

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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I AM SURE THAT, IN MY EARLY YOUTH, NO TEACHING EVER MADE SUCH AN IMPRESSION UPON MY MIND AS THE INSTRUCTION OF MY MOTHER.

ALL I AM, OR CAN BE, I OWE TO MY ANGEL MOTHER - CHARLES SPURGEON

- ABRAHAM LINCOLN

MY MOTHER HAD A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE WITH ME, BUT I THINK SHE ENJOYED IT.

- MARK TWAIN

AND ADAM CALLED HIS WIFE'S NAME EVE; BECAUSE SHE WAS THE MOTHER OF ALL LIVING.

- GENESIS 3:20

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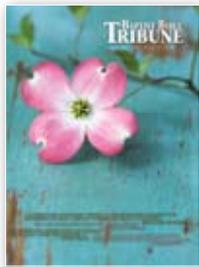
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BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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On the Table

By Keith Bassham



Living under pressure

I feel fortunate in many ways that I live as a Christian in this time and place. I wonder if I could have withstood persecution, prosecution, and torture alongside the likes of Polycarp, Huss, Tyndale, or more contemporary martyrs of the faith. My experience, and the experience of most reading this I am sure, is more like that described by the preaching professor Fred Craddock.

Craddock tells a story about his call to the ministry that came during an inspirational meeting in his youth. He made a decision in his bunk that night. He says,

"I pictured myself standing in front of the military firing squad and being told, 'Deny Jesus and live.' I bravely told the story of Jesus and the command was given, 'Ready, aim fire!' Flags were at half mast, widows were crying, and a monument was erected where I gave my life for Christ.

Nobody told me that I couldn't give my life for Christ by writing one big check. Instead it has been decades of writing little checks. Eighty-five cents here, a dollar thirty-nine there. Giving my life for Christ has meant being faithful in the small things over and over throughout my life."

And so while few of us may be asked to "write the big check," we all experience the pressures that require the day-to-day faithful discipline Mr. Craddock describes. As North American Christians see their elected officials, non-elected bureaucrats, and appointed justices enact laws ever more hostile to their beliefs, and as we see the bad guys getting away with the kinds of activity described by David's psalms, and when the economic and social pressures start to cause suf-

fering, those small prices of obedience could rise.

But such times call for more and not less Christian faithfulness. After all, the book of Hebrews declares that Jesus learned "obedience by the things which he suffered." The Puritan John Owen enlightens us and corrects any misunderstanding, "Here it says about the Lord Christ that he learned obedience, not that he learned to obey."

He goes on, "The Lord Christ learned obedience when he experienced it in practice. One special kind of obedience is intended here, namely, a submission to great, hard, and terrible things, accompanied by patience and quiet endurance and faith for deliverance from them. This Christ could have not experienced, except by suffering the things he had to pass through, exercising God's grace in them all. Thus, Christ learned obedience."

And so it is with those who would follow Christ. Owen explains that outward pressures "give a necessity and especial occasion unto the exercise of those graces wherein our obedience in that season doth consist. So from them, or by them, did the Lord Christ himself learn obedience; for by reason of them he had occasion to exercise those graces of humility, self-denial, meekness, patience, faith, which were habitually resident in his holy nature, but were not capable of the peculiar exercise intended but by reason of his sufferings."

I can think of all sorts of ways this could work to our advantage. Even now the financial pressures (both general and more specific to ourselves and our Fellowship) are creating an "occasion to exercise those graces."

John Piper, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, preached earlier this year a sermon,

"What Is the Recession For?" Among God's purposes he sees are:

1. *To expose hidden sin and so bring us to repentance and cleansing.*
2. *To wake us up to the constant and desperate condition of the developing world where there is always and only recession of the worst kind.*
3. *To relocate the roots of our joy in His grace rather than in our goods — in His mercy rather than our money, in His worth rather than our wealth.*
4. *To advance His saving mission in the world — the spread of the gospel and the growth of His church — precisely at a time when human resources are least able to support it. This is how he guards His glory.*
5. *To bring His church to care for its hurting members and to grow in the gift of love.*

As I say, such times call for more, not less, from us, and these things are accomplished by those living for the faith rather than dying for it.

Speaking of faithful service, Park Crest Baptist Church will host a special Retirement Sunday for Pastor Gary Grey, Sunday, May 17. Pastor Grey, who also serves as president of the BBFI, resigns the pulpit after 18 years at Park Crest, and after several decades of service to the Lord and to the Fellowship. Gary Grey will be available for preaching conferences and special meetings.

Be sure to come to the May Graduation Fellowship Meeting and greet Gary and Carla Grey as they embark on a new phase of ministry.



PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Gary Grey | President | Baptist Bible Fellowship International

The threefold cord

As leaders in organizations, we are always looking for analogies to help people understand the need for cooperation rather than competition. A young woman was giving a speech about this and said, “If my parents had believed in competition instead of cooperation, I wouldn’t even be here to speak to you today!”

The need for cooperation is even greater when one part of an organization is having some trouble during a time when resources are limited. The part of the organization having the worst time may be considered a lost cause or worse, even though in better times it was considered indispensable.

I think a good analogy for our present situation is a rope or a cord. Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, “And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ben Franklin said, just before signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776, “We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately.” Nothing could be more true regarding our Fellowship. Our Fellowship is like a threefold cord, hard to break as long as we “hang together,” but more easily broken if we view our work in piecemeal fashion.

In 1959, after a decade of growth, our Fellowship was going through some growing pains, and some issues threatened to unravel our threefold cord. *Tribune* Editor Keith Bassham has written and spoken on this, and the *Tribune* archives have the facts. President Art Wilson and the BBFI directors held regional meetings with pastors across the country in 1960, and the result was a new constitution which he presented in September.

According to the *Tribune* article reporting the meeting, Wilson said that the process led him and the directors to determine the true purpose of the Fellowship. Those purposes were:

1. To carry on unitedly a world missionary program for the purpose of reaching for Christ and training as many souls as is possible — hence our missions department.
2. To operate a training institution for prospective missionaries, pastors, and other Christian workers for the purpose of more perfectly equipping them in their God-called endeavor — hence our college department.
3. To participate in Fellowship meetings always and primarily for the express purposes of enhancing and advancing these two espoused causes and secondarily for edifying and strengthening each other through the preaching of the Word at such Fellowship meetings.

What Art Wilson described is something like a threefold cord, with everything depending upon everything else for success. The workers, pastors, and missionaries are trained by our colleges, and the churches send the students to the colleges for the training, and all of us meet, encourage, and raise funds with one another for these purposes.

But the idea behind the cord or rope is more than just a sense of togetherness. Rope making is one of the oldest technologies in the world. Long ago, our ancestors learned they could take smaller and weaker fibers from plants, weave and twist them together, and turn them into longer and stron-

ger strands for work. Today, the same principle works to build steel cables for bridges and skyscrapers.

Each of us, left to ourselves and our own local ministries, is somewhat weak and vulnerable when compared to our strength when we unite in fellowship. A very large church might be able to support a few missionaries on their own, but when your church and my church partner with thousands of others, we can send a multitude of missionaries and church planters to the field, and a host of students to our colleges.

And when our Fellowship departments — the Mission Office, Baptist Bible College, Boston Baptist College, National Church Planting Office, and the *Tribune* — are all healthy and well supported, our Fellowship is a strong cord as well.

There’s something else about ropes we need to think about. Ropes can be used for pulling, but not pushing. There is no room in our Fellowship for people to try to push things a certain way. You can’t push a rope. We all need to pull together, everyone taking a share of the load, hanging together.

I admit we have room for improvement, but now is not a time to give ground on any aspect of our Fellowship. We still have a commitment to the Great Commission and to biblical doctrine. Our generation has an opportunity to repeat the sacrifices and passion of our founders and past leaders. Let us respect our history and our calling as part of the Baptist Bible Fellowship.

I hope to see you all at the May Graduation Fellowship Week next month. Plan to be there. Attend the meetings. Participate in the May College Offering. Let’s keep the threefold cord strong for the next generation.

2009 May Fellowship and Homecoming Baptist Bible College **May 11-14**

Walk in the Light

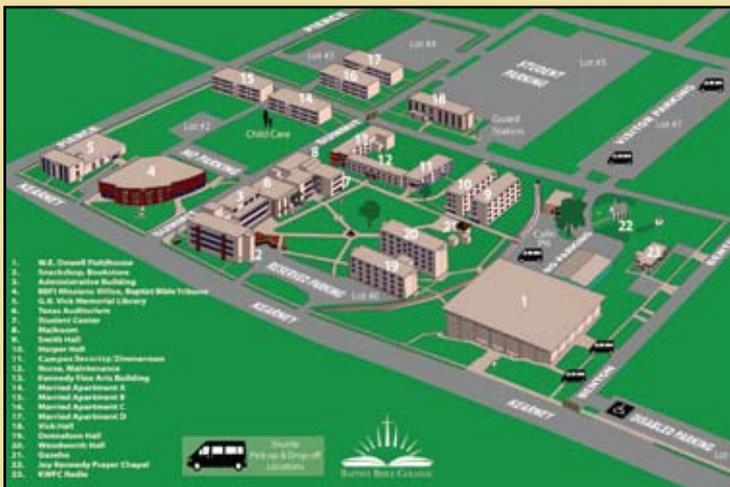
NEW THIS YEAR!

Find a complete list of hotels, reunions, and maps at www.gobbc.edu. Registration forms are also available for the week's activities. All services from Fellowship Week will be broadcast live at www.gobbc.edu.

Be sure to visit our website at www.gobbc.edu in order to download registration forms for child care, the golf Tournament at Branson Creek, or to sign-up for the various break-out Sessions taking place on Wednesday morning, May 13.

I hope that you will truly enjoy your time on campus. I look forward to seeing each of you as we collectively WALK IN THE LIGHT!

- Greg Corcoran
Lead Event Coordinator



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Monday – May 11

7:00 p.m. W.E. Dowell Fieldhouse

Opening Service

Speaker: *Jeff Love*

Tuesday – May 12

9:00 a.m. W.E. Dowell Fieldhouse

Morning Service (Missions Day)

Speaker: *Jon Konnerup, BBFI Mission Director*

Speaker: *Daniel Shayesteh, Exodus from Darkness*

12:00 p.m. R.O. Woodworth Dining Hall

Alumni Luncheon

2:30 p.m. Boonstra Chapel

BBFI National Directors Meeting

7:00 p.m. W.E. Dowell Fieldhouse

Evening Service

Speaker: *Gary Grey, BBFI President*

Wednesday – May 13

9:00 a.m. Baptist Bible College

Texas Auditorium

Room #217

Boland Recital Hall

Break-out Sessions

“What Happened to ABSOLUTE truth?” *Greg Christopher, Ph.D.*

“Engaging the Youth of a Postmodern World” *Jon Slayden*

“Talk Shows, Book Clubs, and Bible Studies: How they Affect Our Women’s Ministries” *Beth Atchison*

10:00 a.m. W.E. Dowell Fieldhouse

Pastors Q&A with BBC President

10:00 a.m. R.O. Woodworth Dining Hall

Ladies Reception

11:00 a.m. W.E. Dowell Fieldhouse

BBFI Business Meeting

7:00 p.m. Texas Auditorium

Local Area Youth Rally

7:00 p.m. W.E. Dowell Fieldhouse

Evening Service

Speaker: *Bill Dowell, Jr.*

Thursday – May 14

9:00 a.m. W.E. Dowell Fieldhouse

Commencement

Speaker: *Jack Eggar, President/CEO of AWANA*

1:30 p.m. Branson Creek Golf Club

Scholarship Golf Tournament



\$55 per person (includes 18 holes with cart, range balls, box lunch, and a “goodie bag”) Registration form online at www.gobbc.edu, just click on the “Walk in the Light” page. Church Sponsorships are also available (see forms online).

GUEST SPEAKERS



Jeff Love



Jon Konnerup



Daniel Shayesteh



Gary Grey



Bill Dowell, Jr.



Jack Eggar

REUNIONS

**Tuesday
May 12th**

1960 Reunion

7:30 a.m. - IHOP, 2647 N. Kansas Expressway, contact Branson Howard at (417) 865-1559 to RSVP

Alumni Luncheon (For ALL Alumni & Friends)

12:00 noon - R.O. Woodworth Dining Hall, \$15 per person or FREE with a \$25 annual membership card

**Wednesday
May 13th**

1959 (50th) Reunion

1:00 p.m. at Baptist Temple on N. Grant, contact Jorene Howard at (417) 865-1559 to RSVP

1964 (45th) Reunion

12:00 noon - R.O. Woodworth Dining Hall
Contact Bill Campbell at (713) 818-3471 to RSVP

1969 (40th) Reunion

12:30 p.m. - R.O. Woodworth Dining Hall, Presidential Dining Room (\$12), contact Bob Baird at bobbaird@suddenlink.net or (417) 840-9731 to RSVP

1970 (39th) Reunion

12:00 noon - R.O. Woodworth Dining Hall, contact Sue Garard at suegarard@aol.com or (417) 933-2053 to RSVP

1984 (25th) Reunion

12:00 noon - R.O. Woodworth Dining Hall, contact Rick Richards at pastorrich@cbcsvaz.org or (520) 458-8505 to RSVP

1999 (10th) Reunion

Contact Jon Slayden at jslayden@gobbc.edu

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

Child care will be offered for children 6 weeks to 4 years of age on the campus of Baptist Bible College on a first-come first-served basis. Contact: Lora Beth Walker @ (417) 268-6025



DIGRESSIONS

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

-Laurence Sterne

Rare painting found in church closet

When Rev. Steven Olson of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel, Minnesota found what looked like an old painting in a janitor's closet buried beneath a pile of reproductions, he consulted the Minneapolis Institute of Arts about how to preserve it. What Olson didn't know was that the painting was actually the original copy of "Christus Consolator" painted by Ary Scheffer in 1851.



Church records provided clues to the provenance of the piece and how it ended up at the church. When the painting was appraised at \$35,000, church officials decided the cost of insurance and security was too great to keep the painting at the church, so they donated it to the museum that helped uncover the mystery.

Source: Associated Press, 2009

Billy Graham's grandson to succeed D. James Kennedy

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Tullian Tchividjian, a 36-year-old grandson of Billy Graham, has been chosen as the successor to D. James Kennedy, founder and longtime pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, who died in 2007.

Tchividjian, son of Graham's daughter Gigi, attended Coral Ridge as a child and was enrolled in the church's school, Westminster Academy, until he dropped out at age 16 and embraced the party lifestyle of south Florida, according to a news release March 16.

At age 21, Tchividjian accepted Christ and then graduated from college and seminary with honors. He led a large Presbyterian church in Tennessee for two years before returning to Fort Lauderdale to start New City Presbyterian Church, which has grown to 650 people in just over five years.

Source: Erin Roach, ©Copyright 2009 Baptist Press.

LDS "Apostles" called Apostates — newspapers recalled for typo

The *Daily Universe* (newspaper of Brigham Young University) took the extraordinary step of recalling all its 18,500 copies from newsstands around campus and the community to reprint the entire 14-page issue due to a typographical error on the front page. A spelling error appeared in a photo caption in which the word "apostle" was rendered as "apostate." In referring to activities at the General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints last weekend, the caption read in part, "Members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostates and other general authorities raise their hands in a sustaining vote. . . ." Once the mistake was noticed, all available copies of the newspaper were removed from the racks and replaced with a sign directing students to view the paper online (where the error had been corrected).

Source: Matthew Deighton and Abram Jones, BYU NewsNet, April 6, 2009.



50 years ago...in the Baptist Bible Tribune

In the **NEWS of the WEEK**

MORNINGSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
A. Alvis Edmonson, Pastor
Fort Worth, Texas

To The Tribune:
 Rev. Alvis Edmonson came to Morningside Baptist church in October 1956. He graduated from Baptist Bible College in May of the same year. The church is entering its third year under his ministry. The average Sunday school attendance for the month of March was 292. The church contributes to the support of 23 missionaries on 13 fields, and gave 30.56 per cent of its total offerings to missions during the year 1958. It was close to \$7,000.

The enclosed photograph shows the pastor, Mr. Edmonson, presenting a check equivalent to \$700 to Rev. Lavon Waters, Fellowship missionary who is now endeavoring to open the field of Uruguay to the churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship. The Morningside church has made many gifts of this nature to various missionaries.

I was called as associate pastor in December of 1958. I am also a graduate of Baptist Bible College (58). Upon completion of my internship, I hope to be approved as a missionary to Old Mexico. It is a privilege to work with this great

missionary church not only in word, but in deed.
KENNETH LONG.
 Associate pastor.

Rev. Alvis Edmonson (left) and Missionary Lavon Waters.

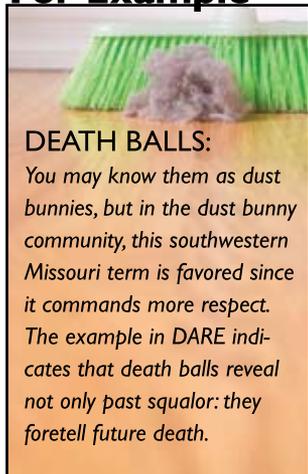
Story appeared in the May 8, 1959 edition of the *Tribune*.

American dictionary of regional dialects soon to be completed

Considering this project was the brainchild of the late Fred Cassidy, who started the project moving along in the 1960s, the practical aspects of such a dictionary have made it worth the wait. Inspired by Britain's *English Dialect Dictionary*, Cassidy assembled a team of 80 fieldworkers to comb the American countryside for regionally specific words used to describe the same

items (think soda vs. pop). The results? Only the most exhaustive look ever at regional language in America. *The Dictionary of American Regional English* (DARE) also provides in-depth historical usage

For Example



DEATH BALLS:

You may know them as dust bunnies, but in the dust bunny community, this southwestern Missouri term is favored since it commands more respect. The example in DARE indicates that death balls reveal not only past squalor: they foretell future death.

information and specific population maps where certain terms are used.

Although the project has lacked funding resources over the years, volumes for A through Sk were published as assembled starting in 1985, and the DARE team looks forward to wrapping up the entries for Z in time for a 2010 release.

The DARE project has already contributed some good to society even before its completion. "Forensic linguist Roger Shuy has used DARE a few times: as a tool in puzzling out the Unabomber's background and, later, in a kidnapping case when the kidnapper used *devil strip* in the ransom note. Turns out that term (one of the synonyms for *tree lawn*) is used mainly around Akron, Ohio, which helped investigators narrow their search.

Source: www.good.is blog by Mark Peters "Soda, Pop, or Coke? America's First Dictionary of Dialects" March 6, 2009.

Happy 27th! Welcome to old age!

Researchers at the University of Virginia have reported, after seven years of study, that mental capabilities for most adults begin to decline around the age of 27 after peaking at age 22.



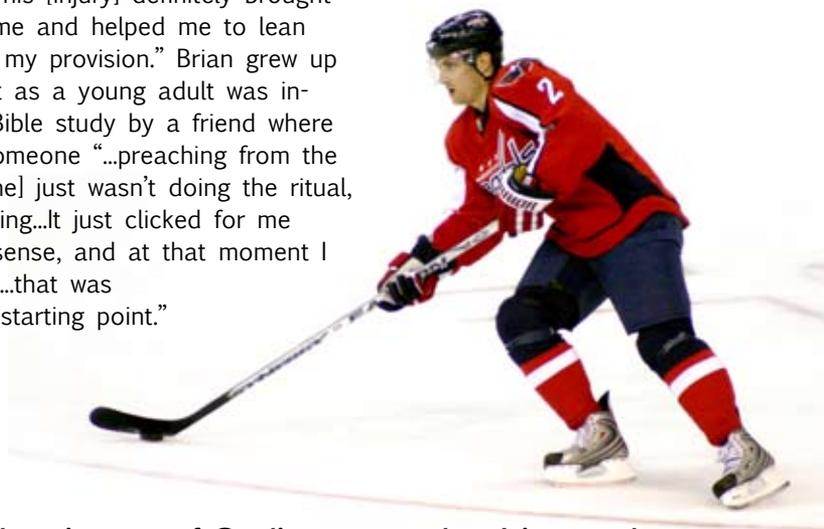
The study involved over 2,000 men and women ages 18-60 who had to solve visual puzzles, recall words and story details, and spot patterns in letters and symbols. By age 27, the study showed decline in areas of reasoning, speed of thought, and spatial visualization. The average age for noticeable memory decline was 37. On a positive note, the research showed that abilities based on accumulated knowledge such as vocabulary and general information, increase until an average age of 60.

Source: *The Daily Mail*, Science & Tech, March 15, 2009.

NHL player brings faith and new vision back to the ice in time for playoffs

When defenseman Brian Pothier of the Washington Capitals received the fourth concussion of his career during a game in January 2008, he understood the recovery would take time. But he was still dealing with symptoms and unable to return to hockey almost a year later, and doctors couldn't figure out why. Eventually it was determined that the concussion had caused an eye stigmatism — the real cause of his ongoing headaches and dizziness. A special pair of glasses corrected the stigmatism and he was able to return to the Capitals lineup on March 16, 2009.

Pothier says although his faith was tested by the ongoing injury, he realizes that "If everything's great all the time, you are never forced to persevere. This [injury] definitely brought that up in me and helped me to lean on God for my provision." Brian grew up Catholic but as a young adult was invited to a Bible study by a friend where he heard someone "...preaching from the Bible and [he] just wasn't doing the ritual, repetitive thing...It just clicked for me and made sense, and at that moment I wanted that...that was sort of the starting point."



...I feel like it's part of God's master plan. It's not always what we want. **If I got everything I wanted all the time I'd be an absolute knucklehead...**

Brian Pothier, on dealing with his injury

Sources: *The Washington Post* (On Faith section at www.newsweek.washingtonpost.com/onfaith) "What Does God Think About Hockey?" by Kathy Orton. Also reference ESPN.com, "Miracle' brings Pothier back to ice" by Pierre LeBrun.

Catie

A dream come true

This article is an excerpt from the book For the Least of These by Stacey Smith

Stacey, do you think you could take another child for us?" I recognized the voice on the phone. It was Melinda, the director of For His Children. There was an organization similar to what I had planned on establishing. Melinda and her husband, Clark were also American missionaries living in Ecuador who had begun a home for abandoned children. "I know you haven't gotten the government's approval yet," she continued. I turned and looked at 5 month old Paula blissfully moving back and forth in her swing.

We had been flying a bit under the radar with Paula. Because Precious Miracles had not been approved by the Ecuadorian government to operate as a foundation yet, I was technically not allowed to receive children in my home. But I had agreed to be a foster mother to Paula for "For His Children" and by doing so was not breaking any laws. "We have a little girl that needs some more one on one attention than we can give her," continued Melinda. "Catie is a child with special needs. She has cleft lip and palate."

Not knowing what that was but not wanting to sound ignorant, I readily agreed. I told Melinda I'd be at her place the next afternoon to meet little Catie, spend some time with her and then bring her home.

"I can do this," I convinced myself after hanging up the phone. "I can take care of two baby girls." In the months prior, I had started to interview women for the Precious Miracles'

staff, assuring them that as soon as the foundation was approved, I would call them. Just this week I had gone ahead with the training and orientation of a few of the ladies. It was an absolute act of faith, since I had received no indication that Precious Miracles was near its approval. After all, it had been 18 months since I had first submitted the paperwork. Wanting to be ready when the time came, however, I had requested that the ladies come to their day of training. The other half of the women would be here tomorrow to receive their orientation.

I planned my day out in my head. I would train the second group of

myself, "God really is amazing!"

The next day went as planned. I had a successful training in the morning and then put together a diaper bag for Paula. I wanted to be able to devote all my attention to Catie while at For His Children, so I left Paula with her favorite baby-sitter. When I arrived at my parents' house, my dad was waiting at the door with a big smile on his face.

"I have news for you," he said.

"What Dad? What is it?"

"On the 23rd of April, Precious Miracles received the final signature," he said.

"You're approved!"

Eighteen months after submit-

ting the papers requesting permission to run a home for abandoned children, and finally the day arrived where I had received the official acceptance. What a day today was turning out to be! My parents and I hugged and sniffled a bit, our eyes wet with emotion. It was finally happening. My dreams were coming true. I had a precious little girl who had stolen my heart, my second little girl was moments away from joining my family, and I had finally received the permission to help so many more children. I had no idea how many children it would be or how God was about to bless me.

With a big smile, I drove across town to For His Children to meet Catie. I was welcomed warmly by the staff there, and then led to her room. She was laying face down when I walked in. I was not prepared for what I was about to see when she turned around. The caregiver scooped her up and handed her to me and I caught my



women, drop Paula off at my mom's and then go pick up Catie. It was all falling perfectly into place. I figured I would proceed with hiring a couple ladies to trade off helping me during the day with my two girls. By nature I am a planner and extremely organized. I could not have planned the sequence of events more perfectly. I thought to

breath. This miniscule little baby had only one nostril. The rest of her nose and the left side of her lip were completely missing. Where her facial features should be, was just one gaping hole. She looked up at me and I looked down in her face and smiled. "Hi sweet baby," I said. The caregiver sensing my discomfort patiently explained Catie's condition to me.

"We have to feed her milk using a medicine dropper," she explained. Cat-

I can handle two."

My parents prayed with me, and we thanked God for the new miracle that had arrived in my home. This became a tradition with every child following Catie. After praying they hugged me tightly and assured me that with God's help, I did have the strength to complete the task in front of me, and then they were gone. I was alone with my two-month-old and my five-month-old.

ting nowhere!"

Catie looked up at me, and then as if she had understood my words, took a deep breath and stopped crying. I squeezed the milk in the medicine dropper again and tried once more. Soon I had the rhythm down, and she was feeling her tummy fill up. After almost an hour, she had her fill and was asleep in my arms. I leaned back in my chair and sighed. I closed my eyes and let my tense shoulders drop. As soon as I did, Paula who had been quietly sitting in a bouncy chair started to fuss.

"Oh my goodness," I said out loud. "I truly am not capable of this. I can't. I just can't." I laid Catie down in the playpen and went to pick up Paula. "Are you hungry?" I asked.

"Thanks for waiting to be hungry until your sister was done," I smiled at her. She smiled back.

I didn't get much sleep for the first few nights. I had help during the days, but I'd be alone at night. Admitting my limitations, I proceeded to hire staff for the nights as well.

As soon as I did, more children joined us. Our house was filling up rapidly. We would weigh Catie every day to see if she had gained an ounce. I knew that if her 10 week marker came around and she was not weighing the required 10 pounds, the surgeon

"My life has been forever changed by the smallest, the orphaned and the abandoned."

ie was eight weeks old and weighed seven pounds. "When she is 10 weeks old, if she weighs 10 pounds, they will do her first surgery to close up her mouth and fix her nose," continued the caregiver. I held little Catie in my arms and rocked her back and forth.

"I'll do my best," I whispered. "I'm not sure if I'm the best person to take care of you, but I can promise you that I'll try my hardest." I took Catie home and shortly afterward, my parents joined me with Paula. "I don't know if I can do this Mom!" I said. "I'm not sure

Feeding Catie did prove to be a very difficult task. By the time she got hungry, I could not get the milk in her little tummy fast enough to calm the hunger pangs. She would cry harder and this would only make it more complicated for her to swallow the milk. I tried to be patient and keep at it. But she was crying harder and harder by the second and the milk was coming out her nostril. Soon, I too was crying.

"Sweet baby, please stop." I cried. "I'm doing the best that I can. I need you to calm down because we're get-

Stacey Smith grew up as a child of BBFI missionaries Jim and Sharon Smith in Ecuador. After getting her Bachelor's of Science degree in Family Studies and Child Development from Arizona State University, she returned to Ecuador at the age of 22 to open a home for abandoned and orphaned children.

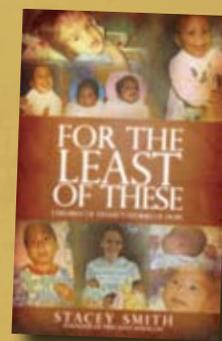


When she went to Ecuador to start a home for abandoned children in September of 2000, her goal never was to open an orphanage but rather a home. The main problem she witnessed at the already existing orphanages in the Quito area was the uneven ratio of swarms of children to few caregivers.

She chose not to take in a limitless number of children and maintained a 5:1 child to staff ratio around the clock.

Stacey wants to transition each child as soon as possible to his or her permanent family. The goal is not to raise the children until adulthood. Some of the children are returned back to their families of origin when the crisis that brought them to the home is solved, and others were united with an adoptive family. Some children were adopted in the country of Ecuador and some left to the U.S. or Europe.

There are only two homes in the Quito area that will take in abandoned or orphaned children that suffer from some form of disability. The way in which each child arrived at the home and in Stacey's life can only be described as miraculous. It was God's doing. The transformation that she witnessed with every one of the children was phenomenal. What each one survived, endured and tolerated is remarkable.



would postpone the operation. "Please get fat," I would tell her. It remained so difficult to feed her, and I was sure that she was burning up the calories as they entered her body because she would get so upset and aggravated.

The day of her surgery was fast approaching, and I took Catie to the pediatrician, Dr. Castillo. "Please weigh her first," I asked him. He obliged and she weighed 9.35 pounds. That was close enough!

Catie's operation was performed on the scheduled date in the doctor's office. I was surprised that it was not being done in a hospital operating room. It was also much quicker than I had anticipated. She came out with her little face covered in bandages, and it was an upsetting sight for me. For the first week after her surgery, one staff member had to hold Catie constantly. She was only able to breathe out of her mouth, and this was not natural for her. Whether she was awake or asleep, she was in someone's arms so we could make sure to keep her little mouth open.

Catie's recovery was difficult for all of us. It was very complicated for her to eat with the bandages covering her little face. We had to wrap her arms at her sides so she would not pull on or rip the bandages off. She was in a constant state of discomfort. One night as I was headed to bed, one of the caregivers came crying up the stairs. Catie was covered in blood. I rushed her to the nearest hospital. Some of her stitches had come loose, causing her mouth to hemorrhage. In less than an hour I was home again with a very tired little baby.

Catie continued to grow and thrive and develop into a healthy, well-adjusted baby. The day arrived in which I received the news that a family was ready to adopt their little girl. When Catie's parents arrived at Precious Miracles, they were awe-struck by their beautiful, bouncing baby girl. Catie would join an older sister who was thrilled and enamored with her new playmate. After spending some time

getting to know each other, Catie's mother turned to me and said, "We heard that you still have contact with Catie's birth mother. Is that true?"

"Yes," I answered.

"We would like to meet her. We think it's important when Catie is older and asks about her history, that we have as much information as possible to give to her."

"I'll arrange it right away," I assured them.

Meredith was surprised at my phone call. "It has been a long time," she started.

"Yes, Meredith, I know it has," I said, trying to maintain the calmness of my voice. The last time I had seen Meredith had been at her visit to my home. She had made three visits to see her daughter. On one occasion she asked me why I had started this foundation.

"What makes you love children that aren't your own?" she had asked. I took the opportunity to share God's love for us in sending us His Son. I explained to her that it was God's love through me that I had for these children. We prayed together and I gave her a Bible. I smiled at the beautiful memory of how God used Precious Miracles as a way for me to testify to His love.

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you." (1 Peter 3:15).

"How is Catie?" Meredith asked, returning my thoughts to the present.

"Catie is doing wonderfully, and I'm calling to let you know that her adoptive family is here in Ecuador and they requested meeting you. Are you up for that?"

There was a long pause and then Meredith said, "Totally! I'd love to see my baby's new family."

The afternoon arrived in which Catie's two families would meet. Catie was awake and happily sitting on her

new mother's lap. The proud family sat side by side on the couch.

I was seated in a chair nearby. Meredith entered the room, and I could feel the tension. She remained calm and poised as she saw her baby in the arms of another woman. They talked for a while. Meredith explained her situation and her reasons for choosing another life for her daughter. Catie's adoptive parents described the country they lived in and the life they led with their older daughter. I sat quietly in the chair fighting to keep my emotions controlled.

"This is what it's all about," I thought peacefully. This is the cycle I wanted to see when I dreamed up this foundation. What a beautiful thing to take a child with a grim future and turn that life around. To be able to give a family the joy of having a child when they are no longer able to do so biologically was an added bonus. The greatest joy of all was to know that one more person was on her way to heaven because of the work of Precious Miracles. "I could quit now," I thought, "and everything would be a success."

I led our small group in prayer. I prayed for Meredith as she was saying her final good byes to her daughter. I prayed for Catie and her new family as they embarked on their new journey together. Then, photos were taken and hugs were exchanged and soon that momentous day had concluded. Meredith went on her way. I never heard from her again. Catie went with her new family and a few days later, they were on a flight leaving Ecuador. I got back into my car and dabbed my eyes with a tissue. I laughed at the thought I had just had about quitting. "I really can't quit now," I thought. "I have six children waiting for me at home." And so I drove off towards home and my beautiful family that was waiting for me.

To order *For the Least of These*, contact stacey@preciousmiracles.org. Cost for the 256-page book is \$13.99.

How one woman made a big difference by Katherine Aven Goldman

My mother, Mildred Aven, was born Minnie Mildred Johnson, November 2, 1900, in very humble surroundings. Her father was an itinerant Methodist preacher/farmer, and was away from home most of the time as a circuit preacher, leaving the care of the family to my grandmother, whom he married when she was only 15 years old. There were seven children, including two invalid children, and the times were very hard, with the brothers having to drop out of school to work the farm. The girls all married young, hoping to find a better life.

My father married my mother when they were both in their late teens. He was a baseball player, and some minor league teams were interested in him, but the Texas oilfields were booming, offering much more money. He went to work as a rig-builder, taking his wife, young son, and baby daughter to Wichita Falls, Texas, to live.

John R. Rice was holding a three-month-long tent revival in Wichita Falls, and the first week in the city, my mother, carrying me in one arm and holding my brother by the hand, attended the revival the first night they were in Wichita Falls. When the invitation was given, with tears flowing down her face, she went forward to accept Christ as her Lord and Savior. She attended every night for those three months, and she became a passionate and fervent soul winner.

A short time later, the family moved to Tyler, Texas, and she joined a small Southern Baptist church, but she had a passionate desire to start a Fundamental Baptist church in Tyler like the one John Rice had started in Wichita Falls. Two other ladies joined with her, and they began teaching Bible classes in homes and winning souls to Christ.

Soon, what would become Central Baptist Church was started in a

small rented building, with a part-time pastor. My mother wanted a full-time pastor, so she drove to Fort Worth to the First Baptist Church, pastored by J. Frank Norris, and talked to Louis Entzminger, head of the Bible Baptist Seminary. He recommended a young student named John W. Rawlings, who became the first full-time pastor of Central Baptist Church in Tyler.

My mother was a fervent Bible student as well as a great Bible teacher, but her passion was always soul winning. At her funeral in 1954 (she died at the age of 54), many of those who passed by her casket stopped to say, "Thank you, Mrs. Aven, for knocking on my door and winning me to Christ." Tears flowed freely, not only from our family, but from many who were inspired to become soul winners too, just like Mildred Aven. My brother, Bill Aven, and his wife, Phylis, have and are now faithfully serving our Lord, pastoring several churches over the years.

Because of my mother, at 14 years of age, I played the piano for Brother Rawlings, who was holding tent revivals all over East Texas, starting at least one church every summer, until I was 17. When I was 17, I fell in love with a young man named Curtis Goldman who had just returned home from World War II, and we were married on March 28, 1946. Later, he surrendered to preach, attended Bible Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and we worked with Brother Rawlings in tent revivals in Center, Texas, and in Sulphur Springs, Texas. During the revival in 1948, my husband won

J. T. Hughes to Christ, and when his younger brother, Bob Hughes, came home from the navy, he joined Central Baptist Church in Center, where my husband became pastor in 1950.

Bob Hughes became one of the greatest missionaries of the 20th century, winning thousands of souls to Christ as he built the Bible Baptist Church in Cebu City, Philippines. Out of that work, scores of churches were started, and now, under the ministry of Armie Jesalva, hundreds of churches continue to

start and flourish.

In 1953, God took my husband and me to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where we started Temple Baptist Church, which grew to become the largest Baptist Bible Fellowship church in New Mexico. In the 50 years we were in Albuquerque, many young people were saved and called into ministries, including our own daughter, Sue, who is now married to Pastor Allen Garard. Also scores of military were saved and called to preach under our ministry in Temple Baptist, with many of them starting churches in America as well as in some foreign countries. All these things are due to the influence of one woman, Mildred Aven.

Our grandchildren and their families are all very active serving the Lord here in the USA as well as in Bagdad and Afghanistan. I ask, "Can one life make a difference?" As I pen these words, tears are once again flowing as I share with you the loving memory of my mother, one woman who really did make a great difference in the lives of many people around the world.



Mildred Aven

Cape Cod Church Has Seen Rapid Growth

FALMOUTH- Pastor Benjamin D. Feldott stood in an open field, looked into the dense woods just off Route 151, and imagined the future home of the Cape Cod Church.

Mr. Feldott had just finalized paperwork to purchase 10 acres between Currier Road and Plum Hollow Road, Hatchville, across the street from the Barnstable County Fairgrounds. The project will relocate Mr. Feldott and his congregation from their current location on Teaticket Highway.

Mr. Feldott pointed out the sloping topography and said he could see the church built right into the hillside. He said he could imagine quite a bit more, "In some ways, when I look (at the property) I see the youth ministry. I see open space, and ball fields, and outside events."

He paused and said, "I wish it were here today."

The Cape Cod Church has grown exponentially in a relatively short period of time. Mr. Feldott and his wife, Tammy J. Feldott, founded the church in 1992. They were newlyweds and he was 23 years old.

Their first service, he remembered, was held in the living room of their condominium with just the two of them making up the congregation. "We skipped the music, opened a Bible, and took an offering," he said.

The next week some friends drove down from Norton. The following week, more people came. A few months later, they rented the basement of the Bennett Plumbing building on Rose Morin Drive in Falmouth.

Five years after that they purchased a property on Teaticket Highway and held services there.

By 1999, they had outgrown the fa-

cilities again and constructed a new worship center, a 3,500-square-foot addition, where they currently hold services.

"We started to grow and we never stopped," Mr. Feldott said. Every Sunday, he said, about 600 people show up for three services, part of a congregation of about 1,000 people. The regulars are asked to park down the street at Falmouth Lumber, so there are parking spaces available to newcomers.

Mr. Feldott gave three reasons for their exponential growth: the music, the message, and the people.

The music is a group of about 20 musicians, including a brass section, called the Worship Team. They have professional quality audio and video equipment and a computerized lighting system.

Mr. Feldott does not participate in the music section. "All I play is the radio," he said. The music he leaves up to Alan Porter, a third-generation pastor, who began attending Cape Cod Church when he was stationed in the Coast Guard in 2001.

The message, Mr. Feldott said, is uniquely welcoming. He said even though the church is crowded there are always seats available. He said newcomers are witness to a vitality and joyful spirit. "Part of our mission is to inspire people to live fully for God," he said.

The people are ethnically diverse and come from a variety of backgrounds, said Mr. Feldott.

The average age of the congregation is just under 31 years old, including a large number of children.

As Mr. Feldott's congregation has grown, so has his family. He and his wife have three daughters and a son, Brittany, 14, Brianna, 12, Brooke, 8, and Cody, 4. The older girls attend Falmouth Academy. Mr. Feldott said, "We love Falmouth. It's a great place to raise a family."

The two older girls are among about 60 to 70 teens who meet on Thursday nights with youth pastor Josh Adams. The youth group is called Detour and also has its own band.

Mr. Feldott said the young people want to go to church on Thursday because the style of the service is appealing to their sensibilities.

"If we are talking in a language that no one understands, then we shouldn't be surprised that no one shows up," Mr. Feldott said.

He said they try to deal with both the lessons of the Bible and the issues of the day at Cape Cod Church.

Mr. Feldott said that someday he can imagine the church filled with 1,000 or 2,000 people. "The church is not only for the people who are here," he said, "It's for the people who are not yet here."

He hopes the church will be built in a style that reflects Cape Cod and also anchors the community, like the churches near the Village Green in Falmouth.

The 10 acres of land on Route 151 is in two parcels: one nearly eight acres, and another that includes frontage on Route 151, at just over two acres. The purchase price for both parcels is a total of \$670,000, Mr. Feldott said.

Asked why he chose Falmouth to start a church, he said, "I like the New England personality." He explained that he feels comfortable with the private and plainspoken qualities of his congregation.

Mr. Feldott said he plans on being the pastor of the Cape Cod Church for about 30 more years in its new location.

The last step in the journey, Mr. Feldott said, will be to sell their property at 805 Teaticket Highway, which is assessed at \$1.1 million.

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TRAINING LEADERS

WORLDWIDE





Pastoral Training, Worldwide

by James G. Smith | Associate Mission Director

The Baptist Bible Fellowship International recognizes the wide variety of ministry methods that are used around the world to fulfill the Great Commission. When it comes to evangelism, discipleship, pastoral training, and church planting, there are almost as many possible methods and processes as there are missionaries and pastors.

This was confirmed to us in a recent interview we conducted via email with several of our missionaries scattered throughout the world. We have included on these pages a sampling of the replies we received. We have some very thoughtful answers given in the midst of very busy ministries. We are thankful to all the missionaries who voluntarily participated in this e-dialogue.

We think our readers will find the variety is interesting by itself. But when one considers the incredible differences in cultural backdrops to our worldwide ministry, it becomes even more interesting to see the great similarities and the needed differences.

We are showcasing four of our global partners' ministries where the area of pastoral training has been especially successful or shows promise of forthcoming success. Working with about 450 missionary families, our readers will understand that we may not discuss your favorite missionary!

Let us begin by looking at the scripture that forms the basis of and motivation for pastoral training, worldwide.

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. [2 Timothy 2:1-2]

The ministry is not something we achieve. It is received. It is entrusted to us. At the same time, it is not to be kept

to ourselves. We are stewards of the spiritual treasure God has given us. It is our responsibility to guard the deposit and invest it in the lives of others. They, in turn, are to share the Word with the next generation of believers.

It probably goes without saying that the original treasure is from the actual Word of God. We should guard the deposit in the sense that we should not confuse the eternal Word with the ideas and philosophies of men. The proof of a man's ministry cannot be his popularity, his education, or his skill. He must be tested by his adherence to the Bible.

Paul begins on a tender and very personal note, "my son." It is not surprising that many of our missionaries have developed a father-son relationship with the men who have been brought into their care.

The text would indicate that it takes strength to teach the Word of God. We must dig out the treasure that may seem to be hidden. This strength can only come from God's grace.

The ability to study, understand and teach the Word of God is a gift of God's grace. Apt to teach is one of God's requirements for the pastor. Apt to teach implies apt to learn, so a steward must also be a diligent student of the Word of God. [W. Wiersbe The Bible Exposition Commentary, Volume 2]

A clear understanding of the Great Commission overwhelms us with responsibility. To fulfill that responsibility requires faithful obedience. To obey faithfully requires strength that is far beyond our own.

We must be "strong in the grace" that is found in our personal dynamic relationship with Christ. We depend on His grace. We constantly acknowledge His grace. Our source of strength is His grace! Based on that strength, we do the job of pastoral training, worldwide.

In verse two, we see that "commit" means "deposit" and it refers to the treasure of the Gospel that Paul committed to Timothy and which God had first committed to Paul.

This is why Paul calls the local church, the pillar and ground of the truth. God has deposited with His people the truth of the Word of God. It is our responsibility to guard this treasure and pass it on to others. The task of the local church is not to preserve the truth, as in a museum, but to live it and to teach it to the generations to come." [Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the NT.]

We do not believe in the idea of apostolic succession. But here we have a clear idea of gospel succession.

What we see is the transmission from the Lord to Paul, through supernatural revelation, and then from Paul to Timothy, possibly with an allusion to a solemn act of transmission in the presence of many witnesses. Then we see two further stages in transmission: from Timothy to other faithful people, who will be competent to teach others also. It is clear that there are four generations to this transmission. And of course, through the course of time, those generations have continued. We must be sure to continue, until we hear the trumpet, to entrust faithful men with the treasure of the gospel.

As you consider who committed or entrusted to you the responsibility of sharing the gospel, your gratitude is quickly accompanied by the responsibility of entrusting it to others as well.

The very purpose of our existence is to take the gospel to the next generation. So it is that all over the world we are searching for faithful people to whom we can entrust the amazing treasure of the gospel. We are also always looking for ways to improve our methods of entrusting, educating, and training.

Pastoral Training, Worldwide: Missionary Interview



GP: Please describe your approach to pastoral training in your ministry. Please give us some details on how your program works.

Jim Childress, Panama

We allow for formal training when possible. There are things to be learned beyond textbooks studies when in a group environment. We allow for one-on-one training as potential is recognized and a willing spirit of participation is manifested. We allow for our men to get needed experience by providing opportunities.

Tim Downs, Cote d'Ivoire

For years we had a formal, four-year program that met four days per week. Then we changed it to a "modular" program; offering each course in a two-week "seminar" format with a week off between courses. This approach left me with much more flexibility for other ministries. Now we have a modular program, but it is "mobile." When the war in Cote d'Ivoire started in 2002 it changed everything. Now we either

move the course to the Professor or we move the professor to the students. This has worked well providing an opportunity for the students to experience different church planting settings. It is still a four year program.

Max Harmon, Peru

We use a personal, one-on-one approach. I take the prospective pastor with me wherever I go.

Ed Hoagland, Mexico

We train our pastors by teaching them in our Bible college and giving them at the same time a place of ministry where they can exercise their gifts and abilities. Many times they will work with us in our main church on Sunday mornings and go out in the afternoons to start a new mission. Even after their graduation, we try to get them to give an account of their time and efforts.

Ron Minton, Ukraine

We established a Bible college the quality of the best American schools. We

have courses in five cities. Students go free — they pay only for class notes. We bring most professors from America.

Dan Moore, Singapore

In both Indonesia (our former field) and Singapore (our present field), we have had a church-sponsored Bible institute. We have tried different programs, including teaching in blocks and semesters. At present, we are using the semester method. Normally, we offer four courses each semester. This semester, because of the unexpected extension of our furlough, there are two courses being taught. Because most of our students are working, we have most of our classes at night, two hours per night, four nights per week. At times, we have day classes as the need arises and conditions permit. In Indonesia, because of the work (or lack of work) situation there, we had more day classes.

Lance Patterson, Kenya

We have a full-time Bible college that offers degrees from Louisiana Baptist

University. The curriculum includes 144 hours of academic training and a one-year internship in a Baptist church. When I was pastoring I had three interns working for me and I included them in every part of the worship service as well as teaching the youth and other Sunday school classes. I also took them to lunch one day a week to review what we were doing and give them practical training in areas that either I had not taught at the college, or that I had learned new things by way of experience. I did the same with two interns I worked with in the Philippines.

Steve Thornton, Argentina

In my church, it starts with one-on-one discipleship. We try to do one-on-one for one to two years. For those who are not called into the ministry, we have a Bible institute in our church where we teach about everything (doctrine, leadership courses, how to study the Bible, how to teach children, teens and adults...). For those called into full-time ministry, we have a Bible college. We put three years of classes into two years and then, for what would have been their fourth year, they do a two-year internship. The internship consists of the student giving 20 hours a week to the church outside of regular church services and activities. The men work alongside a pastor and the women alongside a pastor's wife.

Joe Wells, Ecuador

We encourage all men and women to enter into the institute for a diploma or BA degree. We find the ones that think they are called into the ministry and work with them while in the institute with on-the-job training.

GP: With pastoral and leadership training in mind, how would you advise young people preparing to do missionary work?

Tony Anzalone, Ecuador

Be willing to learn. Don't bring the model you were trained under as the only option. Join with and observe veteran missionaries. They are doing some things right that you will want to emulate, and they are doing other things that you won't want to repeat. Under-

stand that you must be an example of a servant first of all from the very day you set foot in the country, so practice now. Don't practice being an autocrat expecting everyone to do what you say because you are the North American missionary.

Ken Dowell, Nicaragua

Try to find a pastor who would be willing to train you. This could help you avoid mistakes and a lot of "wheel spinning." You will then be able to pass on what you learn to others.

Tim Downs, Cote d'Ivoire

Be the kind of person from whom more is caught than taught. It always comes down to who and what you are. Then, prepare with an eye on teaching this same material cross-culturally. Language is always integral to anything that we do in ministry. Master it!



Q & A

Dave Jones, Tanzania

Become a student of the culture before you launch into ministry. This goes deeper [but necessarily includes] mastering the language. Far too often we begin ministries based upon what we grew up with in our cultural context and with our limited understanding of what “worked for me.” As you study and learn the peculiarities of the culture, take time to observe the ministries of other missionaries and denominations. Much of what we do today evolved from our observations of culture and the ministries of others.

Wes Lane, Dominican Republic

Contact missionaries on that field before you go and try to get them to answer questions. Don’t try to re-invent the wheel or duplicate efforts of others un-necessarily. If you do want to have an institute, do a good job.

Greg Lyons, Philippines

Develop yourself intentionally as a leadership trainer. Take courses that will build your knowledge on leadership principles. Read, read, read everything you can get your hands on about leadership! Intentionally accept volunteer and vocational leadership positions to develop your skills as a leader. Get a mentor, someone you respect as a leader. Find a mentor who has demonstrated leadership skills in multiple areas, not just one position. Even better, find a leader who is a leadership multi-tasker, someone who takes on multiple leadership responsibilities with different settings, yet demonstrates incredible skill in all areas he/she leads in.

Ron Minton, Ukraine

Get a good seminary degree first. Work with good pastors, even if just as a member, before you become a missionary.

Brent Moeller, South Africa

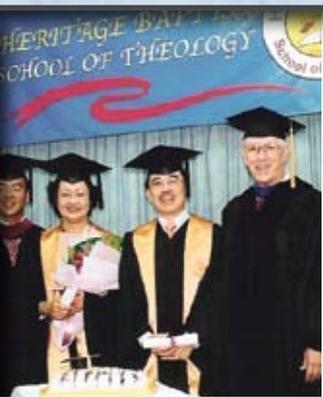
Screen your prospective leaders. They should go through certain levels of commitment before you are prepared to personally invest your time and energy in their lives. [This will save them countless disappointments and will also save their talent and energy for the cream.] Let the cream rise to the top, don’t just go on their words, let their actions speak. Be patient and don’t think this will be finished in three to four years. That is idealistic. Learn creative ways of making these studies live. Teach your leaders to dig gold for themselves. Don’t spoon-feed them.

Lance Patterson, Kenya

Understand two things: the first and second great commandments [Matthew 22:37-39]. Realize that you are doing this for the Lord and He must remain your first love and priority. Then don’t forget your purpose. You are going to run into problems with stubborn, illogical, selfish and uncaring people, and the only way you’re going to work through the problems is to prove to the local people that you love them. Do a survey trip and go to your mission field with open eyes. It’s not going to be like the United States and the sooner you realize it the quicker you’ll be able to adjust.

Randy Roberts, Costa Rica

I recommend that they talk very frankly with their pastor to make sure he is preparing them for the ministry. There is nothing wrong with cleaning toilets and setting up chairs. They have their place, but if that is all they are doing, find someone who wants to be a teacher in their life.



(continued)

GP: How could your supporters more specifically pray for you in this area of ministry?

Tony Anzalone, Ecuador

Pray as Jesus recommended, that the Lord of the harvest would send forth laborers. Pray for God's calling and power over his disciples. Pray for wisdom for me and other missionaries to understand that we are co-laborers, not the Holy Spirit, so that we do not direct pastoral training for the immediate results that we seek, rather for the long-term health and fruit of the work. May God be glorified and no one else.

Jim Childress, Panama

We need wisdom to recognize candidates that we can train. We need wisdom to personalize our training.

Ken Dowell, Nicaragua

We need discernment concerning our work of training. We desire to make a difference in the lives of our future leaders. We need to be able to perceive and address what is lacking in their understanding and ability.

Tim Downs, Cote d'Ivoire

The war has crippled us. We're down, but not out. However, with the loss of buildings, equipment, and mobility, we are struggling. Please pray that we will experience "full recovery" and regain our momentum.

Max Harmon, Peru

Pray that the men I have travelled with, worked with, trained, and am training would not fall morally.

Ed Hoagland, Mexico

I need to have wisdom and discernment, plus I need to prepare myself more to do a better job in preparing others.



Dave Jones, Tanzania

The greatest threat to the kingdom of darkness is an army of well-trained, dedicated leaders with the mind of Christ to serve. Consequently, our Bible school students and ministers in training are under constant spiritual attack. Some fail and some fall. Please pray, not so much for the ministry, but for the men and women whom God is raising up. These are the ones who will truly make an impact on their nation, long after the missionary has moved on.

Wes Lane, Dominican Republic

Before anything else I need the leading and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in the decision-making process. I need discernment when weeding out candidates. Training men takes time and money, neither of which I have sufficient amounts. Please send more money plus eight extra hours each day and two extra days each week. Or better yet, send more missionaries. They bring time and money with them.

Greg Lyons, Philippines

Remember the training side of the ministry in your prayers. Often, these efforts go unreported, because they are not the exciting aspects of ministry (at least while the leader is being developed). Understand that when a missionary reports the planting of a new church, the graduation of a student

in a Bible college, the launching of a new ministry, all that rests on pastoral/leadership training. Nothing "just happens!" Everything rises and falls on leadership. That is the real rubber-meets-the-road ministry that missionaries are doing every day around the world.

Dan Moore, Singapore

By asking the Lord to call more Singaporean men to be trained for leadership roles in the churches in Singapore and other countries in Southeast Asia.

Randy Roberts, Costa Rica

Pray for our health, our safety, and our needs.

Steve Thornton, Argentina

That God would raise up more workers here. That God would give us wisdom in knowing how to individually meet each person's needs (especially during the internship period). That God would give us more missionaries or pastors to start works here in Rosario who could also work closely with us in the Bible college.

Joe Wells, Ecuador

Pay more attention to your prayer letters. If you really want to know what a missionary is doing, put six months of his letters together and read them in order as they were sent to you. This will help you understand what he needs prayer for.

Leadership Training for Urban Asian Ministry by Greg Lyons

When I was preparing for ministry, the paradigm of training was “teach Biblical content and assume that leadership skills will follow.” Often I hear, “I was never taught that in Bible college!” That is a fair comment. In my experience, the education received was designed simply to equip a student in Biblical knowledge. There were no leadership courses, one homiletics course (not necessarily a communication skills course), and minimal people-management emphasis. However, I am sincerely grateful for the start of the training process!

Upon experiencing incredible struggles in ministry, I began to look for other training options. I secured my MBA, attended seminars on leadership, increased my reading level, and took other steps to equip myself for leadership. This led to the development of a

leadership continuum that we implement in Metro Manila.

There are three main components to our training process:

1. Discipleship/Biblical studies at Baptist Bible College Asia
2. Leadership Skills — done through seminars, meetings, reading requirements, college courses, etc.
3. Leadership Coaching — real-time coaching in leadership, experiential development, intensive training in church planting, evangelistic outreach, need-meeting community outreach, effective communication skills, etc.

The combination of clear Biblical training with leadership experience is a

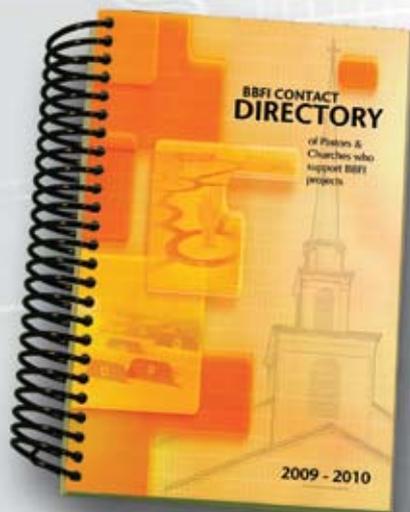
powerful process in developing a competent pastor. This process also serves in identifying potential church leaders and those who would better fit in the secular world, faithfully attending a local New Testament church.

We are focused on young, urban, Asian ministry for the following reasons:

1. After studying demographics and multiple forecasts of population migration, it became obvious that our world is moving to urban lifestyles.
2. Understanding the dynamics of youth prevalence in developing countries, we began adjusting ministry to that age group.
3. Finally, considering receptivity levels when compared to demographics, population movements, and the history of Christ followers, we concluded that our leadership development must be focused on young urban Asian leadership.

Our strategy is to become a conduit of information and leadership techniques. Creating a team with access to improved training systems has enabled us to parlay new leadership skills and ideas. The key to this process is intentionally passing on training and information. Connecting with individuals who will come to the field and do real-time training and coaching has helped our leaders grow and explore new approaches to ministry. By building a Biblical view of self-esteem, we can help our people see themselves as being led by a God who looks beyond ethnic, economic, and cultural barriers presented by man. Empowering leaders by trusting them, working with them as they make mistakes, and believing in them as they lead is a great step in the development of leadership in our ministry.

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Training Pastors in Tanzania by Dave Jones

Pastoral leadership training begins and ends in the local church. After observing the methods of other missionaries and groups, we determined that leadership training is best done in the local church context rather than in the institution of a residential Bible college. We have three main reasons for this strategy.

First, sending potential leaders and ministers to a residential Bible school takes the cream of the crop out of the local church.

Second, removing a man and/or woman from their home and livelihood and placing them in a residential facility for three to four years creates a huge problem of dependence. The church member becomes a student and the student becomes dependent on the Bible school funding for an unhealthy period of time. Even the attraction of a paid or subsidized education and training tends to attract men and women looking for an opportunity rather than responding to a call.

Third, graduates from a residential program seldom return to their local church, but look to the mission, missionary, or Bible school for direction in obtaining a position.

Class One, the Ministry Class

Our program begins with faithful men and women in their local churches who first complete a series of foundational

Bible lessons and memorization. Once completed, they may make application to become Bible school students of Class One, the Ministry Class. Accepted students meet regularly in their local church, are taught and mentored by church leaders, and are given Theological Education by Extension (T.E.E.) books

ministry, while receiving a foundational Bible education. Class One normally takes 2 years to complete.

Class Two, the Leadership Class

After completing Class One, the student receives a diploma and is allowed to apply for Class Two, the Leadership Class.

In Class Two, the student meets once a month



for a long weekend of teaching in an area local church, taught by one of our teaching staff. During the weekend of lectures,

and other assignments to complete at home. They are also required to fill out a monthly ministry report of their local church ministry that they do faithfully for a period of at least one year. This report is read, assessed, and commented on by their local church pastor or leader. This keeps the faithful church members in their local churches, doing

the student tests over material learned the previous month, is given assignments for home study the following month, and fellowships together with other Class Two students from churches in that local area. Again, students are required to report monthly on their local church ministry, but at this level they are required to be a leader of a

Pastoral Training on Ecuador's Pacific Coast by Tony Anzalone

ministry, reporting to their pastor. If the student is already leading a church at this point (as many are) then he reports on his ministry to the Bible school teacher or leadership.

Class Three, Formal Education

Class Three is in development. Only Leadership Class graduates actively serving in the ministry will be accepted into Class Three, where they will be taught in modules in a Bible school facility setting.



Currently we have nine missionaries and two Tanzanian men on our teaching staff. The teachers travel to six different branch locations throughout the country, where they meet with the Class Two students for a weekend of teaching and ministry. We have nearly 100 students in the program, 34 of whom are in the Leadership level.



The main difference between our approach and others we have seen is that students

remain in their local contexts and churches throughout their training, or until which time they are sent from their local churches to plant a church or do missionary ministry.

Our program keeps the student in the local church, under the observation of the leadership, serving and doing ministry faithfully for a period of five to eight years. Generally, only those who truly desire to serve and have a hunger for the Word of God and ministry endure the program. This helps reduce dependency and the ministry-as-a-job mindset.

Our current training program involves only one church in its infancy (or early childhood). It is an extension of our discipleship ministry to new believers and is a part of our overall philosophy of ministry. We have five general steps in mind in our program.

1. We are seeing that early discipleship will result in commitment, baptism, growth, and participation. Those who respond positively are encouraged with more opportunities.

2. More intensive biblical instruction is available to everyone in group Bible studies. On Thursday nights, we use simple workbook-type courses with grades and tests. People in this group are given practical ministry opportunities, and with proper response and fruit may become leaders in those ministries. This has included preaching and teaching in the church services, at our missions in other towns, and in home studies.

3. People who have shown servant-leadership attitudes and application of the knowledge they received are now involved in a ministry leadership team that gives us an opportunity

for mentoring and team building. Some of the men are now entering a deacon-training phase.

4. Right now we are entering this step with one man. Ministry leaders who have completed a basic set of 12 subject areas on Thursday nights will move into a phase where studies will be more practical, individualized, and geared to their ministry opportunities. They will be analyzing their calling and gifts for ministry.

5. I envision the development of a team of pastors, servant/leaders from among the disciples doing pastoral ministry and multiplication of themselves (evangelism and discipleship) as well as of our congregation (missions). I believe we are on a good track.

I have learned a lot from the senior missionaries in my country who have been gracious enough to let me work with them in pastoral training. The results are mixed, mostly because pastoral training is one thing, and the calling and enabling of God is another thing.



The Promise of E-Learning by Sam Masters

Faithful obedience to the Great Commission requires more than simple evangelism. The New Testament makes it clear that missions involves the perpetuation of the church as an institution and the training of leaders for that purpose. Paul sums it up in 2 Timothy 2:2, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

Modern missionaries struggle to find the most effective way of fulfilling this purpose. Models include one-on-one mentoring and training, smaller local Bible institutes, and in some cases larger institutions that serve an entire region or country. The task is often wearisome as the missionary deals with a heavy workload and limited resources.

Computer technology has remove barriers that once stood and allowed students to receive quality theological education. For the last four years, we have been making a serious effort to apply e-learning technology to theological educa-

tion in Cordoba, Argentina. Seminario Biblico William Carey originally grew out of meetings sponsored by Rudy Johnson in Cusco, Peru. By trial and error we have moved towards what we feel is a promising education model.

The variety of technologies has forced educators to assimilate new methodologies. The key benefit is the ability to link gifted professors with students scattered around the world. As a result, the burden for local leaders is lighter, the quality of instruction is higher, and the student is not required

to leave his home church. He is able to immediately apply what he learns in actual ministry and his home church receives the benefits.

Seminario Carey has attempted to apply four major technologies: web conferencing tools like Adobe Connect™, course management platforms like Moodle™, videos hosted on Google™ and others, and social networking tools running the gamut from simple email groups to Facebook™. While these tools are becoming more and more user friendly, effective application

we have had failures and success. For example, we offered a class taught by a professor from Spain using Adobe webcasting technology. We had around 40 students in locations in Peru, the U.S., and Argentina. Our students here in Cordoba had a great experience, but



and integration requires a considerable amount of persistence.

The heart of the system is the course management program. Platforms like Blackboard™ serve as a virtual syllabus. Assignments are posted. Files can be uploaded such as maps, text files, images, PowerPoint™ presentations, and videos. The system hosts quizzes and exams online which can be automatically graded. We have been using Moodle™ which is a well-developed open-source platform.

In the initial experimental phase,

a group of students in a smaller town in our province were greatly frustrated because of the lack of required bandwidth.

At this point, we are concentrating on filming courses to be hosted online. This will allow for asynchronous instruction which provides the benefit of flexible scheduling. For example, rather than have set class times, students can access course material at any time at home or in a study center set up at the church. Students can maintain constant contact with instructors, tutors, and other students through the internet.

And they can meet once a week face to face with a local mentor.

While technology can provide useful tools, it cannot stand alone. Paul's model involved the transmission of doctrine by leaders of godly character to apprentices with similar qualities. The



machine cannot replace faithful men. As a result, the task involves more than the application of the latest gadgets. A network of mentors and professors must be brought together by a common vision; and they must be trained to make the most of the technology.

We hope to open full enrollment to students across Latin America in early 2010. Soon after, we would like to launch a consortium to provide our technological package to missionaries working in other languages.

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Training Leaders by Jon Kannerup | BBFI Mission Director



The purpose of the Great Commission is very direct — it is the command to make disciples of all nations. Jesus makes it clear that a disciple is one who turns to the Lord in repentance and faith and openly and publicly identifies with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Part of the task of making disciples is teaching obedience to what Jesus commanded regarding how one is to live. This obedience should lead to service. These disciples are then used by God as leaders in His work around the world.

Evangelizing, baptizing and teaching is how each church is to fulfill the Great Commission. Ralph Winters made the statement,

“Evangelism is the church growing where it is. Missions is the church growing where it isn’t.” Missionaries are sent by churches to the regions beyond to extend the church in its purpose to make disciples of all nations. I have learned it is disciples who will multiply my witness, win others to

Christ, start new churches, and extend the gospel beyond what I could ever do. Converts grow churches; but disciples change the world.

Hopefully these disciples will become the spiritual leaders and will follow up with the work that our missionaries have started. Training national leaders is a key to any church planting movement in any country. This

was understood and practiced with the apostles in the New Testament. Acts 14 gives a clear picture of this happening on Paul’s first missionary journey. The principles he operated by are principles we need to apply today.

And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.
Acts 14:23

Paul concentrated first on organizing local churches. There he would ground the believers in the Word of

and encouragement, and often sent representatives like Timothy and Titus to guide the new church for a time.

This should be the role of the modern missionary. We are to concentrate first on church planting. Once people are saved and baptized, the training process begins. In some places, this is done on a one-to-one basis or in a classroom setting of a Bible institute or college. Leaders are chosen by the Holy Spirit and then mentored by the missionary. These national leaders then continue the process with their own

churches. These pastors work alongside the missionary while leading their church to start other churches. The missionary begins the process all over again and/or takes on the role of mentor filling a very important role in that church planting movement.

In this issue of *Global Partners*, missionaries shared how important it is to



God making disciples of Jesus Christ. From these disciples he would find the faithful and committed and begin to train leaders in these local churches. Those who had grown spiritually and had been chosen by the Holy Spirit were recognized and ordained as local leaders. The missionary team, particularly Paul, remained in contact with the new churches. He sent letters of instruction

train leaders and the processes they use. We have seen how different methods can accomplish the same purpose, enhancing the efforts to reach our world with the gospel. I trust pastors and churches have found it refreshing to see how their support is being utilized and missionaries have gained insight and some fresh ideas on how they may fulfill this vital aspect of their ministry.



Charles Lyons, Pastor
Armitage Baptist Church
Chicago, Illinois

Loren Richmond: '74 BBC Grad, '09 Urban Warrior

L **Yons:** They call it Blood Hill?
Richmond: It's an apartment complex about a half mile from where our church meets, so called because of its reputation for violence.

L: And you've been winning souls in Blood Hill?

R: Several years ago, I started driving food around on Fridays, giving it away in the complex. One day a woman and her boyfriend said, "Yes, pick us up Sunday." Well, I'd heard that a thousand times. I didn't call Saturday to confirm. The next Friday, I encountered them again. They wanted to know why I didn't come and pick them up. We started picking them up and soon they came to Christ. Then the lady's brother, who was the building superintendent, and his girlfriend, trusted Christ. With some spiritual growth, we were able to marry them, their four kids being witnesses. Then a new superintendent and his girlfriend got saved and we're walking them toward marriage right now. Thirty-three people have come to church from Blood Hill with a number of them trusting Christ.

L: So is that one of the primary ways you reach new people?

R: Yep, they hear about our food bank.

L: It sounds like your ministry is hope wrapped in tragedy.

R: Last summer, as we held outreach events, we had fights in our parking lot nearly every night. One 14-year-old boy, Cameron, beat up another boy on the first night he came. Then he got saved and started coming to church. In September, he moved back to L.A. We learned just a few weeks ago he was

shot and killed by another 16-year-old who wanted his iPod.

Loren Richmond and his make-it-happen wife, Kathleen, have been in East Denver since 1998. They started with some Bible studies in the YMCA. They asked the officials if they could do a dinner for the homeless. After three of these Thanksgiving dinners, they started thinking about planting a church.

In 2000, they began meeting in a home. In 2001, they began using the Y. The Y told them they could meet the first month for free.

The Y closed six and a half years ago. The church pays month to month and lives with the perpetual "For Sale" sign over their door. At one point they had no power for four weeks. For months they had to carry water in buckets to flush the toilets. But week after week, month after month, the ethnically-mixed community, with some who are doing well and many who are not, including the homeless, know that East Denver Bible Baptist is the church that cares. The congregation has some Hispanics, a few whites, but is mostly African American, averaging about 80 people. On any given Sunday, there are bound to be some in the congregation who are days away from eviction.

Last year, the church averaged about \$500 a week in offerings. Loren works the graveyard shift on a full-time security job, then works 10 hours a week at different schools as coach and referee. He doesn't take any personal support from the church. Recognizing the missionary reality of this work, several churches provide either regular support to the church or significant help for its various projects.

Richmond finds a way to maximize all relationships for the gospel's sake. Last summer, the Lord led him to contact Costco about picking up free bread. He was able to pick up bread four days a week. He took that bread to the Transportation Department workers and other staff for Littleton and Sheridan public schools. That gave him the opportunity to ask them to donate food for their Thanksgiving outreach. As a result, the Transportation Department donated 43 turkeys. Richmond's church was able to serve 700 meals with a record attendance of 210 on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. In addition, they gave out 150 food boxes with a turkey or certificate to purchase one. He gets the volunteers to come to the outreach so they hear the gospel as he shares it with those who are there to enjoy the food. He has solicited several public schools to participate in some of their projects with donations.

This June, East Denver Bible Baptist Church celebrates their eighth anniversary. Serving as selflessly as any foreign missionary, the Richmonds are doing important work in an "impossible place." God may lead you to get in on this great venture. Loren asks us to please pray for:

- Grace in the face of uncertainty related to their meeting site. As I write this, the water is off again.
- Continuing manifestation of the power of the gospel to transform lives
- Support for upcoming evangelism projects
- Sports Camp 7/15-17
- Neighborhood Bible Times 7/26-30
- Back to School Outreach
- Thanksgiving Outreach 11/21-22



World Scope

Jon Konnerup | BBFI Mission Director



Light in dark times

If you watch any world newscasts, you will see that our entire world is living in dark times financially, physically, and spiritually. Some people wash themselves in a “holy river” thinking the water will wash away their sins. Others cremate their dead on piers of wood and sprinkle the ashes in a river in hopes of endless reincarnations that bring a hope of enlightenment. It is hard to watch the hopelessness on their faces as many worship and give sacrifices to lifeless idols, pray five times a day to one who provides no assurance of eternal hope, and to see such devotion and commitment to false gods. Burning incense, clanging bells to obtain a god’s attention, turning prayer wheels, sprinkling holy water, and kissing shrines all testify to the darkness and hopelessness of people without Jesus Christ.

The Bible describes this as dwelling in darkness. That appears condescending to those who think they are enlightened and grasp the way of truth. It seems arrogant to those who think that all religious rituals and beliefs are just different roads leading to the same god. It offends those with postmodern attitudes that contend there are no absolutes.

This darkness is simply the absence of light. Since Jesus is the light of the world, then where there is no knowledge of Jesus the people are in darkness. This is not something Christians made up. It was Jesus himself who said in John 8:12: “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

One new believer in a foreign

country said, “When you are born in the dark and live your entire life in darkness, you don’t even know what light is.” That is true for most people in the world. They believe in millions of gods and live in fear and desperation to appease the spirits lest they be harmed or punished. There is no love, no peace, no assurance, no praise, nothing but darkness.

With our current economic times, people are more desperate than ever. Having their hope and faith shattered in their 401k, investments, homes, cars, jobs, and governments, people are reaching out for something or someone who can bring that peace and meaning to their lives. This is true for most people, as almost every country has felt the effects of the current crisis. These are dark times!

However, the simple truth is that the presence of light dispels the darkness. That is why Jesus said to his followers (you and me), in Matthew 5:14-16, that we are to shine the light within us (Jesus) to overcome the darkness. Right now is our greatest opportunity to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to those struggling, tripping, and falling in the dark trying to find their way. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life that our world needs.

It would be a total distortion to say that the missionaries are the ones who have the sole responsibility of taking the light to a world in darkness. All of us who have come to the Light and know Jesus have the same, equal responsibility. While our missionaries go, we need to be on our knees praying for power and boldness upon them. We must continue to give because now is

the time people are searching and the laborers need to be in the fields ready to share the love, peace, and light of Jesus Christ.

The good news of the gospel is what will cause the light to shine in the midst of the darkness. It is expressed so well in a song we sing:

*We’ve a story to tell to the nations,
that shall turn their hearts to the right,*

*A story of truth and mercy, a story of
peace and light.*

*For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright.*

*And Christ’s great kingdom shall come
to earth, the kingdom of love and
light.*

All over the world, darkness is turning to dawning as unreached people are hearing the gospel for the first time. One Chinese lady said, “Bring doctors and nurses to help my people, but more importantly bring your Story.” Others, like in Vietnam, are now hearing the gospel for the first time.

In some places, the dawning is turning to noonday bright. Places such as the Philippines, who saw the light years ago through our missionaries, are now reaching out to our dark world with the Light.

We can’t hold back, give in, or quit now, for this is the time to shine our light brighter than ever before, believing what Jesus said in John 12:46: “I am come as a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”



Riverside launches with 51 in attendance

Months of preparation and prayer culminated in a successful church launch service for Riverside Baptist Church in Kankakee, Illinois, on Sunday, April 5. The church, led by NCPO Candidate School alumnus Ben Seyden, has been having Bible studies since November 2008. Their three-stage outreach strategy targeted 3,500 homes in West Kankakee. The first and second stage involved hand-delivering a postcard and then a tract invitation for the first service and Easter service to every home in the area.

During spring break, youth groups from Baptist Temple of Springfield, Missouri, and Grace Baptist Church of St. Charles, Missouri, helped complete the third stage of Riverside's outreach strategy. They passed out Easter eggs full of candy and invitations to attend the first service. The groups were then treated to a day experiencing downtown Chicago. "We would never have met our outreach goal without those wonderful teenagers and their leaders," said Pastor Ben Seyden.

April 5 was a cold, rainy day. However, this didn't deter the 51 individuals who attended the day's events and festivities. Each person in attendance was entered into a drawing for a variety of prizes. The group was also treated to lunch immediately following the morning service. Seyden stated, "We were so encouraged by the Lord's goodness to us on our big day. God is at work in Kankakee, and we are thrilled to be a part of what He is doing." Each visitor was personally followed up by Seyden and his wife, Jessica.

Riverside Baptist Church is a plant ministry of Sauk Trail Baptist Temple, Richton Park, Illinois. Pastor Bruce Humbert led his church to purchase the 20,000-square-foot church building with a 280-seat auditorium,

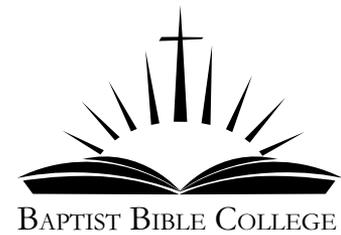


and asked Ben Seyden to pastor the new work in the spring of 2008.

The Seydens have been supported by churches throughout America. They are truly thankful for the partners in their ministry who have taken them to almost 90 percent of their support goal. If you would like to stand with this new ministry, please contact the NCPO today at 417-889-1017 or by email at bbfincpo@aol.com.

NCPO Candidate School – Winter Haven Baptist Church – Winter Haven, Florida- April 27-May 1.





From the trustees of Baptist Bible College

Editor's note – In the place of President Jim Edge's regular column, Baptist Bible College Trustee Chairman Vic Bledsoe is writing the BBC column in this issue on behalf of the trustees.

On behalf of the trustees of BBC, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support as we train men and women who have been called into full-time Christian service.

As we said in a thank you note to our supporting pastors in February, we recognize that with the proliferation of Bible colleges, you have several options as to whom you will partner with in the training of the next generation of servants.

By the time you read this article, you should have received a request to become part of our college May offering. Without a doubt, these are very difficult times for our college. We have had the reputation of having ongoing financial distress since BBC was started. It should come as no surprise that we are here again.

Since becoming trustees, we have learned a few new vocabulary words beginning with "fiduciary." Webster says this is the person who "stands in a special relation of trust, confidence, or responsibility in his obligations to others."

We do not take our responsibility to the pastors of Baptist Bible Fellowship for granted, nor do we intend to minimize the necessity of fulfilling our duty to our friends. While it is our fiduciary responsibility, we are partners with our president, Jim Edge, who has been given the responsibility to oversee BBC. This is an enormous task our

president has been assigned to accomplish. The trustees are partners with him as he endeavors to lead our college through some very difficult times.

While we can sympathize with the work ahead, many of us can scarcely wrap our brain around the enormity of

you have implemented. ...you definitely have the college moving in the right direction...."

More people should know about these measures. It is no secret that we missed an opportunity during the February meeting in Houston to build some

"You have inherited a multifaceted challenge: poor economic trends, decreased investment values, enrollment decline, significant debt, depreciated capital assets.... I commend you for the significant organizational changes and efficiency measures you have implemented. ... you definitely have the college moving in the right direction...."

*Letter to Jim Edge from
Bob Hammerschmidt, President
Commerce Bank*

the challenge facing our president. A letter from Bob Hammerschmidt, the president of Commerce Bank in Springfield, Missouri, to the college might be helpful in understanding some of the difficulty. Commerce Bank handles the accounts for the Baptist Bible Fellowship Mission office, the *Tribune*, and the NCPO.

Writing to Jim, Mr. Hammerschmidt said, "You have inherited a multifaceted challenge: poor economic trends, decreased investment values, enrollment decline, significant debt, depreciated capital assets.... I commend you for the significant organizational changes and efficiency measures

bridges and answer relevant questions. This was not intentional; however, the result of not having that session led to some frustration and misunderstanding among several of our pastors.

When we make a mistake we should admit it quickly and emphatically. Therefore we would like to invite you to a question and answer session that will be held on the campus of BBC Wednesday, May 13, at 10:00 a.m. President Edge will be leading the meeting, and of course the trustees will be present to help with information and answer any questions you might have.

Pray as we do our very best to serve you and Baptist Bible College.



A missed opportunity

I had this vision of a great column. There I was, sitting out alongside the Aegean Sea — the ruins of Ancient Ephesus over my shoulder, dozens of thoughtful Boston Baptist College students off in the distance thinking deep biblical thoughts, and inspiring sentences flowing from my fingers. Maybe this article might one day be put in the *Tribune* Hall of Fame!

Okay, so now I have egg on my face. I missed last month's *Tribune* deadline. In case you had not noticed (thanks, Mom, for noticing!) there was no "View from Boston" in the last edition. The staff at the *Tribune* is always great and patient, despite the fact that I'm pretty sure my articles are never the first submissions for any issue. And my office tried to help me, too. But there I was, halfway around the world on a study trip with about 80 Boston students, with little quiet, with a satellite phone that was not receiving incoming calls, and due to unforeseen circumstances, separated from the only computer in the group.

I did write, the old-fashioned way, on a legal pad. But by the time it finally got ready to be faxed, it was too late. Opportunity gone. I'm sorry. It has been a good learning moment for me. Opportunities are gifts.

That is what I keep telling prospective students for Boston Baptist College. Just last night I spent an hour talking to a very fine young student that I hope joins our college family this fall. Opportunities are gifts...tear them open!

I know, from all the news right now, "opportunity" is hardly an over-used word. Last week, I sat in a meet-

ing of Massachusetts college presidents. Applications to expensive private colleges are down — parents just can't swing the financing this year. Applications to state universities are through the roof. So much so, that in our state almost a third of those applicants to state universities will be declined! There just is no room. Frustration is out there everywhere. And it probably is also in our churches, in good families who thought they had plans in place to help finance their children's higher education, in youth groups where seniors are wondering if college is even possible any more.

Think Boston. Think opportunity. We deliberately chose last fall to make a full-court press to raise scholarship money. Pastors and churches, even in this economy, continue to be amazingly generous in our Boston Surge offering, sharing the vision that tomorrow's church leaders must get their education. We simply will not be distracted or detoured...our young people with a heart for God are going to have a great opportunity for Christian education in Boston.

I'm watching an amazing response. We have more inquiries, more applications, more acceptance letters, and in just a few weeks, more scholarship money to distribute than ever before. That is opportunity. And it is not being missed. We are talking with young people all the time. And the summer should be even busier.

Let me just tell you that if trends continue, the frustration will grow with the rising temperatures. Financing options are limited, higher education budgets are being slashed, lots of doors are closing. It reminds me of look-

ing for an English speaker with a fax machine in Kusadasi, Turkey! Frustration. No transmission. *Tribune* article not delivered. Opportunity missed.

I learned my lesson. Boston won't miss the opportunity for this fall. I say again, if you know young people who have a heart for the Lord Jesus and His work, we are ready and able to help them find a way. Boston means "opportunity" this fall — call 1-888-235-2014, email us, yell out the window, do something!

Just got a letter from a mom in one of our churches. She read one of my articles. She described her daughter to me, and then told me of some difficulties the family is having right now. The Boston response — a young woman who has been serving the Lord and wants to learn how to do it better — there has to be a way. That young woman is not staying at home. Together we're going to get her a Bible college education. Period.

It is embarrassing to miss a *Tribune* deadline. Even though I had great intentions, I should have known that our study trips are amazing, even life-changing experiences for our students, but peaceful literary sessions they are not. Opportunity missed. Sorry. Really, sorry.

But the opportunity to help young Christian leaders grow to full spiritual potential is something altogether different. That opportunity is priceless. Please, help us meet young people who want and need this opportunity. We won't miss this phone call; we won't leave any stone unturned. Great dreams must be delivered. I said that Boston Baptist College means "opportunity." We're ready to prove it.

Lady Patriots complete successful season

Springfield, MO

The Baptist Bible College Lady Patriots basketball team and their coach, Dave Drury, recently completed a record-breaking season. Their 17 wins were the most ever by a Lady Patriot squad, and their appearance at the NCCAA tournament was the first for a BBC team in over 10 years. Several players were recognized for their accomplishments at the regional and national tournaments. Brittney Jones and Kassie Limke were named Central Region Honorable

Mention, Hailee Norwine was selected to the Central Region Second Team, Meagan Bushyhead was named to the

All Region First Team, and Chelsea Hughes was chosen as the Central Region Player of the Year. At the national tournament awards banquet, Meagan was named to the All-American Honorable Mention Team and Chelsea was selected to the All-American First Team.

Coach Drury is already looking forward to next season, as several players have committed to attend BBC and become a Lady Patriot. For more information about the athletic program at BBC, visit gobbc.edu or call 417-268-6038.



Pictured left to right, top to bottom: Angie Olsen, Shaneika Polk, Chelsea Hughes, Coach Dave Drury, Hailee Norwine, Ariel Stoneman, Meagan Bushyhead, Brittney Jones, Kassie Limke, Assistant Coach Hazel Grossman.

BBC hosts homeschoolers basketball tournament

Springfield, MO

Baptist Bible College was selected as one of 25 hosts for the National Christian Homeschool Basketball Championship March 16-20. The tournament, one of the largest basketball tournaments in the nation with 340 participating teams, offered BBC an opportunity for exposure to hundreds of college-bound students.

Among those in the tournament was an Oklahoma program boosted by Tulsa area pastor Paul Foster. Foster is president of the Northeast Oklahoma Association of Homeschools whose sponsored team is known as the NOAH Jaguars. NOAH is the largest homeschool sports program in America with about 500 athletes, offering 11 different sports from tackle football to ultimate frisbee.

Foster, who is pastor of RiverWest Baptist Church in Jenks, Oklahoma, arranged with BBC Student Dean Ray Adams to house the Jaguars in one of the college dormitories. Foster said, "Not only is NOAH able to see our school, but 7,000 other kids from across America who are looking for a Bible college to attend."

NOAH's 150 players and their families stayed the week in the Vick dorm, ate in the cafeteria, and mingled with the BBC students. Foster reports, "What a blessing this was. The parents and kids asked a lot of questions about BBC and were impressed with the kindness and generosity of the college."

According to Foster, NOAH has earned the respect

of sports programs in Oklahoma from private schools to public schools. This year's schedules included the 6A Memorial Charges, a nationally ranked powerhouse in basketball, as well as other public schools from 6A-2A. The NOAH games and stats are reported in area media outlets, which Foster says, "... is quite impressive for a coaching staff made up of volunteers."

The National Christian Homeschool Basketball Championship was founded in 1991. The first tournament was played in March of 1992 in San Antonio, Texas.

Paul Foster assisted in writing this story.



Two NOAH (Oklahoma) Jaguars defend during a game played at the W. E. Dowell Fieldhouse at Baptist Bible College.

Life of Christ in 3D for Boston Baptist students

Boston, MA

Fifteen Boston Baptist College students participated in this year's spring break study trip to Israel February 6 through March 5. The goal was for the students to experience the ministry of Christ on location, investigating 32 different sites. The students had 1,000 pages of required reading, response papers, and many classroom hours of instruction prior to the trip. Upperclassmen also had to address biblical issues in a formal paper.

Of the trip, Nick Reynolds, states "It's like everything I've been taught for the last three years just went 3D... this is legit." One of the highlights for Reynolds (and his three friends) was a private visit to the Garden of Gethsemane — walking and praying in the darkness of the garden and touching a 2000-year-old tree that Jesus could have rested against.

"Every sense was tested while in Israel — touching, even floating in the Dead Sea, looking from Mt. Carmel across the valley of Megiddo, hearing the Muslim call to worship, tasting the olives and dates, and smelling the wind-whipped 30-mile-an-hour dust of Masada. Boston Baptist College made good on its mantra, "Think Biblically, Discover Globally, Impact Eternally," said Ken Gillming, vice president for academic affairs.

Top: Mount Carmel (Photo by Kristen Bearden) Bottom: Boston students in boat on Sea of Galilee with Israeli soldiers (Photograph by Tom King)



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Boston students reach out to grieving family

Boston, MA

By Grace Snavely

Boston Baptist College was preparing for an unusual college preview event, Paradigm. It is designed to not only allow high school students to experience college, but to receive training and supervised implementation of ministries throughout the community. In addition to puppet ministry, street evangelism, church planting, and drama, one of the ministries offered as an option was community outreach.

Within a couple of miles of the college, just the weekend before Paradigm, a tragedy occurred in Milton, Massachusetts. A 23-year-old man fatally stabbed his 17-year-old sister, beheaded his five-year-old sister, and was in the process of stabbing a third sister when police shot him.

As a college community, we were stunned. We grieved and prayed individually and corporately, and asked God what we could do to tangibly show God's love to this family.

The community outreach segment of Paradigm, led by Dean of Men Noah Fox and sophomore David Beaugard, began to put feet to a plan. With about 20 Boston Baptist College students

and 15 high school students, flyers attached to grocery bags were distributed to about 450 homes in the neighborhood surrounding the college. The instructions stated that homes wishing to participate in a food drive for the Revelus family should place the bags in front of their homes the next morning. Boston

had given several bags. The result was that enough food was donated to fill two pickup truck beds.

On Friday, April 3, Paradigm teams delivered the food directly to the Revelus home. We had made arrangements to deliver the food to the surviving daughter's elementary school. The over-

whelming amount of food, however, made using a third party less feasible — over 5,000 food items were donated. Through the family's attorney/spokesman, the Revelus family invited our students to their home on the day of the wake for their three children.

After delivering the food to the home, David Beaugard said, "I have never seen people come together like this. Our Paradigm team visited over 1,300 homes in less than 24 hours. This is the definition of community outreach." Indeed, this is the definition of ministry.



Baptist College Paradigm teams would collect the food and make sure the family received it.

Not knowing what kind of response to expect, the students headed out to find that nearly every single house had donated a bag of food, and many homes

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Growth continues at Oceanview Baptist Church

Long Beach, WA

After five months of ministry, Oceanview Baptist Church, pastored by Gary Jayne, has had continued growth with an average attendance of 15 per Sunday. The church was started in a retirement community of 9,000 permanent residents, which swells to over 30,000 with summer tourism. Of the work Jayne says, "Having spent 20 years in the

northwest, we are glad to be back on this needy mission field." A couple who has been attending Oceanview were members

of Antioch Baptist in Kansas City, where Bob Baier is pastor. "How wonderful for the Lord to have us come in contact with some who are scattered sheep and need a shepherd. When you start from scratch and just remain faithful, He is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think," comments Jayne. For more information, contact Gary Jayne at 360-777-8739 or skylark23h@att.net.



Pastor Gary and Arlene Jayne (left) at Oceanview Baptist Church chili supper.

LBU's INSTEP brings training to the foreign field

Shreveport, LA

This year, Louisiana Baptist University will have graduates from schools in Mexico, the Philippines, Kenya, Ecuador, and Russia through their Inter-

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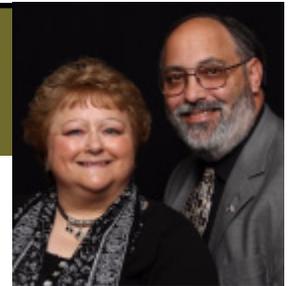
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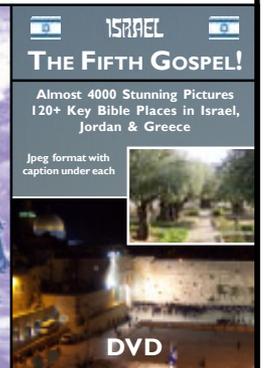
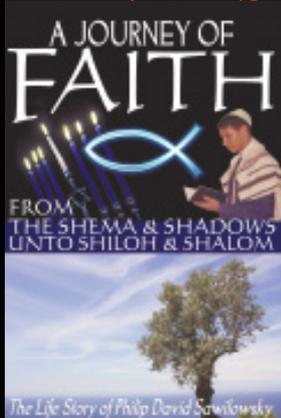
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Beacon Baptist prepares for future ministry

Taylor, MI

Sunday, February 8, Beacon Baptist Church announced that John Reilly was voted as the next senior pastor when current senior pastor, Herbert Gilbert, steps down. Gilbert, who has been at Beacon for 43 years, has no plans to retire at this time, but says "It is great for the church to have something in place for when the Lord says my time is done here."

John Reilly has been at Beacon since 1981, after graduating from Baptist Bible College, where he started off as youth pastor and music director.



He is currently co-pastor, while still leading the music and teaching the 25 to 35-year-olds. He is married to Rhonda and has four children: Adam, a senior at Baptist Bible College; Jordan,

a sophomore football player at the University of Michigan; Jennie, a sophomore in high school; and Matthew, who is in sixth grade.

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Multi-state Fellowship meeting held at BBC

Springfield, MO

Fred Young



Representatives from the state fellowships of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma convened on the campus of Baptist Bible College March 9-10 for preaching and workshops. Preachers for the event were Randy Abell of Ames, Iowa, Phil Housley of Topeka, Kansas, Bob Baker of Missouri, and BBC President Jim Edge. Workshop presenters were Fred Young, Danny Garcia, Joey Candillo, Tracy Roby, Terry Wallace, and Norma Gillming, and Phyllis Watts.

Norma Gillming



Danny Garcia



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Dr. John Rawlings

GuideStone reduces expenses by Class elimination

Dallas, TX

By Dixie Beard

GuideStone Funds will eliminate its GS6 Class effective May 1. Participants in BBFI's associational plan through GuideStone Financial Resources will experience a reduction in fees for any of the Select Funds they hold as they are moved to the lower-cost GS4 Class.

Participants who hold MyDestination Funds™ or Asset Allocation Funds already enjoy the lower-cost GS4 Class.

The change to the GS4 Class will be seamless for BBFI participants. Shares of the GS6 Class of each Select Fund will have been exchanged for shares of the GS4 Class of the same Select Fund on a share-for-share basis. If an individual is invested in the International Equity Fund in the GS6 Class, for example, the shares of that fund will automatically be exchanged for shares in the International

Equity Fund in the GS4 Class.

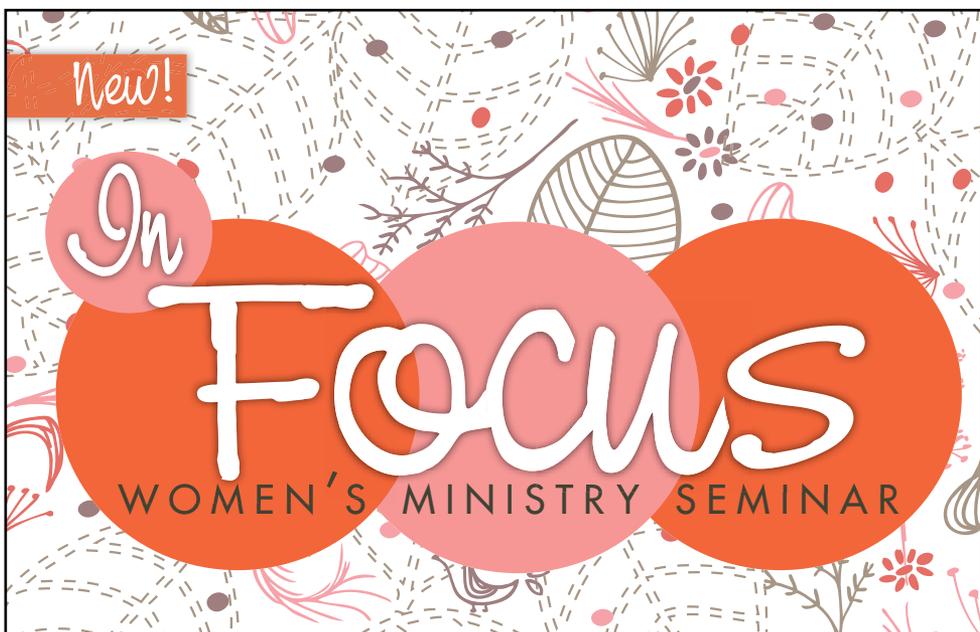
BBFI participants who are invested in GuideStone Funds Select Funds will enjoy several benefits from this change.

- Reduced Fund fees and expenses in the GS4 Class, compared to the GS6 Class.
- Uninterrupted, online access to account and GuideStone Funds information via MyGuideStone™.
- No account impact concerning the frequent trading and market timing policy.

Participants will continue to have access to GuideStone Funds' Christian-based, socially screened, registered mutual funds. In addition, ministers for tax purposes who participate in BBFI's associational plan through GuideStone Financial Resources will have the op-

tion of taking their retirement benefits as a minister's housing allowance. This can provide a significant tax savings for ministers at retirement.

Even during a period of unprecedented market volatility, it is still important to continue investing. As of this writing, stock values are already off their lows reached in early March. While no one knows when the market and economy will fully recover, we can look to history to see that previous markets downturns ended and markets recovered. Younger and older investors alike can take advantage of today's lower prices — compared to their highs in 2007 — and let the multiplier effect take root when prices inevitably will go up. For example, if you now have 100 shares of a fund valued at \$6 per share, your total shares are worth \$600. If the per share value increases to \$10 per



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Two Georgia churches join as Gospel Light BC

Bethlehem, GA

On March 8, Trinity Baptist Church in Loganville, pastored by Henry Van Wye and David Van Wye Sr., merged with Gospel Light Baptist Church in Bethlehem, Georgia, pastored by Dave Stroup. The celebration took place with a unity candle ceremony. Other events of the day included the ordination of David Allen Van Wye II and the presentation of his ordination certificate by his grandfather, Henry Van Wye.

The Trinity church had been meeting in a storefront and had struggled to grow in their relocation process. Gospel Light has a beautiful facility on nearly 20 acres of land in a growing area east of Atlanta. However, because of the cost of having such a facility and needing key leadership gaps filled, Stroup encouraged the Van Wyes to pray about the possibilities of a merger. "As we prayed



and began to explore the possibilities, God revealed how each church could strengthen the other to make a greater impact for the cause of Christ," states Stroup. "The churches have combined their mission programs and ministry staff, and the new Gospel Light Baptist Church is poised for great days ahead for the Glory of God."



Top: Both churches together. Bottom: The unity candle ceremony.

Howards to celebrate 50th anniversary

Springfield, MO

Branson and Jorene Howard's family invites friends to celebrate the couples 50th wedding anniversary on May 13, at 3:00 p.m., at Baptist Temple in Springfield, Missouri. The Howards were united in marriage on May 21, 1959, after Jorene's graduation from Baptist Bible College. Their pastor, W.E. Dowell, performed the ceremony at midnight. Branson graduated from BBC in 1960. Since that time, they have served the Lord in music and youth ministries in several states and now pastor Bible Baptist Church in Republic, Missouri. They have two sons, Kevin and Eric, their wives, Wendy and Stacy, and one granddaughter, Kylie.



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Lois Herring

Victoria, BC

Lois Jeannette Chambers Herring, BBFI Missionary to Canada, passed away March 8, 2009. Born October 5, 1937, in Detroit, Michigan, Lois graduated from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, in 1958 and married Dennis Herring August 29, 1958.



Lois and Dennis served as missionaries in Ethiopia and Congo. Following their African mission, the Herrings served in the Province of Quebec from 1982 to 1994. They arrived on Vancouver Island in 1994 and have served faithfully at the Chase River Baptist Church in Nanaimo, British Columbia, these last years. A memorial service for Mrs. Herring was held at Grace Baptist Church in Victoria, BC, March 12, 2009.

Lois is survived by her husband, Dennis, her daughter, three sisters, loving in-laws, extended relations, and many friends, especially her brothers and sisters in Christ.

Louise Murray

Winfield, KS

Elizabeth Louise Murray, 77, wife of K.B. Murray, pastor of Millington Street Baptist Church, Winfield, Kansas, left this life March 23, 2009. She was born December 5, 1931, in Dallas, Texas.



Louise married K.B. September 7, 1949, in Dallas, Texas. They began their ministry together in Springfield, Missouri, and served in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and Neodesha, Kansas. They have resided in Winfield for 42 years.

She leaves behind her husband K.B., sons and daughters, 21 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held March 26, 2009, at Millington Street Baptist Church where friends, church members, and many in the ministry attended.

Frank Smiddy

Loveland, OH

Franklin D. Smiddy, 67, was taken by the Lord February 13. Born May 6, 1941, Frank was saved and called to preach at Ashland Ave. Baptist Church in Norwood, Ohio. He graduated from Baptist Bible College in 1971 and planted LaFollette Baptist Temple in LaFollette, Tennessee. He preached, pastored, and planted churches in Tennessee, Indiana, Texas, Iowa, Colorado, and Florida. At the time of his death, he and his wife, Lois, planned to work Amazing Grace Missions in Dayton, Tennessee.



Frank is survived by his wife of 42 years, Lois, two daughters and two sons, and 10 grandchildren. Life celebration services were held April 4 at Mountain View Baptist Church in LaFollette, Tennessee.

Joan Rohr

Joplin, MO

Joan Lavon Rohr, age 71, Joplin, passed away at 10:47 p.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at Freeman West Hospital after a sudden illness. Joan served with her husband Larry as a BBFI missionary to Brazil.

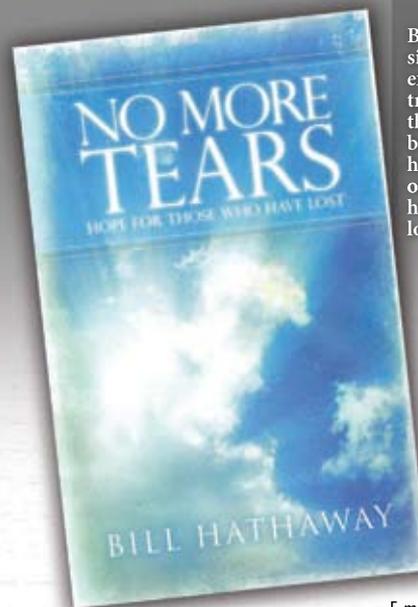


She was born May 17, 1937, in Sweetwater, Texas. When Joan was 12 years old, she accepted the Lord as her Savior. At age 14, she surrendered her life to be a missionary. She attended Baptist Bible College of Springfield, Missouri, where she majored in missions and met Lawrence Albert 'Larry' Rohr. They were married March 28, 1958.

Upon graduation, they moved to Pleasanton, Kansas, where Larry pastored the First Baptist Church. In 1959, Joan and Larry were approved as BBFI missionaries to the field of Brazil. There, they started five churches and two Bible colleges. They were co-founders of the Rio Minas State Fellowship. Joan was an active speaker for women's conferences, and a published author.

Survivors include her husband, her children, and 12 grandchildren. Services were held March 7 at Southside Baptist Church with Mark Rounsaville and Freddie Wright officiating.

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The Precious Memories Support Ministry was started with the purpose of giving help and comfort to others who have experienced this valley. I'm interested in helping churches get a Precious Memory Support Ministry started in their church. A booklet is available with suggestions for starting such a ministry.

Church Ads

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To place an ad call (417) 831-3996.

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• **Maranatha Baptist Church**, 2284 Third Ave., Dothan, AL 36301 334-794-2536 *Pastor Bill Schneider*

ALASKA

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

ARIZONA

• **Thomas Road Baptist Church**, 5735 W. Thomas Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85031, 623/247-5735. *Pastor Ken Adrian*

CALIFORNIA

• **Calvary Baptist Church of Oakhurst**, At the corner of Highway 49 and Redbud (location only), 559-641-7984. *Pastor Bob Wilson*

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

• **Midway Baptist Church**, 2460 Palm Ave., San Diego, CA 92154, 619/424-7870 *Pastor Jim W. Baize*

• **Tabernacle Baptist Church**, 301 W. Whyte Ave., Roseville, CA 95678, 916/728-5500 *Pastor Brad Gunter*

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

CONNECTICUT

• **New Testament Baptist Church and School**, 111 Ash St., East Hartford, CT 06108. 860/290-6696 *Pastor Michael Stoddard*

DELAWARE

• **Southside Baptist Church**, 4904 S. DuPont Hwy. (US 13 So.), Dover, DE 19901, 302/697-2411 *Pastor Chris Kondracki*

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• **Tabernacle Baptist Church**, 6000 West Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 32808, 407/295-3086 *Pastor Steve Ware*

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• **New Testament Baptist Church**, 2050 South Belcher Rd., Largo, FL 33771, 727/536-0481 *Pastor Matt Trill*

• **Trinity Baptist Church**, 800 Hammond Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32221, 904/786-5320 *Pastor Tom Messer*

• **First Coast Baptist Church**, 7587 Blanding Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32244, 904/777-3040 *Pastor Richard Edwards*

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• **Victory Bible Baptist Church**, 3906 Andrew Ave., Pensacola, FL 32505-4107. 850/432-6969 *Sr. Pastor Robert Reiersen, Co-pastor Allen Cotton*

• **Calvary Baptist Church**, 123 Thunderbird Dr., Sebastian, FL 32958. 772/589-5047 www.calvary-baptistchurch.com *Pastor Clifton Cooley*

• **New Life Baptist Church**, 35000 Radio Rd (at Poe St.), Leesburg, FL 34788 352/728-0004 newlifebaptistchurch@earthlink.net

• **Bible Baptist Church**, 820 South 14th Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 904/261-5457

• **Suncoast Baptist Church**, 410 War-rington Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33954 (941)625-8550, *Pastor Chip Keller* www.suncoastbaptistchurch.com

• **Grace Bible Baptist Church**, 1703 Lewis Road, Leesburg, FL 34748. 352-326-5738, *Pastor George Mulford III* www.gbbconline.com

• **Orlando Baptist Church**, 500 S. Semoran Blvd., Orlando, FL 32807. 407/277-8671, *Pastor David Janney* www.worldchangingchurch.com

GEORGIA

• **Cornerstone Baptist Church**, 1400 Grayson Hwy., Lawrenceville, GA 30245. 770/338-2677 *Pastor Tim Neal*

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

HAWAII

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

ILLINOIS

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

IOWA

• **Heartland Baptist Church**, 3504 North Grand Avenue, Ames, IA 50010. 515/268-1721 *Pastor Randy Abell*

• **Lighthouse Baptist Church**

1690 Elm St., Suite 175, Dubuque, IA 52001, 563/584-9040, *Pastor Brian Miller* www.lighthouseofdbq.org

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MARYLAND

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

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NEW MEXICO

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• **Trinity Baptist Church**, 216 Shelburne Rd., Asheville, NC 28806, 704/254-2187 *Pastor Ralph Sexton, Jr.*

• **Central Baptist Church**, 6050 Plain View Hwy., Dunn, NC 28334, 910/892-7914 *Pastor Tom Wagoner*

OHIO

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

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

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

• **Grace Baptist Church**, 3023 N. Union Rd., Middletown, OH 45044, 513/423-4658 *Pastor Roger D. Green*

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

OKLAHOMA

• **Temple Baptist Church**, 2200 E. Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK 74403. 918/687-4793 *Pastor Alton Chiles*

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

RHODE ISLAND

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• **Capital City Baptist Church**, 2243 Percival Rd., Columbia, SC 29223, 803/738-1480 *Pastor Paul Monroe*

• **Lighthouse Baptist Church**, 104 Berkeley Sq. Lane, PMB 250, Goose Creek, SC 29445. 843/824-6002 www.lbcgc.org *Pastor Bobby Garvin*

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Scrap metal becomes church building

By Debbie Goodman
Clarksville, Arkansas

For Stillwell Bible Baptist Church of Clarksville, Arkansas, the impact of our 2006 summer mission trip to Costa Rica is ongoing. Chad Braymer, mission intern for Stillwell, set up a summer trip for the church with Randy Rhoton and his ministries in Costa Rica. There, we saw people saved, we experienced the culture, but even more importantly, we felt the burden of Randy and his people for the Kuna Indians in Panama.

The 2006 summer mission trip was followed up by an invitation extended to two men of our church, Associate Pastor Steve Askins, and a hardworking servant of God who prefers to remain anonymous, for a 2007 spring trip to minister to the remote tribes of Panama with missionary Randy Rhoton. What did these men find in Panama? They found among the Kuna Indians a group of believers who needed a place to meet. Sadly, at a cost of \$15,000, the expense was above their financial capabilities.

Once the men returned from their trip to Panama, the burden to provide a place of worship for these believers continued to grow until, finally, God's faithful and anonymous servant, "John," came up with an idea that would incorporate the help of the entire Stillwell family. He called Pastor Jim Goodman and asked, "If I present a new mission project to bring in mission money above our faith promise and do the footwork for it, would it be all right if I put three barrels at the back of our parking lot for aluminum cans?"

That was all it took. The "We CAN Do It" project was launched. This man with a burden and a vision was certain that if Stillwell church members concentrated on bringing in aluminum cans, we could pay for the church building in Panama in one year. As more members became involved, there came the first question, "I don't have aluminum cans, but I do have some old iron out back — can you salvage that?" The answer was a resounding "Yes!"

As garages, sheds, and barns were cleaned out, money began to pour in. Next, word got out in the

community that John would haul off old metal. Throughout Johnson County, people donated compressors, electric motors, car batteries, washing machines, freezers, aluminum, tin, and iron in every imaginable shape and size. Even an old combine sitting out in a field just rusting away was donated.

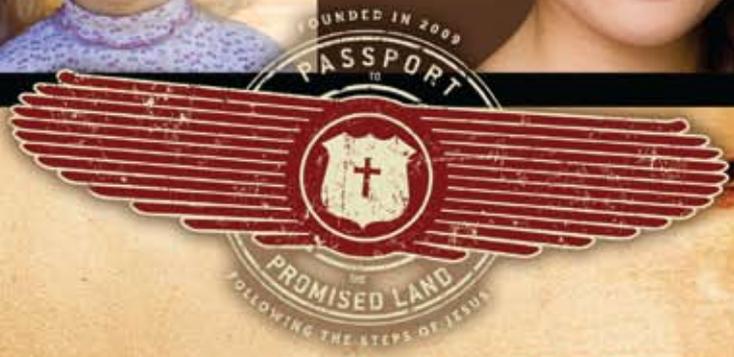
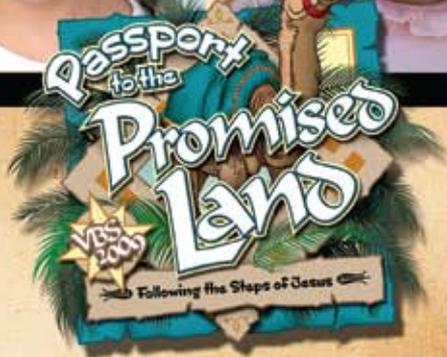
John did not keep weight records in 2007, but the amount of people's unwanted junk totaled \$7,234.80! During 2008, John hauled 46,073 pounds of scrap metal,



An anonymous church member gathers cans and scrap metal for a church building in Panama

including 1,642 pounds of aluminum cans. From May 2007 to December 2008, Stillwell Bible Baptist Church has had \$18,415.15 come through their offering plates in the form of scrap metal.

The church building in Panama was paid for in one year, just in time for the 2008 summer mission trip to Peru with missionary David Liles. So, what did the money raised above the cost of the church in Panama go to? Well, there is this piece of property on a dusty hillside in Peru that will make a great location for a church. We have not quite paid for it yet, but the metal just keeps coming in, and, hopefully, in 2009, we will see this project completed and begin looking for the next one.



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