

# BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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## GOING WITH THE FLOW

HOW A BUSY LIFE CAN  
MASK DANGEROUS  
TEMPTATIONS

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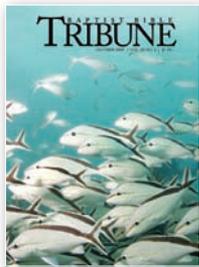
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# BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

VOL. 60 NO. 2

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# On the Table

By Keith Bassham



## A failure of imagination

My wife and I have been watching space films lately. Not the fantasy, Buck Rogers kind. This is NASA/Discovery Channel stuff — that, and some dramatic series based on the real thing. We just finished the film that portrayed the capsule fire in which the three astronauts, Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee, lost their lives February 21, 1967.

Putting live men into space and returning them safely is an incredibly complex affair, and with all the moving parts, electronic glitches, mission outlines, and the unforeseen human element, problems will occur. Often they are minute in importance, simple to overcome, and without serious consequences. Others, well, there is always the unexpected.

In the aftermath of what would have been the first Apollo mission, it seemed important to hold someone or something accountable. Some who were against space exploration on principle wanted to hold NASA to a zero-risk, absolutely safe standard. Others wanted to support NASA's mission, indeed, the American goal of putting a US astronaut on the moon by the end of 1969, so they would have contented themselves with finding a person, or a procedure, or a manufacturer to blame. They were okay with a certain amount of risk provided safety was always on the front burner.

In the congressional hearing, things were going badly. Even astronaut Frank Borman, the first to go into the burned capsule after the fire, had been forced by his commitment to the truth to give damaging evidence. And then, just as it appeared the space program was doomed, committee chair Senator Clinton Anderson asked Borman, "What

caused the fire?"

According to Borman's portrayal in the film series *From the Earth to the Moon*, he responded, "A failure of imagination. We've always known there was the possibility of fire in a spacecraft. But the fear was that it would happen in space, when you're 180 miles from *terra firma* and the nearest fire station. That was the worry. No one ever imagined it could happen on the ground. If anyone had thought of it, the test would've been classified as hazardous. But it wasn't. We just didn't think of it. Now whose fault is that? Well, it's North American's [the capsule manufacturer] fault. It's NASA's fault. It's the fault of every person who ever worked on Apollo. It's my fault. I didn't think the test was hazardous. No one did. I wish to God we had."

Since viewing the film and reading the transcript, I have learned Borman did not coin that phrase, "a failure of imagination." It was used at least once in an evangelistic situation. The evening before C. S. Lewis knelt and became, in his words, "the most reluctant convert in all of Christendom," he had been walking and talking with his friend J. R. R. Tolkien. Lewis, though partially persuaded of the truth of Jesus Christ, was still full of objections. At one point Tolkien interjected, "Your inability to understand stems from a failure of imagination on your part!"

For all I know, perhaps Mr. Tolkien had heard or read the phrase elsewhere, but that is of no matter. What Mr. Tolkien and Mr. Borman were getting at amounts to the same thing: we cannot think of everything, but we should try to.

For instance, we take it for granted that as fallen but redeemed men and women, committing sin is an inevitabil-

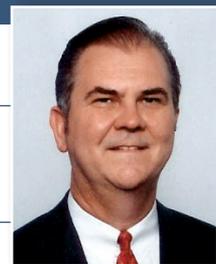
ity for us. My systematic theology says it is so. Some mourn that fact, much as the Puritans did, and do all they can to avoid sin. Others use the truth almost as an excuse, as in, "Well, you know, no one is perfect," or "I'm not perfect, just forgiven." We are, after all, merely sinners saved by grace.

The statement reminds me of one of Walt Kelly's *Pogo* comic strips. Pogo Possum was quite taken for a time with the French-speaking skunk Miz Hepzibah, although he was denying the attraction publicly. When another of the swamp characters began showing romantic attention to Miz Hepzibah, he could no longer hide his feelings. After a good pout, he confessed to Porky Porcupine that his whole attitude was wrong. He said that he should not get worked up over "a mere skunk." Porky replied, "There's nothing mere about a skunk."

Perhaps this is an example of a failure of Christian imagination, or Christian imaging if you will. We can manage to abstain from sin for short periods of time, certainly from the more egregious ones. What would it be like if we could extend those times? In other words, does the bulk of the New Testament teach that we are sinners who occasionally do the right thing, or are we saints who occasionally sin?

And how much of what God would accomplish through us is stifled by a failure of imagination on our part? Noel Smith was fond of saying that we are doing God's business in great waters, and for sailors in the pre-modern world, heading out to great waters was just as uncertain as going into space is today.

Let us not fail to imagine all that God could do through us if we truly gave ourselves to Him without reservation.



## Our 60th year will have revival emphasis

Chicago is a lovely place to visit this time of the year, especially if you are from the Sunshine State of Florida. Our National Church Planting Office loan committee met in Chicago the first week of September to approve loans for young churches. I want to say a special thank you to those men who gave of their time and energy to do God's work for church planting. Those men, Ken Rhoades, Tim Taylor, Archie Emerson, Don Elmore, Dan Lamb, Bob Baker, Dave Shaffer, R. D. Wade, Tim Robertson, Bruce Humbert, Tom Wagoner, and I noted NCPO Director Wayne Guinn and Assistant Director Jason Todd were well prepared with information about the marvelous opportunities ahead for the church-planting arm of our Fellowship. Pastor Bruce Humbert did an awesome job hosting the meeting. Monty Maple also came to make a special presentation to the loan committee.

Monday evening, the Lord was moving in our midst during a stirring discussion about revival, and the discussion concluded with a very special time of prayer. All week long it seemed our thoughts kept coming back to the burden of revival for our Fellowship. I revealed to them that in 2010 we will title the new year for the Fellowship "The Year of Revival." The February meeting in Savannah, Georgia, will center on the word "Remember" and we will emphasize church planting and growth. Our May meeting in Springfield, Missouri, will center on the word "Rededicate" and we will emphasize integrity and holiness. The September meeting in Richton Park, Illinois, will center on the word "Rekindle" and we will emphasize prayer and preaching.

The revelation of these plans is a little premature, but the Lord is already putting a heavy burden upon the hearts of many pastors who understand the urgency for our Fellowship to experience a revival from heaven. We all understand that there will never be revival in our Fellowship until there is revival in our churches — there will

never be revival in our churches until there is revival in the lives of our pastors. Bill Monroe said in our S3 conference in April, "If you want your church to change, then you must change." That will be our emphasis the entire year of 2010.

C. H. Spurgeon preached the sermon "What Is Revival" and published it in the December 1866 issue of *Sword and Trowel*. Introducing the message, Mr. Spurgeon said, "The word 'revival' is as familiar in our mouths as a household word. We are constantly speaking about and praying for a 'revival,' would it not be as well to know what we mean by it? Of the Samaritans our Lord said, 'Ye worship ye know not what,' let him not have to say to us, 'Ye know not what ye ask.' The word 'revive' wears its meaning upon its forehead; it is from the Latin, and may be interpreted thus — to live again, to receive again a life which has almost expired; to rekindle into a flame the vital spark which was nearly extinguished."

Later in his sermon, Spurgeon addresses different groups of people, but listen to what he says about

preachers: "When a minister obtains this revival he preaches very differently from his former manner. It is very hard work to preach when the head aches and when the body is languid, but it is a much harder task when the soul is unfeeling and lifeless. It is sad, sad work — painfully, dolorously, horribly sad, but saddest of all if we

**It is sad, sad work... if we can go on preaching and remain careless concerning the truths we preach, indifferent as to whether men are saved or lost!**

do not feel it to be sad, if we can go on preaching and remain careless concerning the truths we preach, indifferent as to whether men are saved or lost! May God deliver every minister from abiding in such a state! Can there be a more wretched object than a man who preaches in God's name truths which he does not feel, and which he is conscious have never impressed his own heart? To be a mere sign-post, pointing out the road but never moving in it, is a lot against which every tame heart may plead night and day."

I believe that every pastor, missionary, and full-time minister who is truly called of God and walks with the Lord desires to see God's Spirit move in a very special way. There is no room for pride as we seek God for revival. All we can do is humble ourselves before the Mighty One and cry out for His mercy. Psalm 126:5 says, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." The promise is sure, if we sow in tears as we pray for revival, later we shall reap in joy as we see the outpouring of His Spirit upon our lives, our churches, and also our Fellowship.



# DIGRESSIONS

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

## Focus on the Family heads 17th Clergy Appreciation Month in October

Focus on the Family began emphasizing Clergy Appreciation Month in 1994, reminding congregations that it was biblical and proper to honor their pastoral staffs and pastoral families throughout the year, but suggesting that they set aside the month of October for a special tangible tribute.

To learn more about Clergy Appreciation Month, or to download a free planning guide for honoring your pastor in October, visit [WWW.CLERGYAPPRECIATION.ORG](http://WWW.CLERGYAPPRECIATION.ORG).

## Part of Nate Saint's plane taken into space on *Discovery*

A piece of missionary history was on board the latest flight of the space shuttle *Discovery* when it launched August 29. Astronaut Patrick Forrester carried a piece of the battery box from the Piper airplane flown by the missionary martyr Nate Saint to Ecuador in 1956.



Forrester, who is a deacon at University Baptist Church in Houston, had inquired whether Mission Aviation Fellowship had something he could carry along with him on this, his third shuttle flight. MAF surprised him by providing a part of Saint's aircraft. The battery box part was approved by NASA for the flight.

In an interview with MAF, Forrester said he wanted to honor "Nate Saint, the Saint family and all missionaries around the world," and to bring attention to missions.



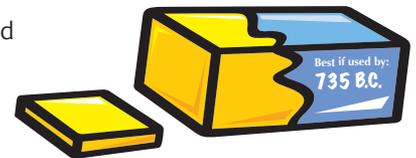
Nate Saint and four other missionaries were killed by Waodani Indians as missionary aviators attempted to take the gospel to them in 1956.

Forrester has participated in several short-term missions, and he plans to continue to serve in mission fields "...whether it is at home or overseas, short-term or full-time."

Source: [www.bpnews.com](http://www.bpnews.com) and [www.maf.org](http://www.maf.org)

## Barrel of butter found in Irish bog estimated to be 3,000 years old

When John Fitzharris and Martin Lane noticed a streak of white in the peat bog they were harrowing, they stopped to investigate. "We could smell it. And it was attracting crows." They dug into the peat and found an oak barrel made from a tree trunk, complete with a lid. As they dug it out of the bog, it became clear that the only damage to the barrel had been caused by the harrow, other than that, it was perfectly preserved.



The barrel's age was estimated by conservators in the Conservation Department of the National Museum of Ireland where the barrel is being stored and studied. As for the contents, "It's a national treasure, you can't be going and hacking bits of it off for your toast!" says conservator Carol Smith.

Source: *Leinster Leader*, [www.liensterleader.com](http://www.liensterleader.com), Conor McHugh, August 19, 2009.

## Statistics show involvement with on-line communities thriving, but not necessarily growing

Fifteen percent of Internet users reported that they are members of an online community — no change over 2007, and still the peak level so far in the studies.

Online community members continue to report increasing average time as members of those communities compared to 2006.

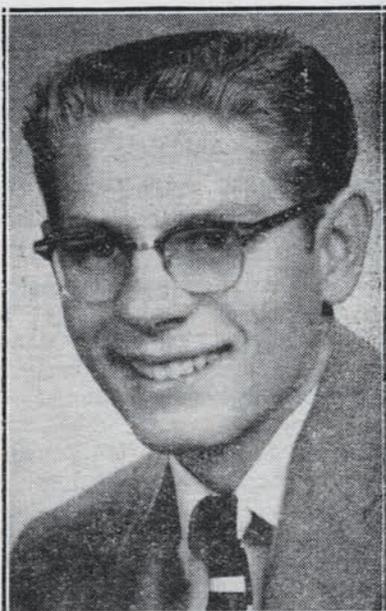
The largest percentage of users who said they were in an online community said their community is related to their hobbies.

Most online community members said that their participation in those communities does not affect their involvement in offline communities. However, a small but growing percentage said that this involvement has decreased their involvement in offline communities somewhat or a lot.

Source: 2009 Digital Future Report, Center for the Digital Future at the USC Annenberg School

## 50 Years ago in the Tribune...

# Ordained In Kansas



**KENNETH ADRIAN**, son of Rev. and Mrs. Jack J. Adrian, was ordained to the ministry by Glenville Baptist church, Wichita, Kan., of which his father is pastor.

The council was composed of J. J. Adrian, moderator; James Lambert, Haven Baptist church, clerk; G. E. Caskey, Millington Street Baptist, Winfield, interrogator; Evangelist Paul Lambert, Vallejo, Calif., who preached the sermon; Albert Adrian, Harrison Street Baptist, Great Bend; Doyle Patterson, Temple Baptist, El Dorado; William Dennis, El Dorado; L. C. Truitt, Central Baptist, Anthony; Clyde Billingsley Jr., Bible Baptist, Augusta; Clyde Billingsley Sr., Temple Baptist, Wichita; Lew Cass Bennett, Calvary Baptist, Pratt, and Michael Schepis, Grace Baptist, Wichita.

Kenneth Adrian, a graduate of Baptist Bible College, married Judy Lambert, daughter of Evangelist Paul Lambert. They have one son, Timothy. Kenneth is assistant to his father, who organized the Glenville church.

Story appeared in the September 18, 1959 edition of the *Tribune*.

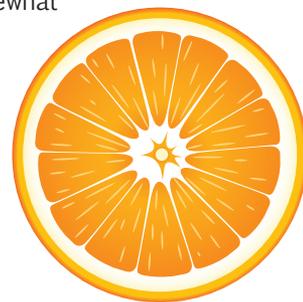
## Most Americans view religions other than their own as very different

A Pew Research poll has found that two-thirds of non-Muslims (65%) say that Islam and their own faith are either very different or somewhat different, while just 17% take the view that Islam and their own religion are somewhat or very similar. But Islam is not the only religion that Americans see as mostly different from their own. When asked about faiths other than their own, six-in-ten adults say Buddhism is mostly different, with similar numbers saying the same about Mormonism (59%) and Hinduism (57%).



By a smaller margin, Americans are also inclined to view Judaism and Catholicism as somewhat or very different from their own faith (47% different vs. 35% similar for Judaism, 49% different vs. 43% similar for Catholicism). Only when asked about Protestantism do perceived similarities outweigh perceived differences, with 44% of non-Protestants in the survey saying Protestantism and their own faith are similar and 38% saying they are different.

Source: Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, [www.pewforum.org](http://www.pewforum.org)



## Barna study shows higher numbers of Hispanic population parting with Catholic church

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) The Hispanic population, the largest ethnic group in the United States, rapidly has been adopting the mainstream beliefs and practices of all Americans, according to a study by The Barna Group.

The study, released July 6, compared the faith of Hispanics today to their faith profile of 15 years ago and found 11 faith dimensions on which there had been substantial change.

Barna found that Hispanics' alignment with the Catholic Church was down by 25 percentage points, and Hispanics who believe a good person can earn his way into heaven was down 9 percentage points.

Being a born-again Christian by Barna's

definition was up 17 percentage points among Hispanics, and having made a personal commitment to Jesus that is important in their lives was up 15 percentage points.

Church attendance among Hispanics in an average week had increased 10 percentage points, Barna said, and reading the Bible during a typical week was up 5 percentage points.

Hispanics who were surveyed also were more likely to claim to have a personal responsibility to share their religious beliefs with others (up 10 percentage points), believe that God is the all-powerful, all-knowing creator of the universe who still rules the world today (up 8 points), and

believe that the Bible is accurate in all of the principles it teaches (up 6 points) when compared to those surveyed 15 years ago.

Barna said the study reveals how significant faith is in the lives of Hispanics.

"... You cannot help but notice the changing relationship between Hispanics and the Catholic church. While many Hispanic immigrants come to the United States with ties to Catholicism, the research shows that many of them eventually connect with a Protestant church. Even more significant is the departure of many second and third generation Hispanics from their Catholic tradition," Barna said.

Source: Baptist Press, [www.bpnews.com](http://www.bpnews.com), compiled by Erin Roach, BP staff writer.



# going with the flow



## HOW A BUSY LIFE CAN MASK DANGEROUS TEMPTATIONS

*Kevin Carson, D.Min.*

**L**ife is quick. The next ten minutes could help change your life.

If this were you, what would you do?

**What would you do if**, in the midst of an incredibly stressful period in your life, your neighbor offers you marijuana?

**What would you do if** your business partner wants you to launder money for his distant relative?

**What would you do if** your employer asks you to lie on the witness stand?

**What would you do if** your local warlock invites you to participate in demonic activity?

**What would you do if** your friend offers you money to kill his spouse?

**What would you do if** your coworker solicits extramarital sex?

I imagine within one or two words or comments, the average Christian could guess what he would do in each of these scenarios. These questions do not seem too hard for the Christian, much less for many unbelievers. The Bible, though, recognizes a unique connection between what are apparently large issues (similar to the six sins

above) and what are seemingly smaller issues. James, in particular, highlights connections when he refers to the bit in the horse's mouth (3:3), the rudder to the ship (3:4), the spark to the larger fire (3:5), and the tongue to the body (3:6-12).

What if we changed each of the six scenarios minimally? What would you do now?

**What would you do if** during that particularly stressful time instead of marijuana you are offered a cup of high-caffeinated, iced coffee mocha just before bedtime?

**What would you do if** instead of money laundering, your business partner asks you to tell a dissatisfied customer that he is out of the office for the week, when in fact he is in the break room?

**What would you do if** instead of your local warlock inviting you to participate in demonic activity, you have a choice to go fishing on a Sunday morning or Wednesday night instead of attending church?

**What would you do if** instead of your friend offering you money to kill a spouse, your friend gossips about his

spouse and you become angry toward him/her?

**What would you do if** instead of your coworker soliciting extramarital sex, you have the opportunity to view a website with immodest apparel or watch a movie rated "M" containing sexual content?

Were your answers different from the first set of scenarios?

Reality is this: sin would be easy to bypass if the choices were as apparent as the first six scenarios; however, life is much more quick and complex than that. Instead, in the fast lane, each believer is faced with many choices each day, many of which are of the second sort. Herein lies the problem: many believers are losing the daily battle... some are losing much more — reputation, ministry, family, and friends.

### The Warning

It is easy as a believer to keep one eye focused on the big issues of life (issues like God, church, evil, sins similar to the ones listed in the first six scenarios), while in the process of navigating life miss the limitless variations of sin, especially when so many may not seem



For most believers, avoiding the "big" sins is obvious and easy...

...but there are just as many sins that blend in to our everyday surroundings like the scorpionfish above (center left in photo) waiting for one careless slip or weak moment

that important (similar to the last six scenarios). The Apostle Paul understood this. He encourages believers to refer back to the Old Testament story of Israel for help with living life as God-honoring people. Paul writes, "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted...Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11).

Paul wants the believer to notice how easy it is to move toward a life of sin even as a believer who is in church, serving God and giving regularly. He begins by writing, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant." He recalls how Israel could see the Shekinah glory of God in the cloud during the day and as a pillar of fire at night, how they walked through the sea on dry ground, were fed manna each day, and drank water from a rock that Moses struck. Yet, Israel still chose not to follow God. Even miraculous food, miraculous water, and a visible representation of God in their midst was not enough to protect them from sin.

Although Israel could not help but see God in their midst, with each step in the wilderness they slipped into complacency and hard hearts. If Israel could slip in their hearts this way, then how much easier is it for the believer today to increasingly struggle with sin where those miraculous manifestations of God are not present? It is easy. The world around the believer today reflects less and less of God and elevates self above all else. This is what makes the countless daily decisions of life so important to consider and evaluate. You do not want to be like the Israelites where with each step or decision you make, you slowly are lulled into a broken relationship with God. There are three biblical principles to keep before you which will help you slow down in life to better win the daily battle of living life to God's glory in a fast and complicated world.

### Humility

Humility means to focus on God and others, not self; it is a high view of God and an accurate assessment of self. Paul expected every believer to be humble. He wrote, "Brethren, if a man

be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted...For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself" (Galatians 6:1, 3). Humility is essentially thinking right about self, others, and God.

To better foster growth in humility, the believer should regularly remind himself of two important concepts. First, every person has the same challenge or purpose — to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31). Regardless of who the person is, every believer must bring God glory with his life. That is the goal. Although there are many good things a person can dedicate his life to do, the purpose God established for each person is living to His glory, or being a God-honoring person in all he is and does. To remind yourself of this goal helps keep your mind focused on God and others primarily, and off of self. Life is not lived in relationship to what "I" want; rather, life is lived in an effort to continually honor, love, respect, and obey God.

The second important concept to

## What are three areas where God is not pleased in my life and desires to change me?

foster humility is the reminder that all believers struggle together. Just as Paul warns, “considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” The ultimate in deception is to believe that the sin one person has is not a potential problem for you as well. Paul tells the believer to go about living life and serving others in the church with an awareness of personal vulnerability. The reality is that every believer is imminently entrappable. Just because someone else is caught today does not imply at any level that it will not be you tomorrow. It is not an issue of if you will ever be trapped by sin, but when. This is why Paul continues, “But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another” (6:4). If today you are honoring God, then rejoice in your heart and pursue ministry to others while recognizing you are equally susceptible to the trap and deception of sin.

### Self-Counsel

Self-counsel is the daily invitation to heart searching, heart repentance, and heart renewal through God’s Word. It is the examination of your own heart (i.e., thoughts, motives, desires) and behavior through letting the penetrating light of God’s Word carefully examine every part of your life (Colossians 3:16). In an effort to help Timothy become God’s kind of man, Paul writes to him, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (1 Timothy 4:16). Here Paul gives Timothy invaluable wisdom: it is easy to know doctrine and help others without applying what you know to your own heart first. Jesus said, “...first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye” (Matthew 7:4, emphasis mine).

Essentially, Paul tells Timothy that it is necessary to take heed to his heart first. The sad reality is that many people come to counseling and can tell me all about what the Bible says in relationship to the Trinity, salvation,

and even sometimes dispensations; however, these same individuals have not applied what they have learned to their own personal decisions and attitudes. Paul here is encouraging Timothy to give himself wholly to exercising himself to godliness — to live it before teaching it, or ministering it, or sharing it. Save yourself first, then you will have many opportunities to share, encourage, impact, and save others.

A great place to start is with the question, “What are three areas where God is not pleased in my life and desires to change me?” If you are not currently aware of what God desires to change in you, then you need to immediately consider this question. Regardless of an individual’s longevity as a saved person, every Christian has room to grow and change. After you identify where God wants to change you, another question you can ask is, “What am I doing about it?” This question helps identify what is currently happening either to help grow or perhaps to minimize the effort toward godliness.

The reason it is important to consider your heart first is because a person’s behavior and thoughts are always motivated by something in the inner man. Jesus said, “for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh” (Luke 6:45). Likewise he taught, “all these evil things come from within, and defile the man” (Mark 7:23). In other words, the heart is critical to functioning as a believer in a God-pleasing way. The heart wants, craves, desires, and wish-

es. Often, what the believer lives for in any particular moment or circumstance stands diametrically opposed to God and the Bible. Two good questions to help determine the level in which your heart desires a particular thing are: Do I want this so much I am willing to sin to get it? Do I want this so much that I am willing to sin if I do not get it?

Additional questions that will help identify what is going on at the heart level include: What do you love or hate? What do you want, desire, crave, lust, and wish for? What desires do you serve and obey? What do you see, aim for, pursue? What are your goals and expectations? Where do you bank your hopes? What do you fear? What do you not want? What do you tend to worry about? What do you feel like doing? What do you think you need? What are your plans, agendas, strategies, and intentions designed to accomplish? Where do you find refuge, safety, comfort, escape, pleasure, security? What or who do you trust? Whose opinion counts? Who must you please? Whose victory





or success would make your life happy? How do you define victory or success? What do you see as your rights? What do you feel entitled to? What do you pray for? What do you think about most often? What do you talk about most often? What motivates you to change your calendar? What are your daydreams? What would make life perfect? <sup>1</sup>

### Accountability

The third biblical principle to help a believer live life as a God-pleasing person is personal accountability. The New Testament emphasizes the role that brothers and sisters in Christ play in the growth and daily life of an individual (i.e., the “one another” commands). And while that is true, most church members report that although they have many friends in the church, the depth of relationship is shallow or surface-only. Those same members are committed to having the kinds of relationships with other believers that are referenced in the Scriptures; however, many have not seen authentic

relationships modeled nor have they been taught how to foster them. The problem gets worse when considering church leadership who find it difficult to have intimate friendships with those in the congregation.

A quick survey of New Testament passages confirms both the necessity and importance of accountability. James writes, “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed...Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (5:16, 19-20). Furthermore, the writer of Hebrews instructs, “But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (3:13). Dave Powlison often refers to this element of the Christian life as the field of love. Whereas the Bible gives us the fence or boundaries for Christian living, the area inside the boundaries is full of opportunities to interact with other believers as mutual friends and fellow-strivers for godliness.

Although developing these kinds of friendships is not easy, the neglect of both quality and quantity of authentic relationships in Christ hinders the believer’s ability to live as a God-pleasing person. Where believers have in fact built this level of friendship, the payoff is well worth the necessary effort.

You can begin to develop good accountability by considering the following steps. First, look for a wise friend that you can trust and who will give

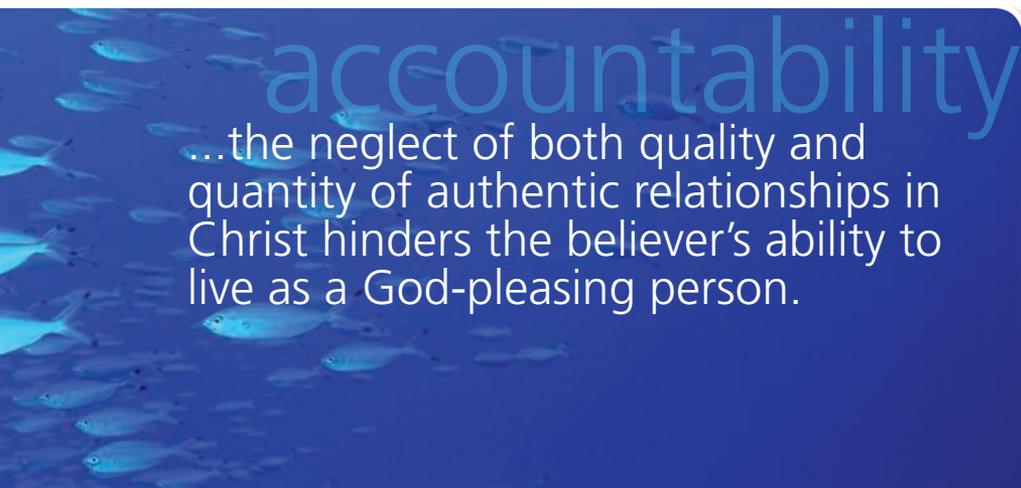
you honest feedback (James 3:13-18). Be sure this friend already practices applying biblical principles to their heart and behavior in everyday situations and will be able to help you do the same. Next, set a regular meeting time where you can ask each other good accountability questions, as well as help each other develop a battle plan for continued growth the next week. Some sample questions are: What was your attitude this week about growing to become more like Christ? How did your behavior display that attitude in your daily walk? Have you consistently and specifically confessed sin and sought forgiveness from those applicable? If not, what is your plan for doing so? What are the areas of growth and the most pronounced patterns of sin in your life at present? What are you going to do to help you respond more godly the next time? Where do you need help or advice to respond more godly? Have you recognized an opportunity this week to share Christ with someone? How did you act upon that opportunity? What is your plan for this week? How have you creatively loved and served others this week? It is a good idea as well to always end your time together with a question about honesty.

### Take the Next Step

So how does the past ten minutes help change your life? By taking what you have considered and acting upon it. Far too many brothers and sisters in Christ fall each day and fail to honor God. As members they tell me that in fact they are shocked. Most cannot believe they are in the particular situation. Many say, “If only someone would have helped me understand this before...” That is your challenge. Apply well and share it with others for God’s glory in your life and the church.

### Notes

1. *These questions are a sampling from David Powlison, “X-ray Questions: Drawing Out the Whys and Wherefores of Human Behavior” Journal of Biblical Counseling 18:1 (Fall 1999): 2-9.*



...the neglect of both quality and quantity of authentic relationships in Christ hinders the believer’s ability to live as a God-pleasing person.

8,633 attend 1,726 saved 283 a  
 CAMBODIA CAMBODIA CO  
 Overseas youth camps win thousands to the Lord 5,4  
 29,000 saved 79,959 attend 2,333  
 PHILIPPINES PHILIPPINES

**R**eports from youth camps overseas continue to stream into the *Tribune*. In past issues, the *Tribune* has printed stories of thousands of youths in Mexico and Colombia coming to the Lord through the combined efforts of Baptist Bible Fellowship missionaries, The Rawlings Foundation (Highlands Camps), and Impact Youth Worldwide. As summer is winding down, we are still receiving reports.

### Cambodia

After 13 camps (and two more to follow at this writing), the attendance and results are still being compiled, but each camp at The Highlands in Cambodia had between 750 and 1,000 attend, and about 200 were saved in each camp. After the eighth camp, director Mike Valdez reported a total of 8,633 campers with 1,726 professing Christ. There were also students who applied to enter Bible college.

Local Cambodian pastors and other adults attend services in the camps as well. Valdez writes, "Pastor Bontheoun has a brother-in-law (husband of one of his sisters-in law) who he tried to

witness to for over four years. He was very resistant, and so even his wife who wanted to go to church could not go because she was afraid he would beat her if she did. This man came to camp during the fifth batch. On the first night of camp, he was very absorbed listening to the very first message he heard. When the invitation was given for people to trust Christ, he came with tears from his eyes. On one of the subsequent services, he came to present himself for believer's baptism. While in camp, before baptism, he took off the talisman (amulet) he wore for a long time around his waist and got baptized. Immediately, when he got home, he tore off and broke to pieces the spirit house in their home. The next Sunday he called all his family members and took them to church in his vehicle."

The Highlands also holds family camps in January and February and sports camps in May. The camp facilities are located on 125 acres in Kampong Selia District, Koh Kong Province.

### Philippines

After a phenomenally success-

ful camp season in 2008, Greg Lyons, Dennis Ebert, and their team have duplicated that in 2009. Greg reported 79,959 campers attended 69 camps (admittedly an insane schedule, Greg says), and about 29,000 were dealt with for salvation (at press time). These statistics are grounds for rejoicing, but as Bill Aven at Impact Youth Worldwide points out, "When you have 1,679 camp attendees filling out an application to go to Bible college, you are reaping permanent results." These campers will soon be attending schools and training for ministry.

Another point to remember is that nothing like this success can happen without planning and teamwork. Greg Lyons says, "Recruiting for camp began before Christmas. We developed a strategy that would penetrate the youth population throughout Metro Manila. Networking with our public school contacts, government agencies that we had been working with, local churches, and simply getting out there going through each target community, we began to see God work. Targeting specific areas where we felt God was

A full house means more Filipino youth will hear the gospel



attend 191 saved  
 COLOMBIA  
 173 attend  
 COLOMBIA  
 8 saved  
 MEXICO  
 new camp  
 MEXICO  
 opens in 2010  
 TANZANIA

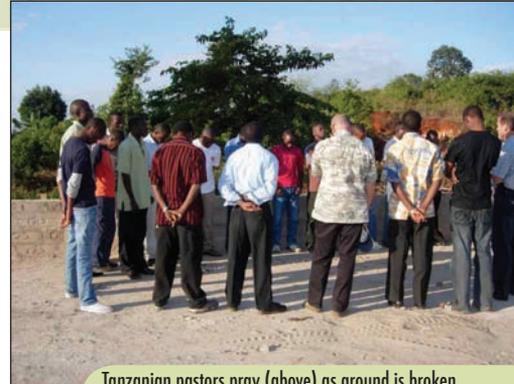
leading us to plant new churches, we worked hard in laying a foundation for the salvation appeal that would come.”

Camps are only part of the story for this youth oriented ministry. Greg also holds Vacation Bible School throughout Manila in early summer, with nearly 5,000 children attending this year. Greg says, “Children are the most receptive age group in our world. Many new studies have identified the '4-14 Window,' not a geographic window, but a demographic window. This has been identified as the most receptive time in a person's life, between ages 4 and 14 years old.” Lyons reports 2,248 children received Christ through the VBS effort this year.

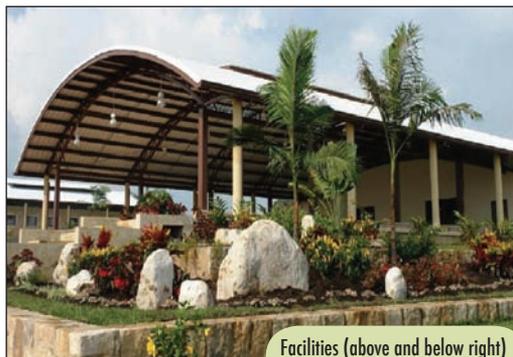
Greg and the Metro Manila evangelistic team (Greg's wife LuuAnn, Roger and Tammy Akers, Luke and Kelly Lyons, Jordan and Nikki Nisly, Isaac and Eunice Basilio, Cory and Jessie Lyons, Collette McGuire, and Marc and Jessi Buxton) are planning Youth Evangelism Conference 2010. More information can be obtained by emailing [greglyons@gmail.com](mailto:greglyons@gmail.com).

**Tanzania**

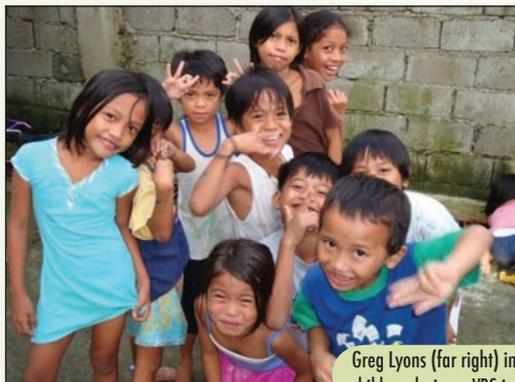
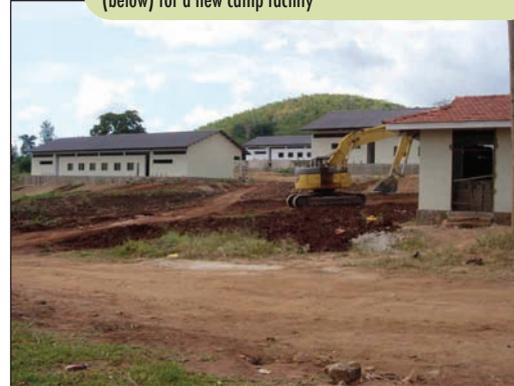
The Tanzania version of The Highlands will begin evangelistic camps in June 2010, and Dave Jones and Team Tanzania are preparing churches, pastors, and youth leaders for the type of camps in the other Highlands properties. Next on his agenda is a Teaching and Training Camp scheduled for December 14-17.



Tanzanian pastors pray (above) as ground is broken (below) for a new camp facility



Facilities (above and below right) provide the location for reaching Cambodian youth (below)



Greg Lyons (far right) interacts with children during a VBS in the Philippines





Steve &amp; Kelli Mowery

Last month, a Catholic Dominican monk secretly communicated with us, by means of our web page, about his desire to leave a monastery here in Spain in order to join us and become a Baptist. He sent me several letters hidden inside tourist brochures telling me about himself and asking for prayer. His name is Antonio and he is from Costa Rica. He joined the religious order 12 years ago at age 18. About two years ago, through his own personal Bible study,

he realized that he was in a corrupt, idolatrous religion. He called upon the Lord as his Savior and trusted Christ. He has endured about all he can and wants out. About two weeks ago, he left the monastery in Northern Spain and came to Murcia so we could talk. He feels the call to serve God. He is no longer a monk, but is still considered a non-practicing priest for the next five years. He wants to be baptized in our church and learn. We will do what we can to help Antonio grow and prepare for the Lord's will. Who knows what the Lord has in store for this man.

## SPAIN

## JAMAICA

Oral couldn't go to a service to hear the gospel. Actually, he can't go anywhere unless he is carried or rolled. He just sits in his room — he is quadriplegic due to a break-dance injury when he was 16. While I was out visiting looking for one of our Sunday school boys who had moved, I went to the wrong house first, and there was Oral Williams. He was gloriously saved a few days later when we followed

up with a soul-winning visit. His lost brother helped us get him to church the next Sunday and he made his public profession. He told us he had been hoping someone would come and tell him about the Lord.

Bill &amp; Kay Amberg



Tim Downs

Two campers have stood out to me this summer. Sam is 16 years old and when he hears people speak of God it makes him mad. Carol is 16 years old and does not even believe there is a god, let alone a God that died for her. It broke my

heart to hear them share this sad truth with me. The task is difficult, but I'm excited that Sam and Carol along with 23 other campers who do not believe have at least heard the gospel several times during camp. Pray that God would give the increase.

## BELGIUM

## GUATEMALA

Estela is a hard-working mother of six children, three of them are deaf. There are no schools in Sumpango for these children, so they study only two days a month at an institute for the deaf in the capital. Frustrated by a different kind of language barrier and eager to get to know these children better, we visited them in their home. A member of a mission team from Suncoast Baptist Church who signs accompanied us. Although many of the signs were different, we were able to communicate on a very basic level and learn a little more about the family. As we left the home that

Aaron &amp; Christine McKnight



day, the Lord burdened my heart so deeply for these children. I am desperate for them to understand how much their Heavenly Father loves them. The following Saturday at Bible club, we incorporated some basic sign language into the songs. All the children eagerly participated, but there were three in particular who were smiling from ear to ear. Little by little I pray they will learn of their Father's love for them.

## MEXICO

Allen & Aase Owens



We were in a public park in a high drug-and-prostitute section of Mexico City. A visiting pastor was sharing the gospel with the homeless population in the park and we were checking up on youth that had come to camps from this area. I had moved to the fringes of the park in order to keep an eye on the overall movement of people. That is when I saw a man with a swollen black eye and bruises all over his body approaching the crowd that had gathered to hear the preaching of God's Word. I had no idea what his intent was, but he was beating a hammer into his free hand and moving closer. I headed him off and with humor and a large smile I asked, "What are you going to do with

the hammer, beat up a gringo?" He laughed — I was relieved. I invited him to sit with me and to tell me his story of the bruises and black and swollen eye. In the end, I was able to share God's gift of forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Luis bowed his head and with tears in his eyes prayed for God to forgive him of his sins and to receive Christ as his personal Savior. Later, I introduced my new brother in Christ to a local pastor who will follow up with Luis and try to help him grow in his new life in Christ. Luis has found an option to the life of violence and vices. Please pray for him.



Ross & Ellen Ligon

Kunle once told me that most churchgoers in Nigeria had not really given up paganism. I agree with this statement, but a little investigation has shown me why he would say such a thing. Kunle's own tribe appears to be one of the most pagan and superstitious of all. He believes

very strongly that evil spirits are behind just about everything. For example, he will not allow his sons' hair to be cut until the "prophets" from his wife's white garment "spiritual" church give the go-ahead. Please pray for Kunle and Taiwo, that they would be saved and that she would leave her Cherubim and Seraphim church.

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## NIGERIA

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Richard & Joyce Crotts



Alice was a 35-year-old teacher at Rabaul Bible Baptist Academy. She had an undiagnosed cancer and went home to be with the Lord recently. She endured much heartache, including an unfaithful husband, but she lived the message of the song sung at her funeral, "I Saw Jesus in You." It was the largest funeral attendance we have seen here; the locals

said it was equaled to the funerals of their important leaders. This funeral was a testimony to a quiet woman's faith and love for the Lord.



Jeff & Judy Blanton

We buried Michael Whitlend this summer. As I stood before the packed auditorium, I was able to give his testimony. A year ago, Michael was doing his best to avoid me as I visited in his parents' home and before his father's death and funeral. But when Michael himself became seriously ill, he called for me. By the time I got to the hospital, he'd changed his mind about calling for the preacher — said he'd been thinking about it and realized that he'd been prepared to bargain with God. "But it won't work, pastor," he said. "It doesn't work like that, does it?" Michael wanted God to restore his health so he could go back to work to earn the money to

support his drug habit. He'd been quite content with his life. It was weeks later that Michael confessed his sin and accepted Christ as Savior. He lived another six months with drug resistant TB. He couldn't walk a block down the street without almost fainting from difficulty breathing. He didn't stand before the church to give a public testimony, he wasn't baptized, and he didn't become a member. Though, when an old acquaintance asked, "Do you still smoke (drugs) as much as you used to?" He answered, "No, I read my Bible now." At the close of the funeral sermon, his aunt raised her hand for prayer. When we returned from the cemetery she came to tell me that she needed to do what Michael had done. Levine was ready to ask Christ to be her Savior.

## SOUTH AFRICA

# 2009 MISSIONARY FAMILY REUNION

Lewis McClendon, Pastor, Ventura Baptist Church

This year, my wife and I had the privilege of being part of the BBFI Missionary Family Reunion in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I was the speaker for the general sessions, and my wife, Karen, spoke to the ladies in the mornings. BBFI Mission Director Jon Konnerup, his associate directors, and their wives all worked hard to put together the Missionary Family Reunion for the benefit of the missionaries. At the reunion, the missionaries had the opportunity to make lifelong friendships, be encouraged, receive instruction, ask questions about BBFI

Karen and I enjoyed and were challenged by. We enjoyed getting to meet the missionary families. As we shared a meal with them or sat and talked with them after a meeting, we got to hear about their calling, struggles, and victories. We have received several emails since the reunion about how much the reunion meant to the missionaries also. Over and over they said they were glad they had come.

One of the aspects of the teen program that challenged us was the help MKs need in the area of defining their culture. Mason and Marla Stanley led

participating in the following ways. First, encourage your missionaries to attend the retreat. Several missionaries at the reunion stated that they really didn't want to take the time to come, but by the end of the week they were very glad they had. Second, put the reunion in your mission budget. Support from churches helps the Mission Office put on a first-class retreat that is worth the time and expense for missionaries to come. We have supported the reunion for several years, and after attending this year's reunion, I am glad we have. Third, pay the camp fee for



missionary policies and procedures, and have some fun! Since we had never been to a Missionary Family Reunion before, we didn't really know what to expect, but we were excited to see how all the Mission Office staff made this a great time for the missionaries. With their limited budget and volunteer help from BBFI churches in the area, the Mission Office put together preaching services for all the missionaries, men's and women's sessions in the mornings, a full teen program, a Vacation Bible School for the children, and a nursery for the babies. In the afternoon, activities were scheduled, such as golf and bowling.

There were several things that

the teen program. Part of their program was to address the subject of third-culture kids. Third-culture kids does not refer to children from third-world countries, but rather to children who grow up with their American parents in another country. They blend the elements of their parents' cultures and the country they live in to form their own third culture. I am not an expert in this area, but I was impressed that Mason and Marla were able to help the teens with this very real challenge MKs face.

We found that the reunion is a vital part of the help the Mission Office provides for our missionaries. I would like to challenge pastors to help their missionaries benefit from this by

a missionary family, especially if you are their sending church. We paid for our missionary family to go this year. The reunion was a great help to them, and I know it will be a blessing to your missionaries. If you would like to help support the Missionary Family Reunion in any way, contact Associate Mission Director Steve Bender at [sbender@bbfimissions.com](mailto:sbender@bbfimissions.com).

I am so glad that our Mission Office is striving to help our missionaries any way they can. They are actively looking for ways to help, and the Missionary Family Reunion is just one of the ways they are proactively helping our missionaries.

# TEAMWORK IN ECUADOR

By Cliff McGhee, BBFI missionary to Ecuador



The team from Friendship Baptist went to work installing a drop ceiling in Chillo Jijon



The dedication of the Chillo Jijon bulding



The mission team from Overland Park Baptist Temple in the village of Shandia

This spring will long be remembered as the time of miracles in the valley of Los Chillos, Sangolquí, Ecuador. After much planning and preparation, on April 2, missionaries Glenn McGhee and I signed the contract purchasing a piece of land for the Chillo Jijon church. Construction was started immediately with the goal of having the building ready for the roof when the missionary work team from Friendship Baptist Church in Owasso, Oklahoma, arrived in July. They arrived with their work clothes on! After a brief orientation, the 42 members of the team divided into three groups to work in Chillo Jijon, Conocoto, and Mushuñan, roofing, guttering, painting, doing electrical work, and putting in the suspended ceiling. The week climaxed with a seminar for teachers, a youth meeting, and dedicatory services at both Chillo Jijon and Conocoto. Without hesitation or complaint, the group, under the leadership of pastor Linsy Slayden, Randy Baskins, and Gary Johnson, had tackled a herculean task...and completed it to the glory of our Lord!

As the Owasso team was leaving on Monday, the ministry team from Overland Park Baptist Church, Pastor Tracy Roby, was arriving, anxious to leave the conveniences of the city to minister to the villages in the jungle near Tena in Napo province. We first went to the village of Shandia where Jim Elliot, one of the five who gave their lives trying to reach the Auca Indians with the gospel, had lived and ministered. Our hearts were broken at the testimony of one who was but a boy in those difficult times.

Loading our group of 25 "gringos" and 17 Ecuadorians in four motorized canoes, we made our way down the Napo River to Pusuno and Shiripuno, two villages where the gospel was presented with mime, clowns, music, magic, and a message. Another presentation in Baeza resulted in a trip total of 142 precious Ecuadorians receiving Christ as their Savior. Thanks folks, for a tremendous job well done! And a million thanks to our faithful supporters who make our ministry here possible!

## Jesus and a man on the corner in nowhere by Rick Schuessler



**T**here he stood on the corner in the middle of nowhere. It was a very hot day in Aroucca, Trinidad. Nineteen of us were eagerly telling Muslims and Hindus about the one true God.

I was diligently looking for some of the team members. When we began our adventure of evangelism, the four groups dispersed in many different directions. As I caught up with three of the four groups, still there was one group missing. Safety is always our number-one concern while the students are on a Champs Missions Journey.

Many of the homes in the area where most of the team members walked were guarded by very large dogs — Rottweilers looking like well-built marines pacing back and forth, guarding their master's home. But as I ventured down the road that the fourth group walked down, there were no

large dogs; let alone any homes. So why did they walk in that direction? It was important for me to find them!

The sun was beating down with 96-degree weather and there was no shade. With the tenacity of a Rottweiler dog guarding his home, I was very eager to find this group. I finally reached a crossroad.

Looking both ways for the team, I noticed a man on the corner of the crossroads. He was busy talking to a young man as I passed by. Graciously and quietly telling him hello, I turned and walked on the new road. I was in the middle of nowhere — just large pastures where the air was filled with cattle odor. “So where is the team? I thought they went down this road, but why?” I asked myself.

It seemed as though God said, “You need to speak to the man on the corner about Me.” My first thought was maybe he is not there any longer. Why was he standing there on this corner in the middle of nowhere anyway? But, once I turned around and began to retrace my steps, there he was still standing on the corner...alone!

“Good afternoon,” he kindly spoke to me as I returned his greeting.

We began talking about why I was walking up and down the street and why he was on this particular corner. He was waiting for a ride to get bread and you already know why I was there.

Then our conversation moved to why 19 students came all the way from

the United States to Trinidad for the week. Of course I told him we were telling his fellow countrymen about a really good friend of mine. When I told him my friend's name was Jesus, he seemed eager to listen.

It was not very long into our time together that this man on the corner in nowhere prayed and asked Jesus into his heart.

This man thanked me many times for telling him about Jesus. Realizing I never asked him his name, I asked him and he very humbly told me. He was a very distinguished man.

**...I told him we were telling his fellow countrymen about a really good friend of mine. When I told him my friend's name was Jesus, he seemed eager to listen.**

“My name is Mr. Phillips,” proudly he called out his name.

We said our goodbyes as I assured him through the scriptures we would see each other again in heaven. After just taking a few steps I turned back to Mr. Phillips and asked him his age.

“I am 84, soon to be 85 years old,” proudly he told me.

“Thanks again for your time,” I shouted back to him as I

walked away.

At his age it will probably not be too long and Mr. Phillips will be with his new friend Jesus.

As I left Mr. Phillips, I could not stop thinking about this “God moment” on the corner in the middle of nowhere in Aroucca, Trinidad. I have heard stories from other countries that were similar to this one, but I was now experiencing this myself. How awesome it was for me to experience God in a way that I've only read about.

## WHAT'S BUGGIN' YOU, LADY?

**D**o you like creepy crawly things? Recently, I was sitting in church listening to my husband preach and felt someone tangling with my hair. A large spider had crawled up the back of the pew and into my hair and the folks behind me had been watching it until someone finally decided to grab it! That's one time when I was glad that everyone's eyes were not glued on the preacher!

Although I don't particularly care for creepy crawly things (and who does besides little boys?), I'm going to begin with "a lady"...

Ladybugs really are a "spiritual" insect, as you'll see. Just like Christians who are to be humble, have a testimony, and are sometimes closer than family, ladybugs are among the most familiar beetles, easily recognized by their round, often spotted bodies, less than three-eighths of an inch long. Yet, what variety!

There are two-spotted ladybugs, nine-spotted ladybugs, spotless-nine-spotted ladybugs, seven-spotted ladybugs, three-banded ladybugs, convergent ladybugs, ashy gray ladybugs...and on and on...whew!

Likewise, Christian women are individual, having differing gifts and characteristics. We have different colored eyes and hair, different shapes, personalities, temperaments, talents, situations, and circumstances.

And, different things bug us. So, let me ask, "What's buggin' you, lady?"

Life can be filled with irritations and annoyances which bug us. Jesus said in Luke 17:1a, "...It is impossible but that offences will come."

But what a wonderful verse we have in Psalm 119:165: "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them..:"

Because we are human (and, thus, imperfect) we will both give cause for offense and justify being offended. People simply bug other people...usually people who are close or even loved. So, how can we avoid the pitfalls of such offenses? (We don't want impaired relationships due to misunderstandings. We've got to live with the people we live with!) Of course, changing jobs and churches and families every year is not a solution!

As women, we tend to blame our own irritability and intolerance on our gender. The Bible allows no such loophole! We are responsible for our own reactions to others, our behavior, our words, even our thoughts, and our attitudes. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God"

(Romans 1:12).

First, some "ladybugs" are silly. For example, if someone is wearing your outfit, or if somebody is talking loudly on their cell phone in public, or if you're waiting in line at a store and the clerk is chatting unnecessarily with the customer ahead of you, wasting your time...it bugs you! Remember what Proverbs 14:17a says, "He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly..."

Second, most "ladybugs" are symptomatic. In other words, there are irritations because one or both of the individuals are not right with God and fellowship is hindered. You know down deep if that is the case.

Pride keeps us from facing the true cause. Remember the good examples of Jehu and Jehonadab in 2 Kings "...and said unto him, Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? ...It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand...And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord..." (2 Kings 10:15-16).

Third, a few "ladybugs" are serious. By this, I mean that God declares that sin is just that — an offense against Him and His holiness. This goes way beyond a pet peeve or an opinion.

Besides strife (Genesis 13:5-11), a contentious spouse (Proverbs 21:19), an angry person who infects others (Proverbs 22:24), or one who causes divisions (Romans 16:17), we must deal with real enemies. "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works" (2 Timothy 4:14). So, leave "Alexander" in God's capable hands! Then, give God your own heart, mind, and tongue to guard. Why? Because, "When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him" (Proverbs 16:7).

So, women, what are we going to do about these "ladybugs"? "...Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven..." (Matthew 5:44, 45).

*Gwendolyn Weniger is the wife of Brad Weniger, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Woodbridge, Virginia. They have been married and in the ministry for 39 years. They have two grown, married sons and one grandson.*



# Baptist History

BY THOMAS RAY



## Christmas Evans

The great Welsh preacher

Christmas Evans has been described as a man who labored like the Apostle Paul, who possessed the imagination of Bunyan, the eloquence of Whitfield, and is considered by many to be the greatest preacher ever produced in Great Britain. However, in his youth, he gave no hint of his future greatness — in fact, just the opposite.

He was born Christmas Day, 1766, thus his name. His childhood was marked by extreme poverty and tragically, when he was only nine years old, his father died. His mother, unable to support her children, sent young Christmas to live with an uncle who proved to be a cruel and sadistic drunkard.

Christmas Evans' childhood can only be described as a living nightmare. After six brutal years, 15-year-old Christmas left his uncle's farm to escape his cruelty. However, his future looked hopeless. He had not received one day of formal education, and as a result he could neither read nor write. No one who knew Christmas Evans as a young man would ever have believed this illiterate and uncouth youth would become Wales' greatest preacher. But God had great plans for this illiterate Welshman.

Christmas Evans was converted when he was 18 years old during a revival in a Presbyterian church. His life was transformed, and his thirst for knowledge was unquenchable. Within a month he taught himself to read his Welsh Bible. "His intense thirst for knowledge led him to borrow every book that the scant libraries of the neighborhood afforded."

Desiring to increase his knowledge of the Scriptures, he amazingly taught himself Hebrew, Greek, and English. Christmas became a Baptist as a result of a discussion he had with a Baptist friend on the subject of baptism. Determined to prove that infant baptism was scriptural, he diligently studied the New Testament. He left us this account of his study, "Having read the New Testament through, I found not a sin-

gle verse in favor of infant sprinkling, while about 40 passages seem to testify clearly for baptism on a profession of faith."

In 1788, Christmas Evans was immersed by the Rev. Timothy Thomas and united with the Baptists. His first sermon was well received but he had not yet developed the style of preaching that would make him famous. His first pastorate was in Lleyn in Caernarron where hundreds were converted, and he began to develop his preaching skills. After two years

of labor in Lleyn, he was called to the Isle of Anglesey in 1791. Anglesey was a land covered with a black cloud of spiritual darkness. But the ministry of Christmas Evans would produce a life-changing transformation. When he arrived in Anglesey there were only two chapels and eight preaching stations. When he left in 1826 the preach-

ing stations had multiplied and 28 preachers were actively preaching the gospel.

However, his fame as a great preacher was not derived from his pastoral successes. In 1794, at an associational meeting, he was asked to speak as a last-minute substitute. For the next three hours, the audience was spellbound by his sermon. From that one sermon, his fame as a preacher was established. He wrote 20 books, made over 40 evangelistic tours which lasted from six to eight weeks, and preached 163 times before Baptist associations.

Any time it was announced that Christmas Evans would be preaching, all labor would cease and great crowds would gather to hear his message. Multitudes were converted and churches were established, sometimes as a result of just one sermon. On July 19, 1838, in his 72nd year, the old warrior, worn out from his years of labor, laid down his sword. His last words were "Wheel about, Coachman, drive on!"

...at an associational meeting,  
he was asked to speak as a last-  
minute substitute. For the next  
three hours, the audience was  
spellbound by his sermon.



Charles Lyons, Pastor  
Armitage Baptist Church  
Chicago, Illinois

## Who will mourn for our city, or your city?

**T**ehran. 1978. My father was down a side street, looking to buy a gift for my mother. He discovered the shop keeper had a limited, heavily accented English vocabulary. “Where you from?” the man asked. “Chicago,” my father answered. The merchant’s face took on an expression of amazement and fear. He held out his hand like a gun exclaiming, “Chicago — boom, boom.”

Ironically, a black kid from North Carolina did what the mighty and storied Irish Polish Democratic machine could not. Michael Jordan momentarily became the world’s first thought of Chicago. We took care of that in short order. The filth, the evil, the slime that is the Chicago power structure oozed down Interstate 55 to Springfield and under the unlikely and unpronounceable Blogojevich label, tainted our representation in Washington, making us the object of ridicule internationally.

All is not happiness and light. There is a time appointed for everything. There is a time to weep. There is a time to mourn. Who will mourn for Chicago? Who will mourn for our city? Who among us is even interested in having a soul capable of mourning for this great city?

Jesus marks His life mission clearly in Luke 13:31-35. Faced with opposition, He persists in carrying out the purpose for which He was sent, independent of the Pharisees and Herod. Mindful of but not controlled by their thoughts and their plots, Jesus models steadfast persistence. “Nevertheless I must walk today, and tomorrow, and the day following...” In any case, regardless, God’s plans will be completed.

But Jesus cries out, “Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate...” Jesus mourns for His city. Yes, it’s a city that represents a nation, but here we see Jesus looking beyond the physical, political, and historical realities. He sees things as they truly are. It’s God’s perspective that matters. If I am to follow Jesus, I must carry His burden for His city. Following Jesus means I embrace mourning. It is mine to be burdened with the greed, the gore, the grief, the hardness, the hatred, the blindness, the blatant disbelief.

Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, your history will not save you. Your history of God’s choice and past glory will not save you. Your legacy of David and Solomon — days of victory and plenty will not be your deliverance. Your religion with its glorious temple and fastidious observance will not bring rescue. Your politics, notable in the annals of world history, will not save you.

Oh, Chicago, Chicago, city of brawn and bluster, center of the Daley dynasty, guarded by ubiquitous spires soaring from raucous gritty streets and placid shaded avenues alike.

City of far more players than prophets.

City of way more religious presence than godly living.

City Billy Sunday couldn’t shut down.

City of schemes and scams, clout and corruption.

Who will mourn for a mayor who appoints a self-proclaimed homosexual to oversee a system intended to serve 400,000 school children?

Who will mourn for a city council so densely populated by petty thieves, puppets and political pirates?

Who will mourn for a business community working so readily, so cozily with one of the most corrupt political machines in American history?

Who will mourn thousands of young men, cold, lost, violent, scared, or the tens of thousands of babies slaughtered in our clinics and their mothers who thought they had no other choice?

Oh Chicago, Chicago, your museum campus and Millennium Park will not save you.

Your gorgeous lakefront will not save you now.

New school buildings and fancy condos, stunning skyline — the best minds of University of Chicago will not save you.

Your legendary political might, your international reputation, the 2016 Olympics...

Oh, Chicago, none of these can save.

Jesus mourns His way to the cross. Jesus looks for mourners — those willing to carry the spiritual burden of compassion and concern for their cities. Who will carry the spiritual burden for your friends if you don’t? Who will mourn for your work associates if you don’t? Who will mourn for your city if not you?

Every follower of Jesus will mourn as he goes. This is our city.



# World Scope

Jon Konnerup | BBFI Mission Director



## Our missionaries in Europe don't give in

Two days after our BBFI Missionary Reunion, I traveled with Pastor Dennis Jennings to Brussels, Belgium, to participate in the European Missionary Retreat. A very good number attended, and my heart was blessed by the fellowship and the spirit of the missionaries. Europe is a spiritually dark continent, yet despite the spiritual battles, moral decay, and financial strains upon them, our missionaries will not give in. As Elijah was a “live” witness of God’s presence to the people of Israel who had turned their backs on God, our missionaries are shining bright as “live” witnesses of the one true God who gave His only Son that modern Europeans might have joy, peace, and everlasting life. It was thrilling to hear how God is using each of the missionaries in their own particular ministries with various strategies. It seems as though new opportunities are opening and revival is just around the corner in Europe.

From Belgium we flew to Portugal where we have had a missionary presence for 20 years since the Lionel Martin family first arrived. I spent some time with each of our five families who serve in different cities across the country. I would say that in 95 percent of the cities and towns there is no gospel witness or Baptist church whatsoever.

Even though most churches are small, and there is a lack of trained national leadership, each of our missionaries shared ways they are impacting their towns and cities in unique ways. Churches have been started, Bible studies are in place, a Bible institute is under-

way, and camps are reaching out to the youth. It would be great to see more join those already there to reach a people steeped in religious traditions and rituals that do not fill the void in their hearts.

After Portugal, we flew to Aberdeen, Scotland. This was my first time to see Scotland and I did not know what to expect. I know our missionaries are putting forth their best effort to reach people for Christ and to plant churches. The United Kingdom has long been known as a place with rocky soil for the gospel. In fact, I have heard it said that we need people to go to other places in the world where the harvest is ripe and our funds can bring more results. However, I believe God is doing a great work through the faithfulness of the missionaries and those



Church ministry in Brechin, Scotland

efforts are making a difference. As we travelled through different towns and cities, I couldn’t help but believe God intends to send more laborers into this incredible harvest field with tremendous opportunities.

In each country we visited, the plea was for more missionaries to join the task of reaching people who usually express no belief in God but are now seeking answers to questions about life and their future. We cannot forget Europe with its millions of people who live in what was once known as a “gospel-rich” location but now know nothing of our loving and caring God. On top of that, scores of immigrants are relocating to Europe from all over the world, making them prime prospects for receiving the Good News.

Our missionaries are doing a tremendous job in a very difficult region, but they need more help and desperately need our financial and prayer support. It is through our prayers that God’s power will be alive and strong, empowering the efforts of God’s servants throughout Europe as they preach “unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.”



European Missionary Retreat attendees



# NATIONAL CHURCH PLANTING OFFICE

WAYNE GUINN  
NCPO DIRECTOR

## Oldest NCPO school graduate retires at 80

**W**hen most of us think of a church planter, we don't picture a man in his 70s. However, James Hollingsworth was 74 years old when he started Mid-City Baptist Church and 76 when he attended the NCPO Candidate School. He and his wife, Ann, have had 60 years of fruitful ministry. June 7, 2009, marked his retirement.

Pastor Hollingsworth was first called into ministry in 1948 while a pre-med student at North Texas State University, Denton, Texas. This is also where he met Ann, who was studying to be a medical technician. They were married in 1948.

After graduation, Hollingsworth became the assistant pastor at Corinth Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas. He was there for two years and received practical, invaluable training. In 1952, he entered the Louisiana Missionary Baptist Institute and Seminary where he earned his doctor of theology degree while a full-time pastor in Springhill, Louisiana. He

was at this church seven years.

In 1968, Hollingsworth accepted a position as head of the Bible Department of Baptist Christian College in Shreveport, Louisiana. He was there for a year and a half, but still deeply desired to pastor. He and Ann prayed that God would lead them to a church in a large city where they would have the opportunity to reach many people with the gospel and where they could stay for many years. Two days later

Kings Park Baptist Church called Hollingsworth to be their pastor. This church was home to the Hollingsworths for 30 years. He retired as their pastor in 1998.

Mid-City Baptist Church of Benton, Louisiana, was started out of the Baptist Tabernacle of Shreveport, Louisiana. They began meeting in a small Catholic chapel. The first service was held in March of 2003. Since then, the church has grown and has been able to build their own building. The building was a project of the BBF Builders which saved the church more than \$300,000.

When Pastor Hollingsworth graduated from the NCPO Church Planting School, the NCPO was able to guarantee a loan to pay off the land and complete the building.

Pastor David Phillips, a 2008 graduate of Louisiana Baptist University, Shreveport, Louisiana, follows Hollingsworth as pastor of Mid-City Baptist Church. Phillips was the pastor of New Life Baptist Church which merged with Mid-City Baptist Church in April 2008. He has served as a bivocational associate pastor and banker until Hollingsworth's retirement.

### IGNITE CHURCH PLANTING FORUMS

#### October 26-27 BBC, Springfield, MO

Our featured speaker will be Eric Geiger, co-author of *Simple Church*. Along with challenging the students about church planting, Eric will conduct a four-hour instructive, round-table presentation of *Simple Church* on Monday afternoon for pastors and staff that attend.

#### November 16-17 BBC, Boston, MA

Our featured speaker will be Nelson Searcy. He planted a phenomenally successful church in Manhattan, New York, seven years ago. He has authored several books and is a popular speaker around the country.

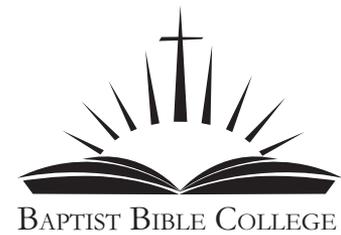
**Make plans now to attend one or all these events. For further information email [office@bbfincpo.com](mailto:office@bbfincpo.com) or call (417) 889-1017.**



**Top: Hollingsworth with the new pastor, David Phillips. Bottom: James and Ann Hollingsworth.**

## VIEW FROM BBC

Jim Edge | President | Baptist Bible College



# A mission for preparing students

This fall we begin the year with 481 highly motivated students in the undergraduate school. As we finished last spring, our students left excited, and now they have returned eager to begin a new year.

I recall the uncertainty about Baptist Bible College as we left last May. I note though, that the uncertainty was external and not internal. And even now I am pleased to let you know that God intervened and continues to show Himself strong and able to watch over BBC. All of us — the students, staff, and faculty — are energized by changes

the mission statement, the vision, values, and strategic priorities. The vision looks to the future; it is about what I want BBC to become. The values are what do not change; those are historic and part of our heritage. The strategic priorities lay out the track — how the college moves from the past into the future. Everything we do must be tied to the Mission Document.

I think you will agree with me that for us to talk about BBC in terms of the Mission Document can be a bit technical. Therefore, as I talk to students and parents (and now to you the readers of

to impact others with God's word.

By design, we engage our students in quality higher education. We want our students to develop relevant skills. Therefore, we want our students to engage others in the public square, where everyday life takes place, lives intersect, business is conducted, and conversations occur. Being able to solve problems, to communicate with clarity, and to discern what they hear will enable them to share the gospel in a relevant manner. In the same way the Apostle Paul was able to witness to Jews and Gentiles, we want our stu-



BBC's opening day chapel

on campus. And I assure you that not only are we stable and moving forward, but we move forward with the same purpose and mission.

This is important. With all that energy and forward movement around me, you will be happy to hear the mission of Baptist Bible College remains the same today as it has since the founding almost 60 years ago. The mission is to train pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders for local church ministries. I am determined we will continue to fulfill that mission for years to come.

The short mission of the college is part of what we call the Mission Document. In that document you will find

the *Tribune*), I want to capture the Mission Document with three words: biblical, quality, and global.

By design, we engage our students in biblical higher education. We want our students to discern godly wisdom, the foundation of which is God's word. Therefore, we want our students to interpret the Word of God and practically apply that Word in their own lives. Knowing God's Word will enable them to discern between truth and error, essential and nonessential, and excellence and mediocrity. Those completing the coursework will be able to build a biblical worldview and value system that produces godly behavior leading to Christ-likeness. Then they will be able

to reach others.

By design, we engage our students in global higher education. We want our students to demonstrate worldwide service. Therefore, we want our students to fulfill the Great Commission. Being able to apply biblical principles and skills in ministry through a local Baptist church provides the context for our students to impact others for the Lord. Applying principles across cultures enables our students to start churches around the world and train leaders to engage others.

That is our mission. It is in writing, and we are willing to judge our success or failure in its light.



## Sons and daughters

I only know a little bit about half of what I'm talking about. That is not much of an impressive opening line, but it is honest. My wife, Kim, and I have four boys, so our education about little guys with trucks and tree limbs for rifles and every kind of sports under the sun is ongoing. We are even learning about the process of little boys growing into older boys and then into young men. We live it every day.

We have no daughters. That is in the providence of God, for good reason I am sure. Honestly, I would be scared to have a daughter. I could see me as an old man running over some guy who even looked at my daughter wrong.

So I'm learning about sons and having to vicariously get remedial education about daughters. But then I watch them come to Boston.

Again this fall I came over to campus to watch students move in. There are hugs all around for returning students, lots of laughs and updates from the summer months. For the new students, there are introductions, putting faces and voices with names, trying to put moms and dads at ease about leaving their prized possessions — their sons and daughters — with us.

That gets me. I know when parents bring their young people to college here in Boston there is some anxiety involved. Some of it is in the hearts of students, stepping out on their new venture of higher education away from home. But, in my observation, there is more stress on the faces and in the body language of mom and dad. Sure, college is costly, and parents usually bear the brunt of that burden. But that isn't really it. There are lots of jokes, a few passing remarks, and even a silence at times that screams, "Take

care of this one!"

To all the moms and dads out there, I promise you that in Boston we will treat them like they are our own. I have four boys, and I am just crazy enough to believe that each one of them is amazing. My son, Davey, is a musician who has his mother's charm and who has a smoothness about him that is beyond his years and that I really

**All students are sons and daughters. And they are treasures. Thankfully, they are not only treasures to us, they are treasures to God.**

admire. Samuel is an artist who cracks me up at his independent view of everything, and underneath it all, is one of the kindest people I know. Matthew is my comic — I once told him that I would pay a lot of money just to hear him laugh. He busted out laughing right then and there and told me, "Do it — pay up!" Besides that, he shares my devotion to the Red Sox. Then there is four-year-old Joshua. I am afraid I can't tell you about Joshua. There are no words — you'll just have to meet him.

Do we have a greater treasure than the children that God gives us? And if we are blessed enough that our children grow up and want to serve God... well, it just doesn't get much better than that! Kim and I pray that for our boys constantly.

So the sentimental side of me aches to watch parents bring sons and daughters to Boston. I pain to watch the long good-bye hugs, when words just won't come out when it's finally time to leave, when you keep staring in the rearview mirror as long as you can...

And I remember the "son-side" too. I remember getting on an airplane to go off to college, trying to keep my cool in front of dad and mom. Then I remember going into the plane's lavatory and bawling like a five-year-old. When a flight attendant banged on the door to tell me that I needed to come out and sit down so we could take off, I told her to "Shut up and leave me alone!" I'm

not proud of that necessarily, but I do remember.

The start of college, particularly a ministry college, is a heart-rending affair. All students are sons and daughters. And they are treasures. Thankfully, they are not only treasures to us, they are treasures to God. Only eternity will unveil what good these sons and daughters will do.

So to Wesley and Cindy, "I saw her today and she is doing great!"

Jeff and Becky, "That boy is a hoot...going to make a Kingdom difference."

Barry and Cynthia, "She's great, and she even likes one of the right college football teams!"

John and Betty, "Took him out to lunch last week with one of my own sons...what a great young man you've got there!"

Kim and Kevin, "He is special, no doubt about it — anybody can see it."

And Tom and Bethany, "I am so glad you sent your son to Boston. A godly son is a great treasure."

# Georgia church shows appreciation for Bledsoe

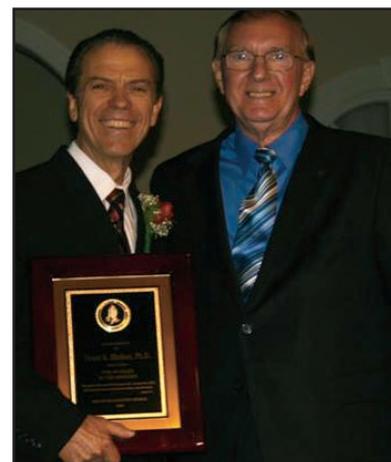
Kennesaw, GA

Shiloh Hills Baptist Church showed the congregation's appreciation for their pastor, Victor Bledsoe, in a Pastor Appreciation event Sunday, August 23. The occasion was Bledsoe's 20-year anniversary at Shiloh Hills and his 40-year anniversary of serving in the ministry. Two members of the 1989 pulpit committee, Barney Kendall and Richard Tinker, presented plaques of appreciation as they recalled their role in calling Bledsoe to the church. Later, the church held a banquet for Bledsoe

and his wife, Kay.

Before going to Shiloh Hills, Bledsoe served churches in Illinois, Indiana, Delaware, and Michigan, assisting BBFI pastors Jack Zimmer, A.V. Henderson, Leland Kennedy, and Truman Dollar. He had also been senior pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Middletown, Ohio, in 1985 just before responding to the call of Shiloh Hills.

Bledsoe has held several BBFI posts, and he currently serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri.



# Lighthouse pays off mortgage five years early

La Verne, CA

Lighthouse Baptist Church, pastored by Brian Dunlop, held a mortgage-burning service on Sunday, August 9, in celebration of paying off their mortgage five years early. This marked the completion of an incredible journey for the members of Lighthouse.

Having begun 29 years earlier as Calvary Baptist Church of San Dimas, the congregation had relocated six times and met in three different cities. They had researched multitudes of possibilities for a place of their own, but the Lord closed all the doors.

The Grace Brethren Church in La Verne had voted to sell their property without listing it for sale, asking God to bring them a buyer. The day after, the pastor of Calvary Baptist knocked on their door. So in June 1998, the church once again found themselves on the move. This time it was to their permanent location in a beautiful, colonial-style, brick building in La Verne.

Over the last ten years, Lighthouse has expanded the facilities and begun many new ministries while working to pay down the mortgage. The original 200-seat auditorium was expanded to seat close to 500 people, and they added classrooms, bathrooms, offices, and various other rooms. Current plans are to save for a new auditorium for their Spanish ministry, a mission apartment, more classrooms, and a gymnasium.



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# Brazil church burns note on building project

Hortolandai, Brazil

Steven Trask, BBFI missionary to Brazil, reports that the First Bible Baptist Church had a special note-burning service July 12. This was the Trask family's last Sunday in Brazil before returning on furlough and the congregation surprised them with several items including a DVD presentation of the building process prepared by missionary Patrick McClure.

"At first, the national pastor seemed leery of a service that would involve something burned in the church. However, in the end, it became a special service, and a memorable milestone for a local New Testament Baptist church in Brazil," states Trask.

Steven and Marilyn Trask and their family started First Bible Baptist Church in July 1990. They met in the home of a Brazilian family for two years until they were able to purchase

an empty corner lot in Garden Amanda. The lot was across the street from a proposed school in the largest single-home neighborhood in the city of Hortolandai, Sao Paulo. Over the next 11 years, they purchased seven lots, built a small auditorium, and erected temporary Sunday school rooms.

In 2000, the congregation began a building program with the help of the BBFI revolving fund. Trask says, "The revolving loan for national churches was a big blessing. We could not have built the church building through the Brazilian high-interest system." They put up the shell for a large auditorium and a four-story Sunday school wing. The next seven years they continued working on the buildings, and in 2008 began repay-



From left: Church treasurer, pastor Claudio Oliveira da Cruz, Steven Trask, and assistant treasurer

ing the loan at a higher rate.

In 2007, First Bible Baptist Church called national Claudio Oliveira da Cruz to be their pastor while the Trasks tried to rebuild a work they had started in the past. Cruz had come out of the church, the church had helped him attend seminary, and then he returned to help the Trasks at the church. The church's current membership is over 100 with attendance above that number.

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# Jonathan Falwell, Dan Dean at Texas BBF meeting

Snyder, TX

Calvary Baptist Church of Snyder, Texas, and Pastor Larry McAden hosted the Texas Baptist Bible Fellowship August 17-18 at the church's facilities. Guests for the meeting were Jonathan Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia, and

Dan Dean of the singing group Phillips, Craig, and Dean. About 300 pastors, missionaries, and church workers were in attendance.

Falwell preached in the evening service on Monday, and again Tuesday morning. His subjects were reclaim-

ing vision and the relationship of vision and faith. Dan Dean gave a concert in the Tuesday morning service. BBFI Associate Mission Director Steve Bender presented the details for the 2009 Missionary Projects Offering.



Photographs by Carol McCowen Photography



Left to right: Calvary Baptist Church Youth Pastor Josh Liles, Worship Minister Steve Highfield, Dan Dean, Pastor Larry McAden, and Jonathan Falwell.

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# Temple Baptist celebrates 59th anniversary

Springdale, AR

Temple Baptist Church celebrated its 59th anniversary on Sunday, August 16. The weekend was complimented by preachers who had gone out from Temple Baptist into the ministry. Randy Harp was the main speaker and Bobby Sharp, Andy Dixon, Keith Buttram, and Ricky Harp assisted by teaching Sunday school. The church also celebrated with a church-wide cookout on Saturday night.

Temple Baptist Church was started in 1950 by W.E. Dowell while pastoring High Street Baptist Church in Spring-

field, Missouri. Dowell had a radio ministry that reached Springdale, Arkansas, and through this ministry and driving down on Tuesday evenings, he got enough people together to start the church and they in turn called Duane Pringle to be their first pastor.



Randy Harp

The church was started with a mission emphasis and continues that today. "We had a missionary speak in our organizational service in 1950 and today support over 65 missionary projects monthly. Bob Hughes is one of our

former pastors and we are the sending church for Richard Lewis and Bob Dodson. BBFI has always been our Fellowship and BBC has always been our school and we as a church believe our best days are ahead of us," says Don Elmore, pastor of Temple Baptist Church. "We are very grateful to our God for His good hand of blessing on this ministry."

# Dillon Road celebrates 35th anniversary

Fostoria, OH

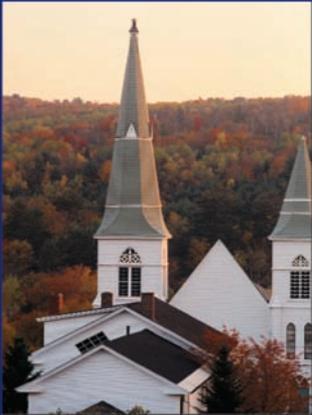
On August 16, 2009, the members and friends of Dillon Road Baptist Church celebrated 35 years of ministry in Fostoria. The special day included dinner on the grounds and having the founding pastor, Lloyd Strouse, and second pastor, Arthur Ball, give testimony of the church's work.

The church's original name was Fostoria Baptist Temple. In 1987, after the congregation had built their new building on Dillon Road, they renamed the church Dillon Road Baptist Church. Pastor Allen Minton has pastored the Dillon Road church for 16 years and his assistant pastor is David Clark. Other former pastors include David Stokes, Gary Crawford, and Ray Lewis.



From left: Arthur Ball (former pastor), David Clark (assistant pastor), Lloyd Strouse (founding pastor), and Allen Minton (pastor)

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# Hughlett Day celebrated at Overland Park

Overland Park, KS

Sunday, July 5, was a day of celebration and remembrance at Overland Park Baptist Temple. The occasion marked the 30th anniversary and official retirement of Ed and Wanda Hughlett as music minister and pianist at the church. The event was filled with tributes, special music, and preaching, concluding with an all-church evening fellowship.

During Sunday school, members of the Berean Adult Bible Class made special presentations to the Hughletts in recognition of their faithfulness in teaching the class. The Hughletts taught several Sunday school classes at Overland Park through the years, and led the youth ministry from 1979 through 1985.

The morning service opened with deacon and Mrs. Steve Dillard presenting a corsage and boutonniere to the Hughletts, and gifting them with individual leaded crystal appreciation plaques. Pastor Emeritus Jerry L. Byars brought the message, focusing on men of music in the Bible. He was responsible for bring-



**Twelve members of the Hughlett's youth department Sunday school class were on hand to help Ed and Wanda (front, center) celebrate 30 years of ministry at Overland Park**

ing the Hughletts to Overland Park in 1979. Guests and former members of the Hughlett's first Sunday school youth class were in attendance.

The evening service featured a Hughlett family concert of favorite hymns, songs, and musical numbers presented by Ed, Wanda, and members of their family. The board of deacons then awarded them a family vacation to Hawaii on behalf of the congregation.

Ed and Wanda (Hoopes) met at BBC in 1960 and were married August 12, 1961. They began their ministry of

music at Morningside Baptist Church (now Hallmark Baptist Church), Fort Worth, Texas, the next day. Their service for the Lord then took them to Lamar Baptist Church, Greenville, Texas (1963), Tabernacle Baptist Church, Farmington, New Mexico (1965), Trinity Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas (1969), and Overland Park Baptist Temple, Overland Park, Kansas (1979). They have now retired to 406 N. Jefferson, Anthony, Kansas, and can be reached by phone (620-842-3253) or email (ehughlett@sbcglobal.net).

# Boonstra helps church celebrate 60th anniversary

Syracuse, KS

Bible Baptist Church and Pastor Bill Roberts hosted Carl Boonstra for the 60th anniversary of the congregation August 30. Boonstra was the preacher for the church's first revival in their earliest days after organizing six decades ago.

To mark their special day, the congregation invited Carl and Elsie Boonstra for the morning service, held a cookout, and had an afternoon singing service with area churches.

Bible Baptist Church began after a tent revival held by Clifford Clark who was the pastor of one of the first inde-

pendent Baptist churches in western Kansas at the time. From his Garden City pastorate, he sensed the need for a church in Syracuse and held the tent meeting. Al Wells became the church's first pastor.

The current pastor at Bible Baptist Church is Bill Roberts. He and his wife, Carol, have been with the congregation since January 2008. For more information, see the church's website at [www.biblebaptistsyracuse.com](http://www.biblebaptistsyracuse.com).

# Fire claims KS church building

Anthony, KS

The Central Baptist Church building was destroyed when a broken gas line led to a fire Friday, September 4. Pastor David Newkirk was moving a stove with another man when the incident began.

A newspaper report quoted Newkirk saying, "Central Baptist Church is fine, the building is not..." The report

also said the fire marshal estimates the damage will amount to about \$1 million.

Central Baptist Church has an historic place in the Baptist Bible Fellowship. A 70-year-old church, it has been the spiritual home of a number of Fellowship missionaries and pastors.

For more, go to [www.kake.com/home/headlines/57321472.html](http://www.kake.com/home/headlines/57321472.html).



# Hillside dedicates new building

Springfield, MO

August 9 was a momentous day for Hillside Baptist Church and Pastor Cecil Tolbert. After five years of saving, two years of planning, a year of construction, and much anticipation,

over 400 members and guests enjoyed the transition to the church's new 16,000-square-foot building. This date also marked 26 years under Tolbert's leadership. The festivities included an afternoon dedication service featuring

singing by The Lester Family and a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by a challenge from former pastor Richard McDole. The church was able to celebrate moving forward while also reminiscing the past.

The new addition commemorates another change in the church's history. The church was founded in 1971 as Prospect Baptist Church. In 1976, the church purchased property at the current location and voted to change their name to Hillside Baptist Church. Over the years, God blessed the growth of the church requiring several building expansions. Regarding the construction of the new facilities, members say Tolbert was inspirational, encouraging members to not focus on the building but to remember the work of the Lord.



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# Bethel Baptist to celebrate 200th anniversary

Caseyville, IL

Bethel Baptist Church and Pastor Mike Evans will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the congregation October 3 and 4, 2009. The two-day celebration will also feature Frontier Days with traditional craft demonstrations, tours of historical items and photographs, a barbecue, musical performances, and activities for families.

In the Sunday anniversary service, attendees will also learn about the 200-year history and traditions of the church, former pastors, missionaries, and other contributions of the church to the community.

The historic church was founded in 1809 by James Lemen, Sr., a staunch abolitionist, with the understanding no member could be a slave owner. The church also became a part of the famous Underground Railroad to aid runaway slaves. Lemen's son, James Lemen Jr., worked with Abraham Lincoln and is reported to have had lengthy discussions with him concerning theology.

The church promoted literacy for African Americans, sponsoring the efforts of John Berry Meachum, a slave who purchased his freedom and afterward bought two riverboats to teach African Americans to read and write. The boats were necessary because teaching black people to read and write

was illegal in Missouri, but the Mississippi River was federal property. Meachum also started the first African American church in St. Louis.

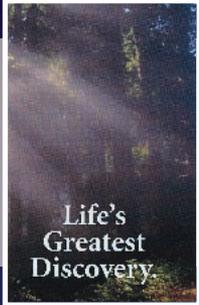
At the church's centennial celebration in 1909, Bethel Baptist hosted William Jennings Bryan as the speaker.

The activities and services are Saturday, October 3, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For information about the 200th anniversary, phone the church at 618-344-0782.



Photo of Bethel Baptist Church taken at the 1909 Centennial Celebration. William Jennings Bryan was the guest speaker that day.

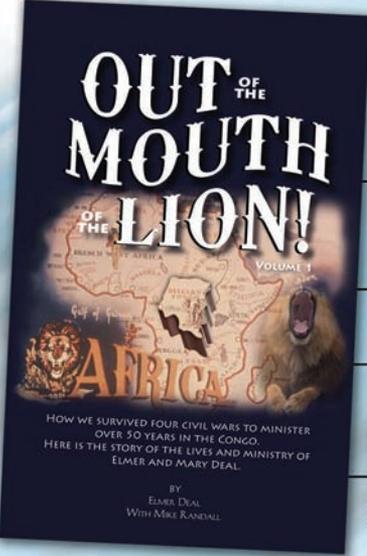
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# Baptist Temple sends team to Guatemala

Springfield, MO

In July 2009, a group of seven adults and students from Baptist Temple, pastored by Mark Rounsaville, took an eight-day mission trip to minister with Aaron and Christine McKnight and Jerry and Mindy Kinman in Sumpango, Guatemala. Youth and Children's Director Andy Phinney, says, "The trip dramatically affected the missions perspective of all of those who went on the trip."

The group handed out flyers for and put on a Bible club, did a puppet ministry in the public and private schools, worked in the church's MANNA feeding center, went on visitation, and did various projects around the church while in Guatemala. "It was an awesome experience for all of us to be able to not only see what God is doing in Guatemala, but also to be used by God to minister to the people of Sumpango," states Phinney.

Phinney had the opportunity to preach with a translator on a Christian radio station reaching over 10,000 in Sumpango. "I was told that it was the first time English had ever been spoken on that radio station," says Phinney. Of the McKnights and the Kinmans, Phinney asserts, "It was an honor and privilege to be able to work with Aaron and Christine and Jerry and Mindy. In the past two years, they have already seen great results for their work in Sumpango. The church has an average attendance of over 100, the feeding center has over 60 enrolled, and another church has already been planted in Quetzal."

This year, Baptist Temple also sent a group of teens to Kankakee, Illinois, to help with the Riverside Baptist church plant, and a group of adults and middle school students to Kosciusko, Mississippi, to work in Lighthouse Children's Home. Phinney says, "Missions involvement is important for any church member to help give them a better perspective on how blessed they are and to make them more aware of the tremendous need for Christ around the world."



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## J.T. Wood

San Marcos, CA

J. T. Wood met his heavenly Father face to face June 21, 2009. He was born June 16, 1913, to Ernest and Ibie Wood in Bluffdale, Texas. He came to know the Lord and was baptized at the age of 14 during a revival meeting. After high school and college, he left the farm due to the Great Depression and moved to Ft. Worth, Texas, where he worked on the original B-36 bomber at the end of WW2 as a structural inspector. During this time, he became active at First Baptist Church in Ft. Worth. Attending a Sunday school Bible class he met a young lady named Adeline Standifer, who he married one year later. They were married for 74 years.

Beginning his ministry in 1937, he founded, built, and pastored churches in Brownwood, Austin, and San Antonio,



Texas, and Spring Valley, California. In 1971, he moved to Auburn, Washington, to be the senior pastor of Auburn Baptist Temple. In 1978, he semi-retired back to California and became the visitation minister for five years at Calvary Baptist Church in Bellflower, California. During this time, his documented visitation records indicated a total of 27,252 visits. In this number were over 300 professions of faith. In 1983, he moved to Santa Ana, California, working with Pastor Terry Cantrell at Bethel Baptist Church. He taught the adult Bible class. He officially retired in 1990 in San Marcos, California. He continued to teach and preach as needed at Fundamental Baptist Church in Escondido, California, with David Earnhart. Most everyone who knew J. T. Wood knew of his uncompromising stand and undaunted faith concerning the Bible.

Services for Wood took place June 26, 2009 in Escondido, California. He is survived by his wife, Adeline; three children, Shari McCombs (Burton, Michigan), Kathy Warick (San Diego, California), and Ron Wood (Atlanta, Georgia); six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

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## John Kline

Findley, OH

John Kline, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in North Baltimore, Ohio, passed away August 12, 2009. John was a 1976 graduate of Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri. He and his wife, Karen, were married 36 years.

As a pastor, Kline was involved with the law enforcement community for many years, serving as a chaplain with the Findlay Police Department. In the North Baltimore Police Department he attained the rank of assistant Chief of Police. He had also served as a ranger for the Ohio Park system.

He leaves behind his wife Karen, two sons, and a daughter. A memorial service was held August 16 with David B. Clark officiating with assistance from Brad Leeth and Bill Schifferly.

## Charles Howard Walker Jr.

East Helena, MT

“Chuck” Walker Jr., former BBFI pastor and Baptist Bible College alumnus, passed away at the age of 53 in Helena, Montana.



Chuck was born March 14, 1956, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Charles Howard Walker Sr. and Carroll (Woodworth) Walker. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1977, New York Institute of Photography in 1983, and received his bachelor of arts in Behavioral Sciences from the University of New Hampshire in 1984. Chuck also furthered his education at Webster University, Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, and Louisiana Baptist University. He was married to Cherri L. Vinyard.

Chuck graduated from U.S. Air Force Officer Training School in 1985 and specialized in chemical dependency counseling until retiring as a captain in 1992. He pastored Maranatha Baptist Church between 1998 and 2008.

A memorial service was held August 13 at Lifepoint Baptist Church in East Helena, Montana.

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## James "Jim" Darrell Strickland

Springfield, MO

James Strickland was born May 15, 1925, and arrived in Heaven on August 3, 2009, doing what he loved best, preaching the Word of God.



Jim was born in Cromwell, Oklahoma, where Jim Sr. worked for the Sinclair Refinery. Later, moving to Shawnee, they became members of Immanuel Baptist Church, where Jim was saved and baptized in 1932. Again the family moved, this time to Colorado where Jim went to junior high and high school, entering the U.S. Coast Guard in 1943. During the next two and a half years, he received recognition for his participation in eight of the major battles in the Pacific, qualifying him for an early discharge, though he stayed until after peace was won.

Jim and Marie entered Bible In-

stitute in September of 1946 and were married the following summer. In 1948, they were home missionaries of First Bible Baptist Church of Ft. Collins, Colorado. Jim became co-organizer and pastor of the Bible Baptist Church of Sidney, Nebraska. Then, after periods as associate pastor and pastor in churches in Colorado and Nebraska, he was ordained in 1953 by First Baptist Church of Englewood, Colorado, whose pastor was Harvey H. Springer.

That same year, the Stricklands sailed for Montevideo, Uruguay, where they began their missionary ministry. In 1960, they "moved across the river" to Argentina, where they continued to serve. Their missionary ministry spans more than 50 years.

James was preceded in death by his son, Daniel Dean Strickland. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marie;

daughters, Pamela Thornton (Steven Thornton), of Argentina, Carol King, of Tennessee, Anna Dreyer (Kevin Dreyer) of Michigan, Bonnie Ahlquist of Pennsylvania, and Marlene Pedersen (Anthony Pedersen) of Arizona; 15 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Berean Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri, on August 13, with interment following.

## Jesse Chaney

Clarksville, TX

Jesse Chaney, veteran missionary, went to be with the Lord August 25 at the age of 82. He was born October 1, 1926, in Hico, Texas.



In 1954, Jesse and Nell moved their family to Springfield, Missouri, to enroll in Baptist Bible College. In 1957, the Chaney's went to New Mexico to minister among the Navajo Indians. The locals called him "Etnishode," which in Navajo means, "The tall one with the coat that drags."

Later, after graduating from BBC, Jesse returned to the Navajos. He and Mrs. Chaney established their second Baptist church in Smith Lake. In 1965, a third church was built in Crown Point that included a mission home, four radio broadcasts, and transport vans. This church is today averaging over 200 people. All three churches are very active and growing. In 1975, Jesse and Nell had to leave the missionary work in New Mexico due to health reasons. Chaney also pastored churches in Arkansas and Texas.

In June 2005, Chaney received an honorary Doctor of Theology degree from Baptist College in Melbourne, Florida. He was a member of Temple Baptist Church in Clarksville for many years and remained active until his death.

## Jackie Odom

Naples, FL

Jackie Odom, daughter of Pastor Jim Odom and his wife, Lynda, went home to be with the Lord on August 5, 2009, after a lifetime of health chal-



lenges. Born May 21, 1970 and diagnosed with a brain tumor at the age of nine, she survived a prognosis of fewer than five years to live a life of faithful service and radiant testimony.

At age 39, she contracted a respiratory illness and was taken by the Lord. Her memorial service held August 11 at Seagate Baptist Church was attended by 50 preachers among the over 400 guests who attended this service. Sev-

eral people for whom Jackie had prayed attended the service and trusted Christ. It was Jackie's greatest desire that her sufferings would cause the lost to be saved and Christians to be brought closer to the Lord.

Jackie is survived by her parents, James and Lynda Odom (James is the pastor of the Seagate church), her sister Becky Wiggins (whose husband Glenn is the associate pastor of Seagate), and brother Tom (pastor of a Florida church).

There is a memorial page at [www.seagatebaptistchurch.com](http://www.seagatebaptistchurch.com) and a scholarship fund has been established in her memory.

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## TEXAS

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• **Liberty Baptist Church**, 602 Manco Rd., Lewisville, TX 75067. 972/436-3493 *Pastor Dick Webster*

• **First Baptist Church**, Hwy. 64, Wright City, TX 75750, 903/839-2700 *Pastor Richard G. Boone*

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

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# When I think of Him, I feel rejoice

Last month, BBFI missionary Randy Perkins posted a note to the Summit List, an internet discussion group whose members are primarily BBFI pastors, missionaries, and evangelists. He had received this note from Kitty, a Chinese woman in his church who had recently received Christ. The *Tribune* gained her permission to publish her testimony just as it came to us, edited a bit for length.

*When I think of him, I feel rejoice. I feel confident to do what I want to do.*

*In my deep mind, I think he accompany with me all the time. Bless me. who is him? he is our lovely god.*

*My story with him started from the end of 2007. when my lovely father only has 2 or 3 months life with us, because he got cancer in the late period even though he is only 53. All of my family were very sad during that period. it just like nightmare for me when I received the call from my brother. "My father was very healthy, how could this happened," I ask this question all the time. Of course, there is no reasonable answer to it. I could not stop crying everyday. It also influences my work performance coz I could not concentrate on it at all. In order to let my father spent his left time happily with us, we decided to hide his illness from him.*

*.... I outside for work about 5 or 6 years in southern China since I graduated from uni. It is a long way from northern China, which is the place where I was born. During this period, I haven't spent time with my families a lot. I think it is very important for me to accompany with my father in the left 2 or 3 months. So I quit my job and go back home to take care of my father. On the way back, I spent one night with my uni classmate, who is a Christian.*

*During that night. My classmate told me his [God's] story. His love and his blessing for all human being. He could save my father if I believe him, trust him. so I get to know him from then on. my friend prayed for my dad together with me and also ask her other church friends to pray. I keep praying for my dad every moments. Even though there is no Christian in my family. Some people even think I am crazy. They think I am superstition. But when I told my father about god. he looks very quiet and glad. he would like to believe him even though my dad is a communist party member. He accepted god in his heart. And get to know him through me and some other church members near us.*

*... he died in Jan. 27, 2008. but he died quietly and happily. It seems that he find himself in another world — heaven. I think he enjoyed himself there.*

*... I appreciate god's bless for my family, especially my father.*

*... I think God wish me get closer to him, he guide me to come to Australia to start a new journey. When I first arrived here, I get to know him accidentally from Jane in Gungahlin library when I try to find where the church is. In fact,*

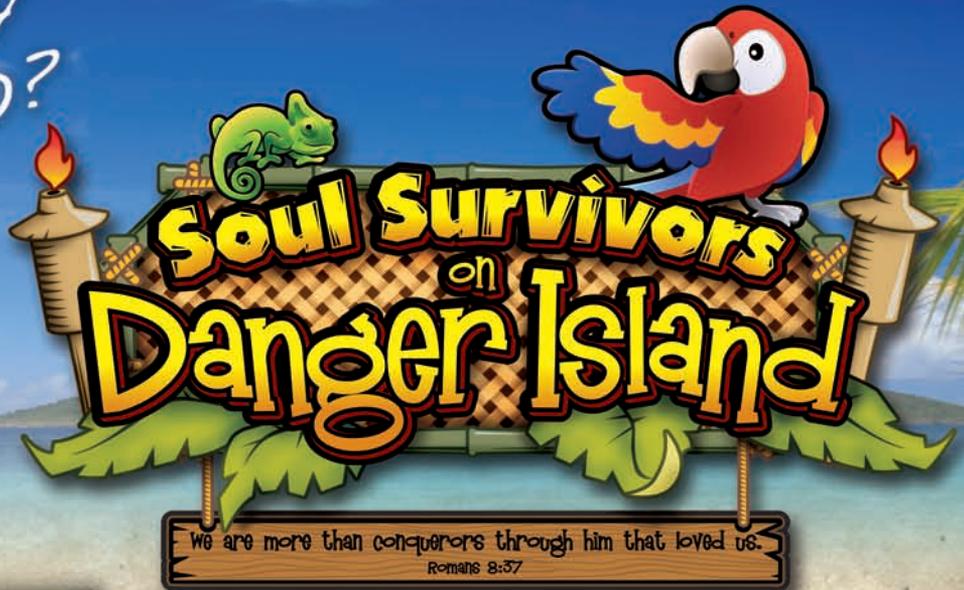
*at that moment, we decided to leave library to find other person to ask. But unconsciously, I went forward to her and asked her about church. She was very nice, and told me she was a Christian too. So from her, I get to know god here. I feel very happy and enjoyable every time to think of him here. To know him more here in church and from Bible. Appreciate to what he bless me to study here. Appreciate him to help me find job here. Appreciate his help to meet a lot of nice people here. In general, I trust him in my deep mind. I think he will continue to bless me and all the human being. Thanks god. I love u.*

**Editor's note – the woman identified as Jane above is from Kenya, who has been attending Randy's church six years.**



**This photo was taken at a recent baptism service. Randy is at the left and Kitty is on his left.**

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