

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

MAY 2015 | VOL. 65 NO. 9



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ON THE TABLE

What's new is old

by Keith Bassham | Editor

I have grown weary with the theology popularized in social media with phrasing like, "I love Jesus, but I don't like religion," or "Jesus is good, but churches are bad." We citizens of Springfield, MO, saw a version of this play out a couple of weeks ago when we were voting on the repeal of the city's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity ordinance. The SOGI ordinance, intended to expand non-discrimination protections for race and religion to include sexual orientation and gender identity, had been passed by the city council last year. Critics (read "outraged citizens who thought their council members had lost their minds") petitioned for a repeal, and the council chose to place the ordinance on a ballot.

As the day of the vote approached, the two opposing groups (Vote Yes and Vote No) were very public, and it turns out both religion and politics are fit topics for a conversation after all. The Vote Yes (to repeal the ordinance) group maintained the ordinance was cover for an anti-Christian movement designed to stop speech and behavior critical of homosexuality, flexible gender identities, and same-sex marriage. The Vote No group said it was a human rights issue, and churches (and perhaps Christians) should not involve themselves in either discrimination or political decision-making.

Social media was filled with the usual mix of truth, half-truth, and outright falsehood. But, what fascinated me was the large number of people who were suddenly conversant about the person, life, and teachings of Jesus. According to the posts I was reading, Jesus spent nearly all his time saying, "Judge not," and "Love everyone." What was taking up so much room in the rest of the Gospels beyond those two items is anyone's guess.

The ordinance was repealed, but not by much of a majority. In Springfield. The home of thousands of Christians and hundreds of churches. In fact, many of those professing Christians and leaders in those churches campaigned for the ordinance to remain in place, and thus voted no. And in their minds, they were following the teaching of Jesus.

We should not be baffled by this. J. Gresham Machen, a Christian leader nearly 100 years ago, identified a similar problem in his own day. He wrote:

"The truth is that the life-purpose of Jesus discovered by modern liberalism is not the life-purpose of the real Jesus, but merely represents those elements in the teaching of Jesus — isolated and misinterpreted — which happen to agree with the modern program. It is not Jesus, then, who is the real authority, but the modern principle by which the selection within Jesus' recorded teaching has been made. Certain isolated ethical principles of the Sermon on the Mount are accepted, not at all because they are the teachings of Jesus, but because they agree with modern ideas" (Christianity and Liberalism, 1923, pp. 77-78).

What's new is old.

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

MAY 2015

VOL. 65 NO. 9

FEATURES



BBFI Global Meeting 2016

All the information you need to start planning your trip to Seoul, Korea, to be a part of this great event coming next March.

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15 countries in need

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Tropical Cyclone hits Vanuatu

When Super Tropical Cyclone Pam struck the islands of Vanuatu on March 13, BBFI missionaries Stephen and Lynn Spores were along for the ride.

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

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

BBFI — The networking place



by Eddie Lyons | President | BBFI

I recently read an article written by Ron Edmondson entitled “7 Intangible, Seemingly Unproductive Actions Valuable in Leadership.” In his article, he says, “In order for the team to thrive, there are things that may seem unproductive that the leader must spend time doing.” His list includes prayer, thinking, reading, planning, and more. He also includes networking as an important action.

The Baptist Bible Fellowship provides opportunities for networking. Edmondson says that networking, the quick interactions with other leaders, can make a difference and can open the greatest doors. He makes a strong point when he suggests that the success of a leader is often directly related to the strength and size of a leader’s network.

Just this week I got to spend time networking with a church planter from Alabama. I first met Dan Woodcock when a group of BBC students came over to do a little karaoke singing in my basement. Today Dan is a successful church planter whose sacrifice, faithfulness, and love for the unchurched has enabled him to achieve remarkable success. He told me he made the trip to reconnect to his BBFI network. As we talked he expressed how valuable networking was to him. As we shared our experiences in ministry I picked up some great ideas and was inspired by what God has done in his ministry. Networking makes me better at what I do.

Understanding the importance of networking, I’d like to announce the launch of BBFI Specialty Networks. I am grateful to those who have agreed to be the facilitators of this network. The vision for this network is to provide a place where leaders can find resources, ideas, and support. Your church’s leadership team will have people to talk to who are also serving in their areas. I would like to introduce you to the groups and their respective facilitators.

Associate Pastor’s Network

Lance Harrington, Abundant Life Baptist Church, Lee Summit, MO

Worship & Creative Arts Network

Worship: Jared Cate, Battlefield Baptist Church, Warrenton, VA

Media: Rob Lyons, High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

Adults & Discipleship Ministry Network

Matt Adrian, Crosspointe Church, Yorba Linda, CA

Children’s Ministry Network

Tiffany Lyons, High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

Student Ministry Network

Blake Housley, Park Crest Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

Missions & Outreach Ministry Network

Gary & Lisa Wilson, High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

We invite staff and lay leaders to become a part of BBFI Specialty Networks by signing up today at www.bbf.org. Growing leaders are networkers. A team of growing leaders will grow a church.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Are you ready?



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

Have you ever considered serving God in fulltime ministry? More specifically, is it possible the Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart about missions? If so, there are things to think about, questions to ask, and steps to take as you consider serving God as a missionary.

PLACE GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE

By first drawing close to God, you can better understand His desires for your life. This is crucial when you’re trying to determine where and how He is calling you to serve. Consider:

- What am I doing to strengthen my relationship with God?
- How am I relying on God to lead me right now?
- In what ways am I growing in my understanding of God’s Word?

Next steps to take:

- Pray for God’s work around the world. Select a specific group of people, country, or city to pray for.
- Study the Bible and memorize key mission verses.
- Look for places in your church to serve.

PURSUE THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS

Make friends with people who share your faith, moral standards, and excitement about serving God. It is also a good idea to meet with missionaries who are willing to share their experiences. Consider:

- Do I have healthy, God-honoring relationships with Christians?
- Am I looking for mentors to walk me through the process of serving?
- Am I committed to living a lifestyle where serving God is more important than my comfort?

Next steps to take:

- Find people interested in serving and make friends with them.
- Pray for God’s leading in all relationships.
- Share your faith and your interest in serving God with people who do not know Jesus.

PREPARE YOUR LIFESTYLE FOR SERVICE

One way to prepare for serving God is by learning to be content living with less so you will be free to go when God calls. That includes avoiding new debt and eliminating any existing debt. Consider:

- Do I have financial burdens (student loans, credit card debt, home mortgage, etc.) that would make it difficult to serve?
- Am I planning for the future and being responsible, or am I spending it as soon as I earn it?

Next steps to take:

- Work on eliminating or reducing debt.
- Find biblically based financial resources to help you make the best choices you can with the money God gives you.
- Ask God to help you get to know people who will want to pray for you and help support your ministry financially.

A great church planting story from Arkansas



by John A. Gross | Church Planting | BBFI

“Jesus’ central call demands we plant churches. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20 for instance) is not just a call for decisions for Christ, but to make disciples, to baptize, and to teach. Implicit in this command is incorporation into an interdependent worshipping community and involving accountability, care, and spiritual nurture as demonstrated in Acts 2:41-47.

“The only way to be sure you are creating permanent new Christians is to plant new churches, where new believers are simulated into the context of an ongoing worshipping and shepherding community,” says Pastor Tim Hawks, lead pastor of Hill Country Bible Church.

There’s a host of young church planters in the Baptist Bible Fellowship who continue to make us proud, stretching from the east coast to the west coast. Here is a report on a planter doing a fabulous work in our Central Plains Region of Northwest Arkansas.

God moved Mike and Lori Brinson to Northwest Arkansas to start, from scratch, Lifepoint Baptist Church. Their sending church is Cherry Street Baptist Church in Springfield, MO. Upon arrival in Centerton, AR, God quickly allowed the Brinsons to establish a friendship with two Christian households who wanted to help establish a brand new church. These three families started with a Bible study. That Bible study group grew enough that the members launched Lifepoint on Easter of 2009.

The church currently rents three storefronts but has recently paid off a loan for five acres of land. Members of Lifepoint sacrificially gave to pay off the five acres in one year. This new ministry site is located near an existing 700-pupil elementary school, an under-construction 2,250-seat high school, a developing 19-acre recreation complex, and several new housing developments.

The Baptist Builders will be assisting with construction. This project will be the first second-generation building project for the Builders. The Builders assisted in construction when Mike Brinson’s father, Ray Brinson, planted Victory Baptist Church in Nixa, MO.

Lifepoint is seeking ministry partners to help them complete their first ministry facility. Perhaps you or someone you know can send laborers for the construction. Maybe you or someone you know could send some type of gifts in kind for this new facility. Another avenue to help this ministry is to become financial partners and help this young striving church become a thriving church in their local community. Lifepoint would be delighted for you to discover more about God’s work in Northwest Arkansas. Please visit their ministry project website at www.4KingJesus.com.

I can personally attest to the vibrancy and energy of this young church. The services are alive and the people are excited about winning their community to Christ. Pastor Mike and Lori have done a fabulous work establishing a solid biblical church in Centerton.

Transition at the *Tribune*

About a week before the *Tribune* went to press, I announced to the officers of the Baptist Bible Fellowship my intent to resign as editor of the *Baptist Bible Tribune*, with my departure planned for the end of 2015.

Those close to me know I have been giving this matter a lot of thought and prayer for some time. This June will mark the end of my 20th year at the *Tribune*. February marked the end of my 13th year as the executive, and I know enough not to overstay my welcome. We have all witnessed what may happen when someone is in a ministry beyond the time he is effective. Times and organizations change, and gifts I brought to the *Tribune* were appropriate for a particular time, but I think there may be a shelf life for that sort of thing. Only one other *Tribune* personality was here longer, and that was the founding editor, Noel Smith, who served 24 years.

I don’t know the shape of things to come either for myself or for the *Tribune* ministry, save that I know God has plans and purposes for both. We do well to seek those plans and make ourselves available to Him.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our Fellowship in various ways — in the state Fellowship organizations, in the colleges, among our missionaries, and of course, the past 20 years at the *Tribune*.

I am thankful for those who preceded me in the editor’s chair, especially the two who became close friends — Jim Combs and Mike Randall — and Tom Harper, who served alongside me the first part of my tenure. There were friends especially instrumental in bringing the *Tribune* and me together. And there were and are those who faithfully supported this work financially, and those who regularly share their prose with us in the pages of the magazine. For all these I am most grateful.

Since 2002 I have had Karri Joy Perry as an office assistant, and since 2006 Rob Walker has been my editorial assistant. Both are invaluable, and far more than employees. There were others who have come and gone, but Karri, Rob, and I comprise the *Tribune* team I will recall most readily in days to come.

I have seen the work of the Baptist Bible Fellowship as few have, and I am the richer for it. I hope our pastors, missionaries, and church members have received benefit from my stewardship of the office. May God bless the many ministries associated with the Fellowship in the years to come.

Editor Keith Bassham

A HIGHER EDUCATION. A GREATER PURPOSE.

Choosing what college to attend will determine the course of the rest of your life. Whether you're just finishing high school, considering a transfer or simply want to finish your degree, BBC has a solution tailored just for you.



BBC | Life Change U™

Dozens of degree options

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A Christian community where your walk with God is woven into your student experience

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Scholarships and financial aid available to make college affordable

*Tyler Storz
Lake Stevens, WA
Class of 2016*



WE HAVE. ARE. WILL.

FELLOWSHIP WEEK 2015

MAY 4-7 2015

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

We have. We are. We will.

This is the theme for Fellowship Week 2015 as we come together to celebrate 65 years of ministry. We invite you to join us May 4-7 for this special time of reunion as we take time to look back, time to look around, and time to look ahead. Alumni from all over the world are planning to join us to enjoy this celebration. There will be powerful preaching, inspiring worship, and encouraging fellowship. You have invested in BBC, you are excited about BBC, and you will be glad you came to Fellowship Week 2015. We can't wait to welcome you!

-Mark Milioni
BBC President



Monday, May 4 | 7 p.m.

Speaker: Jerry Thorpe

Tuesday, May 5 | 9 a.m.

Ladies Meeting, 9 a.m. Refreshments and meeting, Mary Herman, speaker.

Speaker: Ben Feldott, Pastor, Cape Cod Church, East Falmouth, MA

Speaker: D. L. Moody, President, Arlington Baptist College, Arlington TX

Speaker: Eddie Lyons, BBFI President, Pastor, High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

BBFI Business Meeting

Alumni Banquet, 12 p.m.

Tuesday, May 5 | 7 p.m.

Speaker: Dave Janney, Pastor, Orlando Baptist Church, Orlando, FL

Speaker: Ronnie Floyd, President, Southern Baptist Convention

Wednesday, May 6 | 9 a.m.

Missions morning presented by the BBFI Mission Office

Wednesday, May 6 | 7 p.m.

Homecoming, speaker BBC President Mark Milioni, special presentation regarding BBC

Presentation of Fellowship Faithfulness Awards: Bill Dowell Jr., Richard Bemart

Speaker: Ed Trinkle, Pastor, Marcus Hook Baptist Church, Linwood, PA

Thursday, May 7 | 10 a.m.

65th Annual BBC Graduation Ceremony

Commencement speaker: Elmer Towns

BBC Alumni Golf Tournament, 1 p.m., Rivercut Golf Course

BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL
GLOBAL MEETING

SEOUL KOREA

MARCH 14-17
2016

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Lift up your eyes and look!

The theme that was chosen for the global meeting in Seoul, Korea, is taken from the Gospel of John. Jesus instructed His disciples to, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Our international speakers will be developing the theme throughout our week together.

위를 바라보라 (*Look upward*) — See God's love for the harvest

밖을 보라 (*Look Outward*) — See the needs of the harvest

안을 보라 (*Look Inward*) — See yourself in the harvest

앞을 보라 (*Look Forward*) — See the harvest reached together

We will be given the opportunity to see first-hand the results of 65 years of emphasis on world missions. We will hear testimonies from missionaries sent by churches established by our own missionary efforts. We will hear from some godly pastors disciplined and trained by missionaries you have prayed for.

Many BBFI churches have been very faithful to proclaim the Good News around the world. The church reproduction cycle continues over and over again. We hope many of our readers and people who have long supported world missions will make the effort to join us for the time of your life!

The Lord has raised up a generation of godly leaders who bring honor to His name and cause His glory to be proclaimed among all the earth.

SEOUL

Seoul, the capital city of Korea with over 600 years of history, has a population of over 25 million people. This metropolis is the business and cultural hub of South Korea where skyscrapers tower over Buddhist temples. Take in the views from the Seoul Tower built atop a mountain peak and enjoy the distinct Korean flavors in one of its many teahouses and shops. Museums and authentic, ancient palaces are some of the fascinating places you can visit. Plan to arrive early enough or stay late enough to attend church services in one of many of our good churches in Korea.





The Baptist Bible Fellowship began as a small group of pastors and churches with a heart to take the gospel to the world. On March 14-17, 2016, we will join with fellow pastors, missionaries, and church leaders from all over Asia and the world in South Korea. This will be a grand celebration of what God has done and is doing from those small beginnings. To connect with our fellow servants around the world will be a rich experience. This kind of unity and fellowship will inspire those in attendance. I want to encourage you to join us in Seoul, Korea, for our global BBFI meeting. This meeting will expand our vision and give us an opportunity to learn from each other. Pastors, let me encourage you to bring your team of church staff, leaders and members. Our prayer is that we will be strengthened to continue our partnerships to take the Gospel to the world.



Pastor Eddie Lyons
High Street Baptist Church
BBFI President

www.bbfikorea2016.com

It is our great joy and privilege to host the Baptist Bible Fellowship International Global Meeting, March 14-17, 2016, in Korea. It will be a time for those who have the same faith around the world to gather together, encourage each other and renew the Great Commission our God committed to us. So we welcome all of you — pastors, missionaries, and Christian workers — to Korea!

The fruit of the BBFI mission work in Korea and other countries is that they used to be mission fields, but now they have become sending fields, sending out missionaries to unreached people of the world. This makes world missions what God meant it to be. We will do our best to host all of the BBF groups from various countries. We have great expectations that we will have wonderful fellowship, encouragement, and strength to do more for the Lord's Harvest.



Pastor Rhyu Hyun Taek
JongAhm Bible Baptist Church
Korea BBF President



USA



Eddie Lyons and his wife, Cindy, both grew up in the Philippines as children of missionaries.

They are also both graduates of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO. He completed his MBA from the Ateneo University of Manila. Eddie and Cindy served for 20 years in the Philippines as missionaries. Eddie became the senior pastor of High Street Baptist Church in 2002. Cindy is the director of the ladies ministry, a teacher in the Women of Worth Class, and leads weekly Bible studies. They have five children; Tiffany, Holly, Robert, Coco, and James.

KOREA



Daniel Wooseang Kim was saved under the ministry of the missionary Jack Baskin. He has pastored

BulKwangDong Bible Baptist Church for over 54 years, ever since he and Baskin together started this church. Dr. Kim was the former president of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary, which is fully accredited at the graduate school level. He is also the Board of Directors Chairman for Korea Baptist Bible Fellowship J.P. He has a radio ministry called "Five Minute Word of God" with FEBC. It is the longest running radio program in Korea, having run for 46 years.

GREECE



George Dimakos was spiritually blind and lost because of the false religious teachings of

the Greek Orthodox Church. In 1992, he surrendered to go as a missionary to the Greek people. He was sent by Long Island Bible Baptist Church in 1993 to carry the Gospel to Greece. He and his wife, Luisa, have been in Greece for 20 years. They started a church in Athens, helped start a church on the island of Zakynthos, and most recently started a Farsi-speaking church and Bible school, Voice of Truth, where over 500 people have been saved. "To the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16.

CAMBODIA



In April of 1996 **Paul Tabanao** and his family were sent by Bible Baptist Church of Cebu

City, Philippines, pastored by Armie Jesalva, as missionaries to Cambodia. Since then, they have planted three churches that are now pastored by nationals in the capital city of Phnom Penh, trained and sent out five other nationals who started their own churches in different provinces, and partnered with other missionaries in teaching at two Bible colleges. Each year, they help with evangelistic youth camps to reach thousands of Cambodians. Paul and Jeanet have two sons: Kyle and Sean.

MONGOLIA



Tsagaankhuu Zayategsh and his family live in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. He graduated from

the Mongolian Baptist Bible College in 2012 and transitioned to be the pastor of Neg Zam Baptist Church the following year. They have served the Lord faithfully and desire to see missionaries one day from Mongolia to other parts of the world. Pastor Zayategsh partners with the missionaries from the BBFI and the Korea BBF. God is using him and his family to impact their country.

JAPAN



After graduation from Tokyo University, **Yu Tokoro** worked for NHK (Japan Broadcasting

Corporation) as a director of TV programs. Years later, at the age of 39, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and was baptized the next year at Chofu Baptist Temple pastored by BBFI missionary Lavern Rodgers. Before retirement from NHK at age 62, he surrendered to the Lord and entered Japan Baptist Bible College as a fulltime worker. Since he graduated from the college, he has been serving as the co-pastor of Chofu Baptist Temple. They have two children – both missionaries.

INDONESIA



Jiseoung Lee was saved and baptized in 1987 through the ministry of Cheonan Bible

Baptist Church in Korea. In 1990, God called him to be a pastor and missionary. He graduated from Baptist Bible College in 1996. He and his wife, Hyejin, trained for cross-cultural ministry with New Tribes Mission. They are sent by Cheonan Bible Baptist church and Korea BBF to reach the unreached tribes of Indonesia. They served in West Borneo from 2004-2011 with the Sekadao tribe, and as a result a tribal church has been established. Since 2013, they have lived and served with the Morop tribe in the province of Papua, Indonesia.

KENYA



In 1997, **Paul Irungu** was convicted that he was a sinner and needed to give his life to God.

In 1999, through the preaching of Bible school students at a fellowship meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, he realized that God wants more laborers in His field ... and Paul desired to be one of them. In 2003, Paul graduated from Nairobi Baptist Bible College where he met his wife, Eunice. In 2004, Paul became the pastor of Kitambaa Bible Baptist Church, where he has seen souls saved, baptized, disciplined, and the church growing day by day. In 2013, they ordained two pastors to the gospel ministry.

While attending Bible college, **Ediberto Hernández** started pastoring a small church. As he was pastoring, he traveled to different countries seeking God's direction for his life and the Lord opened his eyes to the great need among Muslims. He and his wife, Ines, had decided they would spend the rest of their lives in Mexico City, but they realized there were people who had never heard the name of Jesus and they would never hear unless someone went to share the message of love. God is using them among the Kurdish people in Iraq and Kurdistan. In the past three years, they have been working in translation, discipleship, evangelism, and training potential leaders while helping refugees. They are with the Baptist Bible Fellowship of Mexico.

Mounir Sobhy graduated from Ain Shams University in Cairo with a degree in English. He later finished his master's degree in Theology and Ministry in Cairo and a Doctorate of Ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been the pastor of First Baptist Church in Cairo for ten years and his time as pastor has seen the church grow in the midst of the difficult turmoil in the country. Pastor Mounir has a great vision for the people of Egypt and desires revival and renewal for the Baptist churches in Egypt.

ROMANIA



In May of 1982, **Sever Gonciulea** and his wife, Cathy, surrendered to our Lord Jesus

Christ and received Him as their personal Savior. Soon after that the Communists in Romania persecuted them for being Christians. They escaped this persecution by crossing the border to Yugoslavia and then to America in 1989. The next year their children were able to join them. In America, they got involved in a Baptist church and later surrendered as missionaries. Upon finishing their mission training and education they returned to Romania in 2000 as BBFI missionaries.

PHILIPPINES



Gerardo G. Nable was saved in July 1974. He resigned from his secular job in 1994 to answer

God's call to fulltime church work at Bethany Baptist Church in Makati City, Philippines. He has served as a Sunday school teacher, interim pastor, assistant pastor, and associate pastor. He was dean of Baptist Bible College for 10 years and also served as president. He became senior pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in June 2000.

ECUADOR



Fernando Paez was saved at the age of 18. He graduated from Baptist Bible Institute of Quito

in 1998. Several years later, he married his wife Veronica and also started to serve the Lord fulltime as an assistant pastor in their church. In 2007 he was called as the senior pastor. In all these years, he, his wife, and son, have been privileged to serve the Lord. It has been a great blessing to be part of the Lord's work in the church where he was born and grew spiritually.



www.bbfikorea2016.com



BBFI Mission Office Travel Package

The Mission Office is working on a package for those who would like to travel together and be assisted by the Mission Office and our travel agent. The plan is to depart from Dallas on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 10:00 AM.

- Thu. March 10 — Depart from Dallas (DFW)
- Fri. March 11 — Arrive in Seoul at 4:00 p.m.
 - Korean Christians will greet you at the airport
 - Buses will be waiting to take you to your hotel
 - Check in at hotel, sightsee as time allows
- Sat. March 12 — Sightseeing*
- Sun. March 13 — Attend local church services at BulKwangDong Bible Baptist Church where Dr. Daniel Kim, who was saved under the ministry of missionary Jack Baskin, has pastored for over 54 years.
- Mon. March 14 — Sightseeing during the morning / afternoon on your own
 - Evening: opening ceremonies with cultural presentations at Kintex International Convention Center
- Tues. March 15 — Meetings continue with international speakers, missionary reports, and special presentations.
- Wed. March 16 — Meetings continue
 - Afternoon sessions
 - Men: Networking and strategizing for the future with international pastors and leaders
 - Ladies: Becoming acquainted with life in Korean/international cultures
- Thu. March 17 — Meetings continue; closing ceremonies Thursday p.m.
- Fri. March 18 — Sightseeing*
- Sat. March 19 — Depart Korea with arrival in Dallas on same day

**Touring plans include visits to the Grand Palaces, Seoul Tower, and Panmunjeon, where North and South Korean forces stand face-to-face and military negotiations take place regularly.*



Register and find more information at www.bbfikorea2016.com



Kintex Center

Our meeting will be held at the Kintex International Conference Center. The space reserved for the BBFI Korea 2016 meeting will hold 3,200 people. You can view the facilities online at www.kintex.com. Click on "English" in the top right corner of the front page. You will find our event included on their schedule.

MVL Kintex

The headquarter hotel for the BBFI Korea 2016 meeting is the five-star MVL Kintex. The hotel is only a 10-minute walk from the conference center, and your stay will include breakfast for two and free wifi.

Cost and Deadlines

BBFI Mission Office Travel Package Cost:

\$2900*(single)/\$4500*(double occupancy)

Includes roundtrip airfare from Dallas (DFW) March 10-19, hotel accommodations at the 5-star MVL with complimentary breakfast for two. (www.mvlhotel.com/kintex), local sightseeing.

**Final flight cost to be confirmed and set by the travel agent. Flight costs for March 2016 are still forthcoming by the airlines. The total cost above is in relation to available rates as of March 2015. Traveling to other destinations at the beginning or end of the trip may result in an increased cost.*

Down Payment:

\$500 by September 1, 2015, will hold your place for the trip, with the remainder due by January 1, 2016. Checks should be payable to the BBFI and need to be sent to the Mission Office at:
Korea Travel, P.O. Box 191, Springfield, MO 65801-0191

Please do not send your deposit with your regular contributions as it may delay processing.

Budget Considerations

Meals — Allow approximately \$25 per day per person. Nearby dining options include both American and international restaurants.

Transportation — Allow approximately \$30 for airport to hotel transfers. MVL hotel is a 10-minute walk to Kintex.

I strongly encourage you to attend this meeting. Speakers from all over the globe will be challenging us through sharing how the Gospel came to them, what God is doing in their ministries and countries, and what we can all do together to bring as many people to Christ before His return. After our first BBFI missionaries, Ike and Jane Foster, went to Korea in 1954, many more families followed. Today, over 250 churches are preaching the Gospel all over Korea. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to meet many of these who are the fruit of your prayers and giving.



Not only will you be blessed, but the international people at the meeting will be so honored to have you there to meet you and thank you for what you have done for missions. You won't want to miss this opportunity. It would be great to bring a group from your church to experience what I believe will be a life-changing event.

Jon Konnerup
BBFI Mission Director

15 COUNTRIES

WHERE THE BBFI IS NEEDED



This month marks the 65th anniversary of the beginning of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. We rejoice in all the Lord has done through the lives of our churches and the missionaries sent by our churches over these many years!

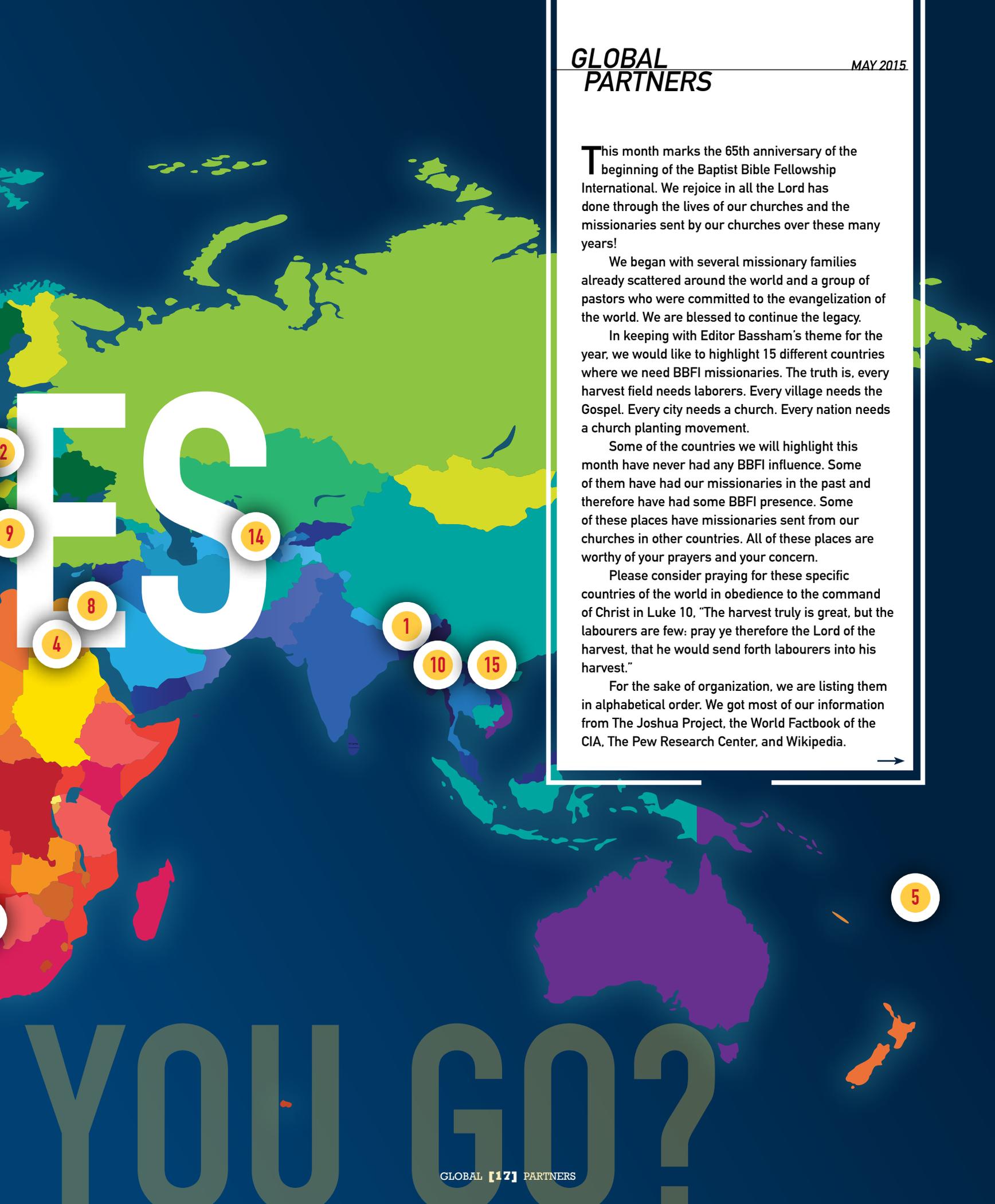
We began with several missionary families already scattered around the world and a group of pastors who were committed to the evangelization of the world. We are blessed to continue the legacy.

In keeping with Editor Bassham's theme for the year, we would like to highlight 15 different countries where we need BBFI missionaries. The truth is, every harvest field needs laborers. Every village needs the Gospel. Every city needs a church. Every nation needs a church planting movement.

Some of the countries we will highlight this month have never had any BBFI influence. Some of them have had our missionaries in the past and therefore have had some BBFI presence. Some of these places have missionaries sent from our churches in other countries. All of these places are worthy of your prayers and your concern.

Please consider praying for these specific countries of the world in obedience to the command of Christ in Luke 10, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

For the sake of organization, we are listing them in alphabetical order. We got most of our information from The Joshua Project, the World Factbook of the CIA, The Pew Research Center, and Wikipedia.



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YOU GO?

1  **Bhutan**
pop. 750,000

Bhutan is a landlocked constitutional monarchy in Southern Asia at the eastern end of the Himalayas. The Kingdom of Bhutan is surrounded by China and India. The capital city is Thimphu.

Buddhist 75%
Hindu 22%
Evangelical Christians 0.4%

2  **Czech Republic**
pop. 10.5 million

Czech Republic is located in Central Europe, bordered by Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Poland. The capital is the beautiful and ancient city of Prague. The Czech Republic has one of the least religious populations in the world. It is said to be the third most-atheistic population by percentage, behind only China and Japan.

Roman Catholic 10.3%
Evangelical Christians 0.8%

3  **Denmark**
pop. 5.6 million

Denmark is a beautiful Scandinavian country, located south of Norway, southwest of Sweden and bordered to the south by Germany. Denmark is a constitutional monarchy, whose capital city is Copenhagen. The majority of the Danish people are members of the Church of Denmark, which is Lutheran in tradition.

Church of Denmark 78%
Evangelical Christians 3.6%

4  **Egypt**
pop. 88 million

Egypt is bordered by the Gaza Strip, Israel, the Gulf of Aqaba, the Red Sea, Sudan, and Libya. The population is 88 million, most of whom live near the banks of the Nile River. The ancient city of Cairo is the capital with a population of 11 million people. Islam is the state religion.

Islam 90%
Coptic Christians 9%
Evangelical Christians 3.4%

5  **Fiji**
pop. 903,000

Fiji is an island country in Melanesia in the South Pacific Ocean. A former British colony, Fiji is an archipelago of more than 330 islands. 87% of the total population live on the two major islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. The capital city is Suva.

Methodist 35%
Hindu 28%
Evangelical Christians 19.7%

6  **Ghana**
pop. 26.6 million

Ghana is a fascinating country, located in West Africa. Ghana is bordered by Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Togo, the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean. The capital city is Accra. Nominal Christianity and Islam are the two largest religious groups.

Evangelical Christians 19%

7  **Iceland**
pop. 325,000

Iceland is a Nordic island country between the North Atlantic and the Arctic Ocean. The capital city is Reykjavik. The majority of the people are members of the Church of Iceland, a Lutheran body.

Church of Iceland 75%
Evangelical Christians 3.9%

8  **Jordan**
pop. 7.1 million

Jordan is an Arab kingdom on the East Bank of the Jordan River, bordered by Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, and Israel. The capital and largest city is Amman, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Islam is the official religion.

Evangelical Christians 0.3%

9  **Macedonia**
pop. 2 million

Macedonia is located in the central Balkan Peninsula in Southeastern Europe and is bordered by Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Albania. The capital city is Skopje with a population of 500,000.

Eastern Orthodox 64.7%
Muslim 33%
Evangelical Christians 0.3%

10  **Myanmar**
pop. 55 million

Myanmar (Burma) is located in Southeast Asia, bordered by Bangladesh, India, China, Laos and Thailand. One-third of Myanmar's perimeter forms an uninterrupted coastline along the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. The capital city is Rangoon with a population of 4.5 million people.

Buddhist 80%
Evangelical Christians 5.1%

11  **Namibia**
pop. 2.3 million

Namibia is in Southwest Africa, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, Zambia, Angola, Botswana and South Africa. Namibia has 13 recognized national languages. The capital and largest city is Windhoek. Nominal Christianity makes up more than 80% of the population.

Evangelical Christians 12.5%

12  **Poland**
pop. 38 million

Poland is located in Central Europe, bordered by Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, and the Baltic Sea. The capital is Warsaw and the predominant religion is Roman Catholicism.

Roman Catholic 80%
Evangelical Christians 0.3%

13  **Suriname**
pop. 566,000

Suriname is located on the northeastern Atlantic coast of South America. The former Dutch Guiana is the smallest sovereign state in South America. The capital is Paramaribo, located on the north coast. Hinduism, Catholicism, and Islam are all strong religions in Suriname.

Evangelical Christians 12.4%

14  **Uzbekistan**
pop. 31 million

Uzbekistan is located in Central Asia, bordered by Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and the Aral Sea. The capital and largest city is Tashkent.

Islam 90%
Russian Orthodox 5%
Evangelical Christians 0.2%

15  **Vietnam**
pop. 92.7 million

Vietnam is the easternmost country on the Indochina Peninsula in Southeast Asia. It is bordered by China, Laos, Cambodia, and the South China Sea. The capital is Hanoi. Vietnam is the 13th most populous country in the world. The vast majority of the people practice ancestor worship in some form.

Indigenous religions 45%
Buddhist 16%
Evangelical Christians 1.8%

Fellowship



Missions. by F. S. Donnelson

Dale Barton Preaching in Suburb of Sao Paulo

Our missionaries to Brazil, Rev. and Mrs. Dale Barton, are starting a real ministry in one of our Sao Paulo churches that have recently come into the Fellowship. The people have received them most enthusiastically and God is blessing their ministry.

Ever since the arrival of the Bartons in Brazil, their car and furniture have been held in Customs because of technical difficulties. However, God has answered prayer, and now the Bartons report that their car and furniture have been released to them. This is answer to prayer and should cause us to praise God.

WHY HE LIVED TO BE 85 YEARS OLD

"The only reason I have lived so long is because I have never been absorbed in the past. Instead of brooding over disappointments, I have pushed what is done out of my mind and gone on to new activities."—

CHARLES EVANS HUGHES

(On his 85th birthday—a year before he died).

The Barton family, after six months separation, have been united in Sao Paulo, where they have rented a home. The two older children, Barbara and Janet, have been in school in Sao Paulo ever since they arrived; and now Judy and Curtis are entering the same school.

Dale and Wilma are working hard on the language with classes four days a week, one and one-half hours each day. Their ministry will enlarge as they perfect the language and reach out into untouched areas of that needy country. Pray much for the Bartons.

Contreras Reports 15 New Members in our Mexico City Church

Rev. F. Contreras, pastor of the Good Shepherd Baptist Church of Mexico City, reports that fifteen new members have been received

during April, nine by baptism and six by experience and letter. A recent revival meeting the week before Easter resulted in twenty-five professions of faith.

"The Burden of Reaching The Navajos for Christ"

"The burden of reaching the Navajos for Christ is still before us," writes Garold Beard, our missionary to the Navajos of New Mexico. Their hearts are in their work among the Indians, and every effort is being made to lead them to Christ. Recently, Garold held a funeral for a nineteen-year-old Navajo, named Woodrow Touchine, who had died without the Lord. He had been arrested for larceny and placed in the Federal Reformatory at El Reno, Oklahoma, and was stricken with spinal meningitis. Garold writes of his concern



for many such Navajo men and women who are perishing without Christ. He says that the wicked, Satan - controlled, hell - bound crowd of Gallup is working long hours and spending thousands of dollars to lead the Indians of our country to hell. "Oh, hurry," pleads Bro. Beard, "with your prayers to God's throne for the Navajo people."

A young Indian recently attended our mission who has felt the call of the Lord to preach the Gospel to his own people, the Navajos. His name is Charles Manning, and he has already been preaching frequently in street meetings. Pray much for this Indian brother.

The Beards have been saddened by the loss of Mrs. Beard's father, Mr. Jim Thrasher of Chanute, Kansas, who recently went home to be with the Lord. Pray much for our missionaries to the Navajos.

The Fosters Report Setbacks and Victories

Ike and Jane Foster, our missionaries to Korea are having difficulties in getting established at Seoul, the capitol of that needy country. Because of difficulties with respect to the ownership of property recently purchased, the deal fell through; and now they are asking the Lord to make His will clear about where they should locate.

A member of our Armed Forces, Bob Metts, has been a real blessing to the Fosters in their work.

Bob is a member of Clarence Walker's church in Lexington, Kentucky—During his recent leave of absence, he offered his services to the Fosters in hunting for land and holding street meetings. Pray much for our missionaries to Korea.

Earthquake Strikes Iligan City, Future Home of the Gullions

All read in the newspapers last month of the disastrous earthquake that struck Mindanao in the Philippines. Its main target was Iligan City, where Elmer Gullion has recently made a survey for the purpose of establishing a beachhead for his future work. At the time of the earthquake, Elmer was back in Manila; and preparations were being made for an early departure to Mindanao. Elmer writes, "I know that Iligan is the place for us." The Gullions are determined to witness to every soul in that entire country. Let's all join in prayer for our missionaries to Mindanao.

Easter Blessings From Formosa

A recent letter from Rev. and Mrs. Leland Homer, our missionaries to Chia I, Formosa, reads as follows: "The Lord blessed us Easter with four more baptized. Since then, we have begun a Young People's meeting with 20 average attendance. Our church is gradually on the increase. We are planning a week's meeting soon and would appreciate your remembering us in prayer. The spirit of the church is better now than it has ever been and most all are anxious to do something for the Lord. Sunday school attendance topped 138 last Sunday."

L. T. Grantham Reports on Penick's Work at Abilene

We were happily surprised recently by a visit from Rev. and Mrs. L. T. Grantham, pastor of the Highland Park Baptist church of Abilene, Texas. Many remember that Bro. Grantham has been laid low with a heart attack for the past six months. The church invited our missionary, Arnold Penick, to be assistant to Bro. Grantham.

Bro. Penick has been doing a good job. The people love his preaching and appreciate his ministry among them. As all know, the missionaries must spend a year in practical experience before going to the field. Jim Powders worked in the Westside Baptist church of Hutchinson, Kansas for a year. Carroll Hathaway will work in Wichita Baptist Temple. Darrell Fischer will spend his internship in High Street Baptist church. This plan gives to our students a post-graduate course in practical preaching and pastoral responsibility that will be of invaluable aid to them on the field. Arnold



THE BARTONS—Rev. Dale Barton, Mrs. Barton and their four children, Baptist Bible Fellowship missionaries in South America.

[Continued on back page.]

VANCE HAVNER — The most quoted preacher of the 20th century

Vance Havner (1901-1986) was one of a kind. He was born in rural North Carolina some dozen miles south of the town of Hickory. His people were devout fundamental Baptists, and he was raised in the faith of his fathers. Vance's father pursued many different trades by turns, for a time being a potter, earning the nickname "Jugtown" for the "wide-spot in the road" where he made and sold his wares. Vance was an avid reader all his life, and early on displayed a mastery of the English language in speaking and in writing. He began teaching a Sunday school class at nine, and had items published in the local newspaper at that early age. He was converted to Christ at age ten, and began preaching at age 12. Naturally, many came to see this "boy-preacher." Often the congregations numbered 100 and more, once even reaching 1,800. The written remnants of sermons from those days reveal a surprising level of maturity. Never having any desire to be anything but a preacher, Vance was ordained at 15.

Vance attended briefly several colleges — Catawba, Wake Forest, and Moody Bible Institute, among them — but never graduated from any of them. He pastored three churches, two in North Carolina (one of them twice) and First Baptist Church of Charleston, SC (1934-1939), considered the mother church of the Southern Baptist Convention, though in rather difficult

straits when he took the congregation. While in Charleston, he spoke frequently on the campus of the Citadel.

For a time in his twenties, Vance came under the influence of the siren song of Harry Emerson Fosdick of New York City, an influential radio preacher who was a committed anti-supernaturalist and peddler of the social Gospel. For several years, Vance's preaching lost its emphasis on the supernatural Gospel of salvation; his sermons and his published newspaper columns in those days were eloquent, expressive — and sadly devoid of biblical content and perspective. He gained a

reputation as a homespun philosopher-humorist along the lines of Will Rogers, and was in demand as an entertaining after-dinner speaker, but not as a man with a message from God. He was rescued from this error in part by the influence of J. Gresham Machen's *Christianity and Liberalism*, which sets forth with clarity the fundamental differences between biblical

Christianity and the apostate theology of "modernism." Havner was once again and thereafter a self-proclaimed fundamentalist.

While in a meeting at a college in Florida, 38-year-old Vance met an eligible lady on the college staff, Sara Allred, several years his junior. There were no "sparks" at their first encounter, but when they met again a year later, it was love, and soon marriage (December 1940). During their third of a century together, she was an essential component of his itinerant ministry. When she died in 1973, he was emotionally devastated. His best-selling book, *Though I Walk Through the Valley* (1974), was written about this great personal loss.

Havner became an itinerant revivalist, focusing on stirring up the saints to greater commitment, faithfulness, and service, rather than on evangelizing the lost. Their first decade in ministry was primarily in the northern U.S., with the Havners living in Minneapolis. From about 1950, with a relocation to Greensboro, NC, Havner's sphere of activity was primarily in the South, though he ultimately preached in nearly every state. He conducted over 1,000 meetings and preached more than 13,000 times. His sermons were often recorded, and are still broadcast on some Christian radio stations; some are accessible via YouTube.

Always a prolific writer, Vance had articles published in most of the leading conservative Christian periodicals of the day — *Revelation*, *Moody Monthly*, *Our Hope*, *The King's Business*, *The Sunday School Times* (all now defunct) — as well as in various newspapers in the South. Many of his nearly 40 books (the first, *By the Still Waters*, 1930) were compilations of either written essays or sermons. In his lifetime, more than a half million copies of his books were sold, and even so, they used to be hard to find and expensive in the used market. In recent years, many titles have been reprinted and are now much more readily available.

Vance was a genius at turning a phrase, creating a witticism, or composing a pun. His comments regularly had a sharp but necessary point, and were distinctively and memorably phrased. Anyone who reads Havner's writings will find himself jotting down not-to-be-forgotten quotes.

While Havner often records autobiographical incidents in his books, to my knowledge, the only book-length account of his life is Vance Havner: Journey from Jugtown (Revell, 192 pp.), written in 1977 by his friend of 40 plus years, Douglas White.



What a witness!

“I don’t want to go back to that white church.”

I can’t tell you how those words stung me. It was Monday night outreach. The team had returned and was reporting on their visit to 10-year-old Taneesha’s house.

I had this crazy notion that we should be Jesus’ church not “that white church.”

Called to preach at ten years old during the third verse of “Footsteps of Jesus,” and through my teen years, a vision of church made up of different kinds of people was formed in me.

In my universe, Chicago’s south side, there were just two kinds of people: black and white. They lived over there. We lived over here. They kept moving closer. We kept moving away.

I say “we.” Not me personally but the white population. Dr. King marched through my neighborhood. My ethnic, hardcore Roman Catholic neighbors threw bricks at nuns marching with King. Yes, feelings ran deep.

So, where did I get this notion that different colors and cultures could worship together?

Looking back, I see how God used my father. He exposed me to a different world, taking me to visit a large black church occasionally. This was my first cross-cultural encounter. I marvel at how God used these early childhood experiences to shape my heart and direct my life.

Then, everything was black and white. Now, a rainbow of hues, colors, and cultures from all over the world calls America home. To do effective ministry in the 21st century is to do cross-cultural ministry.

God introduces quite the radical idea. Even a Canaanite harlot can be made part of the household of faith. Radical because of who she was and radical because it was so early in the story of redemption.

Moabite Ruth was made part of the Messianic line. Again, this must be seen as an early pronouncement of God’s intentions.

I love the line of praise “And let them say

among the nations “The Lord reigns,” on the occasion of David bringing the ark of God to place inside the prepared tent. Who knew the nations would be our neighbors?

Throughout the Old Testament the divine idea that God crosses lines, breaks down barriers, brings different people together under His name, is dramatically apparent.

Can we overstate the rancor and hostility between Jews and Samaritans? Not only did Jesus not go around Samaria, He said “I must go through Samaria.” A Samaritan woman was the first proclaimer of Good News as a result of Jesus’ public ministry. It’s almost impossible for us to appreciate the enormity of that incident.

Ancient society seemed to rest on three pillars. First, Jews were not like Gentiles. They were chosen by God, favored by God, and to hear many of them tell it, superior to all other human beings. Gentiles were dogs, heathen.

Next, the ancient world was built on a slave economy. Slaves were living implements. They had no legal standing and nowhere to appeal their condition.

Also, men believed themselves to be superior to women. This was more than lacking rights. They were not seen as equal.

In one blow, Paul shatters all three pillars. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

It’s difficult for us to understand the absolute revolutionary nature of that declaration.

Many ancient cities were not just walled, but divided by walls. We get a feel for this in present-day Old Jerusalem with the Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Armenian quarters.

In Antioch (Act 13), Luke’s listing of church leaders suggests that Antioch’s accepted walls of division had been overwhelmed by the Gospel.

Nor should we think the cross-cultural idea is confined to ethnicity and

language. What about generational bridges, socioeconomic connections, outreach to various subcultures be they bikers, boarders, the deaf, LGBTQ youth, or the very rich?

Multicultural on purpose! Not by accident. Not because people who don’t look like us wandered in to the church closest to them. Multicultural because we welcome the stranger and embrace the alien. Multicultural because we have gone into the highways, byways, and hedges. Multicultural because we deliberately go to Samaria. We deliberately eliminate things we say or do that may be less than welcoming to people not like us. We reach out to serve those not part of our demographic. What a witness to our world!

A few questions:

1. What people distinct from your congregational majority are in your area?
2. What might make people from other cultures more welcome in your church?
3. What can you do to reach out to people unlike the majority in your church?
4. What church changes are you willing to make to welcome those from other cultures?

Recently, immediately after a young woman told me she would be on an evening flight to her homeland, Ukraine, an Indian was introducing me to an Uzbek. I turned from that conversation into another with a young man from Curacao who had just returned from Christmas holidays with his family, missionaries in the Dominican Republic.

Steps away, a Muslim man was engaged in passionate conversation with two church members.

Ahh ... this feels right.

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



Chapel



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

One of my greatest memories of BBC is chapel services. My wife and I would take our seats in the Fieldhouse and chapel would begin with Wilma Boyd sounding the notes of “Victory in Jesus” on the organ. Mrs. Boland would join in on the piano and Doc Boland would begin to sing. Soon the entire arena would be filled with voices singing about the old, old story. We had great chapel speakers including A. V. Henderson, John Rawlings, and the unforgettable R. O. Woodworth, who once stopped mid sermon when he realized he was late for a dentist appointment. I loved chapel. I listened and kept notes, knowing I would need those outlines and great illustrations when I became a preacher.

I still love chapel at BBC. The place and music have changed, but the spirit and the message have remained the same. We come together to worship, learn, bond, and to be challenged to change the world.

Chapel always has and always will be our key to success as a college. Elmer Towns explains it best in his book *Walking with Giants*. He conducted a survey among the largest churches in the late 1960s and asked them this question, “What college or seminary did you attend that equipped you to build one of the largest churches in America?” He writes about what he found:

I expected the responses to include schools like Wheaton and Moody, they were not there. Twenty-three of the pastors were graduates of, or otherwise associated with, Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri.

I've got to find out why that college is so great, I thought.

I flew to Springfield, unannounced. The first place I visited was the library; I figured a great influential college would be driven by a great library. What a shock to find only one room with bookshelves on the four walls. There were no stacks, and fewer than 5,000 books.

I had taken great Bible classes, so I was sure that the classes at BBC would be even greater ... but the classes were normal, not any better, not any worse than my college courses.

Then I went to chapel. Dr. John Rawlings, pastor of Landmark Baptist Temple, was preaching, and he said, “Young men, when you graduate, get in your jalopy, drive to someplace like Keokuk, Iowa, and capture your town for Christ.

That was when I realized that the greatness of this college stemmed from the greatness of the speakers in chapel. To produce burning hearts for evangelism in its graduates, the school's leaders kept the chapel pulpit hot.

Speakers like Otis Ledbetter, Jerry Thorpe, Duke Hergatt, Ted Cunningham, Elmer Towns, Harold Rawlings, and Jack Eggar have kept the chapel pulpit hot this past year. Check out all our chapel services at www.youtube.com/user/GOBBCvideos. I hope you will be blessed.

Ad Maiora



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

Forty of us from Boston Baptist College just returned from our study trip to Italy. Study trips lead up to the culmination of a great year of study. It's hard to top the ruins of ancient Rome for understanding the life and work of Paul. Our study trips sure aren't glamorous and are not vacations, but they are pretty much the gold standard for innovative Biblical education. And they are the standard expectation for us in Boston.

I've made lots of jokes about the souvenirs I buy on study trips. I'm not much of a shopper, and long ago I got past the urge to buy t-shirts or key chains. But, on our last day, I found a shop that makes Latin plaques, so I splurged and spent about \$20 for the college lobby. To remember the 2015 trip, the words *Ad Maiora* now greet anybody walking in the door.

I know full well that the Jesuits include that Latin remark in their official motto. But, in case your high school Latin is a little rusty, *Ad Maiora* simply means “toward greater things.” That has to be a great reminder for a college like ours! I want thinking like that to catch the eye everywhere you look here.

Many people talk today about ROI and college studies: that is, return on investment. Normally, it is used in the context of wage earning, figuring out the statistical likelihood of increased earnings for a college graduate as opposed to other scenarios. That conversation has its place, but around here, we are framing our thoughts quite differently — toward greater things. Our students hear it constantly. I'm glad to hang one more reminder for them to see. It goes along well with the inscribed marker on the front lawn ... William Carey's famous line, “Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.”

I like study and learning, but they are not an end to anything. For Christians, they are merely a tool for worship and service. They are roads toward greater things, if you will. Just a few weeks ago I got a letter from a Boston alum who pastors in North Dakota — doing a bang-up job by all accounts. Great. Then earlier this week I got a letter from another alum who is off to Rwanda. Great.

Students will finish up this semester and head off to new positions of church service, summer jobs at camps, and internships. This is the kind of “greater things” we talk about. Almost immediately after graduation I will get to be a part of ordaining two remarkable young pastors who both studied here. Justin Johnson is doing a great job with Clayton Moorman at Newark Baptist Church in Maryland. Michael Woodward is serving Ocean State Baptist Church in Rhode Island with real distinction. Great things. It's why we work together and pour our lives into this. *Ad Maiora*.



BBC Alumni Project 2015 to fund new campus fitness center

The BBC Alumni Association has announced the Alumni and Friends Project for 2015. This year the project funds will go to help pay for a new fitness center for students attending Baptist Bible College.

Nate Harmon of BBC says, "We want to create an environment of healthy living on campus, and this will help us do so. We have a special opportunity to receive \$125,000 worth of fitness equipment for \$50,000. This is a great opportunity."

The Association says funds can be designated for this project through:

2. Participation in the Alumni Golf Tournament on Thursday, May 7, at 1:00 p.m.
3. Or by giving a direct donation to the Alumni Project

The Alumni and Friends Project is an annual offering whose purpose is to help fund projects on the campus of Baptist Bible College that enhance student life.

1. Attending the Alumni and Friends Banquet on Tuesday, May 5, at 12:00 p.m. with special guest comedian and motivational speaker Mike Bliss from Branson, MO



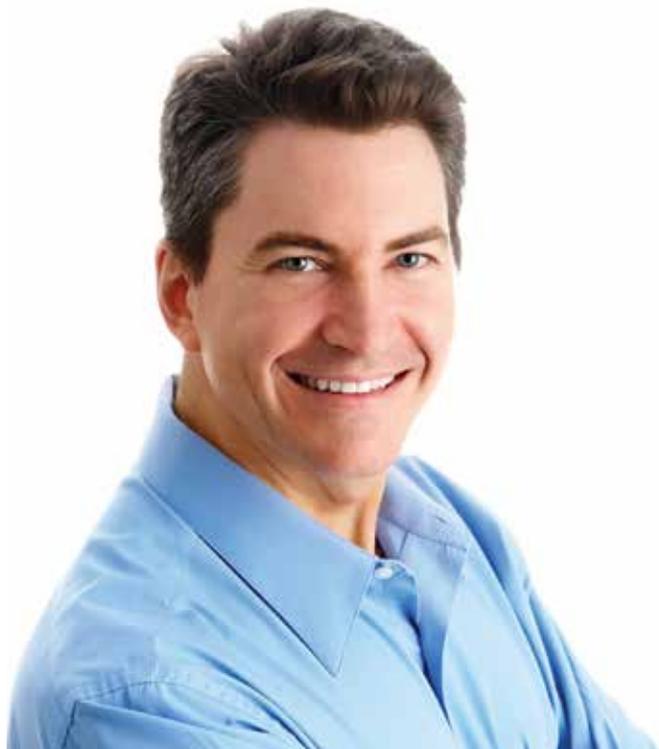
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Ohio pastors lead GROW Conference

Several Ohio pastors teamed up to lead a ministry training conference March 13-14 at Camp Chautauqua. The event was designed to provide enhanced training for pastors, staff members, and young men who are praying about a future in ministry. More than 80 men attended the meetings, which included messages on several topics and areas of ministry. Presenters for the conference and

their topics were: Josh Bevan, Xenia (Personal Walk); Jeremy Stout, Marysville (Evangelism Passion and Urgency); Tim Carter, West Union (Practical Wisdom for Ministry); Dan Lamb, Hillsboro (Me as a Disciple); Kelly McInerney, Wilmington (Decently and in Order in Ministry); Wally Miller, Fairfield (Doctrine — Biblical Authority); and Ryan Bevan, Chillicothe (Finding and Communicating

Faith and Vision). The event was well-received, with men registered from 16 churches in Ohio, and one in Indiana. Plans are being made for a second GROW Conference to be held in the fall. Details about that event will be available this summer through the Ohio Baptist Bible Fellowship, or through Kelly McInerney, Bible Baptist Church of Wilmington.



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KJV Graduation Gift Pack

The King James Version Thinline Gift Bible, constructed from quality materials and richly bound, will provide years of faithful use. Charles Spurgeon's classic daily devotional, *Morning by Morning*, is also a great companion for your spiritual journey; it's timeless (he wrote it in the 1860's, but it's still so relevant) and full of wise insight. Pair the two together and you've got an all-access pass to start the next leg of your faith journey right.

- Available in Black or Pink/Chocolate
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Morning by Morning (By Charles Spurgeon)

- A new topical index helps readers discover Spurgeon's thoughts on various topics important to Christian life.
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Texas Tales in Siberia by Jeff Williams

Texas Tales follows a sixth generation Texas boy who struggles to adjust to life in Siberia. The fact that he is a Baptist missionary is beside the point. Had he been a salesman or worked in petroleum it would have made no difference. Hilarious misadventures follow one after another as he learns to navigate the cultural divide between the Lone Star State and 1,000 years of Russian life. In time he discovers that the greatest challenges are not from his new environment, but from within.

The Williams family moved to Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russia on January 3, 1998. Russia was still operating on the Soviet Model in many ways. Between the strange way of doing things, and the colorful characters they met along the way, life was so absurd it became amusing. If you need to escape to another time and place, if you want to laugh out loud, then this is your ticket.



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O'FALLON, MO

Neema House dedicated

In February, missionaries to Tanzania Mitch and Beth Calmes welcomed guests from Midway Church in Aubrey, TX for a building dedication. Midway is the sending church for the Calmes who have served in Tanzania for the past 18 years. The Neema House Church (House of grace) celebrated their 10th anniversary in the new auditorium. The campus also includes offices, educational space, and a MANNA feeding center.

In addition to the campus ministries, Beth Calmes has also begun a program called Sifa Threads that trains women in sewing and business skills in order to support themselves. Midway pastor John Theisen challenged the congregation to be a reflection of God's character and salvation in their community. Several local officials were present for the entire day that was filled with special presentations and music. A very capable national pastor is being trained and assuming more responsibility for the church every day.



FLINT, MI

Michigan BBF meets

Tribune Editor Keith Bassham was the guest of the Michigan Baptist Bible Fellowship when the pastors and staff members met March 10 at Great Lakes Baptist Temple in Flint, MI. Also speaking in the meeting were Michigan BBF chairman Greg Burdine and Fred A. Shelton. David Chittenden was the host pastor. The Michigan BBF gave an additional \$1,000 for the Tribune offering during the visit.



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ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Modest-sized Berean Baptist has big heart for missions

Berean Baptist Church in Albuquerque, NM, held the church's annual mission conference with missionaries Don, Delores, and Heather Swearingen (Mexico), Charlie and Mary Joyce (Burkina Faso), and Steve and Jenell Bender (BBFI Mission Office).

Led by Pastor Don Weakland, the church had promised \$170,000 for missions in 2014, but they gave \$205,000. The Faith Promise in February's conference came to \$225,000.

Missionary and Berean church member Sandie Powell said, "Berean is not peppered with affluence, millionaires, or lottery winners. The church is comprised of a group of committed Christians who delight in broadening their borders and accelerating their influence with the generous support of 100 missionary families."

In a time when some churches are considering dropping the annual mission conference due to a restricted economy or even flagging interest in worldwide evangelism, Berean is bucking the trend and expressing their faith in a big way.

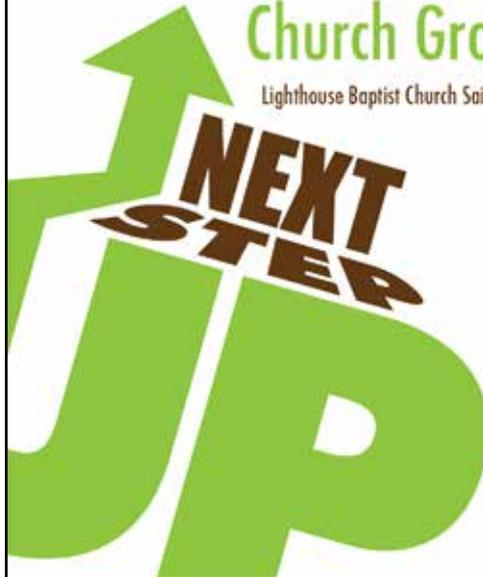
Sandie Powell contributed information for this article



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WITH THE LORD

SPRINGFIELD, MO

GEORGE BRYANT

George Earl Bryant, 71, left this life March 20, 2015, after a lifetime of service to the Lord preaching and making music. Born April 5, 1943, George pastored in California, Kansas, and Missouri. He was the founder of Mountain Grove Baptist Temple, Mountain Grove, MO.

The past several years, George was well known in the Ozarks through KWFC radio in Springfield, MO, and a Gospel ministry of music and preaching throughout the area.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Nevius Bryant, children from his first marriage (to Edwina, who passed away in 2000), Ruth's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Services were held March 24 at First Free Will Baptist Church in Mountain Grove and at Cherry Street Baptist Church in Springfield.

PLANO, TX

THOMAS RAY

Thomas Ray went home to be with his Lord and Savior on April 1, 2015. Born June 29, 1934, in Wills Point, TX, he was 80 years old.

Tom pastored several churches in North Texas, Huntington Beach, CA, and Phoenix, AZ. He wrote many articles and books on Baptist history, and for the past several years he authored the "Baptist History" column in the *Baptist Bible Tribune*. His evangelism tract ministry, especially his booklet "Life's Greatest Discovery," touched countless lives and continues to be used to spread the Gospel around the world.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy, four children, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held April 7 in Williams Memorial Chapel officiated by John W. Williams and Donald Ledbetter.

TOPEKA, KS

CHESTER W. FURMAN

Chester W. Furman passed from this life April 6, 2015. Born February 10, 1940, in Cincinnati, OH, he was a graduate of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, and Faith Bible Institute.

Chester pastored churches in Texas, Florida, Ohio, and Kansas over his 50 years of ministry, and was the founding pastor of North Rock Baptist Temple in Topeka, KS. He married Geri Crum, who preceded him in death in 1962. He married Minnie Mae Micky Stockdale in 1998.

He is survived by his wife, four children, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Services were held April 11, 2015, at North Rock Baptist Temple.

ORLAND PARK, IL

RUTH LYONS

Ruth V. Lyons, wife of Pastor Vernon Lyons and mother of Pastor Charles Lyons, passed into the presence of her Savior April 4, 2015. Born in Cherry Grove, MN, November 20, 1928, she is survived by her husband, Vernon, to whom she had been married 64 years, eight children, 28 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. Services were held April 11, 2015, at Ashburn Baptist Church, Orland Park, IL.

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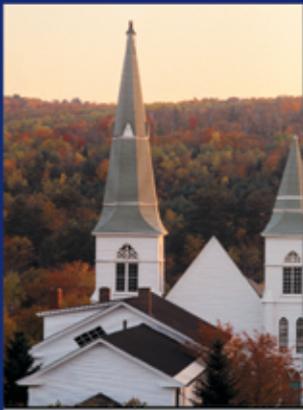
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Super Tropical Cyclone Pam strikes Vanuatu

Stephen & Lynn Spore | BBFI Missionaries to Vanuatu

For five days we were warned a cyclone named Pam was coming. Two days before it hit, it was upgraded from a Category 3 storm to a Category 4, and then to Category 5 and was called Super Tropical Cyclone Pam. We kept the web page tracking cyclone Pam up and viewed it hourly. It was very clear that it truly was a huge cyclone. It was moving very slowly (around 6 mph) which magnified its intensity by a hundred fold.

We put up wooden shutters on the church and school buildings and our home. Anything that might blow away was taken inside. Then came the waiting. Friday, the wait was over as the wind began to gust. By 5:00 pm the wind was beyond gale force and by 9:00 pm power was off, phones were off, and we were in the midst of the storm.

We certainly could identify with Paul's statement of being in the deep and praying for day. During the night, we could hear trees crashing and all sorts of things hitting the roof and shutters of our home. Some things hit so hard the house shook. We watched as water came in through our eight-inch solid concrete walls. It was a very long night!

We prayed our Lord would protect us, our people, and the five families sheltering in Grace Bible Baptist Church, and that no trees would come down on the church, school, or our neighbors houses. Saturday morning we waited anxiously for the wind to die down enough for us to safely drive to church and see how everyone had fared. We knew that 15 hours of cyclonic winds with gusts of over 217 mph would leave mass destruction.

While waiting on the wind to die down, we mopped our flooded living room. Our driveway was covered with tree limbs and debris and there was almost nothing still standing in our once-lush tropical yard. When we were finally able to get in the truck and head out, we saw a landscape that looked like a war zone. Less than a fifth of the trees were still standing, none of them whole. Many of our neighbors' roofs were gone or partially gone. Smaller houses were demolished completely.

As we drove, we wove our way through downed trees and tree limbs, sheet metal, fencing, power lines, and other debris. We were astonished at the damage. Roads were flooded with water head-high in some areas. The five-minute drive to the church took an hour.

Schools, churches, homes, and shops were all badly damaged or gone completely. There are no words to describe the heart-pounding anguish we felt as we drove, praying, "Lord, let our people be alright."

Driving in nearly two feet of water, we were over a mile away from the church when we realized we could see the church buildings still standing. As we turned onto the church road, we could see the verandas on both buildings were gone and we could see that the long-line steel roof had been lifted. Trees were down and there was other damage and

flooding around the buildings.

The fence around our church and school sits on a short wall that is three concrete blocks high and, in most places, the water was level with the top of the blocks. Our neighbor had parked his "new" truck on the veranda hoping to avoid damage from flying debris. The veranda roof was completely gone but the truck didn't have a scratch on it. Inside, our five families were all unharmed and smiling as we came through the door. God had answered our prayer!

As with any disaster, nearly everyone has stories of needs and of blessings. I want to share a few of those with you as you pray for Vanuatu and its people. During the cyclone, pieces of the ceiling were breaking free and falling throughout the church building, the bond beam was cracking, and the verandas were in the process of being ripped free. As you can imagine, fear gripped the people inside, but one of our women sat still and challenged the others by pointing out that, "This is God's house and God is big enough to take care of His house and His people in His house!" She challenged them to have faith and trust in God's hand even in the midst of the biggest cyclone ever recorded here.

The wind gusts were so strong they folded our long-line steel roofing like a fan. The crumpled roofing broke the ring beam in the auditorium, but remained attached. Had it blown off, the entire contents of the church would have been lost.

Tropical Cyclone Pam destroyed buildings and snatched giant trees out of the ground. It threw yachts, fishing boats, and ferries into the wharves and shoreline. It even blew a small puppy approximately 3 to 4 weeks old into the church yard. (We named her TC Pam and she is doing fine after her flying ordeal.)

The first day after the storm moved out, most people were in a state of shock and they began to try to make sure neighbors had survived. Next came trying to dry everything out and salvage what they could of food, clothing, and bedding.

Thursday and Friday after the storm, we had all-church-and-school-family workdays. It was amazing how much work 50 people per day accomplished. The better the grounds began to look, the harder they worked wanting the "face of the church grounds to be smiling again." It certainly looks better and now we are helping many who lost homes or roofs. We also are buying lots of rice and providing water, bedding, and clothes for those without.

This is the first time we've seen such total destruction firsthand. Pray God will use us and our church people to bring encouragement and the love of Christ to people in the capital. We trust this will further the Gospel. Pray we have wisdom in helping those around us with such desperate needs.



MAY 2015

PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1  MISSIONARY Aaron & Chrissie McNeff <i>Argentina</i>	2  CHAPLAIN LCDR. Gregory & Evangelina Cates <i>U.S. Navy</i>
3  MISSIONARY George & Ellen King <i>Japan</i>	4  MISSIONARY Jordan & Nikki Nisly <i>Philippines</i>	5  MISSIONARY Adolfo & April Ruesga <i>Mexico</i>	6 Newly approved missionaries	7  Baptist Bible College Class of 2015	8  MISSIONARY Ron & Katherine Reasoner <i>Russia</i>	9  MISSIONARY Charlene Espinosa <i>Retired</i>
10  MISSIONARY Wesley & Melina Lane <i>Dominican Republic</i>	11  MISSIONARY Stan & Jackie Sherwood <i>Panama</i>	12  MISSIONARY Bob & Janice Marshall <i>Wales</i>	13  WORKERS IN Restricted Countries	14  MISSIONARY Fred & Joyce Davis <i>Canada</i>	15  BBFI MISSION OFFICE - SPRINGFIELD, MO Lee Tomlin <i>Assoc. Mission Director</i>	16  MISSIONARY Greg & Janet Peterson <i>Zambia</i>
17  Boston Baptist College Class of 2015	18  MISSIONARY Russ & Diane Dean <i>Brazil</i>	19  MISSIONARY Jerry & Mindy Kinman <i>Guatemala</i>	20  MISSIONARY Randy & Phyllis Stirewalt <i>Kenya</i>	21  Larry & Dawn Nelson <i>Australia</i>	22  MISSIONARY Marvin & Rebecca Robertson <i>Retired</i>	23  Louisiana Baptist University Class of 2015
24  MISSIONARY Jim & Becky Lee <i>Mexico</i>	25  MISSIONARY Phil & Melody Stephens <i>Zambia</i>	26  MISSIONARY Bob & Verna Griggs <i>Ute Indians</i>	27  MISSIONARY Mark & Amy Pointer <i>Peru</i>	28  MANNA Worldwide	29  MISSIONARY Sam & Carita Masters <i>Argentina</i>	30  MISSIONARY Timothy & Kim LaLonde <i>Canada</i>
31  MISSIONARY Andrew & Lisa Simpson <i>Taiwan</i>						

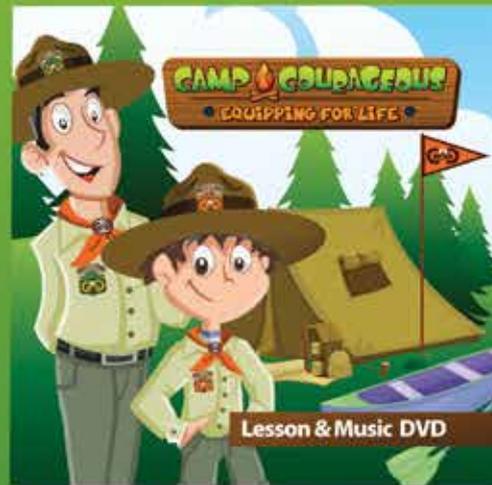
As is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.
Martin Luther



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