



Together

May 2017 Fellowship Week & Graduation



By Mark Milioni

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

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

The answer to all of these was a resounding yes!

NEW VENUE

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

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

NEW SPEAKERS

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



Alumni Association

New format, same mission *By Marty Hughes*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



SPEAKERS



Reflections *By Don Baier*



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

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

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

We are better together!



BBFI Business By Randy Harp



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

COMMUNICATION OFFICE

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

MISSION OFFICE

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

help our missionaries with their accounting and reporting.

EDUCATION REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

APEX (CHURCH PLANTING)

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

OTHER BUSINESS

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

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

Future national meetings of the BBFI were announced as following:

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

30-year service pins

50-year service globes

Wesley & Melina Lane (Dominican Republic)



Del & Lora Hooge (Philippines)



David & Mary Moody (New Zealand)



Naomi Musgrave (U.S. Language Groups)



NEWLY APPROVED MISSIONARIES

CAREER

Curt and Arli Motsinger

Field: Philippines

Sending church:

High Street Baptist Church
Springfield, MO

curt.motsinger@bbfmissions.org

Ali Alexander

Field: Colombia

Sending church:

Overland Park Baptist Temple
Overland Park, KS

ali.alexander@bbfmissions.org

TEAM

Adam and Ayla Cottrell

Field: Thailand

Host missionaries:

Ricky and Tammy Salmon

Sending church:

Cherry Street Baptist Church
Springfield, MO

adam.cottrell@bbfmissions.org

Bethany Dick

Field: Philippines

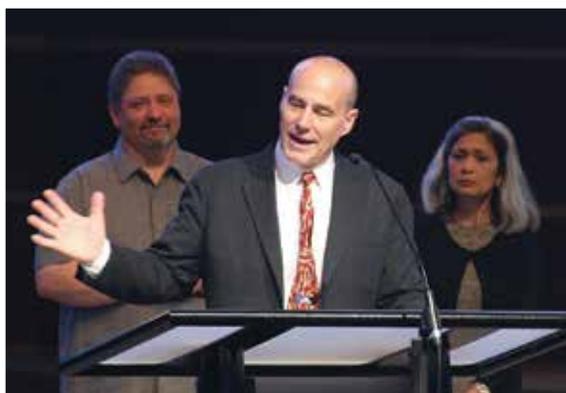
Host missionaries:

Lance and Melanie Gotcher

Sending church:

Fairfield West Baptist Church
Fairfield, OH

bethany.dick@bbfmissions.org



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

Coverage continues on page 25

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Continued >>>>>

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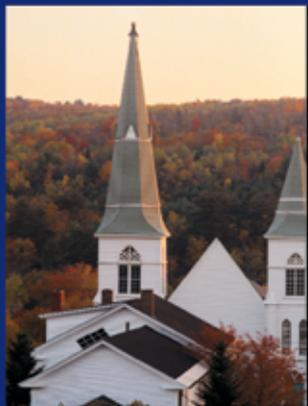


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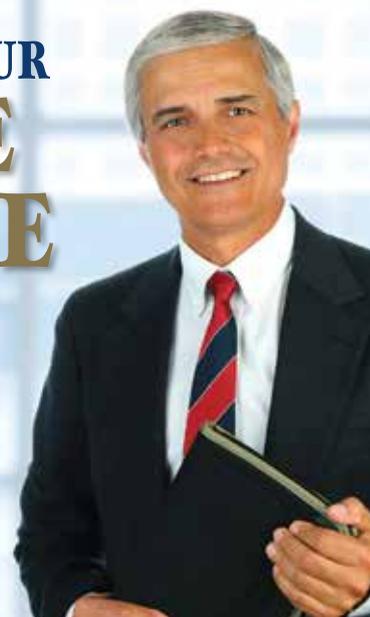


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