

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

MAY 2014 | VOL. 64 NO. 9

Vão pelo mundo todo...
Allez dans le monde entier...
Id por todo el mundo...
Geht hin in alle Welt...
Tucui cai pachata rishpa...
Humayo kayo sa buong...
Trek de wereld in...
Andate per tutto il mondo...
Nendeni ulimwenguni kote...

GO
Y
E
INTO ALL
THE WORLD...

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START STOP RESET

MAY 5-8

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BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

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DETAILS ON PAGE 6



ON THE TABLE
Networks

by Keith Bassham | Editor

Back in the days before flat screen displays became church foyer *de rigueur*, a typical BBFI church might display a world map showing its outreach. Sometimes lines would be drawn from the church's location to a map location — a little fancier 3D version might have even used string or yarn stretched between “home” and “the regions beyond” to depict the church’s worldwide vision. No matter the representation, it always looked a little like a wheel — the home church was the hub — with spokes connecting the church with the missionary. The beginning and ending points were well defined.

This, of course, was an inaccurate depiction. A real world imagery of a church’s Great Commission work would look much more like a spider’s web than a wheel, and an inebriated one at that, as spokes would emanate not only from terminal points, but all along the spokes themselves. The best English word to describe that image is network.

We would do well to remember that the United States was once a mission field (much of it remains so), that Christianity did not originate with us, and that the center of missionary activity has been on the move since the Day of Pentecost, and signs are pointing to a gospel explosion about to take place in Asia. While some may view the new situation as threatening, I see it as cause for rejoicing.

I am pleased, then, to see how *Global Partners* addresses this important perspective. Associate Mission Director Jim Smith’s editing efforts this month will let you see missions in a whole new way.

Speaking of networks, this time of year always brings to mind those friends I made during my college years at BBC. So many of them are now in leadership positions, pastoring churches, leading missionary teams, educating, and providing skilled and spiritual services in local churches around the world. I believe in education of all kinds, and I have pursued (and still do pursue) studies online, but I would be much poorer in every sense today if I had not attended a college. Most of the relationships I enjoy today began in the classroom and the dormitory. I met my wife Shari on campus, of course. I became acquainted with Mike Randall, a psychology professor in my second year at BBC, and that same Mike Randall recruited me for the *Tribune* some 20 years later. I attended classes with Keith and Ken Gillming, dodged trouble in the dorms with, uh, some other guys (you will pardon me if I don’t mention names), and somehow received a pretty good undergrad education in Bible and theology, both systematic and practical (W. E. Dowell was my pastoral studies prof). Hardly any of this would have been possible without the on-campus experience of a BBFI Bible college.

So, our colleges are about to graduate the class of 2014. Attend the commencements. Rejoice with those rejoicing. Think about the people who made up your own personal network, and praise God for them. Finally, do what you can to make a BBFI college experience a reality for someone else.

Keith Bassham

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Peek-a-boo! God comes through



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

I used to mock people who played peek-a-boo with little babies. But I confess I did it with all four of my children and all nine of my grandchildren.

It's a silly game, but I was reminded of it this week when I was studying my Bible. I'm not implying in any way that God is playing games, but I am telling you, sometimes you're going along, not even aware God is doing anything at all and then, like a mighty river that was rushing underground, all of a sudden, God breaks through the surface. And it's like, "Peek-a-boo!" And all we can say is, "Wow! I never saw that coming!"

One of the great challenges of the ministry is trying to break the human addiction to sight. What we hope we see is God's people growing to the place where we know by faith that God is at work even if we are not seeing it.

Let me share with you four lessons I have learned.

1. Don't quit or you'll miss the miracle. In these examples and others, it is evident God was at work even though they didn't see it. We can be like that too. Are you going through a tough time in your life or ministry? The promise is that God is still there and you are not forgotten.
2. Don't let your feelings dictate your faith. Are you riding an emotional rollercoaster? What's God doing? Why is God allowing this? Up and down we go. Humanly speaking we look at the situation these folks found themselves in and we feel compassion. We also have the advantage of looking ahead and seeing the great things God was going to do for them. But in the moment, they couldn't see it. Don't let your feelings dictate your faith. Emotions make good friends but they are lousy leaders.
3. Choose the right: God blesses obedience. I am saddened by the reports of fulltime ministry workers succumbing to temptations and pressures to sin. May God help us be men and women of integrity and do what's right and honest in the sight of God. Draw a line and make a choice, "I'm not going there!" or "I'm not doing that!" or "I'm not thinking that way."
4. Step out in faith, God will reward you. This is the theme I see throughout the Scriptures. It can be scary, but God says he will bless us when we step out in faith.

I think it important we break the addiction to only trust God when we see Him at work. And don't be surprised when Peek-a-boo — God comes through!

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Mission partners worldwide



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

I used to be said, "Missions is from the West to the rest." However, because of churches and missionaries of the BBFI, we can now say missions is from everyone to everywhere. Since the beginning of 2014, I have visited many churches started by our missionaries as well as national pastors. The nationals expressed gratitude for receiving the gospel and are excited to carry out the Great Commission.

While in Chile, a pastor shared the commitment he and other pastors have to reach their country for Jesus Christ through church planting. However, this pastor stated, "Now we must also focus outside our country through missions." Plans are being made to assist this church with its first mission conference. In addition, other pastors will be invited to observe the process and learn more about world missions.

Since 1948, BBFI missionaries have been involved in the Philippines. During my recent trip there, I was with missionaries John and Pam Quinlan who continue to teach Faith Promise Mission Giving in the church founded by Howard and Eleanor Quinlan. The Quinlan's ministry includes a children's academy and a Bible college. While there, I participated in the church's 50th mission conference.

The following week, I was a part of the 60th anniversary of Bethany Baptist Church started by missionaries Joe and Marguerite Vella. The mission efforts of this church, under the leadership of Pastor Nable, are a great example to many. Their annual mission conference coincides with their anniversary service and many pastors are invited to attend with the hope that the vision they catch for missions will be taken back to their churches.

March found me visiting missionaries Vernon and Mary Smith in Tanzania. Although the Smiths had already taught Faith Promise Mission Giving to the churches, they asked me to explain the big picture of worldwide missions and the role they play in evangelistic efforts. Their people were excited to hear how God is working and many accepted the challenge to become involved in giving by faith. At the conclusion of the Sunday morning service, three people were saved and the church committed to double its Faith Promise giving this year.

The following week, while visiting churches and missionaries around Nairobi, Kenya, a pastor shared how he had just taught Faith Promise Mission Giving to the 80 people in his church. He related how the people were excited to give by faith with the majority promising to start giving to world missions. In the Kenyan countryside with Ole Konnerup, I observed the organization of a new church, taking the number of churches in Kenya over the 1,000 mark! The church building was too small, so we met under a large tree. Several visiting national pastors expressed desire to lead their churches in world missions.

It is exciting to know we have partners around the world who have the same desire as we do — to see people come to Jesus from every nation and people group. Praise the Lord!

Candidate school



by Dan Lamb | Interim NCPO Director

The goal of the candidate school is to inform and equip the church planter to be best prepared to for the task ahead of him.

The candidate school is five days of intensive training. The goal is not to give a Bible education — we assume candidates have already been prepared in that area — but to pass on our expertise in church planting. Fifteen pastors and leaders in their field bring their strengths to these church planting families.

The topics

- Personal assessments
- Personal prayer life
- Discipleship and how it works
- Integrity and leadership traits of a successful pastor
- Building a launch team
- Pre-launch and launch strategies
- The role of the pastor's wife
- Church planting pot holes
- Outreach — tripod of reason
- Leading volunteers
- Personal support and set-up costs
- The history and philosophy of the BBFI
- Planting a church with a mission heart
- Building a budget and stewardship
- The pastor and his family
- The work of the BBFI mission office.

A favorite feature of candidate school is the travel day. We go to new church plants in the area and listen to their stories, and we have other church planters share their miracle stories of what God is doing. This has become one of the most inspiring parts of our school. The Q&A during this time is very challenging. Some have wanted to move their launch date up after these visits!

We are working on two areas of improvements in the candidate school: assessments and coaching. We would like to have a thorough assessment so when candidates arrive we already know them. Coaching is important after the church has been started. A coach would be an experienced pastor or pastors who would communicate with the church planter regularly. All major changes and decisions would be discussed with the coach, before decisions are made, to glean wisdom and counsel. Some of this has already been implemented, and the church planters' success rate will be greater if we can help them on both ends of the school.

The candidates cannot cover the costs of candidate school. That is where additional support comes in. The NCPO office picks up this additional cost, and we need your support. The eternal effect of your support is compounded as souls are saved and other churches are started. Help the NCPO office make a difference by helping us.

The next candidate school is scheduled at Alliance Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, TX, October 13-17, 2014. We would love to invite you to send your church planters who are considering planting or have already launched!

VOTE

A word about the election of BBFI officers

This year, as we do every two years, the Baptist Bible Fellowship will hold an election for the officers who constitute the Executive Committee. The following is the section of the BBFI bylaws that governs the election.

Article VI, Section 2a. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected biennially. These officers constitute the Executive Committee. The Directors will serve as the nominating committee and will present nominations at the National Fellowship by May. The ballot shall be approved in the May business meeting and made available to any pastor in attendance and qualified according to Article III ("Affiliation") of these bylaws. Voting pastors will identify themselves on the ballot and voting will begin immediately upon distribution of the ballots. Qualified pastors not in attendance may obtain a ballot from the BBFI Mission Office. Those ballots must be submitted to the BBFI Mission Office before July 1st of the year of the election. The Executive Committee shall oversee the counting of the ballots and release the results within one week after the votes are tallied.

There are three vice presidents (Missions, Education, and Church Planting), meaning six officers will be elected. All except one of the currently serving officers are term-limited, having served two consecutive terms. The exception this year is the secretary, who has announced his resignation to take place later in the year, so all six positions are open.

Although term-limited officers are not eligible to remain in their current positions, they are eligible to serve in other offices. For instance, a vice president may be nominated for president, or the president may be nominated to serve as treasurer, etc.

Nominations will be received at the meeting of the National Directors (sometimes called the Committee of 45) Monday during the May Fellowship Meeting. A ballot will be approved by the Directors, and it will be made available to eligible pastors in the plenary business session during the May Fellowship Meeting.

Pastors attending the May meeting can cast their ballots at that time, or they may choose to mail the ballot to the BBFI Mission Office, so long as it is submitted before July 1. Likewise, pastors who are unable to attend the May meeting may request a ballot from the BBFI Mission Office and return it by mail by July 1.

A copy of the complete bylaws is available electronically by going to www.bbfi.org and clicking on the link "About Us."

MAY 5-8, 2014

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

GRADUATION AND FELLOWSHIP WEEK

START STOP RESET

In every life and in every ministry there is a cycle. This cycle begins with a time to start: a time to begin doing new and important things. It is followed by a time to stop: a time to re-evaluate what you have been doing and stop doing what is no longer needed or effective. The cycle is completed by a time to reset: a time to refocus and to rethink how to move forward.

Baptist Bible College would like to invite you to join us this year for Fellowship Week 2014: Start...Stop...Reset. We are praying this will be an exciting, encouraging, and profitable week for all who attend. The conference begins on Monday evening at 7 p.m. in the W.E. Dowell Field House. After the evening services, we would like to invite you to continue your time of fellowship by joining us in the cafeteria for delicious snacks prepared by our BBC staff and students.

Tuesday morning will feature a fun and encouraging service for women while the men will experience a new format with speakers addressing a variety of topics.

Thursday morning will begin with our 64th Commencement, featuring speaker Dr. Keith Gillming. Thursday afternoon will feature our annual golf tournament and Thursday evening will host a special reunion for 1980s Alumni.

We hope you will make plans to join us for Fellowship Week 2014 and we look forward to seeing you on campus!

MONDAY

6:30 PM

Linzy Slayden • Pastor • Friendship Baptist Church • Owasso, OK
Jack Eggar • President of A.W.A.N.A.

8:30 PM President's Reception/ Jack Eggar book signing

TUESDAY

9:00 AM START

START DISCIPLING Paul Blue • Pastor • Family Fellowship Church • Greenville, TX

START KEEPING Marcus Mackey • Student Pastor • Antioch Bible Baptist Church • Gladstone, MO

START LEADING Griffin Jones • Pastor • CrossRoads Church • Odessa, TX

9:30AM Ladies reception outside the chapel

10:00 AM LADIES MEETING Stephanie Brown • Canyon Creek Baptist Church • Richardson, TX

10:00 AM STOP

RETHINKING CHURCH GROWTH/MISSIONS

RETHINKING CHURCH FACILITIES • Jeff Smith • Associate Pastor • Friendship Baptist Church • Owasso, OK

RETHINKING CHURCH FINANCES • Ed Holland • Pastor • Akron Baptist Temple • Akron, OH

11:00 AM RESET

PREPARING FOR THEOLOGICAL ISSUES • Wayne Slusser • Dean of Seminary Baptist Bible College

PREPARING FOR LEGAL ISSUES

PREPARING A PASTOR'S HEART • Gary Fuller • Pastor • Gentle Shepherd Baptist Church • Lincoln, NE

11:45 AM BBFI Business Meeting (fieldhouse)

6:30 PM Mark Hoover • Pastor • NewSpring Church • Wichita, KS

WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM (fieldhouse)

MORNING HOSTED BY BBFI MISSION OFFICE

12:00PM ALUMNI BANQUET (BBC Cafeteria)

12:30PM MISSIONARY LUNCHEON (Mission Office)

6:30PM HOMECOMING

Mark Milioni • President, Baptist Bible College

Fellowship Faithfulness Awards: Eli Harju, Ken and Norma Gillming

THURSDAY

9:00 AM BBC Graduation Commencement Speaker - Dr. Keith Gillming

1:00 PM Golf Tournament (Rivercut Golf Course) \$60.00 per person

5:00PM 80's reunion

ALUMNI PROJECT

Please plan on joining us at the Alumni Luncheon, May 7th at 12:00pm. This year's Alumni Luncheon Project will include a new Temper-Pedic Mattress and a BBC Patriots welcome packet for each student living in the dorms. Each mattress and welcome packet will cost \$200.00. We are anticipating 200 students living in the dorms this next fall. So we are asking for 200 individuals or churches to sponsor one student at \$200.00.

80s REUNION Anyone and everyone who went to BBC in the 80s, whether for 1 year or 7 years is invited to the 80s reunion! Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$8 for children. T-shirts are \$15 each. Go to <http://she992.wix.com/80sreunionbbc>

CLASS OF 1960 Annual Class Breakfast Wednesday May 7th 7:30 AM. IHOP on Kansas Exp. and Kearney. Contact Branson Howard for more information (417) 818-2326

CLASS OF 1959 Tuesday May 6th On Campus after the National Business Meeting. No charge. You pay for what you order. Contact Jorene Howard for more information (417) 865-1559

LODGING

BEST WESTERN COACH HOUSE INN N. Glenstone & I-44
417.862.0701 \$64.95 + tax

CANDLEWOOD SUITES 1920 E. Kerr St. at I-44
417.866.4242

Studio Suite:

\$79 + tax (1-6 nights)

\$69 + tax (7-14 nights)

One Bedroom:

\$104 + tax (1-6 nights)

\$94 + tax (7-14 nights)

DOUBLETREE 2431 N. Glenstone
417.831.3131 109.00+tax

COMFORT INN & SUITES 2815 N. Glenstone
417.869.8246 \$79.99 + tax
*Must reference BBC

DRURY INN & SUITES 2715 N. Glenstone
417.863.8400 \$89 + tax

RAMADA OASIS 2546 N. Glenstone
417.522.7725 \$73.00 + tax
*Breakfast included

HOLIDAY INN 2720 N. Glenstone
417.865.8600 Courtesy rate
\$95 + tax Sunday-Thursday
\$79 + tax Friday & Saturday

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Vão pelo mundo todo...

Allez dans le monde entier...

Id por todo el mundo...

Geht hin in alle Welt...

Tucui cai pachata rishpa...

Humayo kayo sa buong...

Trek de wereld in...

Andate per tutto il mondo...

Nendeni ulimwenguni kote...

GOING FORWARD WITH THE GOSPEL!

By James G. Smith | BBFI Associate Mission Director

Some would argue (I know I would) that a main component of a church plant is a mindset for reproduction. That is, a church should be planning from the first for the day it will launch another church. For more than six decades, BBFI missionaries have been establishing churches all over the world. Many of those churches have reproduced themselves in the same context, culture, and language. That is wonderful and exciting in the life of the first church planter, in the life of the original church planter, and in the life of the sending and supporting churches of that church planter.

However, when the “mission” church matures enough to send a cross-cultural or foreign missionary, the wonder and excitement increases substantially! Our

focus this month in *Global Partners* is that type of missionary reproduction.

We rarely think of how the gospel affects those who hear it in their own language and cultural settings. We normally do not consider that the Great Commission was translated into Spanish, Korean, Portuguese, Tagalog, Khmer, Russian, Swahili — and every other language with a Bible. We do not intend to disregard how the Great Commission will affect those in other cultures, but we too often think exclusively in English and from our vantage point as North Americans. Missionaries, however — those who have committed their lives to taking the good news internationally, interculturally, and interlinguistically — must be true to the message of missions. If the good news

is for everyone, so is the responsibility of the Great Commission! Once we have heard, trusted, received, and obeyed, it is incumbent upon us to share. And as we said at the first, once the church has been established, it is a natural consequence to reproduce itself. And to Christians with a broader worldview, that would obviously entail taking the good news and the church planting mandate to other places.

That explains why, in the BBFI, we talk about autonomous (independent, self-governing), indigenous (originating in and characteristic of a particular region), and self-propagating (reproducible) church planting. It is what we do.

We hope you will be encouraged or even thrilled with the concept of going forward with the gospel!

“ THE BULKWANGDONG BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH IN

SEOUL, KOREA, has always taken the Great Commission seriously. Through our ministries, many young people have been trained to become missionaries to serve God overseas with the vision to accomplish the Great Commission. Bulkwangdong Bible Baptist Church has sent 16 couples to many different countries such as Ghana, Cambodia, Morocco, Mexico, China, Laos, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, North Korea, Jordan, and Egypt. Additionally, we are supporting 85 mission projects, both domestic and overseas.

We sent missionaries Cherlsoon and Hwasook Yim to Ghana in 1999. Cherlsoon Yim earned his Masters degree at Baptist Bible Graduate School of Theology in Springfield, MO, in 1994.

I will be going to visit Ghana, West Africa. During my visit in Ghana, two other pastors and I are going to ordain three national pastors (Mawuli Tenge, Desmond Tethe, Eric Asari) who have been trained by Cherlsoon Yim. We will also be preaching at some Ghana Baptist Bible Fellowship churches and at GIU International Christian Academy, which is run by Cherlsoon and Hwasook. ”

Daniel Kim

Senior Pastor | Bulkwangdong Bible Baptist Church



FROM KOREA TO GHANA

We, Cherlsoon and Hwasook Yim, are missionaries approved by the Baptist Bible Fellowship Korea and sent by Bulkwangdong Bible Baptist Church where Daniel Wooseang Kim is the senior pastor. We entered into Ghana with our two young children, Samuel and Timothy, in January 1999 armed only with the vision that the Lord had given to us to share the gospel with those who were lost and poor.

While our children went to a Ghanaian school, we would go out to the streets every day to witness. Through our preaching, people began to accept Jesus Christ and we started a Bible study underneath a tree that was next to a street restaurant. As the Bible study began to grow, we started Accra Bible Baptist Church in November of 1999.

BIBLE INSTITUTE MINISTRY

While I pastored the church, Hwasook led the children's ministry, women's ministry, and Sunday school teacher training. The church began to slowly grow. I decided to begin training Ghanaian pastors to take over the job of pastoring. We began discipleship training with young people from church in our home. Even though it was not an easy

situation to live with the students, it allowed for the most effective training to occur.

While training the students, we began a Bible study on the campus of the University of Ghana and also a village ministry. We would go to some of the poorest villages providing medical attention and teaching the Bible. In 2003, we handed over the pastorate to a young man whom we had trained named Mawuli Tenge.

In 2004, we sent Eric Asari to a village called Akroso and sent Desmond Tetteh to a village called Okurasi to plant two more churches. We also started a church in Tema using our school building in 2006.

When there was an increase in the number of students that we were training in our home, it became rather difficult to house all of them. We purchased one acre of land for \$30,000 and started a Bible institute in the suburbs of the City of Tema. We built the church building for the Accra church and the Bible institute building.

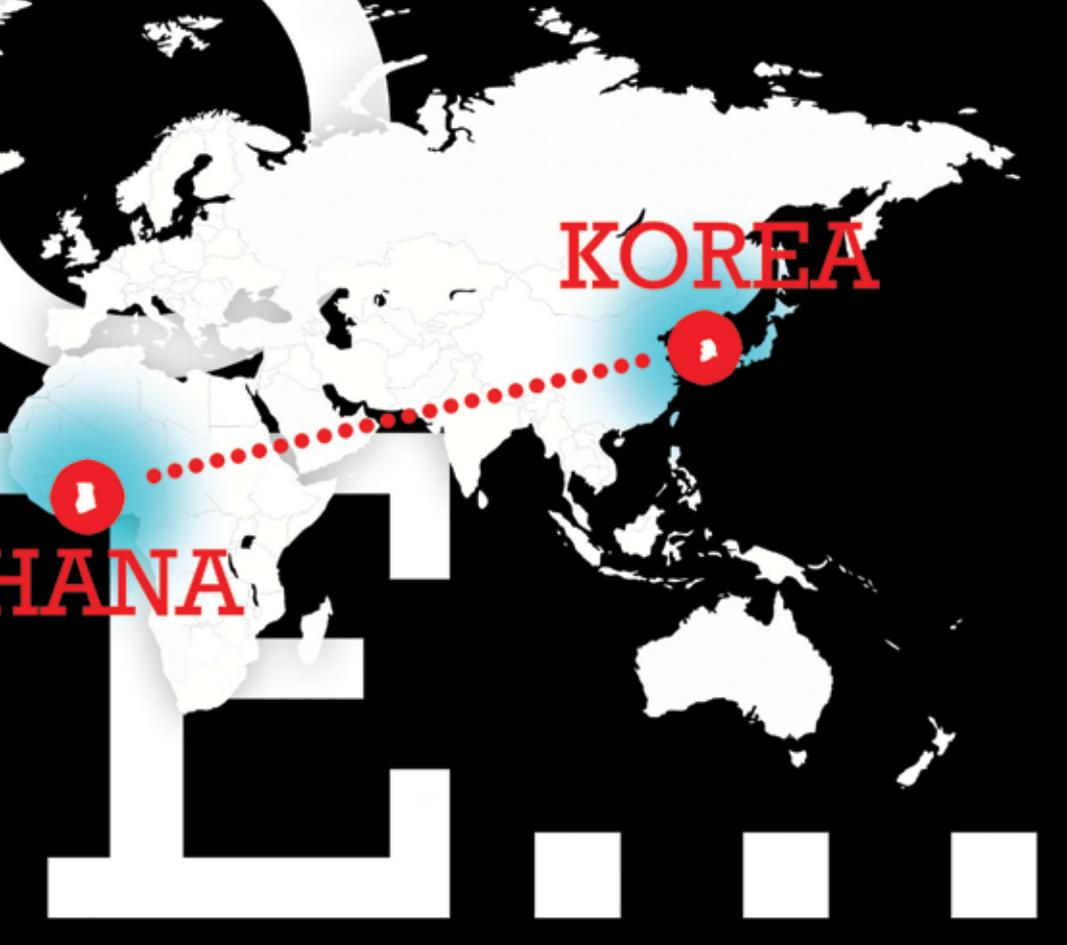
NEW VISION FOR CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

In 2006, we had a growing vision within our hearts. Having sent our sons to a Ghanaian

school, we knew Islam and the traditional religion were taught along with Christianity. This causes people to have a syncretistic worldview and we had difficulty in training our Bible institute students because of it. Another problem we found was that students lacked basic educational skills.

Through this, the Lord gave us a vision to start Christian schools from kindergarten through high school and a Christian university. He showed us that if we could train students based upon the Word of God and send them out to various parts of society, the country could be changed through their witness. We also had the vision to produce well-trained teachers with the Word of God who would go to teach in schools and thereby bring a change in the educational system of Ghana.

Ghana is surrounded by French-speaking countries: Togo, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso. Many students come from these countries to enroll in Ghanaian universities to learn English. Our vision is to accept these students into our university and send them back to their home countries to be missionaries.



four-story school building. It is only by God's grace that we have come this far. We picked up the shovel by faith and we are raising each floor by faith.

Our future vision is to use the building to offer intensive courses for students of Ghana International University once the construction is completed. We trust the Lord will continue to do His work in Ghana.

Please pray for our sons, Samuel (24 years old) graduated from Liberty University and is studying at Baptist Bible Theological Seminary in Korea, and Timothy (20 years old) is a student at Emory University.

PEOPLE ARE NEEDED IN GHANA!

We pray God would send someone who has experience in construction to come to Ghana to help us. We are also praying for a couple to come to be principal for the school.

We also recruit missionary teachers for our kindergarten through high school for English, math, biology, chemistry, physics, history, computer, music, and art.

For the university, we need qualified professors for English, computer areas, early childhood education, elementary education, business, and accounting.

HIGH SCHOOL (BOARDING SCHOOL) & KINDERGARTEN STARTED

We established a high school first as a preparatory school for the university.

In 2013, a former Sunday school

student of Hwasook donated money so that we could start a Christian kindergarten.

We plan to start an elementary school and middle school this year.

We have begun construction on a new





By Jeff Williams BBFI Missionary to Russia

Valentine Suprune accepted Christ at age 16 in Kazakhstan. Over time he read the missionary biographies of people like Hudson Taylor. One day, after reading books of this nature, he felt an overwhelming burden for the lost. He fell on his knees and asked God to use him to reach people. He prayed asking the Lord to use him on some far-flung island amongst a tribe that did not have the gospel. Thirteen years went by. God eventually led him to his wonderful wife Svetlana and gave them a baby girl named Marina. Though much time had gone by, the fire to serve the Lord had not diminished.

Through circumstances of life, they moved back to Russia, their homeland, and eventually joined our little church in Lenovo, Siberia, in the Novosibirsk Oblast. When I learned of their desire to serve the Lord, we began to prepare them for missionary ministry. At this time, Valentine began seriously studying world demographics with a focus on island tribes.

When he read about the Dayak tribe on the island of Borneo, part of Indonesia, he stopped searching. He began to build a bridge of communication with missionaries already there. Contact was made with Filipino missionaries from Asian Baptist Clearinghouse. The Suprunes were offered an invitation on which they could acquire a visa and begin language study. They began visiting Russian churches trying to raise support. This was a totally novel concept and met with a lot of skepticism. Only Bible Baptist Church in Iskitim, Russia, took them on for support along with the church in Lenovo, now led by BBFI missionary Allen Kettle. We shared our great concern for their financial support being so low. Undeterred, by faith, they sold their house to get the money to buy plane tickets.

On that faith they flew to Indonesia. Filipino missionary Abcede Garcia met them and took them to their home. After learning the language in the capitol, Valentine and his family finally moved to the island of Borneo. "Finally my long dream was coming true, I began to relax. It was like being in heaven for me emotionally. By contrast, my wife looked at the jungle, mountains, and trash everywhere and began to cry. The meat for sale was dog, cat, rat, and frog. The adjustment period was a very difficult one." After one year on the island, however, Svetlana says she cannot envision life without Indonesia. "Our daughter Marina never skipped a beat. Russia, Indonesia, it was all the same in her little eyes."

"For three years now we have lived in the village of Purukcahu, Kalimantan, Borneo, Indonesia. While there are several religions present already, the tribe in this area continues to practice sacrifice to spirits, drinking the blood of animals, and using witch doctors for healing. In 2013, our son Victor was born in the midst of this spiritual darkness. Just as we learned to do in Russia, we began traveling up and down the highway evangelizing and trying to



start new churches."

In one village, several miles from their home base, they have started a group that consists of only a few saved adults but 50 children who regularly come to Sunday school. With missionary offerings they have purchased land and are looking to build a house of prayer in that village. They have started a second work in the home where they live. They regularly invite their neighbors to try Russian cuisine as a relaxed opportunity to share the gospel with them. Additionally, they are helping train an Indonesian, in association with Abcede Garcia.

Valentine says, "We ask that anyone reading this testimony would pray for the establishment of Bible Baptist churches in the Central Kalimantan district of the island of Borneo."

FROM COSTA RICA TO PANAMA



By Randy Rhoton, BBFI Missionary to Costa Rica

The greatest joy of being a missionary is seeing a life completely changed by the saving message of the gospel! Early in our ministry here in Costa Rica, a teenage boy was saved in our services. Norman Ortíz was baptized and began to grow spiritually. He surrendered his life for full-time ministry, went to Bible college, and actually became the pastor of the same church where he

accepted Christ! After pastoring Bible Baptist Church for five years, the Lord opened the door for our churches to send his family to Panama as missionaries. At that time, Norman and his wife, Isabel, were able to help another missionary couple with a new church plant as well as start several new children's ministries.

In 2009, the Lord opened doors for Norman and Isabel to start Life Baptist Church in La Siesta, Tocumen. It is located on the east side of the International Airport in Panama City. My son, Ray Rhoton, and his wife, Kristi, who are a part of our ministry team in Costa Rica, spent six months in Panama and helped them get the new work off the ground. The church just celebrated their fifth

anniversary in March. They have seen hundreds come to Christ and in January 2014 had a high attendance of 402! They average 250 on Sunday mornings and have a Friday night children's club with 130 attending. They have a public school ministry where Life Baptist serves as the school's spiritual counselor and provides Bible teaching. They are also involved in weekly youth outreach!

Norman, Isabel, Josué, and Abigaíl Ortíz are second-generation missionaries sent and supported by our churches in Costa Rica.

Our churches in Costa Rica love missions. Over the past six years we have been able to take dozens of our church members out of the country to minister through vacation Bible schools and camps. We have taken teams to Panama City, the San Blas Island region, Ecuador, and Honduras. These trips have been extremely important to

move our members with compassion toward ministry inside and outside of Costa Rica. Everyone that has gone on a trip has come back energized for ministry and we believe that our next missionaries and pastors will come from this group.





By Paul Byars, BBFI Missionary to the Philippines

2014 is the 20th anniversary of the Asian Baptist Clearinghouse in the Philippines. In 1994, the next generation of missionaries was willing to stand up and move out to the foreign field.

It is interesting to note that the churches sending the most missionaries through our clearinghouse are those that were planted by BBFI missionaries — the early men like L.D. Woosely (Bethany Baptist Church), Frank Hooge (Baptist Bible Church), Bob Hughes (Bible Baptist Church), and Leslie Funk (Grace Baptist Church). These men cannot speak for themselves, but the missions DNA they implanted is being reaped today around the world. Here are three of their stories.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

From Bethany Baptist Church, 14 missionary families are serving in ten foreign countries. Bethany is also one of the strongest missions givers through Faith Promise. One of their missionaries is Rainier Rolda. Rolda went to Cambodia in 1996 as one of the first Filipinos to minister in Cambodia. He was burdened to reach these people who had suffered so much in the “Killing Fields.” As he began to lead people to the Lord, a local church was planted in Phnom Penh. Then a Bible institute was started to train national

pastors for the ministry. Now there are over 20 churches in several provinces. A multi-national church was started to minister to the many expats in the country. The multi-national church has produced five other missionary families that are now serving in different countries.

A tremendous blessing of the ministry was when a Cambodian man surrendered to be a missionary in Laos, a Restricted Access Nation. The Great Commission went full circle three times — from America to the Philippines, then from the Philippines to Cambodia, and now from Cambodia to Laos. Rainier said, “It took the Philippines 50 years for the independent Baptists to send out their first missionary. Cambodia cannot wait that long. We must train and send men to the uttermost as soon as possible.”

TACLOBAN CITY & LEYTE

Leslie Funk did not know it at the time, but he was training future missionaries when he was planting a church in Tacloban City. Funk was a WWII veteran and a survivor of the Bataan Death March. When he returned to the islands as a missionary, he soon was planting churches in the Leyte area. One of his young pastors had a son named Peter Ayon.



Peter Ayon was trained and sent out to establish a church in Samar. After building a successful ministry, Peter felt called as a missionary to Indonesia. Ayon was the first missionary to be serviced by the Asian Baptist Clearinghouse. In fact, he was the reason why a clearinghouse was established, so support funds could be easily sent to him on the field.

In 1997, Peter took his wife and their four kids to the mission field. They settled in Semarang and built a church and Bible college to train Indonesians for the spreading of the gospel. His church was one of the first that started supporting foreign missions from Indonesia.

Ayon was instrumental in opening the Philippines to foreign missions. He was the pioneer to challenge Filipino churches to complete the Great Commission by obeying the last part of Acts 1:8 — “and unto the uttermost.” He blazed the trail for other missionaries to follow. Now there are 118 other families that have benefited from his sacrifice.

After 16 years in Semarang, he turned the work over to his national pastor and moved to the mission field of Singapore. Soon missions will be flowing out of this ministry as well.

BAPTIST BIBLE CHURCH

A church started by Frank Hooge and now pastored by Boyd Lyons has been a training ground for Filipinos and many other foreign nationals from countries like Pakistan, India, Myanmar, and Vietnam. Baptist Bible Church presently has seven families serving in six different





countries: Thailand, Ghana, Zambia, and four in Restricted Access Nations.

Sam (not his real name) is from Vietnam. After the war, his father, a Baptist pastor, was taken out into the street and shot to death for preaching God's word. Sam was angry at God because his father was dead and began to rebel, but his mother's faith and love led him back to Christ and salvation.

He was burdened to reach his people for Christ, so he enrolled in Asia Baptist Bible College. After graduation in 2003, Sam went back to Vietnam and started an underground church. The Lord blessed the work with many converts and baptisms. God provided the funds for a three-story building to house the church and a Bible college. Many pastors have been trained and sent out to evangelize and plant churches.

The police and authorities have been to his place many times. There have been many threats against the ministry, but the Lord has protected them from major persecution.

Sam's church has been trained to support foreign missions and they have a vision to soon expand into Hanoi. They are praying they can send out their first foreign missionary from Vietnam.

The mission vision of the Philippines and the Asian Baptist Clearinghouse is "From Asia to the World." It is exciting to see how God continues to complete the circle of missions and provide for the next generation of missionaries to spread the good news around the world.

FROM ECUADOR TO PANAMA

By Glenn McGhee, BBFI Missionary to Ecuador

As a missionary, one is focused on winning people to Christ, discipling them, and helping them grow as they serve the Lord. Then comes a very special day when one of the couples surrenders to serve as missionaries. I don't think there is anything more exciting than seeing the ministry come full circle.

This was the case with William and Jacqueline Chasipanta. In 2009, we teamed up with missionary Randy Rhoton for a mission trip to the San Blas islands of Panama. Eleven people from our churches in Ecuador participated in the VBS in the mornings, young people's meeting in the afternoons, and services in the evenings. One afternoon, William came to me and asked, "Who will come back to work with these young people?" I encouraged him to ask God the same question and be ready for His answer. Soon after our return to Ecuador, William and Jacqueline made their way to the altar to surrender as missionaries to Panama.

They are now in their third year on the field! They work with missionaries Norman and Isa Ortiz, from Costa Rica, and Hermenegildo and Iliana, Kuna Indians from Panama. Life Baptist Church is in its fifth year and averaging 250 each Sunday. They are not only involved in supporting missionaries, but are also looking forward to starting a new church this year.

William and Jacqueline are supported by the churches in Ecuador. I could not be any happier knowing that world missions is not geographically limited as long as we continue to heed His call.



FROM BRAZIL TO ST. THOMAS & PRINCE ISLAND

By Steve Trask, BBFI Missionary to Brazil

Sandra Goncalves and her sister, Selma, were faithful young teenagers in our church. They walked the dirt streets from the neighborhood of Amanda over to First Bible Baptist Church, which we had planted in 1990. In the late 90s Sandra became a student at the Bible institute in Campinas. Her mother was hesitant to allow her to attend classes, but fortunately we had some other students from our church attending classes at that time. Sandra eventually graduated! Time went by with Sandra wondering where and what she would do with her life.

Sandra attended the graduation of a couple from the Amanda church that attended another Bible institute in another state that promoted indigenous Indian ministry. At the graduation a student from Africa, Eluid Paraiso, met Sandra. After permission from the institute and Sandra's mom, the couple began a dating relationship. In time, they became engaged and were married. They labored with us in Pedreira, Sao Paulo, for a short time and then began deputation to return as missionaries to Eluid's homeland, Saint Thomas and Prince Islands located in the Gulf of Guinea off the West coast of Africa. Sandra has adapted well and is enjoying laboring with her husband in church planting.



FROM TANZANIA TO MOZAMBIQUE

Because the author of this article is currently in a Displaced Peoples Group ministry, we are not publishing his name.

Imagine telling a struggling Tanzanian missionary that he could be living comfortably. He could be receiving five times the support, enjoying teams of visitors from the States, and have excess funds to buy property, build a home, or purchase a motorcycle. He could, but his missionary stood in the way. This was my message to Daudi, and I had no idea how he would respond.

Daudi is our first foreign Tanzanian missionary. Several others have been commissioned as national church planting missionaries to the Maasai, to village areas, and to the growing suburbs of the capital. But Daudi was the real test: he would test the faith and the mission passion of our local churches as he obeyed God's call to take the gospel to an unreached tribe in Mozambique. In an

economy where the average income is less than \$100 a month, supporting a foreign missionary would demand courage, cooperation, and sacrifice at every level. Truthfully, it seemed premature and beyond the capability of our maturing churches, of which many struggle to pay a pastor. That's what made the offer that came so tempting.

A reputable and growing ministry offered to help. A healthy monthly support for Daudi, the backing of the wealthy West, and teams of short-term volunteers were all at our disposal for "partnering" together. Saying no to the offer seemed absurd.

Saying no meant that Daudi would sometimes lack funds for basic needs.



He would live hand to mouth and be called upon to sacrifice. He would be forced to depend on only two sources for his supply: on Tanzanian local churches and on God. Saying no meant that our churches would be faced with a challenge: to faithfully give to keep their representative to the nations on the field

or admit defeat and confess the inability of the Tanzanian church to obey "to the uttermost." Saying no meant that ministry would move slower, results would come later, and the only visitor Daudi may have is a Tanzanian church member or two who travelled three days by bus to hug their missionary, pray for his encouragement, and deliver an offering from the saints.

It has now been six years since Daudi was commissioned by his church in Dar es Salaam. He is living among some of the least-reached and most-resistant

By Garland Hamilton, BBFI Missionary to Mexico



José Luis Mares was saved and grew up under the ministry of Bob and Sandra Frazier. We had contact with him during our summer youth camps. After he and Fidelia, his wife, graduated from the Bible institute, he accepted the pastorate of a church in Veracruz. When I fell off the roof and broke my back, I contacted José Luis about moving back to Juárez to work with me and eventually take over our main church, Iglesia Bautista Juarense. He was a hard worker and in a short time we had grown from 150 to 200. I was invited to a mission conference and invited José Luis to accompany me. The first night, the missionary showed slides of Argentina. When we returned to the motel, José Luis was quiet. After a while, he said, “Bro. Hamilton, I need to talk to you. While we were watching the slides tonight, God touched my heart about being a missionary to Argentina. What do you think?”



I replied, “Bro. Mares, you have been with the Juarense church for a very short

time. We are growing, and I hate to see you go, but you do not answer to me and I have no ownership over you. I think you should do what God puts in your heart. My only counsel is for you and Fidelia to pray much for the Lord’s leadership.” The Mares’s burden for Argentina was evident and before their departure, another couple, graduates of our institute in Juarez, Angel and Olivia Ruiz, also decided to go to Argentina with the Mares family. After a year on the field as intern missionaries, the Ruiz family returned for Angel to be ordained to the ministry and to be approved as our second missionary family from the Juarense church to a foreign country.

peoples of sub-Saharan Africa. He has been instrumental in two new church plants in Maputo. He speaks the national language and is learning a tribal dialect. He radiates joy and the grace of God. He serves as an example to all.

So, sitting under the baobob tree, I recently told him the story; the story he never knew but deserved to know. I confessed my intervention six years ago. I told him of the offer and tried to explain all of the missiological reasons why I singlehandedly kept him from comfort, from connections, and from notability. He was silent for a long time.

“Pastor,” he said, “it has been hard. I have gone without. There have been times when my faith was tried. But I understand why you did what you did. I have learned to trust in God.” He continued, “If I was receiving money from America, then our churches in Tanzania would never give. They have learned to give by faith, and God has used them. He has used the churches in Tanzania to supply my every need. Thank you,” he said. “Thank you for saying no.”

On the surface, the trend of using mission funds from the West to support national pastors and missionaries seems tempting, oh so tempting. To our efficiency-attuned, results-oriented minds it seems the obvious choice. It makes perfect sense as we rush to complete the Great Commission. But Christ does not ask us to complete the Commission. Ours is to obey. How we obey must take more into consideration than expediency or productivity. The impact on the national church and the national church planter calls for first consideration. Our good intentions of partnering are full of exciting stories of short-term mission experiences, impressive spiritual results, and souvenirs on the mantle. Partnering, however, can also weaken the national church. Stepping in with abundant finances may actually divert dependency away from God and contribute to an anemic church with a dependent mindset and an outstretched hand. It’s hard to say no. It makes more sense to say yes. But helping can hurt, and sometimes “no” is the only response.

We were blessed to be the sending church for both families. Both have established churches in Salta, Argentina, as well as a Bible college. It is a great experience to be a part of a complete circle: being sent as a missionary and then sending out other missionaries to the foreign mission field.

By Max Harmon, BBFI Missionary to Peru

Pastor Pedro Vilchez Malipica led Abraham Saenz to the Lord and disciplined him. Saenz then studied at the Bible Baptist night institute in the local church in Zarate, a Lima suburb. Pastor Vilchez wanted him to stay and work in Zarate with him, but Saenz was compelled of the Lord to go to Puno. Puno is located in the high Andes of Peru, near Lake Titicaca, which joins Peru to Bolivia.

In Puno, Pastor Saenz took a struggling church that was about to close their doors. He established a solid independent Baptist work and over the next 35 years planted an incredible mission outreach. During that time he made regular mission trips with members of his congregation to evangelize and establish churches in surrounding towns. He took his Bible institute lessons, added some of his own, and began classes at his church for the converts from the surrounding towns who were saved on the mission trips.

God truly blessed his 33 years of ministry with 30 independent Baptist churches being established during

that time. Each church has a pastor he personally trained at the mother church in Puno. Those churches have around 20 mission projects that hopefully will one day become churches with their own pastors. Bible-based missions works!

As the church of Puno celebrated their 50th anniversary, I was invited to preach at this landmark celebration. Saturday, they met for a march from one city plaza to the main city plaza. Each of the 25 churches present carried banners identifying themselves. All the participants passed out tracts along the city streets, accompanied

by a church band, and ending with a preaching service at the main plaza.

I preached that Saturday night and Sunday morning as well. For the Sunday morning service they had rented a public auditorium that was packed with well over 400 people. Seventeen of the pastors stayed for Sunday morning services. The opening prayers were in three different languages: Spanish, Quechua, and Aymara. Among the many decisions made that day, one of the visiting pastors rejoiced as his 70-year-old mother accepted Christ as her Savior.



NEXT! KEEP IT MOVING!

The gospel ceases to be good news when we quit sharing it with others.

That great truth is applicable on every level. Individual Christians must share their faith. We must be constantly looking for opportunities to tell someone else about the good news!

We must be willing to take the good news to people who are hard to reach. We cannot pull back from our responsibility.

Churches, in order to be biblical churches, must be willing to reproduce themselves by sending church planters to other places.

Four years ago, veteran missionary Lavern Rodgers spoke with us about his desire to go to the next city, the next town, the next group of people. He referred to Mark 1:38 "And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach

there also: for therefore came I forth." We have to keep going to the next place. That is why He came! There is always a "next" place that needs the gospel.

We believe effective discipleship will naturally lead to the healthy reproduction of churches which will produce the missionaries necessary for the "next town!" Let's keep moving forward with the gospel!

How a College Can Become Great

By Elmer Towns

A sermon preached at the commencement of Baptist Bible College Asia in Manila, Philippines, March 13, 2014

I believe this is a great college for evangelism. Any great college for evangelism will do it in three ways. First, it will teach evangelism in its curriculum and communicate an attitude and passion for evangelism in all of its courses. Second, students at a college will be involved in evangelism on a regular basis. And third, student evangelism will be connected to church planting and actual soul winning.

Baptist Bible College Asia has been attached to the Highlands Camp built by the Rawlings Foundation. Highlands Camp is located 150 miles out of Manila where over 785,000 campers have heard the gospel and nearly 350,000 have made decisions for Christ in the past 14 years. Many of these converts have attended Baptist Bible College Asia that now has over 1,200 students. While they were students, they became involved in evangelistic ministry back at the camp, or in one of the 18 new churches planted by this ministry in the past 14 years. Today, over 7,000 people attend these churches. This is a great college because it is attempting to carry out the Great Commission.

When we talk about a great college, let's look at how Jesus used the word great. Our Lord said, "Anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." Did you notice that Jesus promised His disciples could do "greater" works than He did? That is what the students of a great Bible college are doing!

Jesus gave sight to blind people, but a "greater" work is when spiritual sight is given to lost people who are blinded by sin.

Jesus healed the lame so they could walk, but a "greater" work is when a person is brought to Jesus Christ, and then taught to follow Jesus just as He commanded in Mark 1:17.

Jesus healed people of leprosy, an incurable disease, but a greater work is when a lost person is cleansed from sin by the blood of Jesus Christ.

How can we tell a great Bible college? Let's make a comparison of a Bible college to an automobile factory. Great automobile factories are not measured by their great size, or the beauty of their physical plants, nor the greatness of their mechanical assembly lines, nor the greatness of the training and certification of their workers. No! Great automobile factories are measured



by the great automobiles they produce. The greatest automobile factory in the world produces the greatest automobiles. And in comparison, a great Bible college produces great soul winners who in turn help build great soul-winning churches.

In 1969, I was conducting research to find the largest churches in the United States. The pastors were familiar with my survey because this was my third year to conduct the research. I added an additional question, "What seminary/college did you attend that motivated and equipped you to pastor one of the largest churches in America?"

I began posting the results on a large chart listing all of the major Christian colleges and seminaries in America. However, most of the best-known accredited seminaries and colleges did not get any votes. They had the greatest reputation, large enrollment, and beautiful facilities. They had names like Moody, Biola, Nyack, and various others.

One college received 23 votes. Immediately I knew this college was special. I determined to find out that reason. I purchased a plane ticket, arrived in Springfield, MO, rented a car, and I showed up at Baptist Bible College unannounced.

First, I visited the library, a large room perhaps 30 feet by 30 feet. Three walls had shelves of books and I asked the librarian, "Where are your stacks?"

"You are looking at them."

I was dumbfounded; I had more books

in my library at home than this college had available for its students. So I asked,

"Where is your reference room?"

She showed me two shelves. I walked out of the library perplexed, wondering how a college that produced so many pastors that built the largest churches in America could have such a small library.

Next I visited two different Bible classes taught by their better-known professors. They were good classes, but no better than those I had at Columbia Bible College and Northwestern College (neither of the colleges or seminaries I attended produced pastors in the largest churches of America.)

Then I went to chapel where Dr. John Rawlings was speaking. The spirit was electrifying. I will never forget the challenge given by Dr. Rawlings.

"Young people ... when you graduate from Baptist Bible College, go to some God-forsaken place like Kankakee, Iowa, plant a great church, and capture that town for Christ."

Then I understood that the secret of the college was in its fire ignited by chapel messages. I learned that day that great colleges "keep the chapel pulpit hot."

To the leaders at Baptist Bible College Asia, remember you do not build a great college on scholarship alone. But also you can't build a great college without scholarship. You build a great college on the Great Commission — God's priority.

Am I suggesting God is against scholarship? No! Academic excellence and scholarship are imperative, but must be kept in the right perspective.

To the young graduates today, remember, God's call to service includes God's call to prepare. If God has called you to fulltime service, He has called you to be the best prepared you can be. That involves spiritual preparation, academic preparation, and practical experience.

There are several types of knives; each is used for a different purpose. A butter knife is designed to cut butter, but it cannot cut meat, bone, or anything harder. A meat knife can cut meat or butter, but it cannot cut wood or stone. A knife is effective according to its sharpness. There is a knife that can cut diamonds. To cut diamonds, that knife has to be the sharpest and hardest of all knives. That should be the aim of every minister of the gospel, to be so well prepared that you can do your best in ministry.

When God is looking for a young man or woman to do a difficult task, He must pass over some people who are like butter knives; they are only prepared to cut butter. Therefore, plan to be a diamond cutter. Plan to get more education after you graduate today. To do the greatest job for God, you must have the greatest preparation.

John Wesley was perhaps the greatest servant of God since the Apostle Paul. I have a portrait of him hanging in my office given

To the young graduates today, remember,

God's call to service includes God's call to prepare.

If God has called you to fulltime service, He has called you to be the best prepared you can be. That involves spiritual preparation, academic preparation, and practical experience.

to me by the World Center for Methodism. Within one generation after Wesley died, the Methodist church he founded had become the largest church movement in the world.

There were reformers who might be better known than Wesley, but they did not accomplish as much. Martin Luther introduced justification by faith to the world, but his Lutheran church was small by comparison. John Calvin introduced reformed theology that resulted in the Presbyterian Church, and again not a large movement. But John Wesley recruited an army of circuit riding preachers whose aims were to win the whole world for Jesus Christ. There is a famous portrait of Wesley with a picture of a globe in the background with these words, "The world my parish."

There were 243 Methodist churches in the United States when America signed the Declaration of Independence from England in 1776. Approximately 35 years later, during the War of 1812, there were over 5,000 Methodist churches in America — an unheard of exponential explosion of churches. When Wesley died he left 85,063 Methodist church members in England. He rode 250,000 miles on horseback, preached 40,000 sermons mostly in the open air; he usually preached four to five times each day.

Let's look at the Methodist circuit-riding preachers. John Wesley said he would ordain a man, "If they have numbers, letters, and the spirit of God." The early Methodist preachers were not graduates from Oxford, Cambridge, or any of the great English universities. They were called "plowboy preachers" or "shop keep preachers" who came from the working classes. Each circuit-riding preacher planted and pastored approximately 40 churches. In the United States, a circuit rider might be assigned three or four counties in one state. He rode his horse down a rural road singing great hymns and shouting the faith of Jesus Christ. People came out of their farms to meet him. He gathered them into barns, stables, taverns, and large kitchens, then preached, won people to Christ, and constituted them into a local church. These churches were called quarter-time churches, for a circuit-riding preacher showed up only once a month.

When they returned from their circuit, the Methodist preachers were gathered into large meetings called a Conference. They

heard sermons for eight hours for three days, preached by John Wesley, Charles Wesley, George Whitfield, Frances Asbury, and other great leaders. These plowboy preachers wrote these sermons in their notebooks, then preached what they heard.

The great influence of these conferences came from what is called the John Wesley Fast. The speakers fasted and prayed with only water and bread for ten days leading up to the conference. Revival fires were poured out on these meetings as a result of fasting and prayer. The fiery sermons were re-preached on the circuit by these young men who tried to capture the world for Jesus Christ.

Currently, Liberty University has 104,000 students. Why is it so great and why has God blessed this institution? Let's go back to examine the very first chapel on September 10, 1971. There were 154 students and the university only offered the first semester of the first year of studies. The university had four former Christian college presidents, each one taught a course in that first year.

In the first chapel I read the Great Commission. I explained that the world was created by God and every person was made in the image of God. God loved the world and every ethnic group in the world. Therefore, I challenged them to "go and capture the world for Jesus Christ." Then I explained what capturing the world meant, I said,

"Capture the world within you.

"Capture the world around you.

"Capture every person in the world for Jesus Christ."

There are three reasons why BBC Asia can be great. First, we see the demise of western Christendom, which involves not only churches, but culture as well as the Christian institutions that have influenced culture. Christianity was planted in Jerusalem among Asian people. Paul took Christianity to Europe, which became the center of Christianity for 1,000 years. The European ethnic groups were reached for Christ, and from them the gospel was centered in England.

Next, America became the center of Christianity, and the ethnic groups in America were reached and from America reached out to the whole world.

But just as the influence of the gospel

in Europe and England diminished, now the gospel in America is fading. The center of Christianity is moving west and south. The biggest movement for God today is in the nations below the equator and the Pacific Rim. This is the mission field of Baptist Bible College Asia. You are located on God's cutting edge. Now be a diamond-cutting knife that can do great things for God.

Second, Baptist Bible College Asia has been involved in 18 new church plants in the last 14 years. This is a New Testament commitment not found in Europe, England, or America. First, these churches are non-facility based churches — i.e., they are not pouring their money and energy into buildings and maintaining buildings. They are using existing buildings to reach people for Christ. Also, these churches are not program-driven churches. They have the two functions mentioned in scripture, "Daily in the temple and house to house". These new churches meet for Bible study in homes and their pastors preach in rented facilities on Sunday.

Third, Baptist Bible College Asia is not committed to an academic formula for success; rather it is committed to a soul-winning formula that has made it successful thus far. The fact that Baptist Bible College Asia has 1,200 students in only 14 years of existence shows the extraordinary power of the gospel.

Therefore, I commend you graduates this day for your commitment to be educated and serve God in a local church through evangelism and ministry.

Second, I commend the parents and families who have stood behind these students at Baptist Bible College Asia, supporting them, praying for them, and helping them financially to get their education.

Third, I commend the faculty and administration who work diligently to make this college a success. I have noted that faculty or administrators do not take a salary. They are missionaries supported by funds from the United States, or they are pastors who are supported by local churches in the Philippines. Thank you for your sacrifice.

Finally, I praise God for raising up a college with the biblical goals, local-church strategy, and evangelistic passion.

So, I commend you all for commitment to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

HISTORY

BAPTISTS

JAMES CHILES – *The peculiar Baptist*

James Chiles was one of the first Virginia Baptists to suffer persecution for preaching the gospel. Prior to his conversion, he had an unsavory reputation as a man who was both willing and able to settle any dispute with his fists.

That changed sometime prior to 1768 when Samuel Harriss and James Reed began an extensive evangelistic tour south of the James River. The fruit of their labors resulted in a number of conversions. New churches were planted; new laborers were set apart and sent forth to preach the gospel. Among these early converts were Elijah Craig, James Walker, James Chiles, and many others. These young preachers, following in the footsteps of their spiritual fathers, began preaching anywhere and to anyone who would listen. Difficulties could not stop them nor dampen their flaming zeal. They were mocked, threatened, attacked by mobs, physically abused, harassed by sheriffs and courts, and thrown into dungeons. But their efforts were not in vain; these young evangelists were able to spread the gospel in all the lower counties in Virginia.

James Chiles and his preaching companions — John Waller, Lewis Craig, and William Mash (an exhorter) — had the distinction of being the first Baptist preachers to be imprisoned for preaching the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Virginia. On June 4, 1768, they were seized by the sheriff of Spotsylvania County and were brought before three magistrates. Each was placed under a 1,000-pound bond and ordered to appear at the court at Fredericksburg in two days. At the appointed time each of the men was present. The prosecuting attorney charged them as “disturbers of the peace.” He stated they “cannot meet a man upon the road, but they must ram a text of scripture down his throat.” The court ruled if they would sign an affidavit promising not to preach in Spotsylvania County for one year and a day, they would be set free. They refused, and the sheriff was ordered to place them in jail.

As the four preachers were led to jail, they sang a hymn. They were imprisoned but they could not be silenced. Each day at an appointed time, crowds would gather outside the jail to hear these fearless men of God preach the gospel. It is

reported that 11 heads of families and some of their domestics, with many others, professed faith in Christ.

On July 16, 1768, John Blair, Deputy Governor of Virginia, sent a letter to the court requesting the court set the Baptist preachers free. Three days later, after 43 days of imprisonment, the men were freed.

Each of the men continued and even expanded his respective ministries. James Chiles had a reputation as a powerful preacher who specialized in speaking to the heart. But, he had some peculiar beliefs: he strongly believed in visions and dreams and claimed God revealed matters to him. In spite of these imperfections, his success as a preacher was great. He was the first to preach the gospel in Albemarle County. His preaching led to several revivals and the establishment of Baptist churches. The renowned Samuel Harriss had great confidence in Chiles and his ability to touch a sinner’s heart. He and Chiles traveled extensively throughout Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina preaching, baptizing, and establishing new churches.

Eventually Chiles would move to South Carolina where he established a large church. He never abandoned his belief in visions and dreams. As his health began to fail, he went to the house of a neighbor woman and told her his God said that he must die there that day.

She said, “I hope not, Mr. Chiles.”
“Yes,” said he, “my God says so: but, however, I will return awhile, and consult my God again!”

He retired for the consultation, and on his return said, “Yes, madam, my God says I must die today.”
The woman again expressed doubts. She said, “You look too well, Mr. Chiles, to die so soon.”

He said, “I will try my God once more.”
After retiring for some time in prayer, he came back and said, “It is fixed; the decree is irrevocable; today I must die in your house.”

Having so said, he stretched himself upon the bed, and yielded up the ghost. James Chiles is a reminder that God has all kinds of children, and it is He who chooses His servants.

James Chiles is a reminder that God has all kinds of children, and it is He who chooses His servants.

by Thomas Ray



Night of victory

Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done” (1 Chronicles 16:12). Last March, our church family “remembered” 20 years ago...

“Have you seen this?” The student held up the flyer. “Meet at Armitage Baptist Church — Show Your Rage.” I noted the sponsors, Refuse and Resist, Queer Nation, Sister Serpents.

There were ten similar groups.

“Where did you get this?”

“They’re passing them out on my campus.” We had 11 days to ... do what?

We had been under attack for trying to save babies from slaughter. Tires slashed on a bus full of people at a red light. Glue in church door locks. An attempt to take over our Easter service. We knew what these people were capable of.

We infiltrated the suspected group. (Yeah, baby! Secret agents! Don’t mess with the Baptists.) Our spies reported discussions of using super soaker water guns filled with AIDS-tainted urine and balloons filled with the same. We found a box of sharply pointed sticks stashed in the alley during a previous picket at our church. Hat pins were used on pro-life counselors in front of our local abortion clinic during crowded sidewalk activity.

They’re passing these out on campuses? How do we prepare? Should we cancel prayer meeting? Can I put our people at risk? I can’t guarantee their physical safety. I can’t guarantee their cars won’t be vandalized.

We decided we couldn’t cancel prayer meeting. We had to mobilize and engage.

That Wednesday night, our membership rushed to the church building. We manned the parking up and down the side streets, the roof, the doors, the nurseries, and the kitchen. The worship team prepared to lead the service.

The demonstrators began to arrive. There were maybe 150 at most. Our security noted a number of out-of-state license plates on the streets around the church.

People streamed into the auditorium to pray. They prayed for the protestors, for abortionists, for pastors, for churches, for our city. They prayed for revival.

The auditorium was full. The front steps were occupied by 40 of our men. We didn’t know if the protestors might rush the doors.

A big yellow bus rounded the corner, and another bus, and another bus, and another. Seven buses arrived filling the boulevard in front of the church. Police scrambled to direct traffic and guide the crowds disgorged from the vehicles.

“Oh no,” one of the protestors cried, “they’re bringing in the homeless.”

No, it was Pastor James Meeks and Salem Baptist Church with his entire mid-week service, 600+ people from the far South Side. A tsunami of singing black Baptists swamped the protestors. Our front door security force was ecstatic, parting Red-Sea like for the guests, patting them on the back, shaking their hands.

There was not enough room for everyone in the first floor auditorium. A couple hundred moved to the lower level auditorium to pray.

John Leo, of *U.S. News & World Report*, flew in from New York City. He wrote in a column dated March 21, 1994: “The most common chant was ‘Racist, sexist, antigay/Born-again bigots, go away.’”

“For ‘born-again bigots,’ the congregation has made an unusually successful effort to cut across racial lines.

“While the crowd chanted about racism, a group of young black men showed up wearing long red jackets that said ‘SHS security.’ They were from a South Side Baptist church, Sweet Holy Spirit, and had come to protect a fellow Evangelical church.

“Somewhat confused, the woman with the bullhorn tried to lead the crowd in singing ‘Little Boxes,’ a song about suburban conformity popularized by Pete Seeger in the 1960s. It was, without a doubt, the least appropriate

song anyone could have sung about this diverse urban congregation.”

The Salem youth choir mounted the front steps. The demonstrators tried to drown them out — hoots, hollers, chants, beating pots and pans, blowing whistles. I just have to say, you can’t blow a whistle very hard very long without fainting. You can’t scream chants very long without getting hoarse. Pounding a pan pretty soon hurts your own ears.

The kids were too good. They understood this was spiritual warfare up close and personal. The protestors were done for. Soon they were just standing, listening to the choir. After a while, the protestors decided they had nothing more to give. The video shows them slinking off into the Chicago night.

Meanwhile, we figured we could get everybody from downstairs and outside into the auditorium if everybody folded up his or her chairs. We jammed everyone in standing. The room was packed solid.

The air was electric. You could have held the plug end of your toaster in midair and burned your toast. The presence of God was palpable. The glory of God was tangible. The youth choir, now accompanied by their band, led the congregation in victorious praise. I thought the building would explode.

The years give a little perspective. I don’t think there had ever been a prayer meeting quite like this in Chicago history. Not this large, this diverse — African-American, Hispanic, and Anglo, city and suburbs. I think something broke in the heavens that night.

God showed up that night, and God is at work in Chicago today.



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

It all works together



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

This morning as I write, I feel a refreshing sense of peace and joy. These qualities are not often a part of the job of directing Baptist Bible College, but today Romans 8:28 assures me “That all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” The spring semester at BBC has been wonderful. It has been very busy, difficult, and a lot of hard work, but it has also been very rewarding. God is really doing something special at BBC!

Everything we do at BBC is done as a part of an important strategy — to train men and women for a life of ministry. The primary focus of each semester is preparing our students to use their lives for Christ. Our students take an average of 14 credit hours per semester. These classes are required and are used to help the student grow intellectually and spiritually. Classes are difficult and time consuming but provide a great sense of fulfillment and accomplishment.

Our students also attend chapel services twice weekly. The purpose of chapel is to prepare students to build lives of integrity, commitment, and godliness. Chapel services feed their spirits, and they are challenged regularly to live out God’s call on their lives.

Student life events are designed to provide fun activities that allow students to develop godly, lasting relationships. Students are also involved weekly in their local churches where they worship, are taught, and serve. This semester, our students have also participated in women’s volleyball, men’s basketball, men’s soccer, spring break ministry trips, D-Now and other church events, modular classes, Global Awareness Week sponsored by the BBFI Missions Office (Thank you, Jon Konnerup!), Easter, and have made preparations for finals, Fellowship Week, and graduation. They have also hosted 400 young women for Bloom, 200 guests for College Days, and hundreds for basketball and ACE conferences.

These events, along with homework and reading assignments, keep our students very busy! They become tired and overwhelmed, but they continue on. They don’t give in, and they don’t give up, and they soon realize the satisfaction of accomplishment. Why do we do all these things? It is all for one reason. We want our students to be prepared for the demands of a life given to ministry. BBC is so much more than just a college — we work to develop lives.

Training for ministry should never stop, and that is why I would like to invite you again to Fellowship Week 2014. Guest speakers for the week include Jack Eggar and Mark Hoover. Tuesday morning will offer a fresh venue for the men and guest speaker Stefanie Brown for the women. Homecoming will be held on Wednesday night where we will honor the lives and ministries of Eli Harju and Ken and Norma Gillming. You can view the complete schedule and register online now at www.fellowshipweek.com and be sure to sign up for the Alumni and Friends Banquet and the Scholarship Golf Tournament!

Walking — a Boston tradition



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

By the time you read this, another crop of extraordinary men and women will be ready to walk across the historic stage of Faneuil Hall in Boston to receive their degrees from Boston Baptist College. It’s quite a site, quite a moment. I wish you could see it. Where heroes of the past once stood — heroes of faith for the next generation will walk. Young people we have shared mind and heart with, like Bobby and Lauren and Dan and Michelle, will not only walk through Faneuil Hall, but, in one of my favorite Boston traditions, will take a final Boston walk together. In full regalia, we walk past the very spot where D.L. Moody was converted, and with flags unfurled and bagpipes blaring, we will walk past the statue of Samuel Adams — that honors his integrity on our way into the building often called “the cradle of liberty.” I love walks in Boston.

For some reason walks seem to come up with regularity in the life of our college. Our campus has a “Walk of Light” — a tribute to lifelong faithfulness that illuminates our campus and inspires us to emulate that biblical quality. If you go downtown, you are supposed to walk the Freedom Trail (those trolley things are kind of cheating!). Then, last month, I had an incredible opportunity to share another famous walk with a bunch of our students. While in the UK on our study trip, some of us spent the day at Oxford. It was an amazing day (too much for me to tell you about here, but feel free to ask me later). Except for holding ancient papyri of Scriptures in my hands, I don’t know if any part of that Oxford experience was more meaningful to me than meandering around Addison’s Walk at Magdalen College. Addison’s Walk is the path that J.R.R. Tolkien walked with C.S. Lewis as they talked about the reality of the One true God. After one long twilight walk, Lewis would finally crumble before that God — whose reality he had long opposed — and the rest, as you know, is history. That’s quite a path!

College is a marathon. It’s a precursor to church ministry, where “a long obedience in the same direction” is worth so much more than making a splash. But on that marathon we sure do need a few good walks. We make a point of that here in Boston.



Dave Melton and his son, Matthew, on Addison’s Walk

SPRINGFIELD, MO

BBFI World Mission Service Center hosts first World Mission Forum

By Tim Long, BBFI Associate Director

We just completed the first World Mission Forum, surpassing our expectations in attendance. We had 72 register for the event with 40 prospective missionaries, 20 pastors, and 12 mission-minded students. It was also encouraging to have so many travel great distances to be here, coming from Arkansas, Kansas, Tennessee, Illinois, Louisiana, Texas, and Delaware. The purpose of this event was to encourage and share ideas with pastors and their staff about developing mission strategies and awareness in their churches, while at the same time helping those who are considering missions or who have surrendered to being

foreign missionaries, understand what we do at the World Mission Service Center.

The two-day forum included topics ranging from maintaining mission momentum in the church, mission internships, and helping missionaries raise support, to ethics and accountability, deputation, and current mission opportunities. Prospective missionaries were also given the opportunity to sit down with the directors in the afternoon to ask their personal questions about BBFI missions and how they can move forward in getting to the mission field.

The overall input at the end of the forum was positive and some of the comments

reflected the following:

- “It was very informative and a huge help to understand more about missions.”
- “Food and fellowship were awesome.”
- “Everything was wonderful. So much packed into two days-have much to think about and apply. Thanks!”
- “The directors’ interviews were great; very helpful and encouraging.”

Our goal at the BBFI World Mission Service Center is for the World Mission Forum to be a yearly event with the possibility of expanding to different regions to make access easy for pastors and others to attend. The commitment

of the churches of the BBFI to world missions continues to be strong and it is our desire to help the pastors along with both present and future missionaries in their ministries of taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.



COLUMBUS, OH

Bob Burney releases new book

Bob Burney, former pastor and now radio personality and counselor, has announced the release of his new book, *Remember Whose You Are*.

Burney, who founded and pastored Calvary Bible Baptist Church in Westerville, OH, says the book is intended for Christians to help learn their identity in Christ.

“Three years ago my vocal chords were paralyzed, and I was told I might never speak again. I had said for years that I didn’t have time to write a book. It’s interesting how God can take away your excuses.”

Based on his reading about the church of Corinth in the New Testament, the book teaches God’s grace is greater than any sin, God’s grace is a greater motivator to grow, change, and mature than guilt, God’s grace and sovereignty are greater than any circumstance or enemy you will face, God is at work in your life whether you can see what he is doing or not, and God has good plans and a future for your life awaiting your surrender.

Burney currently resides in Columbus, OH, with his wife, Joy. His award-winning radio show, “Bob Burney Live!”, is broadcast by Salem Communications, and he and his wife minister through CrossPower Ministries.

The book is available online through www.rememberwhoseyouare.com and through Amazon.



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Ten years later in Ethiopia

Ten years ago, Eric Shadle and Craig Dyson, along with their wives, Amanda and Amanda (yes, for real) were making plans to form a missionary team to Ethiopia. The two families posed for an up-to-date photo recently (the

young man on the right is Ermias, whom the Dysons are adopting). For more information (news, blogs, and photos) about the Shadles and Dysons, see www.teamethiopia.com.



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PONCA, AR

Arkansas preachers enjoy Buffalo River area

By Donna Braymer

The Arkansas Baptist Bible Fellowship met for their March meeting at Riverwind Lodge, a part of the Buffalo Outdoor Center in Ponca, Arkansas. Pastor Jim and Debbie Goodman of Stillwell Bible Baptist Church, Clarksville, hosted the retreat.

Jim said, "Many years ago, we wanted the meeting we hosted to be for the whole family and geared toward fellowship and relaxation. So our March meeting is usually our retreat, and we always have a great crowd."

State chairman Deryl DeShields, Berryville Baptist Church, said, "We met not only to conduct the business of our fellowship but to develop closer relationships with fellow servants."

In spite of the unique distractions of the Buffalo River, the Elk Museum, a herd of elk, and the comfortable lodge, the pastors worked on the proposed national officer's election ballot as well as follow-up on shared goals from the last meeting.

Roger and Nell Goodman, members of Temple Baptist Church in Springdale, and Debbie Goodman always prepare wonderful meals

for the group. This year's menu included everything from prime rib to s'mores around an outdoor campfire.

The retreat includes the whole family, and activities include a movie for the children and board games for the adults. Lots of laughter could be heard through the hills and valleys of the Buffalo River the night the Arkansas BBFI came to town.



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WEST DES MOINES, IA

GuideOne Insurance announces new scholarship program

GuideOne Insurance has announced a new scholarship program for individuals who are actively pursuing a future career in ministry. Interested students are encouraged to apply. Beginning this year, four \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded annually to deserving individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Must be a junior, senior, or graduate religious studies student, or an individual in seminary
- Students must be attending accredited colleges, universities, or seminaries within the United States and District of Columbia

- Minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.25 is required; and essay, transcript, and one letter of recommendation are required.

“As one of America’s leading insurers of churches, we want to give back to the religious communities we serve by supporting individuals who will be the future leaders of our nation’s churches,” said Jim Wallace, GuideOne chairman, president, and CEO. “GuideOne is pleased

to be able to offer this scholarship program to help these individuals achieve their goals of serving in ministry.”

More information about the scholarship, including the online application, can be found on www.GuideOne.com under the “GuideOne Foundation” page. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2014. Scholarships will be awarded by the middle of June.

DUNLAP, IL

Illinois BBF meeting



Pastor Tim Beddingfield and Cedar Hills Baptist Church of Dunlap, IL hosted the Illinois BBF meeting March 10 and 11. Preachers for the meeting were Tribune Editor Keith Bassham, Bruce Humbert, and Gary McKee. David McDaniel is the state’s BBF chairman.

SAN DIMAS, CA

Pacific Coast BBC to hold reunion in July

Pacific Coast BBC alumni are invited to attend a reunion July 24-26, 2014, in San Dimas, CA. The event, planned by Julie A. Kearns, was inspired by a Facebook page for PCBBC alumni. The page boasts more than 700 members.

In preparation for the reunion, organizers are collecting student stories and planning programming for tours, a dinner, and worship services. Those wishing to participate may contact Julie at PCBBCEvent@gmail.com or view the PCBBC Group page on Facebook.

Pacific Coast BBC was founded in 1966 and moved to a campus in San Dimas in 1972. From 1966 to 1998 the independent college was affiliated with the Baptist Bible Fellowship. PCBBC was moved to Oklahoma City in 1998 and renamed Heartland Baptist Bible College.

AUSTIN, TX

Austin church still a "shell" after Halloween flood

First Independent Baptist Church continues to meet in what amounts to a "shell" of a building months after a flood hit the church's neighborhood last fall. This is due largely to the ongoing ministry of the church extended to their neighbors who suffered catastrophic losses, despite the loss of their own church facilities.

Pastor Mike Marcellus reports that through First church's ministries and others, 240 people have come to Christ and their own church attendance has grown by 35 percent. Meanwhile, the church continues to meet in a gutted building with no air handling (that means no AC in the coming months), no rest-rooms, and little in the way of comforts.

A video has been prepared to highlight the ministry and the need of the church as they attempt to raise \$183,000 to rebuild their facilities. View the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7PnPtLdcbI&feature=youtu.be>

Building donations can be sent to First Independent Baptist Church, 8401 Bluff Springs Rd, Austin, TX or on the Web at <http://www.firstchurchaustin.com> (look for a Donate link).



MESQUITE, TX

EVEA MAE WADE

Evea Mae Wade, wife of long-time BBFI pastor R. D. Wade, went to be with the Lord March 10, 2014. Mrs. Wade was born December 24, 1931. She served God faithfully with her husband for 63 years.

Mrs. Wade is survived by her husband, four children, 15 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren. Services were held March 15 at First Baptist Church of Meadowview in Mesquite, TX.

EVINGTON, VA

LARRY HAAG

Former BBFI missionary Larry Edward Haag was taken to glory March 30, 2014. Born September 28, 1940, Larry graduated from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, in 1963. As well as serving as a BBFI missionary to Brazil, he also served with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, and taught at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, 13 years.

Larry is survived by his wife, Sharon, five children, 14 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Services were held April 3, 2014, at Thomas Road Baptist Church-Pate Chapel in Lynchburg, VA.

UENOHARA, JAPAN

CLARA (MARSDEN) RODGERS

Clara Lee Rodgers, BBFI missionary to Japan since 1950, graduated to glory March 24, 2014, after a long illness. Born August 12, 1929, Clara and her first husband, Alvin, were married in 1949, and they became BBFI missionaries to Japan in 1950 where they served until his death in 1983. She married fellow BBFI missionary Lavern Rodgers in 1990 and continued her missionary service until she was too ill to work.

Clara is survived by her husband, Lavern, four children, nine grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. A service was held March 28 at Chofu Baptist Temple in Tokyo led by Pastor Hideo Oki, with whom Clara had worked after the death of her husband Alvin. Also ministering in the service were Steve Bender, representing the BBFI, and Pastor Mike Haley of Fort Worth, TX, her sending pastor. A stateside memorial service is planned for April 12, 2014, at Hallmark Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

PLANO, TX

HARRY JACKSON

BBFI pastor and educator Harry David Jackson left this life March 23, 2014. Born June 26, 1940, in Pueblo, CO, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Adams State College in Alamosa, CO. While at ASC, Harry met Meredith Ann Barrett who would share his life and ministry for the next 50 plus years. The couple was married July 28, 1963, in Pueblo, CO.

Harry attended and graduated from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, and was ordained into the ministry on August 23, 1967. He served churches in Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, New York, and California. He also planted a church near Chicago in 1974 and served as vice president of Western States Baptist Bible College in California. He and Meredith moved to Texas in 2005 where he remained active throughout a debilitating illness.

Harry is survived by his wife, Meredith, three sons, and 13 grandchildren. Services were held at Prestonwood Baptist Chapel in Plano, TX.

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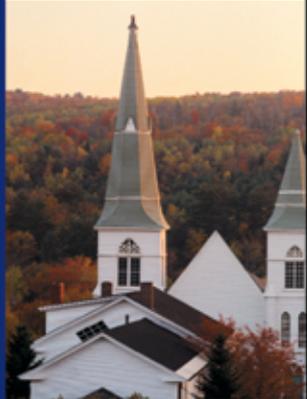


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• **Living Water Baptist Church** 5735 Ave. F, Mobile AL 36608 251-631-3008 *Pastor James Richardson*

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 Daniel Dennis*

ARKANSAS

• **Berryville Baptist Church** 112 E. Fancher St., Berryville, AR 72616, Phone: (870) 423-2340, *Pastor Derryl DeShields*

CALIFORNIA

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

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

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

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

CONNECTICUT

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

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

• **First Baptist Church**, 6062 Old Shawnee Rd., Milford, DE 19963, 302/422-9795 *Pastor David Perdue*

FLORIDA

• **Palm Springs Drive Baptist Church**, 601 Palm Springs Dr., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701, 407/831-0950 *Pastor Scott Carlson*

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

• **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*

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

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

• **First Baptist Coconut Creek**, formerly Calvary Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 954/422-9611 *Pastor Jerry Williamson*

• **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

• **Suncoast Baptist Church**, 410 Warrington 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

HAWAII

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

ILLINOIS

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

IOWA

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

KANSAS

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

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

KENTUCKY

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

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

LOUISIANA

• **Mid-City Baptist Church**, 5320 Airline Dr., 10 miles north of Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City, LA 71111. (318) 742-0772 www.midcitybaptist.com *Pastor Jason D. Filler, Sr.*

MARYLAND

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

MASSACHUSETTS

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

NEBRASKA

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

NEW JERSEY

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

NORTH CAROLINA

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

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

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

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

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

OHIO

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

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

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

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

OREGON

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

RHODE ISLAND

• **Ocean State Baptist Church**, 600 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI 02917, 401/231-1980 *Pastor Archie Emerson*

SOUTH CAROLINA

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

TEXAS

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

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

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

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

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

• **Cypress Creek Baptist Church**, 21870 Northwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77429, 281/469-6089 *Pastor Carl Hughes*

• **Talley Rd. Baptist Church** 3120 Talley Rd., San Antonio, TX 78253, 210/862-3108, www.talleyroadbaptistchurch.org trbc@satx.rr.com, *Pastor Larry Bruce*

VIRGINIA

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

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

WEST VIRGINIA

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

INTERNATIONAL

BELGIUM
• **Grace International Baptist Church**, Bruges, Belgium 8200 913/871-8901 VOIP, www.gibc.be *Pastor Tim J. Downs*

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

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I am blessed to be able to serve

By Mary Herman

In February, my ministry took me to Asia. I serve at the request of missionaries whom our Lord has carefully placed around the world, usually to teach teachers or to minister to women. On this trip, I served mostly with Mike and Sandie Reap in the Philippines, with Rick and Tammy Salmon, who work in Thailand, and missionaries in Vietnam (whose names cannot be published). Clearly, none of these opportunities would have been possible without these missionaries partnering with me, hosting me in their homes, and even traveling with me with their own busy schedules and ministries as well.

Getting there was bumpy. My flight was 24 hours away when I totaled my Ford Ranger on black ice. I walked away with only a slight limp, but flight delays on the journey aggravated my sore knee, and by my arrival in Manila, I was one tired lady and my knee was getting steadily worse.

The ministry began the next day with a LIFT meeting at Berean Bible Baptist in Paranaque City where Mike and Sandie Reap serve. It was a great time of renewing friendships and sharing with the ladies. The following week we flew to Vietnam where I was met with many surprises and opportunities.

I was able to spend a few days in North Vietnam, where we met a tour guide named Hei. Among the things I learned is that each year is called by an animal name. Hei was born in the year of the buffalo, so according to tradition, he could not marry someone born in that same year because when the year of the buffalo comes around again, he must be very cautious because he is prone to bad luck. If his wife were to be having bad luck also, it just would be too hard.

While he was teaching us the customs of the land, I was reminded again that every man has a longing for God. There is a void that can only be filled by Jesus and if they do not know Him, they create their own god in an attempt to fill that God-shaped void in their lives. Because of this need, our traveling companions are feeling an urgency to take that Truth to the people of North Vietnam.

The missionaries and national pastors here are friendly and went out of their way to make us feel welcome and appreciated. I was privileged to meet with six different churches and I was impressed. There are challenges, especially with space, but all manage in the best fashion they can to communicate God's Truth. Meetings are usually in homes, and, with creative usage of space, probably three times as many Vietnamese people can fit in a small place as Americans could, or would, fit. Being close doesn't seem to be an issue.

The opportunities extended for me and the other missionaries to serve were wonderful as well. I was privileged to speak for two ladies' events. The first was with 42 ladies from local assemblies on the first weekend we were there. The next Saturday was a full-day seminar on Methods of Bible Teaching with 11 different churches involved and approximately 50 in attendance.

Another ladies' conference was a highlight for me. It was hosted by a Vietnamese pastor's wife with a burden to reach out to women in ministry who have little opportunity for fellowship or training.

The participants were Vietnamese ladies from the provinces (farms, villages, or mountainous regions). Ten churches were represented with pastors wives and staff wives, many of whom traveled by bus for 24 hours to arrive on time and were happy to sleep on the concrete floor with little to cushion their bodies. They grinned broadly, enjoyed fellowship, and listened intently.

One older lady did not have a Bible and, although she raised her hand to respond, the leader did not recognize her when games were played and questions asked about the lessons. When asked about this, the explanation was that she could not read. She accepted her lot with grace, but a surprise was coming. It was my privilege to present her with her own Bible. She hugged it ever so closely and a neighbor helped her to find the right Scriptures as I taught. She said they had no Bible in their home, but it would be treasured and her daughter would read it to her.

In speaking with the Vietnamese pastor and his wife, I learned that the whole of Vietnam is not nearly as advanced as the cities. The living in many provinces is still quite simple and these precious ladies work so very hard to ensure their families are provided for and to enable their husbands the opportunity to study and fulfill the calling they have for ministry. They needed encouragement and to be helped to see how wonderful and worthy they are. That was the easy part! They are precious ladies who carry heavy burdens and count it a privilege to serve the Master.

It was my privilege to spend time and share with these ladies. Although we speak different languages, there was a kindred spirit with these servants of our Lord. Their educational level was lacking, but they were eager to learn and many made decisions regarding service and dedication. I am a blessed woman to have been given the opportunity to serve these women.

Mary Herman serves missionaries and churches around the world in a unique teaching ministry. Look for more from Mary's travels in future editions.

MAY 2014

PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2 	3 
				MISSIONARY Scott & Kristi Hudgins <i>Colombia</i>	CHAPLAIN Col. Thomas & Penny Hoyle <i>U.S. Army Reserve</i>	MISSIONARY Garry & Nancy Matheny <i>Romania</i>
4 	5 	6 	7 	8 	9 	10 
T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY T.J. & Kim Gritts <i>England</i>	MISSIONARY Jon & Ruth Bergen <i>Scotland</i>	MISSIONARY Jayne Radak <i>Brazil</i>	Newly Approved Missionaries	MISSIONARY Steven & Jenelle Swann <i>Bulgaria</i>	Baptist Bible College 2014 Graduates	MISSIONARY Ramzi & Ruth Kammar <i>Israel</i>
11 	12 	13 	14 	15 	16 	17 
MISSIONARY Missy Sanders <i>Bolivia</i>	MISSIONARY Roger & Sandra Monasmith <i>Australia</i>	Workers in Restricted Countries	MISSIONARY Paul & Teresa Herson <i>Pakistan</i>	BBFI MISSION OFFICE - SPRINGFIELD, MO Lee Tomlin <i>Associate Mission Director</i>	MISSIONARY Peter & Zorka Abрман <i>Slovakia</i>	Boston Baptist College 2014 Graduates
18 	19 	20 	21 	22 	23 	24 
MISSIONARY Scott & Norma Edwards <i>Portugal</i>	MISSIONARY Connie Vincent <i>Kenya</i>	MISSIONARY Larry & Sharon Lilly <i>Mexico</i>	MISSIONARY Eric & Amanda Shadle <i>Ethiopia</i>	MISSIONARY Michael & Tammi Nelson <i>Australia</i>	Louisiana Baptist University 2014 Graduates	MISSIONARY Max & Debbie Harmon <i>Peru</i>
25 	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 	31 
MISSIONARY Mike & Cindy Burgett <i>Japan</i>	MISSIONARY Carol Elkins <i>Nicaragua</i>	MISSIONARY Fernando & Carolyn Torres <i>Spain</i>	MANNA Worldwide	MISSIONARY Miguel & Christina Lopez <i>Honduras</i>	MISSIONARY Doug & Donna Stamper <i>Kenya</i>	MISSIONARY Patrick & Ann-Janel McClure <i>Brazil</i>

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

Martin Luther



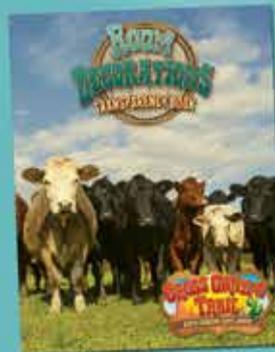
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RIDIN' STRONG WITH JESUS

"IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY, AND FOLLOW ME."

LUKE 9:23

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