

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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ANNUAL MISSION ISSUE

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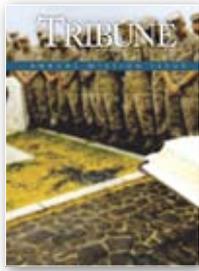
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BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 9

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Reaching Mexico's youth

With a team of dedicated missionaries and the right facilities, the Highland Mexican youth camp has had a fruitful summer.



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By the dawn's early light

It was 195 years ago this month that Francis Scott Key was inspired by the Stars and Stripes waving above Ft. McHenry in Baltimore.



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GLOBAL PARTNERS: Chaplains

The BBFI has been endorsing military chaplains since 1978, but this issue of *Global Partners* puts the spotlight on today's BBFI chaplains.



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On the Table

By Keith Bassham



Treasures in history and books

M. L. and Marjorie Ellis, former members of Canton Baptist Temple, had transferred to the Tulsa area and attended my Sunday school class at Eastland Baptist Church when I was there about 20 years ago. One weekend, Eastland had Harold Henniger and Earl Smith in for worship services. Henniger had just retired from the pulpit of Canton Baptist Temple. The Ellises, of course, hosted their former pastor on Sunday afternoon, and Shari and I were invited.

To listen to these veteran spiritual warriors swap their memories... tales that went back into the 1940s even... well, words escape me. The afternoon was far too short for my liking, but it is a treasure in my mind.

I hope to revive those memories a bit when I go to Canton for the BBFI Fall Fellowship meeting next month, for so much of what is great about our Fellowship is wrapped up in that church. Canton Baptist Temple was planted by Dallas Billington of the Akron Baptist Temple in 1938. To get the church started, he would drive over Sundays after the Akron services to hold afternoon services in Canton. In 1947, the pulpit was vacant, and Billington recommended one of his own preacher boys, Harold Henniger, a young man who had been saved and discipled in the Akron church. Henniger was finishing his training in Fort Worth, and he had worked on the staff of First Baptist Church there. The church became a powerhouse over the next 40 years, and Pastor Henniger was a model for hundreds of Fellowship ministers.

Evangelism. Discipleship. Church planting. Education. Missions. Leadership. May God grant that we use this meeting to reacquaint ourselves with

the great traditions of our Fellowship. When we do that we will not merely enshrine the past as a monument, but we will honor that past by embracing and embodying again those characteristics of great churches around the world.

Speaking of the past, I cannot remember when I had so many books on my desk authored by people associated with the Baptist Bible Fellowship. Every other week or so these past few months I have received notices or review copies of books produced by people in our Fellowship. I am glad of this, and I want *Tribune* readers to be aware of these resources. Some book or author just might touch on a need.

First, you have seen the excerpts we have published in the *Tribune* this year. I'll not mention those now. But here are some others you may want to check out. *Waiting Patiently for the Lord – A Study of Psalm 40* by Tina Modrell. Tina is originally from Florence Baptist Temple, Florence, South Carolina. Her husband, Charles, is pastor of a church in Laurinburg, North Carolina, and Tina's book is a spiral-bound volume designed as a Bible study for personal or group use. You can order the book from amazon.com.

The Revivals in the Bible by Vernon C. Lyons. Pastor Lyons has served Chicago's Ashburn Baptist Church since 1951. The work will surely meet a demand for a study of this important subject. His theme is simple: "The Revivals in the Bible are not mere history, but God's inspired instructions for His work in our time." See the ad in this issue for ordering information.

From Jerusalem to You by Jeff Williams. Jeff is a BBFI missionary to Russia. His book, which he says is written in the tradition of *The Trail of Blood*,

traces a distinct group of non-conforming, independent Christians known as the Cathari from about 250 A.D. Some of the material I had not seen before. Unfortunately, there are some editing and publishing details that detract from the value overall, and the bibliography is a little confusing. However, I applaud our preachers when they write serious books on important matters rather than collections of sermons. Order the book from www.kjvpress.com.

The Quest for the Great Stones by G. M. Matheny. Garry is another missionary whose archeology and history sleuthing has resulted in a book that reminds me of a Dan Brown novel — except Garry's story is true. I won't be a spoiler, but I will say that his story of a search for the "great stones" buried by Jeremiah has a lot of twists and turns. If you love museums, mysteries, history, and armchair archeology, this book is for you. I could hardly put it down. Order from amazon.com.

Rowdy Raccoon and the Turtle Who Wanted to Fly by Donna Braymer. Rowdy is back and better than ever. Donna's children's book is such a well-kept secret, and I can't figure why. Her stories are imaginative, and the artwork in this new book is way over the top. The character studies she has authored from the series have opened doors of ministry in public schools. Order from rowdyraccoon.com or from amazon.com.

Be sure to see the *Walking Through the Valleys of Life* ad in this issue. We have mentioned this work by Jerry Beaver in a previous column.

One last item, BBFI missionary Jimmy Strickland was taken by the Lord just as we were going to press. We will publish a memorial in the next issue.



Missions at the forefront

When Jesus left this earth for heaven, He left behind a mission for us to complete (Matthew 28:19-20). Down through the centuries, men and women have paid a great price to see that the Lord's marching orders have been carried out. His church still lives today.

Almost 60 years ago, a group of godly men banded together to start a Fellowship of pastors. These men were church planters who built some of the largest churches in the world. Henry Blackaby, in his book, *Spiritual Leadership*, could have been speaking of these men. He says, "Spiritual leaders do not try to satisfy the goals and ambitions of the people they lead but those of the God they serve. Spiritual leaders must be spiritual statesmen and not merely politicians."

Thank God He used men like G. B. Vick, John Rawlings, W. E. Dowell, Noel Smith, and James Combs to birth the Baptist Bible Fellowship. I am proud to be a part of that Fellowship which has made an impact on our world. Yes, our challenges are quite different than they were for my dad or grandfather. Blackaby states, "Much more is expected from leaders today than in years past." This means we have a greater opportunity to complete the task set before us.

During this September Fellowship meeting in Canton, Ohio, you will once again be reminded that our world is in great need for the gospel — perhaps more than ever. You will be challenged to give to our Projects Offering so that we can continue to build churches and provide homes for our missionaries. Yes, we are facing a worldwide financial crisis, but our God is a great God and He

is not quite done with us yet. Fred Donelson stated years ago that the strong right arm of the Fellowship would be missions and that has been true all these many years — Praise God!

In the *Baptist Bible Tribune* of November 24, 1950, there was a short article entitled, "What Do You Think of Them?" It states, "On the front page of today's TRIBUNE you read the incredible story of what a bunch of kids are doing in Japan. They are Olson Hodges and wife, Isaac Foster and Mrs. Foster and Lavern and Evelyn Rodgers — and now Alvin Marsden and his wife. Eighteen months ago we heard Hodges and Foster talking about 'opening up a mission work in Japan.' In fact, they were 'preparing to go.' Who was going to guarantee them a salary? Nobody. Some churches were going to help them. What missionary training had they had? Bible study and preaching. What did they know about Japan and the Japanese people? They knew that most of them were going to hell, and they knew that if they would accept Jesus Christ as their Savior they would not go to hell but would go to heaven."

On that same page was another article about the Hooges and Gullions in the Philippines. The article concluded by saying, "Here is the thing to remember about the Baptist Bible foreign mission work: Our missionaries get there...they start preaching the Gospel. Then, as soon as they have enough converts to organize a native church, they organize it. Then they go and do the same thing somewhere else."

This summer I had the opportunity of observing firsthand our younger generation of missionaries. In one term, missionaries Jason and Nadia

Kratochvil have built a great work in Managua, Nicaragua. Their facilities were too small so they added a second floor. Jason has trained leaders to take over that ministry and also leaders who will soon assist him in starting another church.

Dan and Vicki Weaver went to Belize seven years ago and literally dug out a ministry in a jungle village called The Valley of Peace. In July, a group of men from our church built steel trusses for a new church facility. Then we had our first service in the new facilities with almost 300 people attending. Dan has also pastored and helped other churches there in Belize. He too has trained leaders and is now starting another church in a nearby village. On Wednesday evening in this new work, there were 70 in attendance with 2 teenagers trusting Christ.

Almost 60 years later I can tell you that the Baptist Bible Fellowship is still sending soul-winning, church-planting missionaries. We can't reside in the past; we must look to the opportunities of the future with great expectations. It is imperative that we see more young men and women involved with our movement. Our prayer should be "God, don't ever let me be satisfied with business as usual. Help me to always have a sense of urgency for sharing the gospel with every nation, every people group, and every person."

Pastor Mike Frazier and the good people of Canton Baptist Temple in Canton, Ohio, have been so gracious to invite us to their great church and host an awesome meeting. In that meeting we will experience the joy of approving more laborers for the vineyard. Join us as we work together as a Fellowship to reach this world for Christ!



DIGRESSIONS

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

-Laurence Sterne

Netherlands study shows unborn children have memories

Researchers at two medical centers found Runborn babies at 30 weeks gestation show short-term memory, according to *The Washington Times*. By the time the unborn children reach 34 weeks of development, they “are able to store information and retrieve it four weeks later,” *The Times* reported.

The results were based on a study conducted on 100 women and their unborn children. Scientists gave the women a series of buzzes on their stomachs for one second each with a “fetal vibroacoustic stimulator” at five points during the final eight weeks of pregnancy, according to the July 16 report. They used ultrasound imaging to measure “fetal learning”



patterns, particularly through the baby’s eye, mouth, and body movements.

The children adjusted to the vibrations and sounds to the extent they would no longer respond, according to the report. That process is called “habituation.”

Source: Baptist Press, www.bpnews.com, July 23, 2009.

ABC ranked highest among networks for gay/lesbian content

ABC led the way among the five major television networks for onscreen representations of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in the most recent season as measured by GLAAD, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Among cable networks, HBO was heralded for leading the way with 42 percent of programming hours featuring LGBT representations

Source: Baptist Press, www.bpnews.com,asp?ID=30981, Erin Roach, BP staff writer.

Pew Research Center finds African-Americans to be most religiously devout racial group

Compared to the rest of the U.S. population, which is generally considered highly religious, African-Americans engage in religious activities more frequently and express higher levels of religious belief, Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life highlighted in a report released in time for Black History Month.

The center’s U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, conducted in 2007 on more than 35,000 people, found that 79 percent of African-Americans say religion is very important in

their lives while 56 percent of all U.S. adults said the same.

Among the various racial and ethnic groups, African-Americans are the most likely to say they belong to a formal religious affiliation. An overwhelming 87 percent of African-Americans identify with a religious group.

Following close behind are Latinos, with 85 percent of its population associating with a religion. In comparison, 83 percent of the overall U.S. population report affiliation with a religion.

Source: www.christianpost.com, Michelle A. Vu, Christian Post Reporter.

More Americans watching videos on the internet

16.8 billion videos watched in USA

107.1 million watchers via YouTube

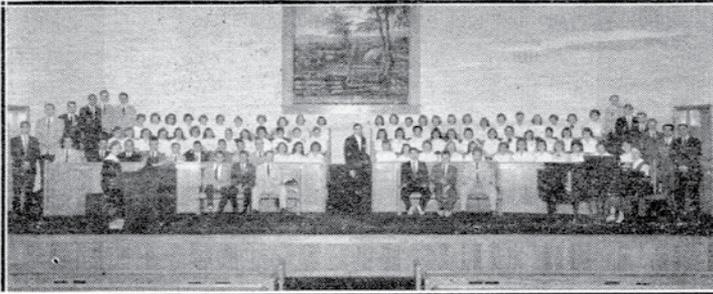
49 million watchers via MySpace

45.4 million watchers via Yahoo

40.1 million watchers via Hulu



Source: SearchEngineWatch.com



Young People's choir (left) and the morning service choir of Canton Baptist Temple, Canton, Ohio.

No Summer 'Slump' in Canton

CANTON, Ohio—There has been no major summer "slump" in the work of Canton Baptist Temple. On Aug. 16 the Sunday school attendance was 2,098. The Daily Vacation Bible school had an average attendance of 1,113.

Harold Henniger is the pastor,



Harold Henniger

Ronald Cannon is associate pastor, and Robert Johnson is music director.

What does Canton Baptist Temple believe, teach, and preach? The following is a brief statement of the church's doctrines:

1. We believe the whole Bible from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, as a verbally inspired and

infallible Word of God (II Peter 1:20-21).

2. We believe that Jesus Christ was born of Mary the virgin, and is the Son of God and God the Son (Isa. 7:14; Jno. 1:1; Lk. 1:35).

3. We believe that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God (Rom. 3:24-26, Eph. 1:7, I Peter 2:24, 3:18).

4. We believe that He rose from the grave the third day according to the Scriptures (Act 1:9-10, I Cor. 15:1-19).

5. We believe that He only, is the great High Priest, and we need not the intercession of any man; but that Christ ever liveth to intercede for us (Heb. 7:25, 9:24).

6. We believe that Christ will come again in person, bodily, visibly to establish His kingdom on the earth (Rev. 19:11-16, I Thess. 1:10, Acts 1:9-11).

7. We believe that to be saved, the soul must be born again—"Ye must be born again" (John

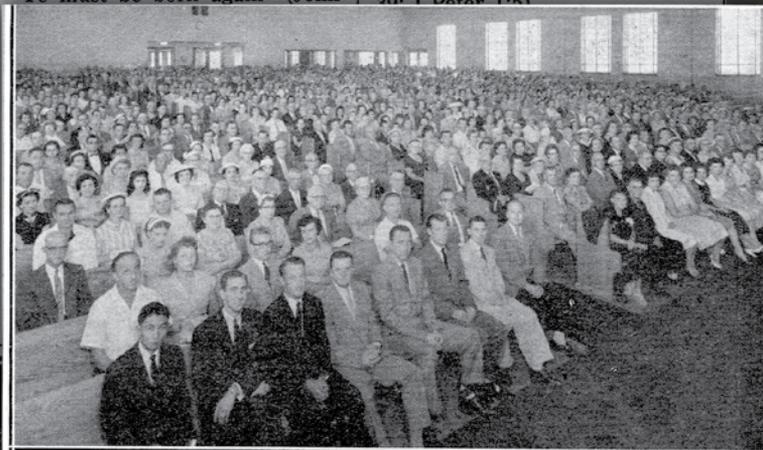


Ronald Cannon

50 Years ago in the Tribune...

In light of the upcoming BBFI National Fellowship Meeting to be held at Canton Baptist Temple, it seemed fitting to revisit this article featuring the church from the September 25, 1959, edition of the *Tribune*. The inset photo of the Adult Bible Class appeared on the cover page of the *Tribune*.

With all the preparations for the upcoming meeting, it's probably safe to say that there's been no "summer slump" for Canton Baptist Temple this year either!



ADULT BIBLE CLASS of Canton Baptist Temple, Canton, Ohio. It is taught by the pastor, Harold Henniger. [Other pictures and story of the Canton work will be found inside.]



The Beginners (above) and Primary departments of Canton Baptist Temple Sunday school, Canton, Ohio.



Robert Johnson

BBFI National Meeting
September 20-23, 2009

Let God
Arise!

CANTON BAPTIST TEMPLE CANTON, OH



Mike & Rachel Frazier

* Register today @
www.bbficanton09.org

Dear Friends,
We invite you to Canton, Ohio, for the September meeting of the Baptist Bible Fellowship!
Our church family has been praying, working, and planning for a great meeting in September! You will find tremendous preaching, uplifting music, as well as some of the greatest fellowship anywhere around! Our staff is working hard to make this meeting a memorable one.
We hope to see you in September!

Lodging information available on page 43

SPEAKERS



Jerry Thorpe



Tracy Roby



Jonathan Falwell



Jack Baskin



Linzy Slayden



Mark Hodges



Lewis McClendon

MISSIONARIES



Keith Gandy



Chris Pelletier



Chris Fulmer



Charles Coleman

SPECIAL MUSIC



Steve Green



"Calling Levi"



Robert Ballard



Bill Murk

SPECIAL SESSIONS



Elmer Towns
(Pastor's Luncheon)



JoAnn Foltz
(Ladies' Meeting)

EXHIBIT TABLES AVAILABLE

Ministries & Missionaries wishing to exhibit their ministries can register online or call Jenny in the Church Office at 330.477.6267 x114.

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

10:15 AM: Pastor Jerry Thorpe
5:00 PM: To Be Announced

MONDAY

1:00 PM: National Director's Meeting
4:00 PM: Seminars
6:30 PM: Pastor Lewis McClendon
8:00 PM: Dessert Fellowship

TUESDAY

9:00 AM: Pastor Tracy Roby
10:00 AM: Pastor Linzy Slayden Ladies' Meeting
1:00 PM: Missionary Approval Meeting

TUESDAY (cont'd.)

2:00 PM: Seminars/Amish Country Tour
6:30 PM: Pastor Mark Hodges
8:00 PM: Ice Cream Sundae Fellowship

WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM: Dr. Jack Baskin
10:00 AM: Mission Videos/Testimonies
12:00 PM: Pastor's Luncheon
6:30 PM: Steve Green Concert
Pastor Jonathan Falwell
Dr. Jerry Falwell-CHOF Induction

THURSDAY

8:30 am: Amish Country Tour

PLANNED EVENTS

AMISH COUNTRY MOTORCOACH TOUR

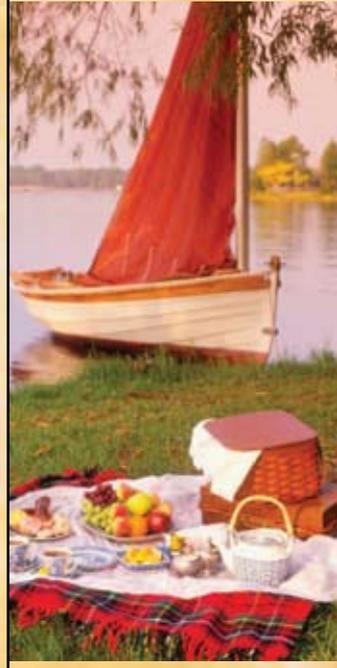
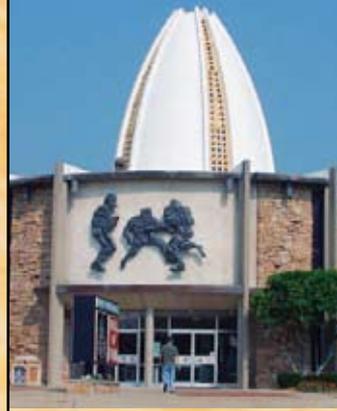
\$25/person & includes lunch

- Tuesday (After Morning Sessions) or
- Thursday Morning, 8:30 am

Trip includes: Amish-style meal at Amish Door Restaurant; Guided Tour of Amish Country; Stops at: Lehman's Hardware, Heini's Cheese Chalet, Berlin Climate-controlled Flea Market, Wendell August Forge, and much, much more!

PASTOR'S LUNCHEON - ELMER TOWNS

Wednesday • \$10 per person
Limited seating, reservation required



2,338 youth saved in Highlands Mexico youth camp



According to long-time BBFI pastor Bill Aven, the camp ministry represented by Impact Youth Worldwide and funded by the Rawlings Foundation is “the best-kept secret in the world.” With results of the summer camps held at the Highlands near Mexico City, the secret is sure to get out.

The nine camps, directed by BBFI missionaries Allen and Aase Owens and Ed and Annita Hoagland, were attended by 5,473 campers, among whom 2,338 professed faith in Christ as Savior. Of those, 667 were baptized and 164 made applications to attend Bible college.

Camps at the Highland are not a full week. According to Hoagland, “Experience has taught us that we get most of the people saved during the first few sessions of camp. To keep them for a full week then becomes counterproductive. We rely on the individual churches and other missionaries to counsel them further when they return home.” Twenty-six Mexican churches participated in the camps. The week after the final camp, Hoagland and Owens rented a theater in Mexico City where the churches were matched with youth who made decisions. Hoagland says, “Our goal is to get these young people plugged into one of our churches as soon as possible.”

The Mexican camp is one of several sponsored by Impact Youth Worldwide. Staffed and directed mainly by BBFI missionaries, each of the facilities was located and renovated for camp ministry by the Rawlings Foundation. The Mexico camp cost \$4,772,609 for construction and renovation of a 6,000-square-foot Mexican villa on 28 acres just 90 miles south of Mexico City.

The ministry’s website also lists information about similar camps in Tanzania, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Belgium, China, Cambodia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, England, and Germany. Bill Aven, who promotes the Impacting Youth ministry in the US, credits the Rawlings Foundation, and especially George Rawlings, for the vision and funding for

the camps. While the entire Rawlings family is involved in the foundation, his father, John Rawlings, and brothers, Herb and Harold, are the most visible in the camp ministries.

Impact Youth Worldwide provides a vehicle for the Foundation to partner with missionaries and mission agencies to reach youth for Christ worldwide. With the Rawlings’ independent Baptist background and ties, it is only natural that evangelism is at the center of their vision. According to the website (impactyouthww.com), 90 percent of the youth attending camps in the US are already saved, while on the mission field 90 percent of the youth who attend are unsaved at the beginning of the camp.

The missionary nature of the camps is also characterized by the problems faced by the camp leaders. Owens says, “We have seen mini riots in the dorms at 2:00 a.m. We have confiscated shanks, knives, razor blades, narcotics, marijuana, alcohol, huffing products, pornography, cigarettes, and much more. We have experience dealing with youth that arrive high and hallucinating, men and women hung over and vomiting, and even those who believe they are actually ghost people. We have separated gang members as they tried to beat up homosexuals.”

Hoagland wrote in one of his reports this summer, “I wish our world was free of drug addicts, alcoholics, teenagers who are sexually active outside of marriage, and other perverse things, but that’s not the real place in which we all live. We had to deal with all of this in camp number three. If we are going to try and reach our community and become culture changers, we are going to have to confront and correct these issues.”

Aven, who joined the ministry last year after several decades of pastoral ministry, also points out the necessity of the missionaries on the field. Referring to Owens and Hoagland of Mexico, he says, “The camps would not be effective without great BBFI missionaries like these folks and a host of other supporting people.”





Butterflies of the Heart



Every evangelistic camp is structured so that we can offer three invitation times and counseling opportunities. Salvation, eternal security, and baptism are the primary decisions being made by these at-risk youth and adults.

The plan is that they hear the gospel at least three times before they leave. We baptize using pastors from the local church ministries because it is part of the Great Commission and because these youth need to belong to something else before they go home. It is a powerful decision in their lives and has an observable impact that many times is not shared publically in front of their peers at the moment of salvation.

Before they enter the water to be baptized, they have heard the gospel at least two times, counseled at least once for security of salvation, and at least once for baptism. Then they have to go through me. I listen to each of the candidates' testimonies and spiritual decisions. If there is any doubt as to their understanding of salvation, they are dealt with again.

There are those who arrive at this point and decide, "No, I really don't want to make this decision right now." I rehearse the gospel again. I rehearse eternal security and the picture and purpose of baptism. Any question

or doubts and they are shown the Word of God again.

We had just seen 35 baptisms and I was praying with the pastors who had been baptizing. When I opened my eyes with the final "Amen," there were two more candidates for baptism. I began the counseling process. Both of them had doubts, and the young man said he had changed his mind and was not really interested in the gift of eternal life.

I finished talking to the girl. She had a few questions, I shared God's Word and then she said she wanted to make this decision to have Christ as her Savior once and for all. We prayed. She asked for forgiveness of her sins and invited Christ to be her Lord and Savior. When we finished praying, the young man said, "I prayed too, I know Christ is in my heart."

I asked the girl about the decision she just made and she described it, "As I was walking here, I didn't really get it, nothing had changed, it really did not seem important or real, but I came anyway. I finally got it and understood when you showed me the Bible again. I meant what I prayed and now...and now, I feel like there are butterflies in my heart - I cannot explain it."

Who can explain the forgiveness of sins, the gift of eternal life, and work of the Holy Spirit?

Allen Owen



"I meant what I prayed and now...and now, I feel like there are butterflies in my heart - I cannot explain it."



by the dawn's early light



that is proudly we hail

MARKING 195 YEARS SINCE THE BATTLE THAT INSPIRED AN ANTHEM

BY MIKE LAMB

The story of our national anthem may best be understood in the broader context of the events, the emotion, and the witness to bravery that led up to its writing. The War of 1812 and the battle for Baltimore, in particular, are important parts of the story. One can see the hand of God moving, for had this battle gone any other way, Key's poem that inspired our anthem would never have been written, and our nation may not have become the "the land of the free."

Not many years had passed since America had gained her independence from England in the Revolutionary War. Then, in 1812, the United States was again at war with the same enemy. Americans were angry over British interference with their trade and their impressment of unwilling American sailors into the British Navy. America declared war on Great Britain for these acts on June 18, 1812.

The war went well for America at

first but with England's defeat of Napoleon's France, England was able to give her full attention to the United States with devastating and humiliating effects. In August of 1814, British Major General Robert Ross landed his force of 5,000 seasoned troops near our capitol, defeated a much larger American force, drove into Washington, and set on fire the capitol building, the president's mansion, and numerous other structures. President Madison and his wife, Dolley, barely escaped with their lives.

Leaving a ruined Washington behind, the British now turned toward Baltimore, Maryland, the third-largest city in the country. It was to be a combined land and sea attack. General Ross, an Irishman and British hero, landed his troops at North Point, Maryland, where he met heavy resistance from the Maryland militia. Ross was killed and the British army halted their land advance.

Meanwhile, at Fort McHenry,

rockets and mortar shells exploded everywhere, spreading fire and raining shrapnel. The fort, under the command of Major George Armistead, had a defending force of just 1,000 men. Their smaller guns could not reach the British ships which stayed just out of their range, but the Americans held on and refused to surrender.

Now to the story of our national anthem and the "Star Spangled Banner" that inspired it. When Major Armistead took command of Fort McHenry in 1813, he commissioned Mary Pickersgill, a Baltimore flag maker, to make two flags. One was a large garrison flag for which she was paid \$405.90 and a smaller one, a storm flag, for which she was paid \$168.54. Mary Pickersgill had her daughter, two nieces, and an indentured African-American girl help her. The large garrison flag was sewn from common wool and cotton. It measured 30x42 feet with stars about two feet in diameter and stripes two feet wide.

This was the flag that would inspire Francis Scott Key's poem that would become our national anthem.

Prior to the battle for Baltimore that took General Ross' life, friends of Dr. William Beanes, who was being held on a British ship eight miles away down the river as a prisoner of war, had asked Georgetown lawyer Francis Scott Key to join John S. Skinner, the American prisoner-exchange agent, on a humanitarian mission to seek the doctor's release. Boarding the British ship under a truce flag on September 3, Admiral Cochrane and General Ross, who was aboard at the time, refused, believing Dr. Beanes to be an informant for the enemy. Having been shown letters from British soldiers who testified to the kindness and care of the doctor, they then consented to his release, but detained them for some days until the battle was over, fearing they might divulge their plans to the Americans if they let them go.

During the assault on the fort, the British, landing a direct hit, threw aside caution and moved their ships closer as the battle raged through the stormy night. With the vessels finally coming within range of Fort McHenry's guns, the determined defenders trained all their cannons on the British ships and managed to so damage them that they were forced to withdraw. Admiral Cochrane ordered a land attack against the rear of the fort in an attempt to scale its walls, but it also failed when the guns of nearby Fort Covington drove the attackers off. By dawn the British could see that all hope of taking the fort and the city were gone.

At 7:30 a.m. on September 14,

1814, British Admiral Cochrane called off the assault. Because of a heavy rainstorm, Major Armistead had flown the smaller storm flag through most of the battle, but at dawn, with the British retreating, he ordered the large garrison flag raised as the troops in the fort, no doubt with loud cheers, fired their guns and played "Yankee Doodle." Three months later, the war ended. It is widely believed that the successful defense of Baltimore and

morning mist on that September 14 morning the large garrison flag flying over the American fort. Deeply moved, he wrote, on the back of a letter he had in his pocket, the poem that would become our national anthem. Originally entitled "The Defense of Fort McHenry," it had four stanzas. The middle two were eventually dropped from the anthem, probably because they contained some language unfavorable to the British who became our friends. ("Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.") The last verse became the second and it was set to a popular tune of the day and was renamed "The Star Spangled Banner" in 1815.

In 1890, the military adopted it and ordered it played at the raising and lowering of the flag. Both the Army and Navy designated it the national anthem in 1917 for ceremonial purposes and Congress and President Hoover made it official on March 3, 1931.

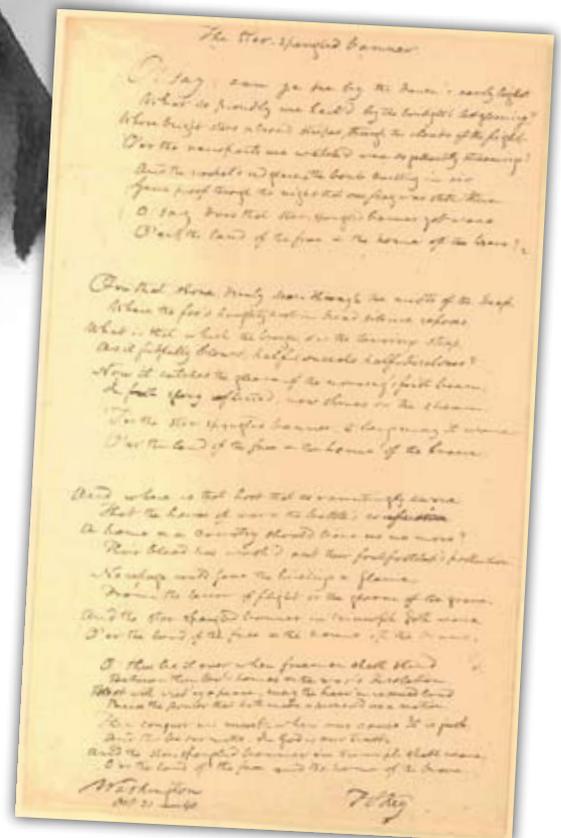
Today, there are those who



Francis Scott Key

Fort McHenry played a large part in the British decision to sign a truce.

Francis Scott Key and the others had been permitted to return to the truce ship but under heavy guard so they could not leave or signal the shore. He had been on deck all through the night anxiously watching the battle unfold. When the bombardment ended and he saw the British withdrawing, he could see through the



One of only five handwritten copies known to be made by Key around 1840.



Historical re-enactors at Fort McHenry National Park

would change our national anthem to something less militant. With forces around the world plotting to destroy this country and deprive us of, in Jefferson's words, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," "The Star Spangled Banner" has no equal and must not be replaced. We should insist it be sung properly, as written, with all standing, hats off, hands over hearts. We should insist schools teach it to our children and insist it be sung regularly in a patriotic opening. (California law provides for this even though some schools ignore the law.)

We should further insist that our schools teach our official National Motto, "In God We Trust," probably taken from Key's line "In God is our trust," and not be intimidated by the few who loudly want it dropped. I hope that as Americans we will remember the spirit of Major Armistead and the brave men of Fort McHenry as well as the heroes on the ground who, though often outgunned and outmanned, stopped the British advance on Baltimore. The second verse of "The Star Spangled Banner" is rarely sung. Many probably do not even know it exists. With our country again at war we should include it every time we sing our national anthem:

*O thus be it ever,
 when free men shall stand
 Between their loved homes
 and war's desolation!
 Blest with vict'ry and peace,
 may the heav'n rescued land
 Praise the Pow'r that hath made
 and preserved us a nation!
 Then conquer we must,
 when our cause it is just;
 And this be our motto:
 "In God is our trust!"
 And the star spangled banner
 in triumph shall wave
 O'er the land of the free
 and the home of the brave.*

Christians should remember that many of those who fought and died for our country in the Revolutionary War and again in 1812 were devout Christians who did not believe that faith in God should keep them out of politics and the defense of America. Nor did they believe that the name of God has no place in national life. They were unashamed in their belief that America is a "heaven-rescued land" and that it is imperative that we proclaim "In God is our trust" to our nation. The need for this caliber of Christian is as great as ever.

May the words of our national anthem remain true as long as God allows our great nation to exist.

THE 1814 FLAG TODAY

Fort McHenry's garrison flag remained in the possession of Major Armistead for some time, and it was brought out for display on certain occasions. The flag was given to the Smithsonian museum in 1912. Due to mishandling and damage, even after it found a home in the Smithsonian, the flag underwent a thorough restoration, and today the flag is now on display in a special exhibit at the National Museum of American History, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

According to the museum's website, the honor accorded to the American flag, and to this banner in particular, is modern innovation. The site says, "At the time the American flag was created, it did not attract much attention from the general public; its primary function was to identify ships and forts. Ordinary Americans in the Revolutionary era turned to a variety of other symbols—the eagle, Lady Liberty, George Washington—to express their patriotism and define their national identity."

After the war, and after Key's poem was published, his phrase, "our flag was still there," fused the physical symbol of the nation with universal feelings of patriotism, courage, and resilience. The flag was no longer just an emblem of the nation; it became a representation of the country's values and the ideals for which it stands.

For more information about the Fort McHenry garrison flag, its history, and restoration efforts, see the website <http://americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/>.

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 9

GLOBAL PARTNERS



FOCUS:
BBFI CHAPLAINS



Military Chaplaincy and the Baptist Bible Fellowship International



James G. Smith
Chaplain Endorser - BBFI

Back in 1978, when David A. Cavin was president of the BBFI and Carl Boonstra was the mission director, an agreement was made between the Baptist Bible Fellowship International and the United States Department of Defense for the BBFI to be an authorized ecclesiastical endorsing agency for United States Armed Forces Chaplaincies.

Since that time, many godly men from our churches have chosen to serve the Lord through the military. It is an incredible opportunity to serve both God and country! Each branch of the military has its own specific requirements as to the chaplaincy. Once a man has chosen in which branch he will serve, he then must meet the requirements of the BBFI.

While the military chaplain is a member of the Armed Forces and serves as a commissioned officer, he is also a minister of the gospel, a representative of his local church, and a representative of the BBFI.

The Armed Forces have physical, educational, and ecclesiastical requirements. The BBFI and the local churches have requirements that have to do more with the spiritual, doctrinal, and experiential.

Each of our chaplains has a sending church and is commissioned and authorized by that church to administer the local church ordinances. Our chaplains encourage the men and women to whom they minister to get involved in local churches.

Anyone interested in more information or on the actual appli-

cation procedures should contact me at the BBFI World Mission Service Center.

As you will notice in the following pages, the chaplaincy offers amazing opportunities for evangelism and discipleship. To be a pastor in uniform has its own set of requirements and abundant blessings. *Global Partners* recently conducted an interview with several of our BBFI-endorsed chaplains. The men who voluntarily and graciously participated are as follows:

Chaplain (Lieutenant)
Ken Amador, U.S. Navy
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

Chaplain (Lieutenant)
Steven Benefield, U.S. Navy
USS Blue Ridge, Japan

Chaplain (Captain)
Jeremiah Catlin, U.S. Army
Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Chaplain (Major)
Herman Cheatham, Jr., U.S. Army
Fort Drum, New York

Chaplain (Major)
Charles Fields, U.S. Army
Fort Drum, New York

Chaplain (Colonel)
Steven E. Keith, U.S. Air Force
Commandant Armed Forces
Chaplaincy Center
Fort Jackson, South Carolina

Chaplain (Lt. Col.)
Donald Reynolds
Maryland Army National Guard
Denton, Maryland

Chaplain (Major)
William Wehlage, U. S. Army
Fort Jackson, South Carolina

SURVIVING PART 1: RIGHT PLACE,

When we first arrived Kuwait, I saw several units that did not have a chaplain. I asked my colonel if I could cover them. He asked me, "Well, aren't you busy enough with ours?" I told him, "I just want to cover them." Agreeing that the other units needed a chaplain, he gave his permission as long as I didn't slack off on our guys. So, I started riding with the route clearance men.



GOD'S CALL

RIGHT TIME by Chaplain Jeremiah Catlin, U.S. Army, as told to Jim Smith

When I first went to them, I told the unit that, although I had heard they were getting shot at almost every day, I wanted to start riding with them. They were shocked to hear that from a chaplain. You see, among the soldiers, the image of a chaplain is that we just sit in an office. But not all of us sit in an office, there are several that go out and get their hands dirty with the soldiers.

I asked the unit which was their toughest route — where they were fired upon the most and where they found the most IEDs. [An IED is a roadside bomb and it stands for improvised explosive device.] I would make that my first route. I wanted to know I could handle it.

Two days later, I went on my first route. Not one shot was fired. Afterwards, all the soldiers were coming up and hugging me saying, "Chaplain, you can ride with us any time! As a matter of fact, every day would be fine!" At first they viewed me as their protector. I knew that would change.

I made a schedule and began riding with the route clearance men every seven to nine days. I rode on whatever route they were doing. Since I handled the first one I figured, "I've got this now." I rode with them for almost two months and never really heard anything. The soldiers kept saying, "If the chaplain is going with you, you are going to be safe." I kept praying, "Lord, if you are going to keep it up, that is fine with me too. Not getting shot at is quite alright."

The route clearance team's job is to find any roadside bombs, blast them, and make the way clear for other vehicles. They ride in a Buffalo — a huge six-person vehicle with a mechanical arm on the right side. When a roadside bomb is found, the mechanical arm is used like a

shovel to carefully grab the bomb, pull wires off of it, and move it, all while hoping the bomb doesn't go off. Then the EOD [Explosive Ordnance Disposal] guys send out a robot with C4 and set it on the bomb. Once everyone is at a safe distance, the bomb is blasted in place. After the detonation, the clearance team moves on to look for the next obstacle. With the road cleared of IEDs, future patrols can move along safely.

One day, we were rolling through a really rough area of town when, all of a sudden, something went off and shook the Buffalo I was riding in. We had missed a bomb and it was really close to us! Fortunately, the Buffalo's armor is designed for such incidents. After the dust cleared, a unit pulled up and looked at the blast hole. They started to put the Buffalo arm in when they yelled, "Back off!" and quickly moved the vehicle.

It takes a relatively composed demeanor to handle the tense situations the clearance teams regularly face, so when these soldiers get excited, you know it's serious. What the team had seen in the initial blast hole was a second, much bigger, explosive device. The first bomb was really more of a dud, not intended to kill or maim, just to catch our attention.

While we were backed off and the clearance team was preparing to disarm



The Buffalo Armored Vehicle protects troops involved with clearing bombs and IEDs from roads in the combat zone

the larger bomb, the first sniper shot rang out. It became clear that this was not just an explosive-detonation situation, it was an ambush. Those who set up the roadside IEDs know exactly how our clearance teams work — when a bomb goes off, the team pauses to investigate. That gives the sniper time to fire at our troops and vehicles.

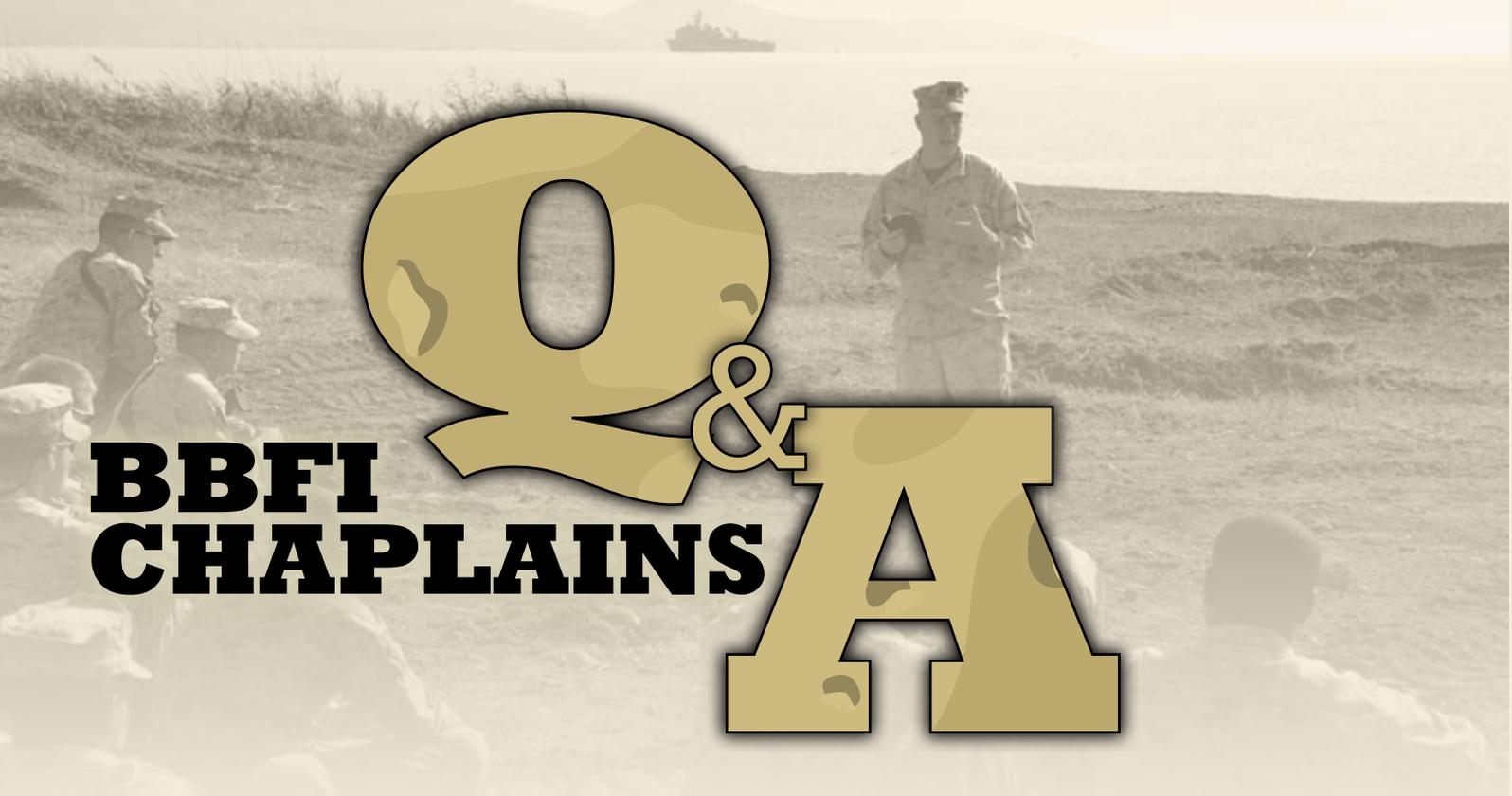
The sniper's first shot went right through the Buffalo's "boomerang." The "boomerang" is an electronic device on the roof that detects which direction shots are coming from and helps soldiers determine the location of incoming fire. After the "boomerang" was knocked out, it wasn't long before the sniper's second shot hit our vehicle. With another display of targeted precision, the bullet had struck the window next to my seat directly in line with my head. Thankfully, the Buffalo's seven layers of thick armored glass did not allow the bullet to penetrate the vehicle, but instead trapped the shrapnel within the window.

The EOD guys continued to work on the large bomb, and by the time we blasted the second bomb and picked up the robot, it felt like we had been sitting there for a long time. I was glad when we finally got moving again! God really protected the chaplain that day — and I have the bullet-proof window as a reminder.



The seven layers of glass absorbed the impact of the sniper's bullet and contained the shrapnel safely within the window

PART 2 OF THIS ARTICLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 25



BBFI CHAPLAINS

Global Partners recently conducted an interview with several of our BBFI-endorsed chaplains. The men who graciously participated are Ken Amador (U.S. Navy), Steven Benefield (U.S. Navy), Jeremiah Catlin (U.S. Army), Herman Cheatham, Jr., (U.S. Army), Charles Fields (U.S. Army), Steven E. Keith (U.S. Air Force), Donald Reynolds (Maryland Army National Guard), and William Wehlage (U.S. Army).

How and when did you know you wanted to be a chaplain?

Amador: I had no idea that God wanted me to be a chaplain. It was in 1998 when a young marine came to BBC and asked me the question, "Ken, have you ever thought about being a military chaplain?" It was that question that changed my life! It's strange and wonderful how God uses other people to interrupt and challenge our lives. We serve an awesome God.

Benefield: I was a junior in Bible college pursuing my bachelor's degree in Pastoral Studies when a Navy chaplain, Ken Amador, spoke to us about his ministry in the military. I had served five years as a Boat-

swain's Mate in the United States Navy, but never did I think about returning as a chaplain. After hearing Ken's testimony, my wife and I began to pray for the Lord's direction in this area. God burdened my heart for military chaplaincy that day.

Catlin: When I was in graduate school, even before I finished, I knew I was going into the chaplaincy.

Fields: Right after I got out of the Marines in 1985.

Keith: While serving at Grace Baptist Church, Muncie, IN, 1983. An Army National Guard chaplain visited our church and shared his mission field. A burden grew. I knocked and the door opened.

Reynolds: I was pastoring in Denton, MD. The chairman of our deacons suggested that I consider becoming a chaplain with the Maryland Army National Guard. He said he had already given my name to a recruiter. I was commissioned in April 1982 to serve as a chaplain. I have loved being a chaplain for 27 years as well as a pastor. It is so exciting to be able to serve God and country!

Tell us about a memorable evangelism opportunity you have had as a chaplain.

Amador: One of my more memorable evangelism opportunities came in the form of marital counseling. I always have as my goal to share the gospel with every person I counsel. Sometimes they are receptive, at other times they are not. We were deployed to the Middle East on the *USS San Antonio* and I was counseling a young marine with the infantry platoon. He was having massive problems in his marriage and close to divorce. He was desperate. I started meeting with him every week. The more we talked, the more he realized that his marriage was a surface problem. He came to acknowledge that his real need was for salvation. He accepted the Lord as his personal Savior and started coming to every chapel service and Bible study I offered on the ship. He couldn't get enough of the Lord! He devoured every book that I gave him and the Lord really transformed his life. Now that we are back in the US, he and his beautiful wife (and child) come to every church service. His wife is now expecting their second child and they are doing great.

Catlin: In my first assignment, at Fort Bush, a lady came into my office crying. Her husband was going to leave her. She was ready to commit suicide. They were both soldiers. She was a sergeant and he was a staff sergeant. I talked with her and told her I couldn't guarantee anything but invited her husband to come talk with me as well.

I got them both to talk a little bit and by the end of that conversation, he was still upset but willing to work on things. I told them that whether or not God saved their marriage would be determined in the future. I said, "The best way I can tell you to change your life is to get Christ involved in your life." I got to lead them to the Lord right there in my office. That was my first one. They ended up working on their marriage.

Cheatham: One night in Baghdad, I was sitting in my office. We were all still dealing with the fact that the Army had extended our deployment an extra four months just two days before our year was up. I was having a little pity party and wondering how was I going to serve my soldiers when I was hurting just as badly as they were from the extension.

Earlier that day, my chaplain assistant and I built and painted a cross to identify where the chapel was in our new location. We placed it in a non-working fountain, just



Ken Amador leads a shipboard service

outside the chapel, to let the soldiers know where we were located. The fountain had small spotlights to illuminate the cross at night. It was an awesome sight.

I was sitting in my office contemplating why the Lord allowed this extension to take place as I was attempting to put a sermon together for the next day. I heard a knock on my door and a soldier sheepishly came in my office. I asked him what I could do for him. He said he was headed over to hook up with a female soldier and he saw the cross. He said it brought back memories of previous Bible studies and the fact that we must be faithful to our spouses. He admitted that he was not married yet, but he was engaged. He wanted to start his marriage off on the right foot and he stated the cross outside the chapel stopped him from making a big mistake. I counseled with him a while longer and prayed with him before he left.

As the soldier walked out the door, a still, small voice asked me, "Why are you here chaplain?" This time I had an answer ready, "To share Christ with others!"

Fields: They happen every day. Yesterday, two soldiers came into my office looking for guidance. It gave me a perfect opportunity to point them to Christ.

Keith: One of the most memorable evangelism opportunities

of recent years was the opportunity I had to lead a soldier to the Lord while deployed to Baghdad. I was ministering in the medical staging tent where the wounded were stabilized and readied to be airlifted to Germany. In conversation with a wounded soldier, we figured out that his grandmother's church was one I had served in years earlier as a youth pastor. As we discussed

his grandmother and her prayers that he believed kept him alive during the bomb attack, he began to tear up. When I asked why the tears, he told me that his grandmother's prayers had not been answered, at least all the way. Then he said, "She's praying that I'll get saved!" In the moments that followed, as I led him in a prayer of salvation, the Holy Spirit did a work in my heart! I was in Baghdad, in the middle of a war zone, as the result of a grandmother's prayers! How clear, my mission field was to the sons and daughters of praying parents and grandparents. What joy, to know the Lord orchestrated that moment in time to answer a grandmother's prayer and rescue her grandson from a Christless eternity! What joy to serve in harm's way as a military chaplain!

Reynolds: Over in Iraq in 2003, a soldier that I deployed with from Maryland was from a Jewish background and seemed very uninterested in my personal ministry until one day he approached me. He said, "Chaplain Reynolds, I know that you have noticed that I have been avoiding you. Today I come to you because I have heard you state that Jesus Christ can forgive us of all our sins. I have tried all types of sin seeking to gratify myself in every way that I can. I feel so empty." I said, "Sergeant, that void in your life can only be filled by Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who saw your need of redemption as well as my own, before we were ever born." I presented the gospel of Jesus Christ. He asked the Lord



Herman Cheatham, Jr. baptizes a soldier in a makeshift baptistry

into his heart and has continued to grow in the Lord.

Wehlage: My most fruitful assignment would have to be my first as a chaplain for a Recruit Training Battalion. Here I was responsible for 1,200 trainees (who switched out every four months) and 120 cadre, who were pressed to the very envelope of human stress due to the sometimes 20-hour days in neverending cycles. One morning, while I was visiting soldiers about to qualify with their rifles, a young female soldier walked up to me with her battle buddy.

She said, "Chaplain, I'm a Wiccan and what I believe doesn't work. Can you tell me about Jesus?" I took her and her battle buddy aside, pulled out two Gideon Bibles and led her to Christ, right there on the firing line. The trainees were very receptive. It was not uncommon to lead 10 or so to Christ during the week in counseling and have 30 or 40 come forward for salvation during our packed Sunday services.

Give us a testimony showing the evidence of discipleship at work in your ministry.

Amador: God has given me a great passion to speak to young marines and sailors on their level. They know that I love them and that I am there for them. I suffer with them in their physical duress. If they are hot, I'm hot. If they are cold, I'm cold. If they are hungry, I'm hungry too. I met a young marine from my battalion who was already a Christian, but was struggling mightily with the destructive influence of the many temptations found in military life. He had recently married a young Christian woman and she was struggling with her husband being deployed. I really felt that he needed a mentor. I started being sort of a big Christian brother to him, encouraging him on a daily basis and kicking him in the pants when he needed it. I began to show him from the Word of God how



Steve Keith (seated, second from left) with the graduates of the Air Force Chaplain Corps College Wing Chaplain Course

the Lord actually views him. God began to work slowly in his life. We saw great development and growth in his Christian life while we were deployed. This enabled him to lead and to be a blessing to his young wife. Now that we are home, he and his wife are always in church and thriving. There are still struggles, but I am there to continue to love him and encourage him along the way. He is getting promoted to the next rank in August. He wants me to be the one to pin his next rank chevrons on him. What an honor!

Benefield: Jamie came to the *USS Blue Ridge* a little over one year ago. Jamie was saved onboard during a deployment last year. I had the privilege of baptizing him at the base chapel. Since that time he has shown a desire to get involved with anything and everything. Very rarely do I see Jamie without his Bible in hand and opened. We have a single sailors ministry located just off the base called The Lighthouse and this is where Jamie is most involved. He has requested to get out of the Navy early to pursue fulltime

ministry. His desire is to be a missionary in a foreign country. Praise God, his request has been approved.

Catlin: Although everything is transitory in this ministry, we still get to see some evidence of discipleship along the way. There are some that I have worked with that I know are going to go and do some incredible things. There are two that I have worked with that

have gone on to Bible college. I think the ones that really are genuinely in love with the Lord will show evidence of the change, and they won't let go of the person that helped them.

Fields: I see this happening right now at home with my own family.

Keith: A few years ago, while in Air War College, I was able to lead an F-16 pilot to the Lord. I spent that year discipling him. We met weekly to study the Bible and he grew in knowledge and love of Christ. He now resides in Columbia, SC, and I was able to meet with him this past week. Praise the Lord he continues to follow the Lord and is committed to living a dedicated life for the Lord!

While serving in Virginia, a young man



Donald Reynolds leads a group in prayer

I pastored felt the call to missions. He attended BBC and today serves in China. What a thrill to receive his prayer reports and see the Lord using him for His glory.

While serving in Germany, a young sergeant I pastored received the call to pastor. Today he is the senior pastor at an independent Baptist church in Michigan.

Of course, as commandant of the Air Force Chaplain Corps College, I have constant opportunities to encourage our new chaplains to serve and preach the Word without hesitation in the Air Force. Additionally, I also have the opportunity to lead my team daily in Bible study and spiritual growth opportunities.

Reynolds: My first ministry is my home! The best testimony that I can offer is that my two oldest boys love the Lord and continue to serve Him as pastors in churches in Indiana and Maryland.

Share with us evidence of God's protection and providence.

Benefield: Through a complicated set of circumstances, my first assignment as a chaplain turned out to be the *USS Blue Ridge*, stationed in Yokosuka, Japan. The *Blue Ridge* was my duty station during my prior years of service. I had spent that time living in sin in total opposition to the things of God. It wasn't until after I got out of the Navy that God drastically changed my life. I had only daydreamed about returning to the *Blue Ridge* as chaplain. I never thought that it could one day be a reality, especially as a first-term chaplain. Praise God that He is in control and that I am not.

Keith: While in Iraq, the Lord provided His daily protection as we came under missile and mortar attack several times a week. With only a tent above my head, my physical security was in the Lord's hands.

Reynolds: I was privileged to serve as chaplain at Guantanamo as the enemy prisoners of war were being brought in from other countries. Upon our return, we were reactivated to go to Iraq. The Lord granted His protection to us all along the way.

Under what circumstances are you free to share the gospel of Christ?

Amador: There are guidelines that Navy chaplains work under in their ability to share the gospel. Basically there is a dis-



Ken Amador holding a field service with battalion landing team in Kuwait

inction between proselytizing and evangelizing. Proselytizing, as the military looks at it, is the convincing of a person to leave his church or denomination to join another. Evangelism is the sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ. If a person comes into my office, I will always make sure he or she knows what the Bible has to say about salvation. If a person comes into my office and has no religious preference, he or she is a prime candidate for both salvation and suggestions for a Bible-preaching church. If they say, no, then I will continue to work with them concerning their difficulties.

Benefield: I am able to share the gospel of Christ at every religious service in which I take part. Moreover, I am free to share the gospel of Christ with everyone and anyone that comes into my office for counsel. I have not felt hindered in the

least, but only empowered by the very nature of my position. I wear the cross on my collar; therefore, I think people expect Christ-centered conversation. Anything less would be unnatural, both to me and to those to whom I minister.

Fields: Under the same circumstances any BBFI preacher is free to do the same.

Keith: In the Chaplain Corps College I ensure our chaplains are taught that they have liberty to preach the gospel and teach the Word of God without government interference, particularly whenever individuals invite such opportunities by

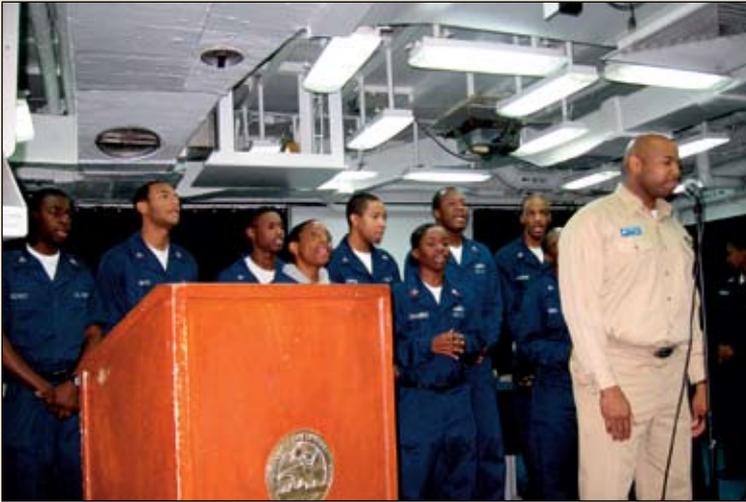
their attendance at chapel, counseling sessions, or upon request. Likewise, we help our chaplains understand that when airmen are ordered to be at a function, it is not helpful to force their particular religious views.

Reynolds: Over the 27 years of chaplain ministry, I have shared the gospel on at least 30 military bases in chapels, field services, hospitals, counseling, and one-on-one.

Is there a special blessing you would like to share with our readers?

Benefield: In regard to evangelism, over the last couple of years between 250 and 300 people have come to place their trust in Jesus. The harvest is great, but the laborers are few. People, even in the military, are hungry for truth. They just need someone who will tell them.

Catlin: Once I was the officer in charge of an ancient monastery. Our forward operating base had a huge amount of land mass encompassed with walls and guard towers. They surrounded these mountains and in the mountains they kept old munitions and chemical weapons. Out there



The USS Blue Ridge (Steven Benefield, chaplain) choir

in the middle of all that was this ancient monastery on which I did some research and found out it was called St. Elijah's Monastery. It was built in 495 A.D. The chapel was, amazingly, still standing. They even had a cornerstone that had a mark on it. The mark symbolized the crusades. When the crusades went through certain areas, they would mark these marble cornerstones or rocks and then people would use those and build buildings with them because they had that mark on them. It was viewed as the blessing. I built a box, filled it with a pool liner, and set it in front of that monastery. Then I got to baptize some guys right there in front of the monastery. It was quite an experience.

Reynolds: While I was on active duty for the two years following September 11, 2001, I purposely tried to distribute as many Bibles and New Testaments as I could. Approximately 4,000 Bibles and New Testaments were given to our military personnel at the Pentagon, Fort Stewart, Guantanamo, and in Iraq. I believe in the power of the Word of God.

Wehlage: Every morning during combat, it was our unit's custom to have a battle update brief (BUB) — a short meeting where all the staff briefs the battalion commander and company commanders on support issues. I began each BUB with a prayer. I would pray for individuals, events, families, units, particular sections within the unit, and sometimes for upcoming

missions, etc. Needless to say, after about a month, these everyday meetings became tedious. Some of the staff members came to me and asked me to go to the commander and to ask if we could do the meetings three days a week instead of six.

Eager to seize an extra hour of sleep every morning, I asked the commander to move the meetings to every other day. He looked at me intently, asked me to sit down, and with a quiet voice and deep compassion in his eyes stated, "Chaplain, I would, but I need you to pray for us every day."

Where is the most exciting place you have served as a chaplain?

Amador: When they said, "Join the Navy and see the world," they were not kidding! I have literally been all around the world, from Italy to Greece, Egypt to Israel, England to Czech Republic, Iraq to Guam, United Arab Emirates to Kuwait, Okinawa to the Philippines. It seems like I have seen it all! I would never have been able to see any of these places were it not for the United States Navy.

Benefield: Every day onboard the *Blue Ridge* is exciting. We are the Seventh Fleet's Forward Deployed Flagship. It's the only ship of its kind in the fleet. We have onboard a three-star admiral which means that we visit some very awesome ports. When I leave the *Blue Ridge* in December 2009, I will have visited multiple countries multiple times, some of which include Hong Kong, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Korea, Nagasaki, Thailand, Shimizu, Australia, Vietnam, New Caledonia, China, and Cambodia.

I would have to say the most exciting

place I have visited took place this past Memorial Day 2009. I was invited by some local marines to participate in a Memorial Day service atop Mt. Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima. It was an absolute honor. This is where the iconic photograph *Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima* was taken during WWII. Awesome!

The day started about 4 AM. We traveled by bus to Navy Air Base Atsugi, Japan. There, we had about a two-hour delay before a two-hour plane trip. Once we landed and got organized, we started our eight-kilometer hike from the airstrip to the mountain top. It was an overwhelming feeling to have a service on this day at this location. [The photograph on the cover of this issue of the *Tribune* was taken

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by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Andrew Meyers and shows Chaplain Benefield holding a Bible and leading the service.] It was truly an incredible experience. I was able to bring back a one-gallon jug of sand from the beach where our amphibious forces invaded. This was certainly exciting and unforgettable.

Cheatham: I would have to say that the most exciting place I served was in Mosul, Iraq. I would get to go out on patrol with my soldiers and sometimes do humanitarian missions as well. This is the one place I was able to actually disciple some of my soldiers.

Fields: Right here, right now.

Keith: Iraq. I have so many experiences that I have journaled that I need to re-write into short stories or a book!

Reynolds: Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Baghdad, Iraq.

Are there any specific frustrations in the chaplaincy that may not occur in civilian ministry?

Amador: If anything, I would have to say that moving every two or three years has been a little much. Since we move so frequently, we have to make friends quickly! But I would not change this because it has enabled us as a family to see and experience some phenomenal things in our ten years in the Navy.

Benefield: Military Chaplaincy requires a special sacrifice

that some civilian ministers may not experience. It requires us to be separated from family for long periods of time. By the close of this year I will have been separated from my wife and children for the total of eight months. Last year it was six months. That's a lot of time, and with young children, it's not an easy thing. Goodbyes are never easy.

And because the majority of Navy Chaplain assignments are operational, my life in the military will require lengthy separations. With that said, however, I cannot imagine doing anything else; I cannot imagine a ministry more exciting. I love it! I get to wake up every day and put on the uniform of a United States Navy Sailor and minister to people that wear the uniform. Although frustrating at times, I am absolutely overjoyed to be a Navy chaplain.

Keith: The challenge of serving in a pluralistic setting becomes more difficult as one goes up in rank. At the captain and major ranks, chaplains serve primarily as pastors in uniform — preaching, teaching, and counseling according to their own faith group's theology. As one climbs the promotion ladder, the more he is expected to ensure the liberty of all chaplains to lead their particular religious groups. The joy of serving in a country that ensures the liberty of all can be a challenge to a chaplain that must uphold the freedom of all chaplains to teach and preach according to their theology and not just his own! One must be reminded that freedom for all includes himself!



Herman Cheatham, Jr. participating in a humanitarian mission in Mosul, Iraq

Reynolds: Once one is ordered to deploy with a unit, it is for better or worse. If you get discouraged or just do not want to deploy, a simple resignation letter will not work.

Wehlage: As a chaplain, I've never had a bad assignment! Many, however, are

challenging. I remember returning from a six-month deployment and immediately being ordered to a week of field duty by my commander. This was extremely difficult. I still remember the look of disappointment in my young son's eyes as he watched his dad board a helicopter and depart yet again after such a short time together. It is hard to explain how you feel as a chaplain: excited about the opportunity to serve the Lord in a distant and more fruitful land, and like the worst guy on earth for leaving your family.

How can the churches of the BBFI pray more effectively for our chaplains?

Amador: We do get lonely sometimes. This is definitely a nontraditional ministry. We are not ministering to just Baptists. I have seen just about every different and weird religion during my time in the Navy. We need prayer to not get weary in well-doing. The work is big and it's often a difficult, lonely road. But this priceless journey has its own inherent rewards. God is using me (and my family) to meet a critical need within our armed forces. We are on the inside where they are. That is a huge opportunity.

Benefield: First, please pray for our wives and our children as we are often separated from them. When we deploy our wives become single mothers and it's oftentimes hard for the children to understand. Second, pray also for godly commanding officers. Commanding officers have a huge role as to what a chaplain's ministry will look

like. The commanding officer owns the religious program. Fortunately, I have had two wonderful COs, but other chaplains have not been so fortunate. Third, please remember the marriages of our servicemen and servicewomen. I see way too much divorce in the Navy and every time it breaks my heart.

Cheatham: Keep our families in prayer. Pray that we wisely present the gospel to those He places in our life.

Keith: Count us as missionaries to the military, put us on missionary prayer lists, bulletin boards, prayer letters, etc. Also, invite us to speak to share our field and burden.

Reynolds: If a church knows a chaplain by name, call his name out before the Lord and ask God to work in him and through him.

What advice would you offer to young men interested in being chaplains in the United States Armed Forces?

Amador: This is a huge commitment from you and your family. Be absolutely convinced that God is calling you to this special ministry. It is not for the faint of heart. The need is great and it demands receptivity to new people and places. If you like adventure and want to be on the tip of the spear (ministerially speaking), maybe this exciting and taxing ministry is for you.

Benefield: Divide and conquer! Meeting the requirements to become a chaplain can be somewhat strenuous and intimidating, but if God has called you into this line of service, He will provide you the where-withal to finish strong. Trust me, the ministry you have awaiting you is well worth the effort!

Cheatham: I would suggest that they get a Biblical counseling degree of some kind. Be certain of what you know and why you know it. I have seen too many chaplains come in the military and call themselves one thing and then start questioning what they truly believe. We need chaplains who will stand strong for the Lord.

Fields: Be wise as serpents, harmless as doves so you can continue ministry in the Armed Forces.

Keith: Look past the glamour of the uniform and ask the hard questions: Do I have a particular love for airmen (or soldiers or sailors or marines) and their families? Do I have a burning desire to see military members come to know Christ as Savior? Is the Lord calling me to be a pastor in uniform? Am I ready to spend months away from home each year? Am I ready to serve in harm's way and possibly die while serving?

Reynolds: If you are called of God to the gospel ministry and you desire to serve as a pastor in uniform in the Armed Forces, please answer that call. If you are married you will need the full support of your wife. The need for godly men who are sound in doctrine and who love to share the Word of God is great in the Armed Forces. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation and is needed with so



Donald Reynolds sharing scriptures with a group of soldiers

many serving who do not know Christ. The warriors who know Jesus Christ love chaplains that love the Word of God and love them. The ones who do not know Christ will mostly respect you if you train with them and choose to serve them. They deserve the very best chaplains because

they give their best voluntarily under all circumstances.

What is your present rank and what are your future plans?

Amador: I am a Lieutenant (O3) and waiting on news from the promotion board in August.

Benefield: My present rank is Lieutenant. I will leave the *Blue Ridge* in November or December of this year. My next duty station will be the 3rd Marine Division Okinawa, Japan. My wife and I are really looking forward to serving marines and their families. I will spend 30 months in Okinawa.

Cheatham: My present rank is Major and this month I will be heading to Fort Drum, New York, to be the Division Family Life Chaplain for the 10th Mountain Division for approximately three years. If the Lord carries His coming, I plan on being a Brigade Chaplain for a few years after my Division Family Life time. After that, I am hoping to be either a Division or Post Chaplain.

Fields: Major. I will be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in February and become Deputy Installation Chaplain at Fort Drum, New York. I will probably retire after that and move into civilian ministry.

Keith: Colonel. I plan to serve as Commandant of the Air Force Chaplain Corps College for the next two years. Additionally, I am dual-hatted for the next year as the director of the new Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center.

Reynolds: Lieutenant Colonel. I will retire in a few weeks. My future plan is to continue to pastor Calvary Baptist Church in Denton, Maryland.

Want more information about becoming a BBFI-endorsed chaplain? Contact Jim Smith at the BBFI Mission Office by email at jsmith@bbfimissions.com or by phone at (417) 862-5001.

SURVIVING GOD'S CALL

PART 2: WE WONDER WHY, HE KNOWS ALL

by Chaplain Jeremiah Catlin, U.S. Army, as told to Jim Smith

In October of 2006, we were deployed to Kuwait. We ended up in the northern part of Iraq. Mosul, which is the Ninawa province, is the Biblical city of Nineveh. The city still has the ancient walls around it. We had some of our soldiers on the mountain to the east. If you read in Jonah, after he went and preached to that city, he went to a mountain to the east to overlook and watch its destruction. I would go up and preach to the guys up there and tell them this could very well be the same mountain that Jonah stood on and preached.

In early November 2007, while still in Iraq, I started feeling pain in my right shoulder. It was so severe I couldn't even shift the gear on the truck. I went to get it looked at on a Wednesday. The doctor said it was probably just some muscle strain. On Thursday, I went to a different doctor because it was hurting worse. That doctor said, "Well, you probably just pulled something." By Saturday everything changed.

While standing in formation, the pain got worse.

I looked down at my hand and it was turning purple. I fell out of formation and as I did, one of my soldiers did also. He came over and put his arm around me. He was looking at my shoulder when he asked if I knew I had a lump on my shoulder.

I was rushed to the hospital across the road. After looking at it, the doctor said, "Pack your stuff. You are going to Germany. You've got to be flown out now." They did a needle aspiration, hoping fluid would come out — that would mean it was just a fluid buildup. However, no fluid came out, indicating it was a mass.

When I arrived in Germany they did sur-

gery, removing most of the lump so I could move my arm again. After surgery, I asked the doctor what it was. He said all preliminary reports and tests leaned toward a very aggressive melanoma cancer. That is why it had grown so fast over the last three days. It surrounded my jugular vein and my brachial artery going to my right arm. "You definitely have less than a year to live," he said. I was in Germany by myself. I was 32 at the time.

Within a few days, I was at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The Army flew my parents and my wife to Washington D.C., paid for their hotel, and

Johns Hopkins just for my case. He wanted to make sure this one got taken care of. I was flabbergasted. I went in at 05:30 and it wasn't until 18:30 or 19:00 that my wife got to see me for the first time. It was a long surgery. The jugular artery and brachial artery had ruptured while they were performing the surgery. I turned purple and they didn't get a pulse after three attempts. They almost amputated my arm.

After surgery, they asked me how much I wanted to know. I said, "Being a chaplain in Iraq, I have been in the operating room several times and watched amputees

get something removed. I am fine with it, tell me everything, I want to know. God has obviously blessed me; I want to know how much." The doctor told me everything. "You've got a really rough-looking artery. We have done a lot to it. But, you are going to have complete use of your arm. With time, I am sure you can make it even stronger."

At my most recent scan in March of this year, the doctor said, "You can't even tell you've had cancer. You are just so clean on the scans. Beautiful scan...turned out great."

I was offered a discharge and I refused it. All the paperwork says I am 100 percent disabled without any question. The bottom line is I could get out and it would be fine. I would be taken care of for the rest of my life. However, the Chief of Chaplains and I were talking and he said, "We have tons of vacancies and you are still on active status. Why don't we just try to use you in hospitals because you need to be around one for a while anyway?"

I thought it was a natural fit for me. Before Iraq, I could say I hated hospitals. I would ask my assistant to do the hospital ministry. But I have found it is the most needful area for these soldiers. They need



Chaplain Catlin shares the story of how God is working in his life with BBFI Chaplain Endorser Jim Smith

picked them up in a limousine. They were told they needed to come and prepare to say goodbye.

After another surgery, the doctor said, "Go home and enjoy your Christmas, and then come back and see us." When I came back, we talked about my prognosis. "It's not good. You probably won't live a year," said the doctor. So I began getting treatments to slow the cancer down.

One doctor I met heard my story and told me he would like to help. He was a Christian and loved what I was doing for the troops. He assembled the best team of surgeons he had ever assembled out of

someone that is there with them during those times. I guess God put me in that situation to start making me comfortable with it, since it looks like I am going to be around it for some time.

We have a term that we use in the military, "compassion fatigue." I think this applies to all of us in ministry. We see the nurses go to the combat support hospitals and work on these soldiers day in and day out and everyone's focus is on the soldier and the injured one. But, off to the side, if you look in the back, sometimes you will see a nurse or medic crying because of what they had to do. I started noticing that and ministering to them. I am looking forward to my new ministry as a chaplain to nurses and medics, starting at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. It will be a different sort of ministry from what I have done in the past. It will be challenging, but it will also be fruitful and interesting.

NEW CHAPLAIN ENDORSED, COMMISSIONED

David Malnar was recently sworn into the U.S. Navy. In April, Malnar was interviewed by the Chaplain Committee, made up of BBFI pastors and led by Pastor Greg Baxter, former U. S. Army Chaplain and Jim Smith, BBFI Chaplain Endorser. In May, David Malnar graduated from the BBCGS with a Master of Divinity degree.



Chaplain Malnar with Jim Smith

At the BBFI meeting in May, David was officially endorsed by the BBFI. Walter Futch from Trinity Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, serves as his sending pastor. In July, LTJG. Malnar was sworn into active duty with the U.S. Navy at a commissioning ceremony in the Boonstra chapel in the BBFI World Mission Service Center. David will be going to the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center in Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, in September. After completing the training, Chaplain Malnar's first assignment will be in the Naval District, Washington D.C., at Arlington National Cemetery. Pray for David and Merry Malnar and their children as they begin their service to the Lord as a BBFI-endorsed U.S. Navy Chaplain.

MISSIONARY PROJECTS OFFERING

- BE A PART OF OUR 2010 GOAL OF \$800,000
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LET HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF

I hated history in high school. It probably had more to do with the bland personality of my teacher than the actual subject matter itself. That guy, as nice as I'm sure he was, could have made Disneyworld boring. It may be because of maturity, or the fact that there is as much history behind me as future in front, but I love history now. Living near Boston makes me particularly inclined toward the American Revolution.

My town of Stoughton was founded in 1726, making the original founders more British than American. The birthplace of John Adams and John Quincy Adams is less than 15 minutes from my home. When visiting Boston Baptist College, I drive right past the Suffolk Resolves house. I could go on, but it is sufficient to say that I have access to as much Revolutionary history as my heart desires.

I'm currently reading *Founding Brothers* by Joseph J. Ellis. In one particular chapter, he speculates on the motives behind Aaron Burr's and Alexander Hamilton's famous duel. Each man felt his character injured by the other man. Ellis writes that they believed "personal character was essential in order to resist public temptations" and felt bound to defend themselves. This passing comment stands out in contradiction with today's political climate. We've segregated our elected officials' private lives from their public ones. It's possible that politicians aren't the only ones guilty of this.

I think we consistently run the danger of doing the same thing as pastors. Each of us is gifted by God to equip the saints for ministry and to build the body of Christ. We use our gifts to the best of our ability and leave the results to the Lord. The problem is that I've seen our church grow and make disciples when my heart wasn't right with God. How is this possible? This goes against everything I've ever thought about ministry.

I questioned this apparent contradiction once with a pastoral mentor in relation to a pastor who had failed morally. His ministry was blessed, by most people's assessment, even while he had a long pattern of personal lapses of integrity. My mentor got quiet at one point and then said, "Son, God has a habit of using severely flawed people and some day you'll be glad He does." Personal history leads me to believe he is right. Scripture is full of examples where God used men and women who were less than exemplary in their faith (think Sarah and mistrust, Gideon and cowardice, David and lust, Peter and fear, etc.).

Unlike the founding fathers who were not guaranteed that the American Republic would survive, we know God's kingdom will. It is because of this confidence that, I think, I am prone from time to time to let myself off the hook regarding my personal struggles. God will bless if Jesus is lifted up and saints are praying, even in spite of me. If I work my gifts and abilities well, things can happen even if things aren't happening in my heart. And that is, sometimes, the most frightening thing about being in ministry.

I can find myself focused more on ministry success than on having a godly personal life. No one calls to congratulate me when my wife feels loved and honored in our marriage. I don't get invited to speak at a mission conference because my kids get all the personal attention they need from me. People don't call to talk church planting because I've been consistently spending time with God in prayer and meditation on the Scriptures. However, if we get this church plant fully independent in New England by our fifth anniversary, I could write a book people will want to buy! So, which do you think my flesh tends to focus on in moments of weakness and spiritual fatigue?

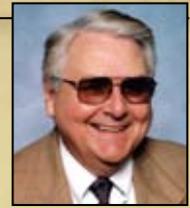
I may get by, from time to time, with unchecked personal pride, spiritual laziness, or ministry ambition, but "personal character [is] essential to public temptations." A continued pattern of personal, spiritual neglect will inevitably lead to disqualification. We're never beyond the grace of God, but I think we can get beyond our personal usefulness to the Holy Spirit in the positions of influence within God's Kingdom that we currently occupy.

Writing these thoughts does not mean that I have conquered this matter of personal spiritual integrity by any means. It's just that the Holy Spirit unexpectedly used a secular history book to remind me of a spiritual truth. God will not be made light of and we, as spiritual leaders, do have a greater responsibility to personal holiness. In eternity, it will not matter if Grace Church was financially independent within five years. I will not care who invited me to speak where. However, to misquote a popular pastor, God is most glorified when I am most centered on Him. He is honored when I honor Him as much out of the pulpit as in it.

It's good to be reminded that who I am matters more than what I do. If that's the lesson I learn today from history then, "Dear God, let history repeat itself!"

Baptist History

BY THOMAS RAY



Africa: The graveyard of missionaries

Africa was once called the “Graveyard of Missionaries.” The loss of life had become so devastating that the Baptist Mission Board had stopped asking for any new volunteers. William Crocker, the subject of our sketch, stated he once counted 20 graves of missionaries, many of whom perished within months of arriving.

William Crocker was born February 10, 1805, in Newburyport, Massachusetts. He, like Timothy, had known the scriptures from childhood. When he was 20 years old he professed his faith in Christ and united with the First Baptist Church of Newburyport. It was not long after his conversion that he felt it was his duty to preach the gospel.

Desiring to equip himself for the work of the ministry, in 1831 he enrolled in Newton Theological Institution. While a student at Newton, Crocker began to consider the mission field and its needs. Initially he felt drawn to Burma, but Africa and its spiritual needs would eventually lead him to the land called the “Dark Continent.” When informed of his decision, his parents responded with pleas and tears, using all their influence to persuade him to remain in America. But not even the tears of his beloved parents could move him. God had called and not to obey was unthinkable.

In 1834, he expressed to the mission board his desire to go to Africa. The board was reluctant to send another missionary to a field where so many had perished. They asked him to wait a year, and if he still felt God’s will was Africa, they would approve his application. Finally, on July 11, 1835, William Crocker, accompanied by William and Elizabeth Milne, sailed for Africa, arriving about the middle of August.

Within a month, tragedy struck the missionaries. Elizabeth Milne was stricken with African fever, and 10 days after contracting the disease she succumbed to its effects on Sep-

tember 16, 1835. This was not the end but the beginning of the missionaries’ trials.

In 1839, Miss Rizpah Warren arrived from America and shortly afterwards she and William Crocker were united in marriage. Sadly, while nursing her severely ill husband, Rizpah Crocker contracted the dreaded fever, and after a few days of suffering she closed her eyes in death on August 18, 1840.

In December 1840, Crocker rejoiced at the arrival of Joseph and Maria Fielding. However, his joy was soon turned to sorrow; for within a month both missionaries were dead. Maria died January 3, 1841, and her husband 13 days later on

January 16. In spite of these devastating events, Crocker was not discouraged nor his commitment to Africa altered. Shortly after the death of the Fieldings, he wrote in his journal, “This event may discourage our friends, but it does not discourage us. Till we have evidence that the Lord has forsaken us, we will not be disheartened.”

Although Crocker would only live 10 years from his appointment in 1834, his accomplishments were truly remarkable. Under the most adverse conditions imaginable, he opened schools that

would produce some of Africa’s greatest preachers. He reduced the Bassa language to writing, producing a spelling book and translated Matthew and Mark into the Bassa language.

The heart of William Crocker can best be expressed from an entry from his journal, “Today I am 33 years old, about the age to which our Saviour lived on earth. Oh how little I have done for him who has done so much for me! How little self-denial have I practiced, how few sacrifices have I made! Oh God, be merciful to me a sinner!” Many would consider William Crocker’s life a tragic waste, but it was these pioneer missionaries who, like the Apostle Paul, did not value their lives above the will of God, that blazed the trail for those who would follow.





Charles Lyons, Pastor
Armitage Baptist Church
Chicago, Illinois

¿Qué Pasa en Bogotá?

The modern skyline of Bogotá poses dramatically against the dark shadow of surrounding mountains. Boasting almost 8,250,000 people, this burgeoning metropolis near the geographic center of Colombia represents one more exciting story of what God is doing in the world's cities. Bogotá added almost a million new residents between 1999 and 2005. It is known as the Athens of South America with its many universities and libraries. Who would expect to find a large Middle Eastern population here, made up of mostly Lebanese and Syrian immigrants? How do you begin to wrap your mind around a public school system brimming with 900,000 students?

In the middle of this bubbling pot of humanity are Craig and Fran Lingo. They have participated in the planting of five churches in Bogotá and two missions in mid-sized cities close by. When they arrived in 1973, the city was less than half the size that it is today. By the 90s, Bogotá was considered one of the most violent cities in the world. Their son, 13, saw somebody dump a body in a ditch. Pablo Escobar was bombing many areas of Bogotá and Medellín beginning in the mid 80s.

Americans were targets for political kidnappings. A number of missionaries left the city, some ordered home by their mission boards. Craig and Fran say, "We never felt we were under any direct threat. We never considered leaving." Come on, let's not kid ourselves. They were serving in an extremely dangerous atmosphere. Because they stayed, they gained much credibility with the nationals. Whatever the field, valuable ground is often

gained in the face of great risk.

"Beachheads must be established" says Lingo. "A beachhead is not going to constitute a new church with 50 to 150 members at the end of a door-to-door canvas like it was in the Bible-belt past. Beachheads in places like Bogotá take time — a lot of time. It takes a growing body of experience, home-grown leadership, a network, and an awareness of potential inroads." Lingo commented on the role of availability saying, "Opportunity to serve won't necessarily come in familiar packages that we create and control."

This speaks to their recent experience of gaining access to the public school system. With the enthusiastic support of a priest who is in charge of a program mandating that public schools have at least one moral values outing per year, the Lingos saw an opportunity to utilize their camp to connect with and evangelize public school students. They trained their church members and have served 1,200 students so far. Hundreds of parents responded to an offer of classes on various subjects pertaining to teenagers.

Fran and Craig see God taking the base that they've been a part of building, using it, and leveraging it to evangelize at a whole new level. Craig and Fran are now shepherding and mentoring leaders they won to Christ, helping them reach the new generation.

In the face of ingrained cultural Roman Catholicism, through decades of political upheaval and violence, surrounded by the mayhem of major drug cartel activity, the Lingos model what it takes to impact a great city. They're in it for the long haul. After years of

planting and watering, they not only see a harvest of local churches but now the potential of these churches engaging in the kind of aggressive urban evangelism that penetrates new social circles, new neighborhoods, and new spheres of influence.

It would have been so easy to look at the public school opportunity and say, "It's too big, it's too much, it's too unwieldy, there's too much uncertainty. We won't have the kind of control that leaves us feeling comfortable." Rather, they saw it as a gospel opportunity. Scores and scores of new Christians later, they feel they are just beginning a new chapter.

The Lingos have also experienced what God's people have experienced again and again in varying circumstances. I like to call it, "Unexpected Allies." Who would have thought it would be a priest who would be their enthusiastic helper in getting connected with public school students! We must remember Joseph's friend, the cup-bearer, and King Cyrus, and the Philippian jailer. God delights in raising up unexpected allies to demonstrate His power.

Stand on a mountain ridge with the city of Bogotá flung out below you, stretching to the horizon. Jump off a bus on a bustling corner in Bosa, one of over a thousand localities forming an extensive network of neighborhoods. Look up and down the teeming streets. Take in the colorful shops, energetic sidewalk merchants, the traffic, uniformed students with backpacks, and senior citizens. Seen with the natural eye it's just another large city....just another busy street. Look again with spiritual eyes. God is at work in Bogotá.



World Scope

Jon Konnerup | BBFI Mission Director



Missionary Candidate School

God has given the Baptist Bible Fellowship International a passion for bringing all the people of the world to a saving faith in Christ. This is what drives our churches to participate together in an effort to see the Great Commission accomplished by sending and supporting as many missionaries around the world as possible. The Mission Office strives to assist churches and their missionaries by providing many services to both. One of those services is our annual Candidate School.

We recently finished our 2009 Candidate School with 54 in attendance. I want to share with you some of the courses that are taught by pastors, missionaries, local professionals, and the staff of the Mission Office. Each day of the week is filled with these sessions in order to assist those who are going as TEAM, those transitioning from TEAM to career missionaries, those beginning deputation, and those who have finished one year of deputation to receive their pre-field orientation.

BBFI Mission Office

- BBFI Philosophy
- BBFI Medical Plan
- Mission Office Procedures
- Mission Office Website
- Mission Policies
- Missionary Projects Offering

Financial

- Biblical Basis for Financial Accountability
- Financial Reports
- Online Banking
- Personal Budgeting

Preparations

- Linguistics
- At Risk – Crisis Action Team
- Church planting
- Dealing with moving overseas
- Deputation
- Educating children on the field
- Media presentations
- Prayer letters
- Missionary health
- Preparing for retirement years
- The role of the missionary wife

Relational

- Culture shock
- Interpersonal relationships
- Interviews with couples
- Working with national leadership

Spiritual

- Accountability of the missionary
- Spiritual foundations
- Spiritual perspectives
- The spiritual life and home life of the missionary
- What a pastor expects of a missionary

As always, preparing these fine couples and singles who the Lord has called to serve internationally was a blessing this year. Missions is what our churches do, and our mission is to start churches worldwide by sending the most prepared, highly-qualified missionaries. The BBFI Missionary Candidate School is a major part of this process.





Fall calendar full for NCPO events

What an eventful summer! We have been actively involved in several loan projects, as well as consulting with several churches to help restructure their present loans. The economic and unemployment conditions in many areas have led to a drop in church income, causing some financial stress on some of our churches. Let me remind you, we have a big God Who has the ability to supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory. With that in mind, this could be a good time for all of us to reevaluate our budgets and make sure we are indeed being good stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

Fall Church Planter's School October 12-16 Chicago, IL

Pastor Bruce Humbert and the Sauk Trail Baptist Temple will be our host. This week-long training program is packed with vital information on church planting. Each church planter will leave with a strategy for evangelism, discipleship, church management, financial management, and how to launch a new church. They will also be challenged to be godly men of integrity in their prayer life, preaching life, and family life.

Upward Conference October 13-15 Chicago, IL

This is a conference designed to equip you to go to the next level in

your ministry. Charles Lyons of Armitage Baptist Church will be targeting "Momentum: What it is, How to get it, How to keep it, How to promote it, and the spiritual side of it." Duke Hergatt of Waterford, New York, will be targeting "Connections: How to connect the leader to the people to 1. Open the door for ministry (evangelism) 2. Keep the door open (assimilation) 3. Push them back out the door (reproducible discipleship).

There will be several other speakers dealing with impacting your community for Christ. This will be a round-table format with a great deal of interaction. The cost is \$99 and it includes meals. Travel and lodging are not included in the fee. Pastor Humbert has arranged with some of his people to open their homes. If finances are an issue, the *Tribune* has made some scholarships available on a first-come, first-served basis. This conference is sponsored by the NCPO, the BBFI Mission Office, and the *Baptist Bible Tribune*.

Ignite Church Planting Forum 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. Make plans to join us at BBC for this exciting event.

Ignite Church Planting Forum November 16-17 BBC, Boston, MA

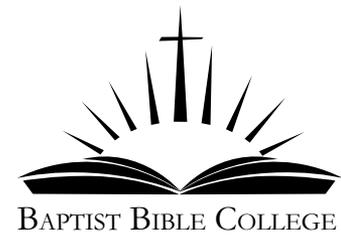
Our featured speaker will be Nelson Searcy. He planted a phenomenally successful church in Manhattan, New York, seven years ago. He has authored several books and is a popular speaker around the country.

Other breakout sessions at both Springfield and Boston will include such topics as:

- Dare to Dream
- Picking the Place
- A Church Planting Chronology (0-100)
- Planting a Church is Not Always Pretty
- Making a Difference Now
- Steps to Success
- Reality Church Planting
- Reaching a Core Group
- Discipling Reproducing Disciples

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





Only God can do this

The Scriptures are filled with examples of times when believers face challenges that seem impossible to overcome and must trust God who is good and is very much in control of the situation. Such an example is found in 2 Kings 3. God's people were to go to war with the Moabites. In the face of insurmountable odds, Elisha brought encouragement. He promised God's people victory and assured His people that providing such a victory was an easy task for the Lord (verse 18). As the passage continues, we read that the Lord delivered His people in a great victory. What is incredible is that no one could question that it was God who gave the victory to His people (verse 21-26).

Having started Heritage Park Baptist Church in Boston and pastored the church for almost 30 years, I, my wife, and church learned to rely upon God to work out His plan. Though we as human beings might be tempted to force a solution, if we allow Him, God works through what appears to be impossible circumstances to bring about His solution. In those times, we can only respond with thanksgiving and praise for what he has done. I have learned that it is a very good place to be.

Over the past several months, the college and I have faced what seemed to be impossible circumstances. Yet our Lord brought about His solution through people, institutions, and churches. Some of you may not be aware of those circumstances. Allow me to share several examples. I trust that you will stand in awe of our God and offer prayers of thanksgiving and adoration for who He is and for what He has done on behalf of Baptist Bible College.

During April, I was informed that our bank called in our \$2.9 million mortgage as a result of the financial downturn across the country. I regularly go to a local YMCA for exercise. Over time, I developed a friendship with a gentleman who also worked out at the YMCA. I was talking to him one day in June as we were exercising and shared the financial struggles we were experiencing at the college. He mentioned that a local bank might be able to step in and assume the mortgage. That very afternoon the bank president and I began to discuss details about securing a possible loan. I signed the papers on June 26. I later learned that my YMCA friend was on the board of the bank. Who could have imagined this solution? Only God can take what appears to be an impossible circumstance and bring about His solution.

stance and bring about His solution.

Recruiting is going well this summer. The Office of Admissions reports that there are 198 applications for the fall semester. Four recruiting teams have been out during the summer promoting BBC in camps and other venues. We received the largest regular monthly offering from churches in the past year and a half during the month of July. Strategic planning continues as we anxiously wait for the fall semester to begin.

No one doubts that the last several months have been stressful, filled with what many might think as insurmountable circumstances. And yet, God can take what appears to be an impossible circumstance and bring about His solution. The ministry of Baptist Bible College continues because of God's care and provision. I do ask that you might

...No one doubts that the last several months have been stressful, filled with what many might think as insurmountable circumstances.

In the spring, projections showed that it would be impossible for the college to pay bills and make payroll throughout the summer. Projections suggested that the shortfall might be as great as \$600,000. And yet every employee has been paid on time throughout the summer. Other obligations such as payroll taxes and insurance premiums have been met. The Lord used many pastors who were willing to give sacrificially to meet this challenge. Only God can take what appears to be an impossible circum-

continue to pray for the college. As you pray, I want you to understand that you are praying to our God who can do beyond what we ask or think. We are the beneficiaries of His grace and goodness. May He alone receive the praise and honor for what is happening on the campus of Baptist Bible College.

Opening convocation chapel is Thursday, August 27, at 10:30 a.m. I would be delighted to have all who can possibly make it here on campus for the opening of what will be an outstanding fall semester.



What puppets can teach you about students

Our August term (we call it A-term), a late version of summer school, has already begun here at Boston Baptist College. By the time you read this, the trickle of students returning will have turned into a steady stream. Everybody always wants to know how many students we have, and, in time, we will have a total headcount to publicize. But even more than the headcount, what makes Boston successful (or would lead to its failure) is an analysis of the heart. Do our students — however many we have — capture a passion for Christ and His churches? Do they really learn to think biblically — that phrase that we in Boston talk about constantly? Does what they learn translate into what they do and what they are?

I got a lesson in that this past week. It was something of a puppet show.

I'd better give you a little background. Her name is Deb Eccles, and she is a phenomenal children's ministry director, along with her husband, for Pastor Karl Skinner and Battlefield Baptist Church in Gainesville, Virginia. One of our key staff people, Karen Fox, booked Deb and a team from Battlefield to come and be part of one of our Student Development events called Paradigm last spring. Deb and her whole crew brought an entire puppet ministry, trained students to use them, and wowed us all. Man, my concept of church puppets were a few old gym socks with goofy faces painted on them. Deb's puppets were, well, shall I just call them 21st cen-

tury puppets? Absolutely amazing. I even convinced Deb to graciously stay around Boston an extra day to do a puppet workshop for my church. I want my church to have some of that.

The workshop and the whole team from Battlefield were fantastic. But nothing came of it at our church. People liked it, but nobody would commit. Don't get me wrong, I would love to do these kinds of puppets, but I'm having quite a time keeping up with what is already on my plate. I wanted puppets, but even Pinocchio needs his Geppetto. And my church has been downright Geppetto-less.

Then came last Sunday. Our first two Boston students came back to church since they were back in town for A-term. Just before Sunday school started, one of them, Sarah, asked if she could tell me something. You pastors out there, you know this feeling, don't you? When somebody needs to tell you something just before a service starts, how often is that good news? I got prepared for one of those "Just want you to know that God is leading me to some other church" kind of thing! Call me paranoid, but most of us pastors are. We can't much help it. We've read this script before!

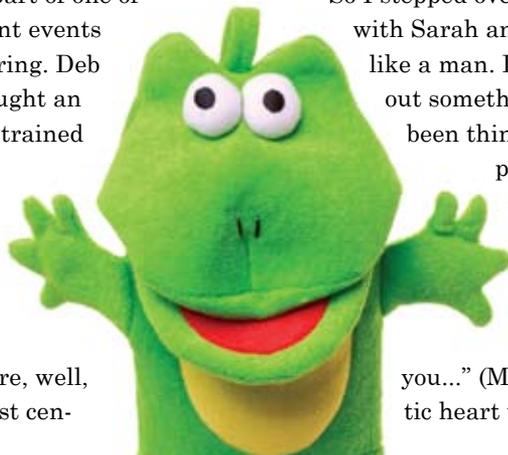
So I stepped over to talk with Sarah and take it like a man. It started out something like "I've been thinking and praying about something all summer and I just wanted to tell you..." (My pessimistic heart was already

on the floor. "Don't give me bad news at this moment!") Sarah went on, "... that puppet thing, can I do that?"

I'm sure she saw a pretty dumb look on my face. Then I got this goofy smile. "Are you serious?" I asked. "I've been mourning over a puppet dream unfulfilled since Deb Eccles drove out of town!"

I'm still buoyed days later. I thought this was something you ought to hear. Boston students are not perfect, but by and large they care deeply for the Lord's work, and many, many of them are already doing that work, even in their first year of college! Sarah Green is very special; she's a bright, energetic young lady out of John Arnold's church in Pennsylvania who has grown up realizing that "only God can do these things." But she and her friend, Kayla Flowers, made one pastor's day because they caught the vision. I have other Boston students who serve tirelessly at our church, and I know that is happening all over the Boston area. Our students teach children, run youth groups, do grunt work for baby churches, lead worship — fill in gaps. I know of several of our students who stayed in Boston all summer because they wouldn't part with the ministries they are doing in partner churches.

I see it all the time, and still I forget it — until last Sunday. So I wanted to remind you, too. When your church supports Boston, you are helping to frame church leaders. That isn't just theory or platitude. Need proof? Come to our church and I'll let you ask Kermit the frog or any of his friends. This good news is as plain as the nose on Pinocchio's face.



BOLIVIA

Dennis & Jan Horn



Jersey was a happy-go-lucky teenager who was very popular. However, after being wrongly accused of a rape, Jersey was sent to jail. He was very hurt, angry, and upset. He began to seriously contemplate suicide. But then he heard something that made him change his mind. Though not guilty of the crimes he was accused of, he heard one of our church workers talk about how all are guilty of sin and stand in need of a Savior. Jersey heard that Jesus came to the world to pay the penalty for his sins. Knowing what it was like to suffer for something he was innocent of, Jersey learned to love this Christ who had suffered innocently for what he had done.

Later he commented, "I probably never would have gotten saved if I hadn't first gone to jail." Jersey has been in jail two years. Only a month ago, because of his good conduct since being saved, he was allowed to go home under house arrest. Jersey is thrilled at being home and is trying to learn to forgive those who have wronged him. He also tries to help his fellow inmates whom he has learned to love. Pray for Jersey as his case is under appeal.



Lionel & Carol Martin

PORTUGAL

Two weeks ago, Jose Carlos walked past our church while services were in progress. As he peered into the door, I invited him to come in. We visited after the service where I

learned that he was extremely curious about us and our beliefs. He asked how our small church could buy such a nice building. I was able to share how God provided our facility. He also wanted to know how much a person had to pay to become a member and how much he would have to give each month to attend. I offered to do a Bible study with

him during the week and to answer his questions. He accepted again. I am using a study that uses 40 Bible stories in a panoramic view and gives a very clear presentation of salvation. Jose Carlos has almost no Bible knowledge but after the first 13 stories, he has grasped the idea that God exists, God is eternal, holy, faithful to judge sin, and merciful. He understood plainly what sin is and that the result of sin is physical, spiritual, and eternal death. Please pray for the salvation of this 46-year-old Portuguese man who has owned four bars in the past.

SCOTLAND

Keith & Mariella Mills



In May, I was asked to do two funerals. The first was for Martin Mann. Martin retired to Scotland due to ill health. He was saved as a young man and felt the call to preach. Although he was unwell, he would fill in for us when needed and he loved the Lord. His funeral was a celebration of his homegoing. It was a privilege to preach to his host of relatives. When Martin asked me to do his funeral he said, "I know you will preach the gospel." Three days later, I performed the funeral of Mrs. Williams. We had met her at a local nursing home where we hold services. She always hand-

ed out the song books and encouraged others to come along. She heard the gospel many times but we do not know if she was ever saved as her dementia kept her from talking to us for very long. Her family also heard the gospel at her funeral service. What a contrast between the two funerals. One family knew for sure that Martin was in Heaven and the other grieved without hope.



Jose & Carol Esquibel

ENGLAND

Recently, a man walked into our Sunday morning service and told me he had received our tracts through his mail slot two years ago. I expected him to complain and ask that we not

do that again. Instead, he thanked me and said that it had turned his life around. I was overwhelmed with joy. We pass out thousands of those tracts without ever knowing if we are accomplishing anything. Please pray for Tom as we now disciple him.



Howard & Naomi Musgrave ——— USLG (UNITED STATES LANGUAGE GROUP)

Betty Villacano was saved three weeks ago. She never knew that man was made from dust and woman was formed from a rib. She has been excited and told all her family. They laughed at her. Since then, her brother had a car accident and is in ICU. Her mother told her to please have the church people pray for him. We went with her to the hospital and

Naomi and I had the opportunity to witness to Betty's father and mother. Betty has asked us to pray that her husband and son would be saved. I was able to visit her husband. He told me he would come, but he didn't want to be pressured. Pray for Sr. Serafin's salvation. Betty is expecting a baby any time but she wants to be baptized and take discipleship classes as soon as she can

THAILAND

Rick & Tammy Salmon



When the Bangjak church was just five years old, Benz, a young man in high school, started attending our English classes. He excelled in English and later studied Japanese with Japanese missionaries. Over the years, he has helped with various teams from American churches, taught Japanese language classes, translated sermons from the platform, and volunteered to help with children's soccer

teams. This sounds normal for a committed Christian. The only problem was that despite the witnessing from all directions, Benz could never bring himself to accept Christ as his Savior. Praise the Lord, two weeks ago he decided he was finally ready. Our church rejoiced with the angels in heaven!

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Greg & Collene Kent

Alfonsina came to youth group as a 13-year-old and invited her stepsister, Yulissa. Yulissa's mom had tried to kill her when she was a newborn and Alfonsina's mom, Irene, cared for Yulissa. Irene's husband became jealous when their biological kids were born and Yulissa was left feeling unloved. At the age of 10, Yulissa tried to kill herself several times. Later, she began visiting the Mormon church, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Catholic church looking for something to

fill that void. The first time Yulissa came to youth group with Alfonsina, she felt loved, and the loneliness and pain she had was changed to love and joy when she placed her faith in Jesus Christ. Now, Yulissa is an adult, is married, and was a group leader for the ladies retreat. It was a blessing to watch as she shared God's Word with the other ladies.



Will & Dorothy Rogers

CANADA



Dorothy and I were sharing the gospel with a Chinese lady, Annie, who had been attending church for many months. In the course of the conversation, Dorothy mentioned that to be a true Christian, she must be born again. "Oh," Annie said in her limited English,

"how can I be born since I am old already?" So we had her read John 3, the story of Nicodemus. As we were explaining the passage, she suddenly cut me off. "I can pray now?" she

asked eagerly. Not sure what was going on, I just bowed my head and let her pray. It wasn't the best English, but it was about the prettiest prayer you ever heard. That week, Annie and her children moved back to Beijing, China, to be with her husband. This move had been planned for some time, but now she was on a new mission. Almost immediately after calling on the Lord, she spoke of a desire to share Jesus with her husband. She went from being the mission field to being on the mission field in one life-changing moment.

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Ron & Katherine Reasoner

Pray for Ira's salvation. She has been attending our church for several months. She is the first to arrive and the last to leave each Sunday. Yesterday she said to me, "I just love coming to your

RUSSIA

church. I want to spend all my time here because you are the first truly happy people I have ever met. I'm trying to figure out if it is real." I witnessed to her about how it is God in us that makes us happy and kind to one another, but she still hasn't made a decision for Christ.

AUSTRALIA

Drew & BethAnn Paul



While my family, Mary Herman, and I were on a crowded city train headed home from downtown Brisbane, I noticed an elderly man standing near the door looking distressed and tired. When the train stopped and several people got off, I had Nathaniel save a seat for the man. During our conversation, I learned that David Byrne, age 62, is a retired psychologist, that he lives about 25 minutes away from us, and that he was returning from visiting his live-in girlfriend at a mental hospital. I told David about our church, gave him a tract, and told him that he could call me any time he needed to talk to someone. The next day, he called and asked if

I would pick him up for church. On Sunday morning, I drove to his retirement village to get him, and he was not able to come because he was still in bed. Since then, I have learned that David struggles with depression, anxiety attacks, and alcoholic binges that leave him incapacitated for days at a time. He has come to Sunday morning services twice, and I have been able to explain to him how to be saved. Please pray that David will receive Christ and the complete victory that God alone can bring.

LIFT at BBC registers 300 campers

Springfield, MO

LIFT Student Ministries sponsored a camp on the Baptist Bible College campus July 13-17, drawing 300 middle-school students from eight churches and three states. Thirty students accepted Christ and 30 more gave their lives to the Lord for future ministry.

Jared Douglas, a BBC alumnus, was the keynote speaker for the week, and his wife, Amy, also a BBC alum, provided music. Heart-Song, a praise band from Cedarville University, led the worship and praise services. Clear Vision Drama of Springfield displayed their talents, and "3 Guys and a Trophy," (termed a "makeshift drama team" by LIFT director Dan Brown) consisting of LIFT

support staff also took part. The college also had their recruiting team on hand to see that the week was successful.

LIFT leaders directing the camp were Director of Operations Sara Robinson, Somerset, Kentucky; Regional Director Jernigan Schwent, who is middle school pastor at Abundant Life Baptist, Lees Summit, Missouri; and Assistant

Regional Director Dwayne Wright, the family pastor at Capitol City Baptist, Des Moines, Iowa. Dan Brown is the Executive Director of LIFT Student Ministries.

Camp activities included corporate worship/services, barn swings, an outing at Incredible Pizza, bowling, roller skating, paintball, and more. In addition to



the usual time given to sports, games, activities, and devotionals, campers also did some community outreach, including distributing school supplies to a nearby elementary school and giving out flyers publicizing a Vacation Bible School at New Life Baptist Church in nearby Willard, Missouri.

The services were streamed on the

internet and Brown reports that US military personnel serving in South Korea wrote to say they were watching and were blessed.

LIFT is the acronym for Linking an Interstate Fellowship of Teenagers for the purpose of LIFTing up Christ. The ministry, founded by Brown, began in 1992. This year's camp at BBC was the inaugural summer camp on the campus. LIFT sponsored a winter retreat in 2005 called SNOWLIFT. LIFT support staff, numbering about 80 college-age students, work in camps throughout the summer. Most of them raise their own support to minister with LIFT.

Churches attending LIFT on the BBC campus were Bales Baptist Church (Kansas City, Missouri), Bethel Baptist Church (Caseyville, Illinois), Edgewood Baptist Church (Rock Island, Illinois), First Baptist Church Wentzville (Wentzville, Missouri), Indianapolis Baptist Temple (Indianapolis, Indiana), Westfair Baptist Church (Jacksonville, Illinois), and Westside Baptist Church (Hutchinson, Kansas).

Information about LIFT ministries, is at www.liftstudentministries.com.

Abortion drug causes death of 29 women

Washington DC

WASHINGTON (BP) — Exeglyn, the European manufacturer of RU-486, reported the total, which is more than twice the previous estimate, to the Italian Pharmaceuticals Agency (AIFA), LifeNews.com said in a July 31 article based on news media sources. The estimate had been 13 deaths, according to LifeNews.

AIFA, meanwhile, approved RU-486 for sale in Italy for the first time. Previously, only surgical abortions had been available.

Abortions have decreased in Italy

for more than two decades. The number of abortions has fallen from more than 234,000 in 1982 to less than 137,000 in 2004, according to LifeNews.

Eight women's deaths in the United States have been associated with RU-486, as well as nine life-endangering situations, about 120 blood transfusions and more than 200 hospitalizations, Sen. Jim DeMint, R.-S.C., said in 2006. DeMint is a leading Senate opponent of the federal government's approval of the abortion drug.

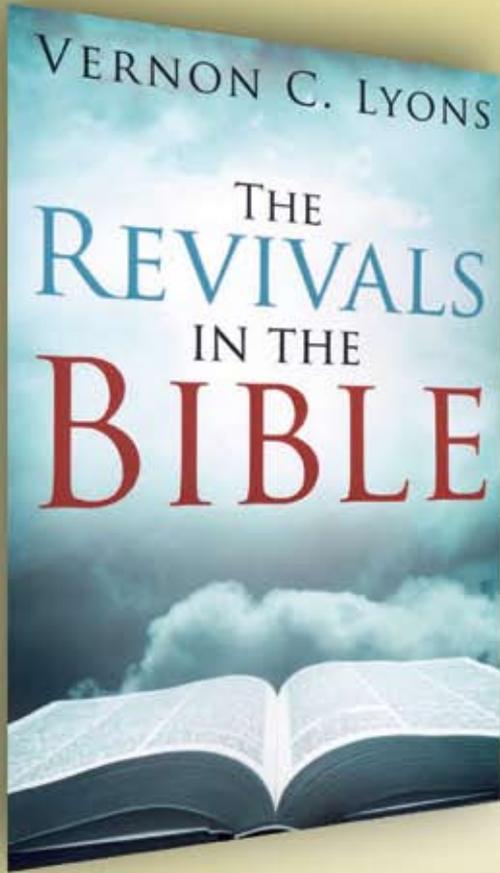
RU-486, also known as mifepristone, is used as the first part in a two-

step process in the first seven weeks of pregnancy. Mifepristone causes the lining of the uterus to release the embryonic child, resulting in the child's death. A second drug, misoprostol, is taken two days after mifepristone and causes the uterus to contract, expelling the baby.

The FDA approved the sale of RU-486 in the U.S. in 2000, four months before President Clinton finished his second term.

Tom Strode is Washington bureau chief for Baptist Press. © Copyright 2009 Baptist Press

The Revivals in the Bible



Do you hunger for revivals in your family? In your church? City? Nation? Do you long for a fresh move of God in your own life? If so, you are ready for a revival borne from the very words of Scripture.

Biblical revival is exactly what Pastor Vernon C. Lyons offers throughout the pages of *The Revivals in the Bible*. According to Pastor Lyons, Christians have resorted far too long to polls, market research and surveys on how to conduct successful revivals. In our zeal, we seem to have forgotten that old Book, the Bible, in which God's ordained revivals are recorded. And for the first time, twenty biblical revivals, their characteristics and attributes are contained in one book.

In *The Revivals in the Bible* you will find out:

What sparked the revivals in the Bible?

Who did God use to kindle revivals in families, churches, cities and nations?

What stirs God to ignite a revival?

The twenty chapters contained in this book:

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- The Revival Under Elijah
- The Revival Under Jehoshaphat
- The Revival Under Jehoiada and Joash
- The Revival Under Jonah
- The Revival Under Hezekiah
- The Revival Under Josiah
- The Revival Under Zerubbabel
- The Revival Under Ezra
- The Revival Under Nehemiah
- The Revival Under Sychar
- The Pentecostal Revival
- The Revival in Samaria
- The Revival Under Peter at Lydda
- The Revival in Antioch
- The Revival in Antioch of Pisidia
- The Revival at Corinth
- The Revival in Ephesus

The Revivals in the Bible is more than mere history. It is historical instruction inspired by God. Follow along as Pastor Lyons details the biblical revivals that have changed the course of Christianity. From the first family revival in the Old Testament to revivals within specific cities and regions in the New Testament, the author offers insight and perspectives that will challenge you to "seek him with all thy heart" as you cry out for a move from God — one truly initiated by Him. Paying careful attention to God's work in Scripture will reveal what He longs to do today. *The Revivals in the Bible* shows that what God has done in past generations He can do once again in the lives of those who earnestly seek Him.

The Revivals in the Bible is the ONLY book on this subject. Contact Pastor Lyons at www.ashburnbaptist.com.



Bio info:

Vernon C. Lyons, pastor, author and patriarch, has served Chicago's Ashburn Baptist Church since 1951. Under his leadership, Ashburn Baptist has founded thirty-eight other churches in the United States.

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BBFI Network is 14 years old this summer

Eastlake, CO

Pastor Billy Hamm, pastor of Mountain States Baptist Church in Denver, and the administrator of the BBFI Network began the network in August 1995. Not content with traditional means of communication, Hamm wanted something more immediate for the Baptist Bible Fellowship, especially for missionaries and others who were out of reach.

Thus, the network began when he sent a message to 25 email addresses announcing the death of a missionary on August 18, 1995. A few days later, a pastor friend called him with the notice of another missionary's death. It alerted churches and friends in time to send flowers or attend the memorial services.

A month later, with the assistance and encouragement of Keith Bassham, who was then assistant editor of the

Baptist Bible Tribune, the first BBFI website was introduced during the national fellowship meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. "Those very simple communication tools met a need then, and they continue to do so today," says Hamm.

That small beginning has grown now to include several websites managed and hosted by Hamm, along with many discussion groups and electronic mail lists for news or discussions. His web servers host the websites for several BBFI entities and individuals, including the *Baptist Bible Tribune* website, and those for BBFI affiliated schools. Through the

bbfi.org website, Billy also provides on-line directories of BBFI churches, ministry openings, evangelists, and state fellowships. Current officers and committees are listed and a calendar of coming national meetings is also included. BBFI missionaries also use the network for their own website and information needs.

Churches and individuals help pay the bills, but much of Hamm's work has been personally financed the past 14 years. The service can be supported through the BBFI Mission Office. For more information, or to express appreciation for the network, contact Billy.Hamm@comcast.net.



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Six graduate from BBC Great Britain

Great Britain

Baptist Bible College Great Britain graduated six men on July 11 as they celebrated the 30th anniversary of the college. At the graduation, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wallace Sr. were honored for their ministry and efforts in founding BBCGB.

Baptist Bible College Great Britain started as the ministry effort of several missionaries in the Coventry/Nuneaton area in 1979. Tom Wallace, Sr. was the first principal. Ferrell Kearney, Don Rice, and John Pangle and his wife were instrumental in teaching and working. The first year, 16 students were enrolled and the attendance reached a high of 18.

The college first met in a building used by the Keresley Baptist Church in Coventry. Eventually the college relocated to a property owned by the

Bible Baptist Church of Nuneaton and was there for several years. During this time, Gene Worley, John Purselley, and Ken Dowell served as leaders of the college.

In 2004, Baptist Bible College Great Britain relocated to Cannock Chase to a property owned by the Rawlings Foundation called The White House. At that time, Barry Dunmire was principal of the college. Today, Tom Gritts is principal and again many missionaries and pastors are continuing to give of their time and talents to the lives of the students and in the ministry of Baptist Bible Col-



lege Great Britain. (www.baptistbible-college.co.uk)

Pictured above from left to right are, Damian Pickett (Financial Director), Leonard James (Education Committee), Roger Clarke, Anthony Patrick, Steve Davies, Barry Sturges, Danny Nelson, Mike Stirrup, Gail Gritts (Registrar) and Tom Gritts (Principal).

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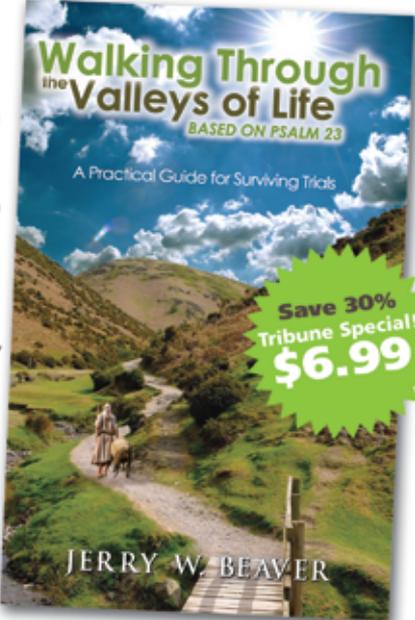


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Keeny to join LBU staff in August

Shreveport, LA

David Keeny will be joining the LBU staff in August as dean of the Bible Department. He earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1991 from Baptist Bible Graduate School in Springfield, Missouri, with an emphasis on the Greek language. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Baptist Christian College in 1983.

Keeny has served as the pastor of Fundamental Baptist Church in Pleasant Hope, Missouri, since 2004. He has also served in churches in Alabama, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Texas, working in various capacities. "With a total of 30 years

of ministerial experience we believe Bro. Keeny will be a great asset to the LBU family," says Neal Weaver, president of LBU. "Many of you may already be acquainted with David Keeny. We at LBU know him as Dr. Wallace's adopted son and to us that means an awful lot. Roy and Helen Wallace never had children of their own but Dr. Wallace made it very clear to us who he considered to be his son."



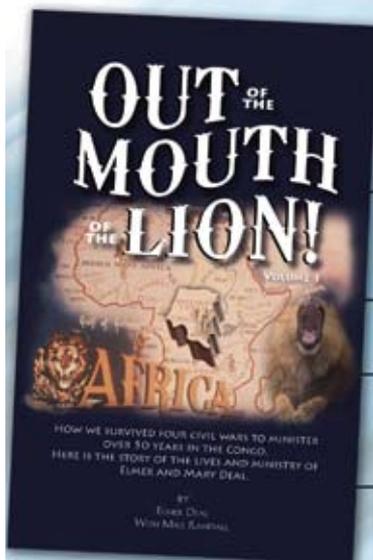
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Barbara J. Robertson

Holt, MI

Barbara J. Robertson, age 79, went home to be with her Lord on July 13, 2009. Barbara was born June 1, 1930. She married Erwin Robertson on May 1, 1954, and together they served the Lord faithfully as pastor and wife of Capitol City Baptist Church in Holt since 1957. In 2007, the couple celebrated 50 years with the Capitol City church. On that day, the church honored the Robertsons with gifts and named Erwin Robertson Pastor Emeritus. (See *Tribune* article "Erwin Robertson Name Pastor Emeritus" in the August 2007 issue.) Mrs. Robertson, who loved to play piano and sing, was a wonderful wife, mother, school, and Sunday school teacher.



Mrs. Robertson is survived by her husband, Erwin Robertson; four children; 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Friday, July 17, at Capitol City Baptist Church. A memorial fund has been set up in Mrs. Robertson's name at Capitol City Baptist Church.

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Dr. Mike

By Gwendolyn Amador
wife of Navy Chaplain Ken Amador

Dr. Mike was born and raised near Gaeta, Italy, and he survived the Nazi invasion and occupation of the area. To hear him tell it, the nourishment that brought him back from the brink of starvation was one lone Hershey bar and the American spirit that motivated the soldier who gave it to him. Little “Dr. Mike” was bare-foot and surviving on the juice from weeds. Hope was a foreign word for the lad until Operation Husky brought the Americans who shared their rations to keep him alive and who gave him a pair of boots for his bare and battered feet. Now an elderly man, he still has those boots.

These days, Dr. Mike is a frequent on the small American Navy base in the beautiful gulf of Gaeta, former homeport to the U.S.S. LaSalle, flagship of the Sixth Fleet. His mission is to sing the praises of his beloved homeland, Italy, and his hero-land, America. He has literally been around the globe in his tireless work to bring the hands of world leaders together in agreement and in support of the great American ethic. Known in numerous countries simply as “Dr. Mike,” he is well known and loved; yet while he dines with world leaders, he is never too good for a chat in the hallway with a commoner like me. As a matter of fact, every person in any hallway with Dr. Mike is destined to hear his story.

You see, Dr. Mike understands the pit from which he was dug, and he has never forgotten his humble beginnings or his benefactors. He shared with me, in his effervescent way, his utter joy at being alive and having purpose. At a certain point, he found himself at a loss for words. Finally, he said to me, “Signora, I am a made man. I know this. Italia gave me birth. France gave me culture. But America — America gave me liberty.” Then, with one hand over his heart, and the other stretched toward a nearby American flag, he declared his undying support for my country.

I can’t help but turn the spotlight inward. I have feasted at the great American table all of my life. How



far will I go to protect the values that shaped this singular country? In what ways will I express my gratitude for the freedoms I enjoy? Better yet, with what degree of commitment will I proclaim the goodness of my Lord, Who has done so much more than saving me from starvation and driving away my enemy that I might live safely? I have been redeemed! I have been bought from the block of bondage and given a place in the eternal family of God. I’m a child of the King!

Will I be like Dr. Mike and commit my life to the cause of my Redeemer?

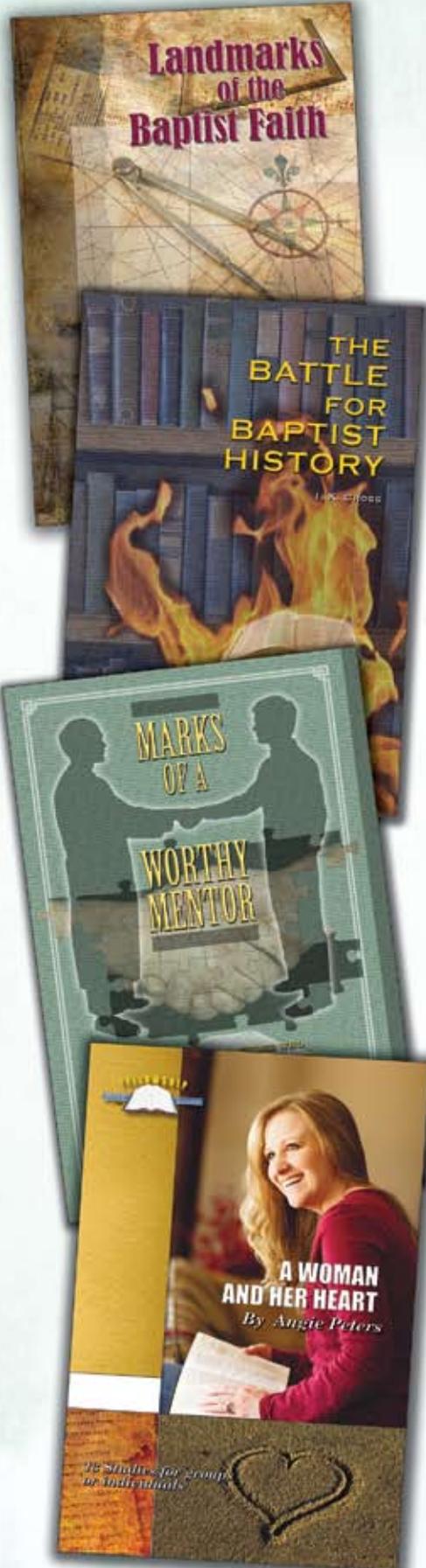
Will I be gracious in my approach but uncompromising in my devotion? Will I take every opportunity to share my story? Oh, I know, I know. Of course I will because I’m a chaplain’s wife and I have a built-in identity as one who stands for Christian values. The house number placard in my front yard proclaims that my

husband is a chaplain; even my license plate identifies me: “CHAPSWIF.” But will I take the opportunity to share hope with the young fellow blessing me with a pedicure when he tells me, “Oh, I don’t have any friends. This right here is my life, right here at this mall”? Will I share loving Truth with the young lady in the bookstore who confesses to me, for some reason, that she lives with her boyfriend? Will I offer a hand and heart of help to the young mother who’s overwhelmed in the mall with small children and the knowledge that her husband may give his life for his country today in a far away land? Yes, I can give a devotion, write an article, sing a special from the platform. But will I exude my rescue in the middle of the hallway to every blessed soul I can get to listen?

Dr. Mike is the founder and president of the Vincent R. Capodanno Association in Gaeta, which functions as an advocate for American interests on Italian soil, facilitates ongoing good will and communication between America and Italy, and promotes interaction between Americans and Italians.

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