) be the solution, not the problem
- 5) promote harmony and unity, not chaos and confusion
- 6) be a peacemaker, not a trouble maker
- 7) be positive, not negative

That is a good challenge for each of us to pray every day. A full tribute to Bob Baird will be included in the July/August issue of the *Tribune*.

I am excited to announce a new ministry of the Communication Office. The BBFI Archive Project is an effort to preserve the nearly 70-year history of the BBFI. The primary goal for this project is to digitize the various documents and photographs that have accumulated over the years at BBC, Boston Baptist, the *Tribune* office, and the Mission Office. There are literally boxes and file cabinets filled with pieces of BBFI history just waiting to be lost. This is an important project we are launching and we will need your help. Visit www.bbfiarchive.org for more information.

This issue of the *Tribune* highlights women's ministry and women in ministry. Oh yeah, we also just had the May Graduation Fellowship Week, so look for the full report on page 6.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve Christ as I serve you.



May Fellowship Week Report _____ **6**

BBC's facility issues precipitated a venue change — and Seminole Baptist provided the perfect backdrop for the Fellowship to gather.



Women: Building Community Through Ministry _____ **12**

This special feature covers everything from women in ministry, to women's ministries, to some of the challenges Christian women face.

- 12...**Women need community**
- 14...**Motherhood**
- 15...**Investing in younger women**
- 16...**Balancing the physical and the spiritual**
- 16...**Single ... still**
- 17...**Making a global impact**
- 18...**How to encourage your husband**
- 18...**What pastors' wives wished their husbands knew about them**
- 19...**Women in ministry**
- 20...**Women's ministry in the local church**
- 20...**Timeless truths about women's ministries**
- 21...**Flourish! Living out your calling to the fullest**
- 30...**Overcoming family challenges**



Don't miss any of the *Tribune's* digital offerings on our website www.tribune.org.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE CITIES OF THE WORLD

The goal of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International is to take the Gospel to the world. The way we do this is by planting churches. Our vision is global church planting.

But, how can we define success when it comes to global church planting? I would suggest the big dream of planting a church in every major city in the United States and the world.

The United Nations has said for years that the world is moving to the cities. Throughout history, most of the population has lived a rural lifestyle, dependent on agriculture and hunting for survival. In 1800, only three percent of the world's population lived in urban areas. By 1900, almost 14 percent were urbanites, although only 12 cities had one million or more inhabitants. When the BBFI was founded in 1950, 30 percent of the world's population resided in urban centers and the number of cities with over one million people had grown to 83.

Today, the majority of the world's people live in cities. What if we focused our church-planting efforts on the world's 31 cities with populations exceeding ten million and the 46 cities with populations between five and ten million? While it makes sense to prioritize the cities where we do not have any outreach, we need to plant additional churches in most urban centers.

This strategy, to go to the cities, has great biblical precedent. Paul went to the cities. The book of Revelation addresses churches in cities.

This big vision will require cooperation and shared commitment. If every church in our Fellowship picked one city and asked God for a church to be planted there, what could God do? If that local church began talking about and praying for that city, God might just call someone from there to go. Let's be a Fellowship with a directed vision and faith to ask God to use us.



Eddie Lyons
BBFI PRESIDENT

WORLD MISSIONS THE WORK OF THE MISSION OFFICE

The Mission Office strives to efficiently serve BBFI churches as we come alongside them and follow their leadership. We are not the sending agency; God gave that responsibility to the local church. But we regularly listen to pastors and work with the national leadership, missions committee, field representatives, supporting pastors, and sending pastors of each missionary.

We are also responsible stewards of the people and money you send through us. This has been our specialty for 67 years. Our goal is to handle finances and work with missionaries with the highest level of integrity and character.

How do we provide all this assistance? The Mission Office operates by faith, just as your missionaries. Your faithful financial and prayer support enables us to help missionaries. Not all sending churches can provide what we do. By financially supporting the Mission Office, you are supporting missions to the whole world. As you know, 100 percent of what comes in for a missionary goes to that missionary. This is unheard of in the world of missions and non-profits. One pastor put it this way:

“There is not another mission agency that does more

for your missionaries for less cost than the BBFI Mission Office.”

Currently, 723 churches, seven businesses, and 389 individuals support the Mission Office. But, we process funds for 4,000 churches each month and 2,700 churches are listed in the BBFI Directory. In order to continue and grow, your Mission Office needs your help; we need more monthly supporters — both financially and prayerfully.



Jon Konnerup
BBFI MISSION DIRECTOR

BBFI LEADERSHIP

CHURCH PLANTING A CHURCH PLANTER'S WIFE

Wives of church planters were asked, “If you could give one piece of advice to the wife of a potential church planter, what would it be?” Here are some of their responses:

Be flexible! Be your husband's cheerleader. Expect tough times and expect attacks from the enemy, but also expect abundant blessings! If you will allow God to be your everything, you will have everything you need. Keep a clear focus with your husband about what God has called you to do.

Angela (Albuquerque, NM)

Keep good communication with your husband and pray a lot. Stay positive and don't be too hard on yourself. Enjoy the journey.

Cheryl (Weleetka, OK).

Be ready to give your husband a lot of support! Don't be afraid to not do everything. Commit to what you can handle in the church and God will provide people to fill in the other areas. Find a good friend who does not attend the church, because sometimes you are going to need to vent and you don't want to do this to a church member.

Christa (Fellsmere, FL)

My one piece of advice is to pray. Even if all you can do is say His name, say it. Just open your heart up to Him, and watch Him take care of you. The journey ahead is exciting, exhilarating, and exhausting! And it is so worth it!

Sharla (Medford, MA)

It is with utmost respect that we honor and pray for our church planters' wives.

From *My Husband Wants To Be A Church Planter* by John M. Bailey and Sherri Jachelski



John Gross
BBFI CHURCH PLANTING (APEX)

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE
WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Some of my earliest memories of church revolve around junior church and Mrs. Marion Bishop. Mrs. Bishop gave her time week after week to teach me and other children about Jesus. She dedicated her life to this ministry and led countless boys and girls to trust Jesus as their Savior. This woman, and others like her, taught me the Word of God and helped shape and influence my life and ministry. Years later, I returned to my home church as pastor. Mrs. Bishop used these words to encourage those who followed her in children's ministry, "Teach well, you may be training your future pastor."

It is important to

understand the influence women have in our churches. They serve, teach, and love in ways pastors cannot. They play a very significant role in fulfilling the mission of the church, but this often goes unrecognized and unrewarded. They often serve with no title, pay, or attention.

At BBC we have involved our faculty and trustees in discussions concerning the role of women in the church. We now offer more classes focusing on the role of women in ministry and missions and have recently welcomed our first female trustee, Tammie Tucker.

The more I get to know our students, the more I see how God has gifted them. We have

an incredible group of young women who will become great ministry leaders. They will serve their local churches in many capacities and will use what they have learned at BBC to reach their world for Christ. God is already at work in their lives and will do great things in their lives as they seek and love Him.

Let us all remember to give honor to the women that love and serve so faithfully.



Mark Milioni
BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

PERSPECTIVES

WOMEN: BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH MINISTRY

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE
MRS. MALONE

Jewell Malone. You have never heard of her. But I knew her. Mrs. Malone was the first Sunday school teacher I can remember. I was four years old. She was already a grandmother. She wasn't fashionable, she wasn't famous, she lived in a trailer park, and I'm pretty sure she didn't have a business card of any kind. But she had a role ... teacher. That dear old saint loved us knucklehead kids, even a bashful four-year old with an oversized forehead who happened to be the pastor's youngest boy.

Mrs. Malone taught me the Bible every Sunday. If she ever missed a single week I can't remember it, and I think I would remember because going to

her class was a big deal! I don't remember the classroom or even much about the other kids. I remember Mrs. Malone. She was always dressed up in what must have been the best she had. She seemed to know everything about the Bible. And she sure knew how to pray. When Mrs. Malone prayed, I would often peek because I thought Jesus himself must have walked right into our classroom.

Mrs. Malone thought memorizing Bible verses was the most fun thing in the world. And because she believed that, she got me to believe that! She hand-made a little prize for memorizing the most Bible verses, and it was the first thing

I ever remember winning. It may be the most important thing I've ever won.

Phoebe in Romans 16, Priscilla in Acts 18, and then that I Corinthians 14 passage about silence in church. I work those texts with students in my Ecclesiology class. It sure isn't boring, it's how we study the role of women in the church. But then there is Mrs. Malone. I don't think she needs much commentary.

Mrs. Malone has been in heaven for many years. But if I have any kind of ministry – so does she.



David Melton
BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE PRESIDENT

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Together

May 2017 Fellowship Week & Graduation



By Mark Milioni

Hosting a National Fellowship Meeting is difficult. It takes a lot of planning, discussion, and listening to ensure every detail is covered – from music, to speakers, to vendors, to childcare. It takes about a year to plan a National Fellowship Meeting. We begin in May with ideas and then work out every detail as the year goes on. The last weeks before the event are filled with meetings, rehearsals, and scheduling. People are given opportunities to help and serve. Then, after all the planning, discussion, rehearsals and prayer, the opening video kicks in, the music starts, and we are off. If you have ever hosted one of these meetings, then you understand the anxiety that comes next – What will the speakers say? Will they offend anyone? Will their message connect?

Fellowship Week 2017 was full of new things: a new venue, new opportunities, and new speakers. Problems with the W.E. Dowell Fieldhouse, where the event is traditionally held, forced us to consider a new venue. This need brought up new questions: Would it work? Would people come? Would it still be Fellowship Week?

The answer to all of these was a resounding yes!

NEW VENUE

The W.E. Dowell Fieldhouse (completed in 1968) has been the home for this event since it was completed. The chiller and boiler that were installed at that time are now inoperable and forced us to consider relocating Fellowship Week. I had a conversation with Pastor Don Baier of Seminole Baptist Temple and shared this dilemma. He met with his church and after discussion and prayerful consideration they wholeheartedly offered to let us use their beautiful building for this meeting. When they offered their facility, they also offered their time, their staff, and their congregation to be a help and blessing to us. Thank you, Pastor Don and the great people of Seminole Baptist Temple, for being such gracious, loving and kind hosts!

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The Alumni and Friends Association holds a luncheon each year during Fellowship Week to help reconnect alumni and to update them on what is happening at their *alma mater*. This event is usually held in the cafeteria on the ground level of the W. E. Dowell Fieldhouse. The facility issues necessitated some creative thinking and the Alumni Breakfast was born.

The alumni were divided by decade and were invited to attend a breakfast on either Tuesday or Wednesday morning. These breakfasts were well attended, fun, and offered a great opportunity to share the new vision for the Alumni And Friends Association.

NEW SPEAKERS

The speakers for Fellowship Week are selected after much prayer and are chosen to bless, encourage, and challenge those in attendance. The speakers this year did just that.

Alex Himaya opened the meeting and reminded us to take the Gospel on the offensive. Barry White reminded us to accept we are who God made us to be.

Ted Cunningham challenged us to keep our marriage and children a priority. Shelley Switzer reminded the women to look at things from the right perspective. Mac Brunson encouraged us with a message from 1 Thessalonians declaring the power of God's ministry. Don Baier, Nate Harmon and an assembled choir, praise team, and musicians led us to the cross. Scott Hudgins, missionary to Columbia, reminded us of our



global missions mandate. It was a powerful experience! Herb Gilbert spoke to our graduates on Thursday morning and shared his fifty years of ministry experience and wisdom. It was a joy and privilege to work with and communicate with these godly people.

As I look back on the week, I am blessed. The music and worship was incredible. From the opening gospel quartet, to the worship led by BBC alumni and Seminole member Whitney Vowell, to the powerful presentation

of the cross led by Nate Harmon, BBC students, and a combined choir, our hearts were moved as we praised the Lord together. The Fellowship part of the week was also great. The food trucks on Monday night offered not only great food, but also a great opportunity to talk with others serving in ministry. This fellowship continued at local restaurants and at both the 80s reunion and the Friends In Ministry event hosted at High Street. It was great to see new missionaries,

both career and team, approved. It was great to recognize those that have served for 30 and 50 years. There is great power when we meet together!

Thanks again to our dear friends, Pastor Don Baier and Seminole Baptist Temple. It was great doing Fellowship Week "Together."

We have already started planning for Fellowship Week 2018. This will be held April 30-May 3 – mark your calendars now!



Alumni Association

New format, same mission *By Marty Hughes*

On Tuesday and Wednesday morning of Fellowship Week, President Milioni addressed the Baptist Bible College Alumni and Friends as they gathered for breakfast in the Tower Club.

The BBC Alumni Association has undergone some major transitions in the past couple of years and these breakfast meetings served to highlight the changes and enlist the efforts of the alumni in moving forward in a more fruitful way. The consistent theme among those in attendance was that the new slogan, BBC:LifeChangeU perfectly reflects the impact that Baptist Bible College had on their lives.

Past Alumni President Don Rooks talked about the new format for the Fellowship Week Alumni events and expressed the benefits of meeting for breakfast rather than lunch. The new format allows for more participation. In recent years, the Alumni Banquet has tended to conflict with other

necessary meetings which precluded some alumni from attending. Many in attendance expressed their approval of the new format.

A new slate of Alumni Association officers were affirmed. Jon Haley, pastor of Hallmark Baptist Church, in Fort Worth, TX was chosen as the new president. Tammy Gamble, Herb Koonce and Christiana Salsman will continue in their role as Vice Presidents, and six new Vice Presidents were also affirmed: Greg Wells ('87) of Homestead FL, Joe Nogalski of New Haven, MO, Don Claphan ('94) of Independence, MO, Marty Hughes ('80) of Grove, OK, Jim Goodman ('75), Clarksville, AR, and Debbie Goodman ('75) of Clarksville, AR.

The Alumni Association itself is also going through changes. It will no longer be a stand-alone entity, but will be brought under the umbrella of the school in a way that integrates the efforts, resources, and outreach to most effectively accomplish the goals and

meet the needs of Baptist Bible College, its students, and its alumni.

The Alumni Association hopes to play a major role in raising the necessary funds to complete the W.E. Dowell Fieldhouse project.

Association President John Haley and the other officers will be setting up state chapters in an attempt to reach the over 12,000 alumni of the school and reconnect them in a more effective way.

Instead of a yearly membership fee, alumni are encouraged to get involved through monthly support as a means to facilitate the work of the Alumni Association and, ultimately, the school.

Yes, there are new officers, a new format, new methods, and a new venue, but the mission has not changed. The Baptist Bible College Alumni Association still exists to facilitate the work of BBC in training young men and women to "Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve."



SPEAKERS



Reflections *By Don Baier*



As I catch my breath after Fellowship Week, I'm thankful to my church family and staff for all their work. It was a real joy to partner with President Milioni and Baptist Bible College. Without their help and planning we could not have pulled it all off.

As a church, we prayed the Lord would bless our time together and I believe He did. The fellowship with fellow laborers in the ministry was inspiring and encouraging. The music was Christ-honoring and exalted our savior. Each message was timely and what many of us needed. Missions morning on Wednesday was uplifting as we approved new missionaries and honored the faithfulness of some veteran missionaries.

The climax on Wednesday evening reminded us of the cross and a renewed effort to get the Gospel into all the world.

We are better together!



BBFI Business By Randy Harp



Tuesday morning, BBFI President Eddie Lyons called to order the May business meeting. Reports were given by various entity leaders and national officers with one official action taking place by vote. Following is a breakdown of the meeting.

COMMUNICATION OFFICE

The ministry of the Communication Office continues to expand with the announcement of the new BBFI Archive Project. This is an effort to preserve the almost seventy-year history of the BBFI. See the inside cover of this issue or visit www.bbfiarchive.org for more information. Communication Director Randy Harp reported a great start to the inaugural year of the BBFI Coaching Network with participants from eight different countries. He also announced print publication will decrease but there will be more communication coming more frequently. The *Baptist Bible Tribune* will publish print magazines every other month, but added communication digitally will get news out quicker and to a potentially wider audience. Harp also expressed his appreciation for those who have partnered with the *Tribune* during the Annual Tribune Offering.

MISSION OFFICE

Mission Director Jon Konnerup introduced several new resources provided by the Mission Office. One is a VBS program to support missionary kids. Another is mission conference design packages to help provide visual enhancements to your conference. Both resources are free to churches that support the Mission Office at least \$100 per month and are available at www.bbfimissions.com under the tab *What We Do*. A third resource Konnerup announced is a new mobile app to

help our missionaries with their accounting and reporting.

EDUCATION REPORT

Second Vice-President Doug Cox shared his appreciation for the approval of the educational section of the proposed by-laws during the February meeting in Tyler. He stated that what was promised then has been fulfilled – an articulation agreement between the BBFI and the colleges. Baptist Bible College President Mark Milioni announced the hiring of Randy Harp as the new dean of ministry studies. This is a position that has not been filled the past two years. Milioni states that Harp knows the BBFI having been a pastor, knows BBC having been both a professor and a trustee, including chairman of the trustees, and is in agreement with the vision of the college. Harp shared plans to voluntarily reduce his salary from the Communication Office to balance out his salary with BBC. Milioni also addressed the need to raise funds for repair on the W.E. Dowell Fieldhouse.

Randy Ward, sitting in for Boston Baptist College President Dave Melton, shared that Boston Baptist College is now approved to begin offering online classes and will be able to start with five courses this fall.

Greg Lyons, president of Baptist Bible College Asia, shared that professional boxer and current Filipino senator, Manny Pacquiao, received an honorary doctorate for his Christian stance in their country. They recently launched 27 new missionaries from BBC Asia and are looking to launch a new campus in Cambodia.

It was also reported that Louisiana Baptist University was expecting to graduate 130 students this year. President Neal Weaver

sent word that with this year's May offering they would be out of debt.

APEX (CHURCH PLANTING)

Third Vice-President Dan Greer informed the Fellowship they are continuing to reduce the portfolio of mortgages the NCPO had signed off on. Currently there are three as co-signers and the NCPO owns a property in California that will be going on the market to sell. Greer also announced an upcoming module to train trainers of church planters.

OTHER BUSINESS

At the request of multiple state fellowships and the meeting of state representatives, the proposed by-laws were presented for an up-or-down vote with no more modifications. The proposed by-laws were approved by a majority vote with no discussion allowed. A copy of the revised by-laws are available for viewing at www.bbfi.org under the *About Us* tab.

A new subcommittee was assigned to study and provide direction for electing the executive committee. Members of this subcommittee include Linzy Slayden, Steve Switzer, Jim Goodman, and Dean Hughes.

Future national meetings of the BBFI were announced as following:

- September 18-20, 2017 at Friendship Baptist Church, Owasso, OK, Linzy Slayden, pastor
- February 19-21, 2018 at Hallmark Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX, Jon Haley, pastor
- April 30 – May 3, 2018 at Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO, Mark Milioni, president
- September 2018 at Park Valley Church, Haymarket, VA, Barry White, pastor

30-year service pins

50-year service globes

Wesley & Melina Lane (Dominican Republic)



Del & Lora Hooge (Philippines)



David & Mary Moody (New Zealand)



Naomi Musgrave (U.S. Language Groups)



NEWLY APPROVED MISSIONARIES

CAREER

Curt and Arli Motsinger

Field: Philippines

Sending church:

High Street Baptist Church
Springfield, MO

curt.motsinger@bbfmissions.org

Ali Alexander

Field: Colombia

Sending church:

Overland Park Baptist Temple
Overland Park, KS

ali.alexander@bbfmissions.org

TEAM

Adam and Ayla Cottrell

Field: Thailand

Host missionaries:

Ricky and Tammy Salmon

Sending church:

Cherry Street Baptist Church
Springfield, MO

adam.cottrell@bbfmissions.org

Bethany Dick

Field: Philippines

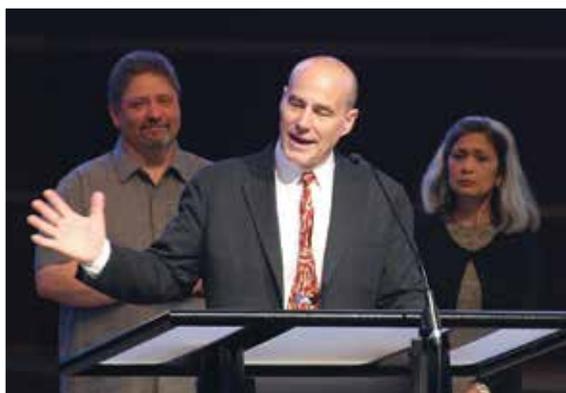
Host missionaries:

Lance and Melanie Gotcher

Sending church:

Fairfield West Baptist Church
Fairfield, OH

bethany.dick@bbfmissions.org

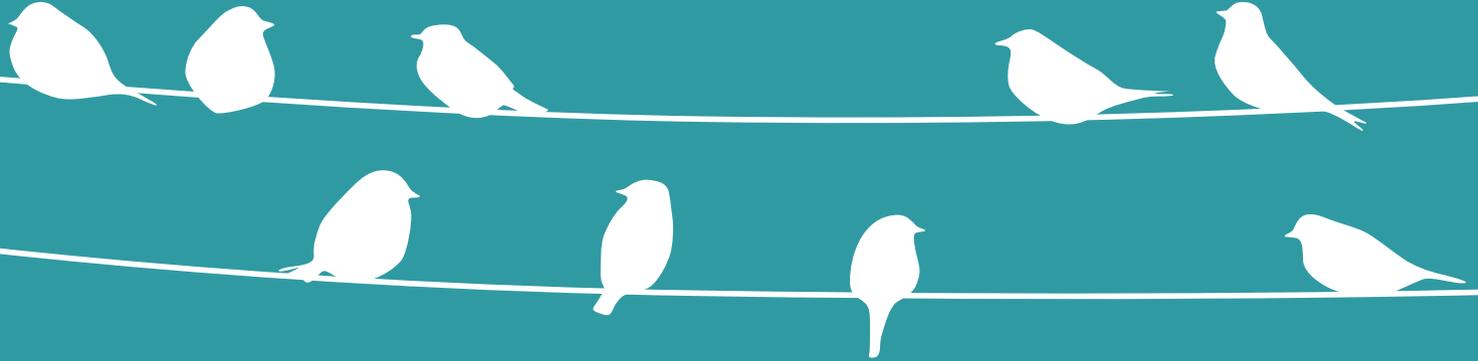


A single man was recognized as a TEAM Baptist Bible Fellowship missionary to a Creative Access Nation in east Asia. He may be contacted through the Mission Office.

Coverage continues on page 25

Women need community

By Sharon Hoffman



When my daughters were young, it wasn't unusual to find me poolside at a dear friend's house during the summer months. One afternoon, Betty must have noticed the weariness on my face from her kitchen window. It wasn't long until she appeared at my side with napkins, lemonade, and cookies. Betty listened as I poured out my heart about the weight of motherhood, being pulled in too many directions, and an overload of ministry responsibilities.

As I reflect on that afternoon with Betty, and the numerous ones that followed throughout our six years of ministry in west Texas, I see how those precious times with a woman twice my age taught me much about my need for community. Betty knew what many today seem to have forgotten: we women have an inborn, heartfelt need for other women to come alongside us in every season of life.

Never before have we ever had such ready access to others through email, texts, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and other means. Yet, women tell me often, "I feel isolated and more alone than ever." The cultural pull on women to do it all and have it all seems to resonate with the bumper sticker that reads, "I am woman. I am invincible. I am tired."

Throughout the Scriptures, we see God place women in relationships to encourage one another and provide a place of retreat. Just as God sent Mary to Elizabeth and Ruth to Naomi, I believe He longs to place women together for support, friendship, accountability, and encouragement. That is exactly why we need women's ministry in our churches today. Women are the heartbeat of the home, community, and yes, the church. Many women can't define the longing they have, they just know something is missing when they are not closely bonded with other women in fellowship. They need Jesus, and we have the privilege of telling them of Jesus if we will commit to come alongside them by opening the doors of our church and our hearts. God designed the body of Christ to help us bear our burdens and to remain steadfast in our love of God. If we take a look at our church calendars, do we see events and service activities intentionally created to foster women's relationships? Shame on us, if not. We are missing a vital ministry to provide women with the transforming love of Jesus Christ and to provide a place for women to connect and cultivate Christian friendships.

If this is new territory for you, after much prayer, ask your pastoral staff or

women's director to help map out different options for your church to reach the women in your church and beyond. Determine what might draw women closer together in community. You may be surprised who is actually lonely in your church. There are women who appear to have it all together, to know the Scriptures, and to be able to laugh freely, yet they leave each service without connecting deeply with anyone. They are lonely and, quite frankly, unsure whether or not to return next Sunday. But, if a woman is invited to coffee or lunch or a play date with fellow young moms, she is more likely to return. She has someone who knows her and looks for her - a community of women she fits into, not where she feels she has to break into.

Time and time again I've watched women relax and begin to let walls down in painting classes, Bible studies, scrapbooking nights, baking cookies together, moms' groups, movie nights, fitness classes, and girls' nights out. One lady told me recently, "Until I learned every other mom of toddlers was struggling with potty training, I felt so inferior. Once the room was abuzz with sagas of other moms' potty-training defeats, I went home with hope and some new friends." I realized from her statement she felt heard and

encouraged by other women who had similar feelings and experiences. We could learn a lot from our ancestors who held quilting bees and canning sessions. They may not have had the label, but they were doing some serious women's ministry at those gatherings.

Those women knew the term "synergism." It means doing more together than one can do alone. Ten women working together as one force can accomplish exponentially more than ten women working on their own plans with their own agendas in mind. The purpose of a team is to help a group meld together as one force. Not everyone will be kindred spirits with each woman in your ministry, but hearts will begin to intertwine through similarities, interests, and talents. It is a joy to watch women beginning to know each other, growing, and loving on each other right before your eyes.

Lest you think I personally place priority on women's ministry just for others, I need to admit I participate in everything our church offers for women because I need support, encouragement, mentoring, and connectedness as well. My dearest friendships have come from the community our church provides. We plan numerous events throughout the year with the goal of refreshing the body, mind, and emotions of women. I have adopted Colossians 2:2-3 as my personal purpose statement and I believe it is the purpose for women's ministry as well: "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God and of the Father and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Look at the story of Moses, Aaron, and Hur in Exodus 17. When Moses was tired of holding up the staff as God had commanded him, Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on, then stood on each side of him and held up his hands. He was able to continue till sunset and not give up. God can provide friends to hold up your arms when you cannot, but only if you'll let them. I don't know what I'd do without my "arm-lifters" on some Monday mornings. Who grabs your arms and joins you in your

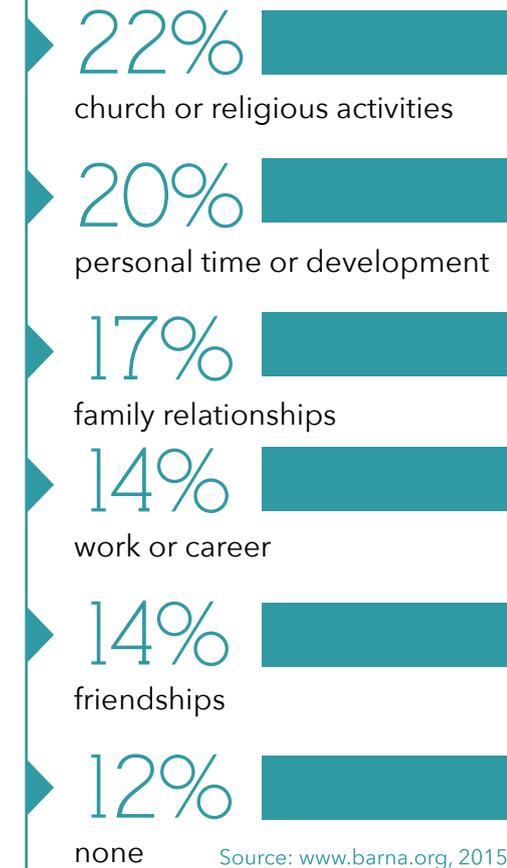
weariness, pain, struggles, and hurts? Reach out to women to comfort them and I can promise you they will be there grabbing hold of your exhausted hands when you need it.

Women also need hangout friends, chick-flick-watching, super-sale-shopping, cheesecake-sharing friends. We desperately long to find other women who have "been there" and who share not just our challenges, but who share the love of Jesus. And good old-fashioned fun! You know, like retreats overnight where you forget about home and responsibilities and just eat chocolate while talking late into the night. Something really special and beautiful can happen when God knits together the hearts of women around His heart.

After serving in church ministry 46 years, I believe a healthy women's ministry is vital to a church's overall health. This will look differently in each individual church, but speaking life into women will bring life into your church! In small and big ways, we as adult women have the potential to make each woman feel special because they are important to Jesus Christ. Realize this is a woman's desire – to know she is really known by you and, most importantly, by God. We're no longer wearing our cheerleading skirts or playing on the playground, but we have the same need as adult women as we did back then – we want to belong. You may ask, "Do the benefits of community outweigh the time and the risks?" They certainly do! I have never been sorry for loving a friend too much, but I have regretted not reaching out to a woman in need before. God created us for companionship, not isolation. Learn to love extravagantly, in your unique giftedness, even if it's not always easy. Go out of your way to comfort others "wherewith the comfort God has comforted you" (2 Corinthians 1:3).

Reach out and touch some sweet woman's heart today; you will receive far more than you give. I know this because I experienced such a gift again just last week. By the time we left the coffee shop, our cheeks were wet with tears and we had mascara running down our faces. True tissue time. I got to hear this sweet young

Areas of life women would most like to improve

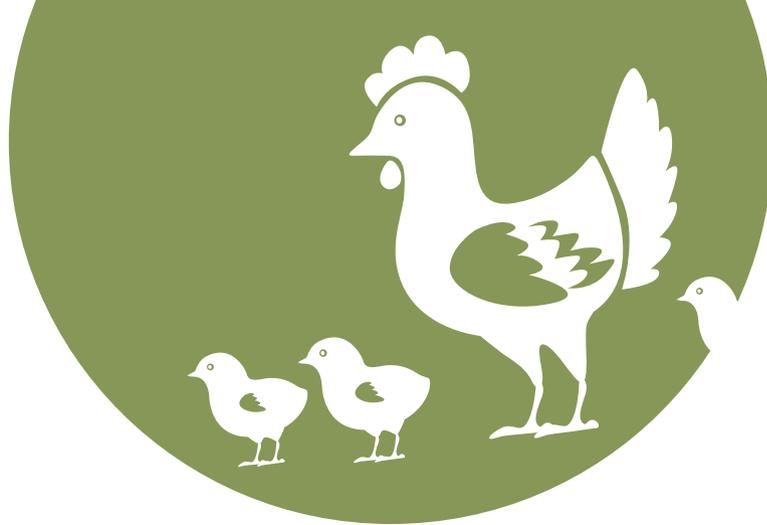


momma ask Jesus Christ to be her personal Savior in a coffee shop. Ah, women's ministry at its finest and oh, how important it is.

So, will we meet our ladies' heartfelt needs of belonging – belonging to Jesus and showing the way to do that through our love for them? Let's let them hear something different from us than the world's mantra of women's independence. It is vital we offer hope, encouragement, and companionship to walk through difficulty, hardship, and hurts. This sinful world inflicts enough pain on women – let's prayerfully determine to reach out to one another so we can all be healthier and happier women. I'm certain our marriages, families, and ministries will also be impacted. 

Motherhood

By Carla Slayden



My husband and I have been blessed with four children, and are now enjoying being Grandma and Papa to 12 grandchildren. They range in age from 15 years to three months. As I reflect on my days of raising children, there are a few adjustments I would make.

I would pray more and worry less.

Mothers of little ones, I know you are thinking, "Who has time to pray?" In the midst of feedings, diapers, toddlers, school, homework, sports ... time is a precious commodity. As one who has been there, I encourage you to make time. Your prayer closet may be a floor full of toys, a rocking chair, or the front seat of your car waiting for ball practice or piano lessons to be finished, but somewhere, sometime each day talk to your heavenly Father. Bring Him your fears, joys, burdens, and needs. Pray for those precious babies you are raising. Pray your husband and you will be godly parents. Pray your children will come to Jesus and love and live for Him! Bring your requests with thanksgiving and receive God's peace that surpasses understanding.

I would also play more and dust less. Keep in mind, this is coming from a Type A, borderline OCD neat freak. I realize cleaning, laundry, and a million other things need to be done. As I look back, however, I regret many times I thought everything in its place trumped reading a story, building a pillow fort, creating a Lego masterpiece, or listening to a detailed description my children's day in 3rd, 6th, or 12th grade. Enjoy these days ... they fly by. The day you drop them off at college will come all too soon. The house will stay clean, and quiet ... very, very quiet.

I would seek more guidance from the Bible, not the advice of others.

I know we need good, Biblical counsel from wise people in our lives. It is a blessing. But in this age of Pinterest, Instagram, and a host of other resources, let's not

forget God's Word is the ultimate guide for raising children. I used to worry about trying to follow all the advice I was given. I now know that was just a ticket for a long guilt trip. And now we have social media to give us impossible standards to live up to! Personally, I hope my grandchildren know more about the baby in the manger than the elf on the shelf. Smile, nod, filter, and do what you have prayerfully decided is best for your children. A special shout out to those raising kiddos in ministry on this one. There is never a shortage of well-meaning church members to tell us what our children should be like!

Lastly, I would take greater advantage of teachable moments.

Sometimes, in the craziness of life, we neglect those Deuteronomy 6 opportunities that draw our children's hearts and minds to the ways of God, His greatness, His blessings, His answered prayers, and faithful promises. Be a mom who is in love with the Lord. We have not been given just physical bodies to raise, we have been entrusted with souls to guide. And, as hard as this is to imagine, God loves those babies even more than we do!

My prayer is with God's help we raise children who have a deep relationship with Jesus Christ who walk with him through whatever life brings, and never stray from the protection and provision of their great shepherd. 

76%
of women say they are
satisfied with their lives...

{...but}

62%

of moms are dissatisfied with their balance between work and home life.

80%

of moms feel overwhelmed by stress.

70%

of moms say they do not get enough sleep.

56%

of moms feel overcommitted.

Source: www.barna.org, 2015.

Investing in younger women

By Mary Herman

Investing is the best way to prepare for the future. This is true financially as well as spiritually. My parents taught us to pay God, pay ourselves (savings), and adjust our choices so we could live on the remainder. Those lessons have proved to be invaluable as life has unfolded, and especially as the retirement years grow closer.

Those same principles apply beautifully as we invest in spiritual ways. Pay God – serve and spend time with Him. Pay yourself – rest in Him, learn of Him, find comfort in His presence. Live on the rest – live by the truths you gain. One such truth comes from 2 Timothy 2:2 (a guiding verse for my missionary service). Paul instructs Timothy to be strong in grace and a soldier of the cross by sharing the things he had learned with faithful men so they might pass that truth to others. Titus 2:3-5 makes it clear mature women are responsible for sharing the wisdom they have gained with younger women. What a privilege we have to share the things God has so carefully taught us with younger women who are struggling with busy lives and personal dilemmas.

Experience is a great instructor. Every individual comes with unique gifts and experiences that mold their perceptions regarding life and, to a good extent,

determines their reactions to struggles and victories. Women who have found God faithful through the struggles of life are most effective tools in God's hand as they invest in the lives of other women. .

Encouragement is another way to invest in the next generation. A person may struggle to see God's loving kindness and faithfulness in the midst of the storm. This is an opportunity to share how God has shown Himself faithful in times past and demonstrate trust in His future care. Paul left a wonderful model for us in the book of Philippians. He covered the issues, the credentials, the struggles, but he ended with admonitions to rejoice, pray about it, accept the peace God has for His children,

and choose to see the beauty, the wonders, and the positive by taking control of our thought life and, thus, our attitude toward life, people, and relationships (Philippians 4:4-9).

As ladies, we can impact the lives of the next generations who will, in turn, impact the lives of the generations to come. I challenge you to invest, encourage, and leave a legacy to be followed. Paul was able to say in Philippians 4:9, "Those things, which ye have learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." Let us pray together that, with Paul, we can say, "Follow me and all will be well with you." That is a great legacy! 

{ Investment tips }

BE AVAILABLE

You don't have to be a Bible scholar to mentor another, but you should love the God of the Bible and want to abide by His Word. Being available with timely and godly advice can make the difference for the individual who is without an anchor. Younger women need the experience, endurance, and example of older women.

BE A LISTENER

Don't feel compelled to dole out advice for every topic she might raise. Wait until she asks for your thoughts before offering them. Be trustworthy.

BE REAL

We are all sinners saved by grace, continuing to be transformed into the image of Christ. And none of us is finished yet! So don't be afraid to be genuine, to reveal your weakness. In Christian mentoring, the grace of God gets the job done through us (and sometimes in spite of us).

Source:
"How Christian Women Can Mentor and Be Mentored"
by Kelley Mathews, www.crosswalk.com



Balancing the physical and the spiritual

By Judy Henderson



I recently partnered with a nutrition doctor and fitness trainer to design a physical and spiritual health and fitness challenge. Our approach: a few minutes each day addressing key internal issues, easy real-food recipes, and exercises that could be done at home without equipment. We soon discovered those who succeeded in losing weight, keeping it off, and getting in shape were those who made a genuine change of heart. Sheer willpower and discipline do not bring lasting change, but a change of the heart does.

Scripture shows the internal and external are not mutually exclusive: "As a [wo]man thinks in [her]his heart, so is [she]he" (Proverbs 23:7). The Proverbs 31 woman "opens her mouth with wisdom" (the internal) and "strengthens her arms" (external). In verse 25, "Strength" represents both an internal and external strength.

Science shows proper nutrition and exercise (external) can influence your mind and emotions (internal). God never intended for us to live in fear, anger, guilt, or shame – those are internal handicaps that can hinder our external efforts to build His kingdom. The enemy may not have us for eternity, but if he can render us ineffective on earth, it's the next best thing.

Whether you desire to improve your spiritual health or your physical health, lasting change comes when you stop "trying" and commit once and for all to a change of heart. In Luke 10:27 we are told to "... love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind." The tools to do this are not merely physical – they are spiritual. 🐦

Single... still

By Kristina Cravey



After graduating from BBC, I moved back home eager to start my teaching career. After the excitement of the new job finally wore off though, I found myself saddened that Mr. Right still had not walked into my life. Single at 24 years old doesn't really seem like a big deal, but when 24 turned into 26 and then 28, I found myself discouraged at times. All I knew to do was press into the Lord and lean on Him for encouragement.

Then, at the age of 29, God brought the perfect guy for me into my life at a time when I least expected it, and in a way I never thought possible. God's plan for my life was different than I envisioned, but His plan was perfect. Here are a few principles that helped me through my season of singleness:

Look back on what God has done for you.

I saw God consistently provide for me in my teaching career. He always had me in the right place at the right time, and when it was time to move, He moved me through open doors. It reminded me God was in control.

Surround yourself with people who love you.

I may have been spouseless, but never once was there a lack of people who loved me. I had my family, my friends, and my church family! We need people in our lives who will lift us up in encouragement when we need it most.

Stay faithful. I knew I had a calling from the Lord to serve Him with all my heart ... regardless of my marital status. So every time there was an opportunity to serve at church or my job, I showed up with joy in my heart. I knew I was doing kingdom work, and that was what was most important. 🐦

A global impact on women

By Keri Kondracki

In my 20 years of mission work, I've come to realize there is brokenness in every country, community, and aspect of ministry. The good news is, Jesus did not come for those who are well, but for those who are sick and in need of spiritual healing (Matthew 9:10-12).

My foreign work began after graduating from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO. I taught in Christian schools during the semester and I served the Lord on foreign soil during summer and spring breaks. This is where my love and passion for women's ministry began to thrive. In 1999, I was invited to lead a small group of ladies for a month of mission work in India – one of the hardest areas I have ever encountered. It was there God broke my heart for the broken lives desperately in need of a Savior. Later, while teaching women in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 2010, I realized the importance of building strong, solid women's ministries in dark areas. These women are often neglected, invisible, undervalued, abused, alone, and broken – such as the women and young



girls I saw who were locked in buildings in Prague (one of the hottest spots for human trafficking in all of Europe). The Lord has given me multiple opportunities in which to share His love, forgiveness, and healing

power with abused women and children.

In 2013, I partnered with MANNA Worldwide to help women and children around the world through nutrition centers, schools, family homes, medical clinics, clean water projects, sports programs, and church plants. While visiting one of our Roma (Gypsy) centers in Tinca, Romania, I learned the hungry mothers stand outside the nutrition center waiting to eat the scraps once their children have eaten. These women are broken. They, too, are in need of physical, spiritual, educational, and emotional healing. They must hear about a savior who loves them, died for them, and wants to change their lives forever!

MANNA's Women's Ministry Europe was established not only to reach the mothers of the children we feed each day, but to partner with the women who work in our feeding centers, family homes, schools, and church plants. We want to teach, train, and offer assistance to them so they, in turn, can minister more effectively in their communities. 

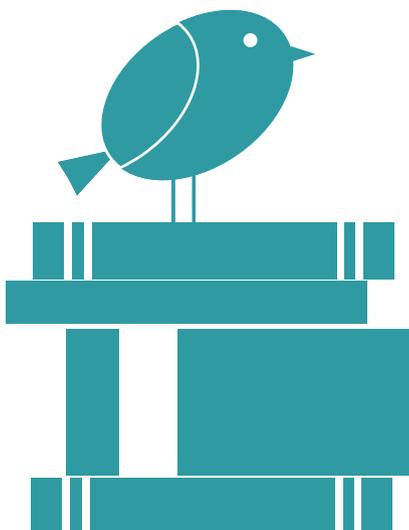
{Reaching through teaching}

By Georgia Webb

My principal ministry responsibility has always been teaching. At first I taught children in the churches and in starting new works, then young people, and for many years I taught mostly women, now I teach the young people again. In addition, I taught in the Bible institute in Ciudad Mante for 14 years, followed by 22 years as director and teacher in the Querétaro Spanish Language School.

For many years I have prepared illustrated lessons for children and for women. I have made them available at cost to our churches. This seems to meet a special need for teaching materials in Spanish. Recently I received a special blessing when a young lady, about 20 years old, told me her mother had taught my lessons when he was a child and they had been a blessing to her. Now, she teaches children and would like to use the same lessons. It's great to know this ministry will go on even after I am gone to my heavenly home!

Source: *Baptist Bible Tribune*, May 2012



How to encourage your husband

By Shelley Switzer

As a Christian and a pastor's wife, I usually stop and think about the people at work or church who could use encouragement from me. Unfortunately, I was married several years before I realized I had spent so much time encouraging those around me but had neglected to use my words to build up the one person who meant the most to me. As a result, when I am asked, "Do you have any advice for marriage?" this is part of my response:

REALIZE HE NEEDS YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT

An encourager is one who gives strength, one who gives courage. We know God is our refuge and strength as believers. But in Genesis 2:18, God says, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." That's us, wives! We get to be that suitable helper God can use

to infuse strength and courage into our husbands.

As a pastor, my husband, Steve, deals with people every day. He gives advice, counsels, comforts, encourages, and shares truth like a champ. He does his job so well and seems so confident. Imagine my surprise when one day he looked at me and said, "I don't think I can do this anymore." As we talked, all of a sudden he said, "Wait, you think I'm a good preacher?" Well duh! (I didn't say that, but I wanted to.) As I sat there stunned, I thought, "Have I never said it out loud before?" I had said it to others but I had never said it specifically to him. Oh, I had said little things like, "Good job, babe." But, I had never told him why it was good. I had never told him what I saw that made him so amazing. Which leads me to step two.

USE YOUR WORDS

Ephesians 5:33 says wives must respect their husbands. Respect is an action. And though actions speak louder than words, sometimes our husbands need to hear us say things like ...

- I believe in you
- I trust you
- I respect that you work every day to provide for me

- I admire your wisdom in handling that situation
- Thank you for taking care of the yard, house, kids, etc.
- I respect that you go to church with me (if your husband doesn't go to church tell him thanks that he gives you the opportunity to go)
- You are still handsome and I would choose you all over again

Do not assume he knows you think these things. Your simple yet sincere words of encouragement could just be the courage and strength he needs to face another day.

PRAY

Pray for your husband. Pray with your husband. Pray scripture for your husband. When Steve went through his discouraging time, I chose Psalm 86 and prayed it daily. I especially love verse 4: "Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you." I would pray, "Bring joy to your servant, Steve, Lord, for He puts his trust in you." There really is power in praying scripture.

I read a quote the other day that said, "Behind every great man, there is an encouraging wife!" Who knows what greatness your husband can achieve if you infuse a little strength and courage into him. 



What pastors' wives wished their husbands knew about them

By Barb Milioni

LOVE ME. The apostle Paul wrote, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church" (Ephesians 5:25). I need to know I am more important than board meetings and men's gym nights. I appreciate Mark making time for me doing things we enjoy together.

LOVE OUR FAMILY. There are many ministers, but our kids have only one dad. They need him to make time for them. Mark drives our children to school every morning, taking time to talk and laugh, giving them a few minutes of undivided attention from dad.

KNOW MY LIMITS. Contrary to popular belief, pastors' wives are not auditioning for the role of Superwoman. Mark and I try to set goals



Women in ministry

By Cindy Lyons

I was born into a ministry family. Growing up, the stories we celebrated around the table were those of people who had come to Christ and how their lives had changed. As I grew up seeing my parents serve, and seeing God do a mighty work, I wanted to be part of what God was doing. I started serving anywhere they would let me. As a 12-year-old girl, I surrendered to the Lord to do whatever He called me to do. I have never regretted saying yes to God.

We can all be part of His plan to reach the world – whether single, married, a student, or a woman who is retired or changing professions. God wants to use us in His plan at every stage of life. The first step is to make ourselves available to Him.

Here a few lessons I have learned over years:

WALK IN YOUR CALLING AND EXERCISE YOUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS.

God is raising up gifted teachers, communicators, writers, administrators, Bible translators, counselors, prayer warriors, artists, musicians, health professionals, and more. He calls them to serve in fulltime ministry or in the profession He placed them. Women are relational and nurturing, beautifully designed not only to take care of families but also to minister to people.

PREPARE TO LEARN AND GROW.

To become effective women in ministry, we need to be prepared and keep growing. We do this by staying in the Word, learning from books, Bible studies, conferences, etc., and seeking mentors. Learn how to

work well with people, study and teach effectively, counsel, stay encouraged, and help people.

GOD CALLS US TO A WELL-BALANCED LIFE.

I am a child of God first, then I am a wife and mother. They are my first ministry. God has also equipped and called me to minister to others. He gives us wisdom to carry out that calling in the different seasons of our lives.

WE NEED MEANINGFUL FRIENDSHIPS.

They are part of God's design. Jesus had friends on his journey. We can be more effective and thrive when we have someone with whom to process the joys and challenges of ministry.

WE NEED TO GET STRONG.

The ministry has many blessings, but there is also stress, criticism, betrayal, and disapproval. We must learn how to put on our armor, get strong, and stand firm in the Lord. Don't let the enemy win by giving up. Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world! Become a warrior, not a victim!

I am in awe God let me be a wife, mom, missionary, teacher, and pastor's wife. He is faithful and changes lives. I am still thrilled every time God allows me to lead someone to Christ or help someone take a step closer to Him. If I could, I would do it all over again. Let us rise up and embrace our calling! 

and priorities together. We pray before committing to anything to make sure God is leading us. We've also learned we can say no to certain tasks.

PROTECT ME PHYSICALLY, SPIRITUALLY, AND EMOTIONALLY.

Mark doesn't tell me everything about the ministry. He's not leaving me out; he is protecting me.

LAUGH WITH ME, NEVER AT ME. Though my early efforts at "tuna-spaghetti casserole for two" could have helped Jesus feed the 5,000, Mark waited until I laughed before he joined in. There are some things I'd rather the congregation not know about and I don't

want to be the subject of a sermon illustration or joke that will hurt my feelings or humiliate me. And, I never want Mark to use a story from our lives without first asking my permission.

PRAY FOR ME. I struggle not only with my own battles, but also with the awareness of my husband's burden for the flock. I know how much it hurts when someone strays, the energy he expends with a family in crisis, the hours he spends preparing to feed the sheep. So I want Mark to pray I will be sensitive to his needs, I will be wise in my counsel, I will be gentle with my tongue, and that our home will always be one where he is happy to return. And while he's at it, I also want him to pray just for me, personally. 

Women's ministry in the church

By Stephanie Housley

Women's ministry in the local church has changed through the years, however it still has a vibrant place among ministries today. A great aspect of the BBFI movement is the diversity in our churches. Each must evaluate what works best for their body. Beyond that, we know these core values we share that do not fail:

Women need to be encouraged to read the Word of God. As a matter of fact, I find it is what women want most. No opinion or self-help book can take the place of what the Bible has to say regarding everyday life. Truth stings at times, but it meets that inner longing for answers.

Women need to be reminded of their inner source. The Holy Spirit is there to guide us in our daily routines and help us make the difficult decisions of life.

Women need to pursue the power of prayer. When we truly spend time pouring our hearts to God, we come to realize the power within us.

Women understand women! We are complicated, wonderful creatures of God. I read a quote about women recently that said, "I am under no obligation to make sense to you." I'm sure this was meant for a man and that's exactly my point. We may be wives, mothers, sisters, caregivers, professionals, and hold a number of responsibilities in and outside the church, but one thing remains the same, we understand one another's feelings.

Our ladies' ministry at Park Crest chooses to hold on-campus small group studies through the year that allow women to connect. Studying the Word of God

and gleaning from different ages and experiences knits hearts together as a family should. It is also a great avenue to invite women who are searching for answers in our world. Relationships connect us and allow us to share Christ.

We also choose several large events each year to draw us together – from travelling to conferences, to hosting holiday celebrations, to just having fun. Our best-attended event was a painting class. Sounds simple, but it brought in women from the community, which then connected them to women of our church.

Women's ministry can be a great tool to meet the needs of women in our world today. Each stage of life offers its own challenges. Evaluating your ministry needs and setting goals on what you want to accomplish with the ladies of your church is a great place to start. It ultimately allows us to encourage one another, build each other up, and reach those in need of the Gospel. 

{Timeless truths}

By Tiffany Lyons

We are called to lead people to Jesus and connect them to their God-given purpose, all within the local church. Women's ministry is an outworking of that basic and vital mission. If we don't support and rally around women, they will look to fulfill their needs somewhere other than God and the church.

Community. Women are looking for a place to belong. No matter what a woman's circumstance or life stage, she is a woman, and that is the connection. Whether in small groups, Bible studies, or big events throughout the year, the church needs to provide opportunity for women to find meaningful community.

Purpose. Women are also looking for purpose. Ephesians 4:2 says we are to equip God's people for works of service, so the body of Christ may be built up. Jesus invited women to participate in his earthly ministry and continues to invite women to be part of what he is doing today!

Q. AS AN ADULT WOMAN, TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL YOU RECEIVE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE AT YOUR CHURCH?

A. 17%.....very much so
23%.....somewhat
17%.....not so much
43%.....not at all

Source: www.barna.org, 2015

Leadership. Today, women hold vital leadership roles all over the world. We need to come alongside these strong women and equip them to lead in their spheres of influence. We can no longer limit women's ministry topics to marriage and motherhood. While these topics are vital and must continue to be part of what we teach, we must also be a place leaders can come to learn and lead with strength while embracing their God-given feminine hearts.

I don't know what the future of women's ministry looks like, but I hope it's where a woman can find a place to belong, discover God's love and purpose, find joy from serving in the local church, and be inspired to lead.

Flourish!

*Living out your
calling to the fullest*

By Karen Baird

Do you remember, as a child, being asked what you wanted to be when you grew up? If you were like me, many answers came to mind. As adults we're asked, "If you could do anything what would it be? Psalm 139:13 tells us, "For you have possessed my reins: you have covered me in my mother's womb." His plan for our lives doesn't start once we enter school, or start going to church, or complete our education, or get married, or have a family, or even acknowledge Him and accept Him into our hearts. His plan for our lives begins at conception, in our mothers' wombs.

As women of faith, we search for God's will in our lives, and many times finish our lives with regrets and longing that were never quite fulfilled. John 10:10 tells us, " ... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Once we accept Christ, the next step is walking with him in "abundant" life! Only one thing is required of you when you accept Christ, faith – utter faith in who Christ is and what he has accomplished for you on the cross. That's it! But once your redemption takes place, there are requirements of you by God to live Galatians 5:22-23, the fruits of the Spirit. This is where you will find your purpose

in service to God. It's not mysterious. It's about complete obedience to God's Word and commands and continued conversation and communication with Him through prayer and the study of His Word.

Years ago, during a season of life as a wife, mother, pastor's wife, director of a preschool, teacher, musician, continuing my education, homemaker, daughter, sister, friend ... you get it, I was wearing many hats ... I realized I wasn't doing anything to the best of my ability for God. One day, a godly author and speaker inspired me to simply give everything in my life back to God – everything – and then wait patiently for what He would return back to me. This led to a year-long journey of watching God give back to me and also take many things away. It surprised me, it frightened me, it even crushed me. But I came out ready for what He had next for my husband, our children, and me – a life of international missions. That was 2004 and I would not

trade my walk and service to Christ before that time, and I certainly wouldn't trade the service and incredible calling He has placed upon my life since that prayer.

Can I encourage you, no matter how many good and fruitful things you are accomplishing for the kingdom, will you stop right now and give everything back to God? Will you confirm with God that everything you are doing in your life is His will? May we live out the fruits of the Spirit that are right now dwelling in our hearts, according to His plan and purpose, and may we fight the good fight, finish the course, keep the faith, knowing that in the future there is laid up for us the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to us on that day (2 Timothy 4:7). 



The Hispanic Wave

In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week observed September 15 and 16. In 1989, Congress expanded the observance to a month-long celebration (September 15-October 15) of the culture and traditions of those who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

As of July 1, 2015, the U.S. Hispanic population reached 57 million, 17.6% of the nation's total population, making them the nation's largest ethnic minority. This wave was first evident in cities. The influence of Hispanic population by language or culture is now being felt far beyond a few urban centers.

UNEXPECTED PLACES?

In the article "From Migrants to Residents," we read, "Some East Idaho districts are offering college courses that will help native Spanish speakers develop skills necessary to compete for jobs in a variety of industries."

The *Journal Standard* (Freeport, IL, population: 25,638) states signs are posted in both English and Spanish throughout Freeport Blackhawk Elementary School, where Caucasian and Hispanic students each comprise 32.5% of the school's population. Phone messages for parents are left in both languages. The school's Hispanic population has doubled since 2010.

The *Gazette Xtra*, Walworth County, WI, reported that when ten-year-old Oscar Nicia came to Walworth County from El Salvador, almost 13 years ago, he didn't see many Hispanics in Lake Geneva. There was only one Mexican supermarket nearby. Today, there are three local Mexican grocery stores and he's noticed the local Walmart carries more ingredients for preparing Mexican dishes. In Walworth County, the Hispanic population increased 41% from 2000 to 2006. In Wisconsin, the numbers of Hispanics increased by 48% from 2000-2009.

Recently, the fastest Latino population

growth has come in areas with a relatively small number of Latinos. Three counties in North Dakota had the fastest growth in Latino population from 2007 to 2014. The South accounted for 43% of U.S. Hispanic population growth from 2007-2014.

NATIONAL TRENDS:

- Latinos nationwide reveal a younger population; median age is 28 versus 37 years for the general population.
- Despite slowing growth rates, Latinos still accounted for more than half (54%) of total U.S. population growth from 2000-2014, driving at least half of overall population growth in 524 counties that had at least 1,000 Latinos in 2014.
- Nearly all Latinos lived in half of the nation's more than 3,000 counties in 2014.
- From 2007-2014 the U.S. Hispanic population had an annual average growth rate of 2.8%.
- California continues to have the nation's largest Latino population among states. However, Texas has grown faster. In 2014, 15 million Hispanics lived in California with a 37% increase from the 10.9 million Hispanics in 2000. Texas saw even quicker growth with its Hispanic population increasing 56% from 6.7 Million in 2000 to 10.4 million in 2014.
- Nearly half of the country's Hispanic population lives in ten major metropolitan areas. The following housed nearly 45% of the Hispanic population in the country: Los Angeles, New York, Houston, San Bernardino, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, Phoenix, San Antonio, and San Francisco.
- From 2000-2010, Hispanic population has grown more in the suburbs than in the cities.

Here in Chicago, I have watched Hispanics move from the city to the suburbs. In the last 15 years, it seems newcomers don't make the traditional stop in the city. They move straight to the suburbs near family or friends.

HISPANIC CULTURE IMPACTS U.S.

In June 2016, Univision Deportes Network beat every other cable sports network in prime time among the key demos of adults 18 to 49 and 18 to 34, finishing ahead of Fox Sports 1 and NBC Sports Network, but it also beat cable sports big dogs ESPN and ESPN 2. Five years ago UDN didn't even exist.

A decade ago ABC adapted a tele-novella as a dramedy. "Ugly Betty" became a surprise hit that ran four seasons. The past two years, three English-language shows have been based on, borrowed from, or poked fun at the tele-novella format: NBC's "Telenovela," USA's "Queen of the South," and the CW's "Jane the Virgin." The latter is a critical hit, the other two are ratings duds, but still notable for making it on the air.

Some of the most successful music artists in today's pop culture have Hispanic heritage.

In social media, Hispanics are especially active on Instagram and Twitter. Former Disney star Selena Gomez has more Instagram followers (89 million) than anyone else.

There were an estimated 3.3 million Hispanic-owned firms nationally in 2012, up from 2.3 million in 2007.

QUESTIONS

1. Are you viewing this Hispanic phenomenon through biblical, God-so-loved-the-world lenses?
2. Have you recently checked census data in your city, township, or county?
3. How are you and your church preparing to be on mission in the face of this wave?
4. In view of these realities, what Great Commission opportunities might be before you?



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

PAUL ANDERSON — The Strongest Man on the Planet

In the world of heavy weightlifting in the 1950s and 1960s, every possible superlative available in the English language was used to describe the accomplishments of Paul Anderson (1932-1994) of Toccoa, GA (and later Vidalia, GA), including “the world’s strongest man” and even “the strongest man who ever lived.”

There was nothing physically remarkable about Paul Anderson in his childhood and youth. When he was five, he had a serious bout with Bright’s disease, an inflammation of the kidneys, which nearly took his life (kidney disease would ultimately end his life decades later). And though he was a stocky 190 pounds in high school — on a 5’ 9” frame — there was nothing extraordinary about him as an athlete. But he was good enough to get a football scholarship to Furman College.

Paul’s first efforts at weightlifting were discouraged by his high school coach, lest he become “muscle-bound” (an ungrounded fear in those days) to the detriment of agility and quickness. At Furman, Paul met two students who were dedicated weightlifters, and he decided to join in. He discovered he was able to quickly add strength and muscle mass. Within a year he weighed 275 pounds; his peak weight would be over 360 pounds. He left college to focus full-time on weight training.

Within two years of self-directed bodybuilding, Paul began to win local and regional weightlifting competitions, with growing fame and notoriety nationwide in the sport. He began breaking national and even world records in various events. He won the national championship in 1955, just three years into his participation in the sport, and in 1956 in Melbourne, Australia, won the Olympic gold medal in the heavyweight competition.

Paul had been raised in a conservative Christian home, attending at various times Methodist, Baptist, and Christian churches, and had several relatives who were preachers. Paul mentally assented to the Biblical truths he had been taught, and was moral and well-behaved in personal conduct, but had made no soul commitment to Christ.

At the 1956 Olympics, Paul, who had just turned 24, seemed the shoo-in to win the gold. But for two weeks before the competition, he was extremely ill, unable to train, and almost unable to compete. His victory seemed almost surely lost by “poor” lifts (by his standards) in the first two events. During his final lift, he requested the bar be loaded with enough weight to

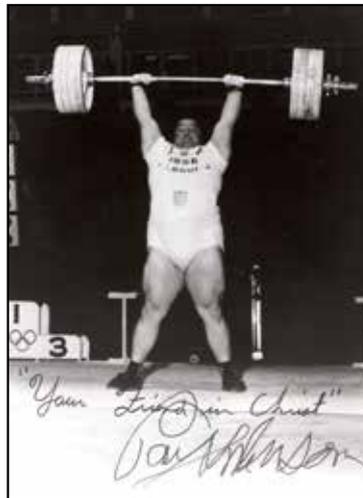
ensure his victory overall. By his own testimony, he cried out to God during this final lift, and counted his conversion to Christ from that moment. He pushed 414.25 pounds overhead and held it for the requisite two seconds. He was officially “the strongest man in the world.”

Once, on the “Ed Sullivan Show,” Paul did a full squat with 15,000 silver dollars, and the steel boxes necessary to hold them — right at 1,000 pounds. His heaviest squat was an astonishing 1,200 pounds — nearly double the world record when he began weight training! Once, he back-lifted 6,200 pounds — a feat never equaled nor seriously challenged to this day.

Paul sensed God’s leading to start a home for troubled youth. He started the Paul Anderson Youth Home in the early 1960s in Vidalia, GA. During Paul’s lifetime, hundreds of boys passed through the home — staying a year on average. The teen boys were given Bible training, education, purpose, and firm but loving discipline, with nearly all developing into productive individuals, and many becoming truly outstanding citizens.

From the 1960s through the mid-1970s, Paul kept a brutal schedule of personal appearances to raise funds for the home, speaking about 500 times per year — for Youth for Christ, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, local churches, at least one Billy Graham crusade, but especially public high schools. Paul always gave his own testimony of salvation through Christ, and declined speaking engagements where he was not permitted to speak of his personal faith. As one author noted, “Paul Anderson didn’t ... focus on maximizing his fame for personal gain, but instead, turned his attention to helping boys whose lives had gone awry.”

This exhausting speaking schedule proved detrimental to Paul’s health, which seriously declined by the early 1980s, ultimately requiring a kidney transplant. He was largely confined to a wheelchair the last decade of his life and his weight dropped to 160 pounds. He died at the early age of 61. The Paul Anderson Youth Home continues the ministry to youth for which it was founded.



Two accounts of Paul Anderson’s life are: A Greater Strength by Paul Anderson, with Jerry B. Jenkins and James R. Adair. (Revell, 1975, 1990); and Paul Anderson: the Mightiest Minister by Randall J. Strossen (IronMind Enterprises, 1999).

SPRINGFIELD, MO

BBC ANNOUNCES TRIP TO HOLY LAND IN 2018

Craig Dunning, professor of Intercultural Studies at Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO, announces an Israel Spring Break Study Trip March 7-16, 2018, available to BBC students and all friends of the BBFI.

Participants will study the Bible on location, walk where Jesus walked, see where Elijah called down fire from heaven and where David killed Goliath, read Peter's confession at Caesarea, pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, sail across the Sea of Galilee, raft on the Jordan River, float on the Dead Sea, and

much more. The all-inclusive price for those flying from Springfield with the students is \$3,200. For those arranging their own airfare from other locations, the ground package is \$1,700. These prices include double-occupancy accommodations in hotels/guest houses, breakfast and dinner buffets, entry fees, guides, drivers, climate controlled buses, portage fees, taxes, and tips.

After Dunning resided in Israel 16 years, he was instrumental in establishing Boston Baptist College's Israel study trip, and also assisted

Master's Seminary, Shepherd's Theological Seminary, Master's University, Cedarville University, and University of Northwestern St. Paul with their study trips. Dunning wants Israel study trips to become a standard element of all ministry studies programs at BBC.

For more information on the Holy Land trip March 7-16, 2018, visit <https://discipleshiptravel.com/dt1801bbc/> or call Craig Dunning at (682) 227-0175.

MARSHFIELD, MO

FOSTER FAMILY MINISTRY OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CUTS RIBBON ON NEW HOME

Grace Place Children's Home of Marshfield, MO, a mission project of Temple Baptist Church in Marshfield, held a ribbon cutting ceremony April 23, 2017. "We ultimately seek to provide a group of homes for foster families in Webster County, MO," says Executive Director Dana Auten. Grace Place was officially recognized as a 501(c)3 organization in Missouri October 2014 with the goal of taking care of physical and emotional needs of foster youth by providing a safe, stable, loving environment.



Grace Place is currently seeking a family to serve as home parents, living in the new home, serving as foster parents. For information visit www.graceplacechildren.com.

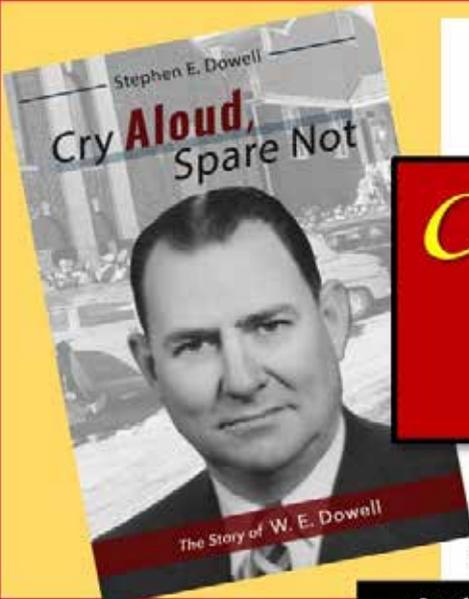
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NEW BOOK BY BBFI LEADER

John Gross, APEX Director (BBFI's church planting ministry), has released a new book titled, *Communicate! – Talking and Staying Close with Youth in Today's Culture*. Gross states, "This book brings clarity and practical solutions in communicating with today's youth culture. Parents, pastors, teachers and coaches will gain an understanding of the crisis in the culture of today's youth and learn techniques and tools for better communication with that generation."



Larry Keefauver says of the book, "It is filled to overflowing with facts, tools, insights, and practical ways any church can use to communicate with youth, not only in their church but also in their community." Gross' book can be found at www.amazon.com.



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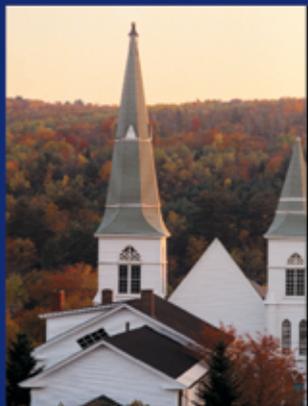


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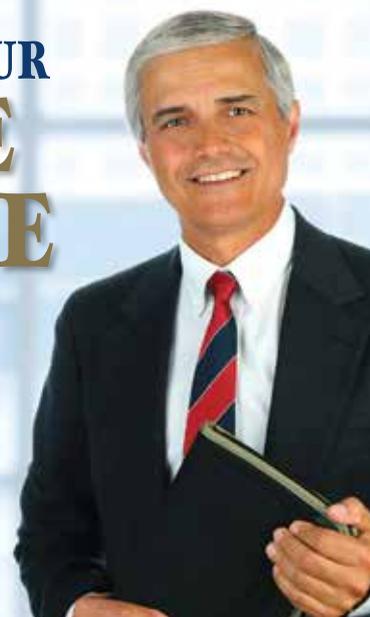
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SPRINGFIELD, MO

ROBERT DEAN BAIRD

Robert "Bob" Dean Baird left this earth for his heavenly home May 12, 2017. Bob was born August 12, 1933, in Hereford, TX, to Kay and Maybelle Baird. At an early age, he and his family moved to Amarillo, TX. While in high school he met and fell in love with a classmate, Margaret Ann Roberts, whom he married in 1953.

Bob was successful in his early business life, eventually transferring with Utility Equipment Company to Little Rock, AR. While in Little Rock, the Bairds attended Twelfth Street Baptist Church. It was there Bob felt the call to leave his lucrative business life and enter the Gospel ministry. In 1966, Bob enrolled at Baptist Bible College and the family joined High Street Baptist Church. After graduation, while working for David Cavin at High Street, Bob and Ann surrendered to missionary service during a mission conference. Bob's life of service includes five years as a missionary to Jamaica, four years as assistant mission director for the BBFI, five years as pastor of Hallmark Baptist Church in Fort Worth, TX, and almost 20 years as mission director of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. As mission director, he visited almost every country in the world and the BBFI Mission Office grew to almost 1,000 overseas personnel while processing tens of millions of dollars annually in missions giving. Mr. Baird will be greatly missed by his loving family, but his life will be eternally celebrated by pastors, missionaries, national leaders, and grateful individuals whose lives were impacted for the Gospel through his legacy.

Bob is survived by his wife of almost 64 years, Ann, two children, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held May 15, 2017, at Cherry Street Baptist Church. Memorial donations may be made to Baptist Bible Fellowship Mission Office, PO Box 191, Springfield, Mo. 65801.

Mr. Baird's passing happened right as we were going to press. A full tribute will appear in the July/August 2017 Tribune.

TUCSON, AZ

LOUIS W. JOHNSON

Louis W. Johnson, founder and pastor of Tucson Baptist Temple, Tucson, AZ, went to be with the Lord August 31, 2016, at the age of 95. Born in Paducah, KY, Louis surrendered to ministry in 1954, graduating from Arlington Baptist Seminary in 1958. That summer, He and his family moved to Tucson to begin Tucson Baptist Temple, where he ministered for more than 50 years, retiring in 2008. "I've never had the urge to live or pastor anywhere else," he often said. "I consider Tucson to be the best place on earth, inhabited by the best people on earth."

Knowing his final task in this life would be to prepare his congregation, family, and friends for his promotion to his heavenly home, he often told them, "One day you'll hear that Louis Johnson is no more. Don't you believe it! I will be more alive than I've ever been before. You'll find me walking the streets of gold in my pinstriped Loui' Roth robe, laughing and singing with the saints. I'll see you there!" In times of paralyzing sorrow, he was ever the comforter.

Louis is preceded in death by Della, his wife of 57 years, and his second son, Dennis. Survivors include two sons, a daughter, and their families. Louis was laid to rest beside his wife at South Lawn Cemetery in Tucson.

SPRINGFIELD, MO

CAROL KAY WILSON

Carol Kay Wilson was called to heaven Tuesday, March 28, at Magnolia Square. Born in Kansas City, MO, March 25, 1941, she grew up in Springfield and Bolivar. Carol graduated from Southwest Baptist University in 1961 and received a doctorate degree in Religious Education from Louisiana Theological Seminary.

Carol married Gary Wilson in 1961. Together they lived in eight different states and she was a pastor's wife to nine congregations. She was also a published author and a popular speaker for many years. In 2008, she received the Alumni Life Service Award from Southwest Baptist University.

Carol was also an educator, teaching elementary, junior high, and high school students for over 40 years. But she would often say her most important role was that of mother to her three children.

Carol was preceded in death by her husband, Gary, in 2015. She is survived by two sons, a daughter, and three grandchildren. A Remembrance of her life will be held in early June at a time and place still to be decided.

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Overcoming family challenges

By Sheri Quidley

Saturday, August 31, 2014, began like any other day in our home. I got up early to have coffee and Jesus time. About an hour later, Scott came downstairs ready to head to the church for his normal weekend workday. But, as we stood in our kitchen talking, I could tell he was short of breath. “Do you feel ok? Why are you taking such shallow breaths?” I asked. He simply said, “I don’t know.” He left and we weren’t together again until later that afternoon at his parents’ house for dinner. I remember looking at him thinking he hadn’t been eating very much lately but it looked as if he had gained weight. When we got home that night, Scott was sitting on the couch coughing uncontrollably and could not catch his breath. I said, “That’s it! We are going to the emergency room!” When we arrived, he was taken back fairly quickly. The nurse checked his oxygen level and blood pressure and said, “Oh! That’s bad!” Within a matter of minutes,

Scott had been moved to a bigger room and it was filled with nurses and doctors asking us lots of questions while they worked on him. They concluded his kidneys had shut down. He was moved to ICU and immediately began dialysis. At this time the doctor told me if we had waited two hours longer to bring Scott into the hospital he would have died.

The next hours, days, weeks, and months were filled with much emotion, uncertainty of Scott’s health, and decisions that would affect our future as a family. But as I reflect back on the events, I see three things that were the most influential in helping our family through the biggest challenge we had ever faced.

The first is prayer. I am so thankful the Lord had already taught me the importance of a fervent prayer life. Because prayer was already a spiritual discipline in my life, I knew I could go to Him any time, any where, with any need

and He would answer according to His perfect will for Scott and our family. This situation our family walked through also taught our children the importance and power of prayer. We spent much time together as a family praying for Scott and his healing. What a joy to see our children’s faith grow as they watched our awesome God answer their prayers!

The wonderful support system through family and friends was another thing that helped our family. So many people were there for us ... cooking meals, taking care of our children, and going above and beyond to help in any way needed. I cannot say enough about our precious church family at McCauley Baptist during this difficult time. Scott was able to continue pastoring during all of this but his energy was limited. Our church family supported us with patience, encouragement, love, and much prayer! Our family also had many pastors, missionaries, and friends all over the world who sent us encouraging notes, money to help with medical bills, and offered up prayers on our behalf! The family of God is truly a wonderful blessing!

The last thing that helped us through this difficult time was also probably the hardest for me — trusting in the sovereignty of our Savior. That is hard to admit, but it is true. See, I like being in control. But during all of this, I was never in control, yet God was consistently faithful to show me I could trust Him with every detail. After several months of dialysis, Scott began the process of a kidney transplant. During that time, God sent a couple to our church. The husband got saved, and the wife, Delma, rededicated her life to the Lord. In March 2015, Delma graciously offered to donate her kidney to Scott and it turned out to be a perfect match! On June 17, 2015, Scott received the new kidney! And praise God ... he is doing excellently!

I may never know to the full extent of why God allowed our family to face such a challenge. But this I can say, we are a stronger family because of it and the Lord never once failed us. God is good all the time and all the time God is good!

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing?



and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

Daily Feed

1

Genesis 2:18

And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

2

Eve
(Genesis 1-3)

3

Proverbs 31:10

Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.

4

Sarah
(Genesis 11-23)

5

Proverbs 31:20

She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.

6

I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.
- Abraham Lincoln

7

Rebekah
(Genesis 24-26)

8

Proverbs 31:25

Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come.

9

Rahab
(Joshua 2, 6;
Hebrews 11:31)

10

Proverbs 31:26

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.

11

"... the fact that I am a Christian does make me a different kind of woman.:

- Elisabeth Elliot

12

Deborah
(Judges 4)

13

Proverbs 31:30

Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

14

Ruth
(Ruth 1-4)

15

Proverbs 14:1

The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands.

16

When we acknowledge God's supreme role in our life and set our mind on Him, He enables us to be women of hope.

- Elizabeth George

17

Hannah
(1 Samuel 1)

18

Titus 2:3-5

The older women ... admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children.

19

Abigail
(1 Samuel 25)

20

1 Peter 3:34

... rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

21

"Sometimes we stand to learn the most about God from the situations we understand the least."

- Beth Moore

22

Esther
(Esther 1-10)

23

Psalms 139:14

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.

24

Mary, mother of Jesus
(Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2)

25

Esther 4:14

... Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

26

Mary and Martha
(John 11)

27

A woman's heart should be so hidden in God that a man has to seek Him just to find her.

- Max Lucado

28

Priscilla
(Acts 18)

29

Proverbs 12:4

An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who causes shame is like rotteness in his bones.

30

Dorcas
(Acts 9)

And the Lord God said,

"It is not good that man should be alone;

I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Colossians 4:2

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.



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