

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

SEPTEMBER 2014 | VOL. 65 NO. 1

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Methodologies of mission work

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ON THE TABLE

There are no ordinary people

by Keith Bassham | Editor

As we were going to press, the national news media was reacting to the suicide death of actor-comedian Robin Williams. The announcement brought to the fore conversations about death, suicide, addiction, depression, spirituality, Christian faith (and its diminishment in popular culture), celebrity, and the seeming paradox of a person so devoted to laughter and sadness at the same time. Naturally, social media fairly vibrated with frenzy as any one with an opinion (regardless of quality) had a say.

One thoughtful blogger (at least from my perspective) sought to place a discussion of Mr. Williams's decision to end his life on a landscape not so much medical but spiritual. This angered not only the devoted fans of Mr. Williams, but also those who wrestle with their own demons, both real and figurative, and insist that a suicide as a result of depression is a fit topic for conversation only in the world of science and those faithful to that view. To them the blogger seemed insensitive and ignorant. He is neither.

A person is not a mere clock that may be fixed when a gear or a spring or a bushing goes awry. To be sure, we have many parts, and when things go wrong in those parts, a surgeon, or a medicine, or a therapy can put them right. But there are other human parts, unseen and undetectable with even the most sophisticated technology, whose malfunction requires a spiritual fix. Those parts, we sometimes forget, will be around for a long, long time after our more temporal parts are laid to rest. That is part of what is meant to be created in God's image — we have an immortality, and that means we do not rest in peace, no matter what we wish or what the grave marker says.

I have found this paragraph from C. S. Lewis (*The Weight of Glory*) helpful for a proper perspective:

The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbour's glory should be laid on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken. It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal."

Keith Bassham

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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It takes a bit of sacrifice, but the results will be worth it

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Faith conquers fear



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

One of the greatest problems we all face is the problem of fear. According to psychiatric reference books, there are approximately 2,000 classified fears we could face in today's world. Those documented fears run the gamut — everything from photophobia (the fear of never looking good in a picture) to arachibutyrophobia (the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth). There is even phobiophobia — the fear of fears.

Napoleon, Julius Caesar, and Alexander the Great feared cats. Gustave Eiffel, the designer of the famed Eiffel Tower, was terrified of heights. Alfred Hitchcock was afraid of eggs. Yes, irony of ironies, Walt Disney, who gave the world Mickey Mouse, was indeed, afraid of mice.

What's interesting is that psychiatrists tell us we are born with only two innate fears: the fear of falling and the fear of loud noises.

A study of the Bible will reveal that fear has been the companion of man from the beginning of time. There are 17 different nouns and 13 different verbs for the idea of fear in the original languages in which the Bible is written.

Our Heavenly Father wants to deliver His children from fear (2 Timothy 1:7). Nearly 100 passages in the Bible exhort us to “fear not.” Yet fear is a current problem for many. We fear disappointment, health issues, financial issues, national and international issues.

We know that fear is a thief of happiness. We can't enjoy happiness in life and deal with the agony of fear at the same time. Fear robs us of worthy achievements as we fail to set goals and it produces failure as we stagger at the counsel of our fears.

David knew much about dealing with fear and we can take counsel from his words in Psalm 27. This Psalm tells us, faith that conquers fear is a faith that trusts God right now (Psalm 27:1). Our God is not only the God of the ancient past but the God of today. Actually, God is very concerned about now because our tomorrow is largely wrapped up in the decisions we make today. Faith that conquers fear is a faith that trusts God because of the past (Psalm 27:2). Because God has been faithful in the past, we can have confidence for today. It has been my habit to journal for the past 20 years and along with the circumstances I have faced I have written down many prayer requests. I am always excited to read and reread how the Lord has answered many of those prayers and worked things out in amazing ways. The faith that conquers fear is a faith that trusts God for tomorrow (Psalm 27:3).

I have witnessed the Lord come through many times and in many ways. This has strengthened my personal life and my ministry life. I see the same thing with our Fellowship. The Lord has blessed us in a great way. He has done great things in the past, and I expect Him to do great things with us in the future.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Missionary training



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

The final mandate from Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20 was not just the introduction to a new task; but rather a reminder and final commissioning of a task that had already been clearly expressed throughout the entire Bible. This marching order 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 of the BBFI strives to assist churches and their missionaries by providing services to both. One of these services is our annual Candidate School held each July.

Each year, pastors, missionaries, specialized professionals, and Mission Office staff discuss a variety of topics with those attending. Daily sessions are filled with classes specifically tailored to the various phases of the missionary process — whether it is for those who are going as TEAM, to individuals transitioning from TEAM to career missionaries; or those beginning deputation to ones who receive their pre-field orientation after completing a year of deputation. The week culminates with several challenges being issued by a BBFI pastor and myself as the mission director. Topics covered include everything from the BBFI missions philosophy, to financial preparations, to the basics of deputation, and to relational and spiritual preparations.

While the missionaries seem overwhelmed at times with the volume of information they received, their overall responses were positive. We received feedback such as the following:

“Thank you so much for all you did last week to prepare us for our missionary endeavors. We enjoyed meeting new people and learning what all the staff does for us. We had a great time. Thank you for the opportunity.”

“Thank you all for everything during Candidate School. I knew we did not see everyone involved in the planning for the week but we appreciate everyone! Not only for Candidate School but for all that is done every day for all the BBFI missionaries. Please know that you are appreciated and we are so glad that we have so much support from the office.”

As always, it was a blessing to help prepare these fine couples and singles called of the Lord to serve internationally. Missions is what our Fellowship of churches does, and our mission is to start churches worldwide by sending the most prepared, highly qualified missionaries. The BBFI Missionary Candidate School is an essential part of this process.

Some questions and answers



by John Gross | Interim NCPO Director

As your newly appointed director of home missions and evangelism I want to thank the executive committee for their confidence in my appointment to this position. It is very humbling. But I am excited at the same time to accept their directive.

I want to start well, and so I want to take a long look at the landscape. We don't want to act without giving some thought to how home missions and evangelism work within the framework of the Baptist Bible Fellowship organization. A good way to begin is to ask myself the questions: who are we and where are we when it comes to home missions and evangelism?

Here is what I see: We started as BBF in 1950 with 138 churches. From 1950 until 1975 we had over 3,000 churches in our national directory of which most were *planted* churches. Unbelievable!!

Today our BBFI Mission Director Jon Konnerup tells me we have over 4,000 churches in our database supporting at least one of our missionaries or at least one BBF project of some type through the Mission Office. Understandably, they are not all fully committed to the BBF. Additionally, there are more than 400 resident students and over 1,000 online students in our three affiliate schools. Asia Baptist Bible College has 1,500 students. Our foreign BBFI missionary program has over 450 missionary families in over 100 countries with over 15,000 churches under the care of our missionaries. With the *Tribune* as a tool of communication, there is a tremendous advantage with Keith Bassham helping us in this area. We are a Fellowship of 65 years in experience, with trial, error, and much success in our past. The opportunities for the future are endless.

The national leadership structure within the Fellowship contains many layers of qualified leadership: presidents, vice presidents, and directors of several entities. Add to that state chairmen and leaders in other organizations who affiliate with the BBF. With each of these divisions of leadership unified and focused on our goal of training individuals and teams for home missions and evangelism, it appears to me that we have tremendous opportunities in our future.

I plan to partner closely with the newly elected Vice President of Home Missions and Evangelism Dan Greer. Together with our committee of 15 directors we are developing structure, leadership, strategies, and organizational programs that will unify our church planting efforts across the nation.

We are excited about our meetings of the future, and we will be giving more detailed plans in our September national meeting in Detroit. Please pray with us as we join together to move forward to better develop home missions and evangelism in our Fellowship. Being unified together with the Lord's leadership and blessing, we believe we have a great future! "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

Noel Smith, just before a fellowship meeting in 1958

We ought to be a body of wise, sober-minded men and women as we gather here in our national Fellowship [meeting]. We ought to take a mental inventory of our work, try to get the central view of it, and reinforce and strengthen it wherever it is needed.

The nature of our Fellowship is missionary

First of all, this Baptist Bible Fellowship is not a protest, negative Fellowship. It is meeting a basic need in the Baptist life of this country. This Fellowship is progressive and missionary. It takes the position that the Bible is the sole rule of faith and practice. It takes the position that the local church is autonomous and independent of all external ecclesiastical authority, although not independent of external obligations. It recognizes the personality of the Holy Spirit and that His ministry makes the difference between life and death. It magnifies the preaching of the Gospel. Its unity is found in the common belief in the Bible as the verbally inspired Word of God, and in its common belief in the missionary enterprise.

The strength of our Fellowship servanthood

... my experience and observation have been that our people, appreciating the importance and magnitude of our work, have been willing to go the second mile in the interest of its success.

We ought not to take this morale for granted. We ought to manifest our appreciation of it in practical ways. We ought to think and speak and work as servants, not masters. We ought to recognize that the poor old lady giving us three dollars of her slender pension is putting into the coffers more than most of us. We ought to recognize that the hard-working fellow shepherding a little flock in some sidestreet garage building may have more faith, courage, and devotion to his Lord than most of us.

The future of our Fellowship is partnership

All kinds of people pitched in and helped us when we were fighting for our very existence. Now that we have by the grace of God won so many decisive battles, we should guard against an attitude that says "We can now get along without you." We can't.

And I like it that way. I had rather have a wife than to hoe my own row. I had rather work with others than to go off down behind a hen house in a dry goods box with a loud speaker in the middle of it, and from there announce to the world that I am independent and free. To give and take, to talk and be talked to, to argue and fret and fume with those whose opinions are wrong, is a small price to pay for all the blessings that accrue from being a part of a great fellowship of Christian people. I'm willing to pay the fare. I think it's a bargain.

Let's be matured about all these matters. Let's sit down with one another and talk across the board like grownups, not be pouting around about going to pick up our marbles and go home.

Baptist Bible Tribune, May 9, 1958, excerpted



DIGRESSIONS

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

-Laurence Sterne

Christians suffering in Gaza

Though the Christian community has not been large in modern times, 1,312 known Christians (mostly Greek Orthodox) are now living in the Gaza Strip. They face the same hardships as the rest of the citizenry during Gaza's military conflict with Israel.

According to reports, more than half are living as refugees, and about a third have no income for support. A survey conducted by the Gaza Strip YMCA found, "Christians continue to suffer from the absence of security, a prevailing poor economic situation due to the seven-year blockade, and the repercussions of Palestinian internal division which affects all aspects of life in Gaza."

Source: www.christianheadlines.com

Kendrick Brothers nearly ready to release fifth movie

The film makers who produced the popular feature-length movies *Courageous*, *Fireproof*, *Facing the Giants*, and *Flywheel*, have just finished shooting footage for their fifth project. It is scheduled to be released in 2015.

Alex and Stephen Kendrick began a small production company with the pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, GA, where Alex had been associate pastor of media. Their first film, *Flywheel*, was such a success they went to produce *Facing the Giants*, costing about \$100,000 and grossing more than \$10 million. In fact, the company has grossed \$80 million in films made for less than \$4 million.

While these numbers do not cause Hollywood to be nervous, an AP story covering the Kendricks notes that their success is getting some attention.

Source: www.kendrickbrothers.com

Restaurant gives discount for prayers

Mary's Gourmet Diner in Winston-Salem, NC has been offering a discount of 15% on a diners' bills if the server spots them praying. The owner has given the discount for years.

Apparently there is no official policy, and the discount is not advertised, but the discount became public when a customer shared a picture of a restaurant receipt on Facebook. A radio station in Florida shared the photo and the news took off from there on major media outlets.

According to one report, the owner says she is not giving the discount for marketing. She is just interested in people being grateful for a plate of good food.

Source: www.christiantoday.com

Baptist church facility sold to Nashville Catholic Diocese

Evocative of the once-strong Crystal Cathedral's sobering 2011 sale to a Catholic diocese, the Fellowship at Two Rivers (formerly Two Rivers Baptist Church) in Nashville will sell its 220,000-square-foot building to the Bible Belt buckle town's Catholic diocese. Two Rivers, once boasting nearly 7,000 members, ran into trouble seven years ago when about 70 members filed a lawsuit against then-pastor Jerry Sutton over

his alleged mishandling of finances. The lawsuit was dismissed, and about 80 percent of the church voted to affirm Sutton, but he retired the next year (even after the church removed the dissidents at his request). Now the multisite church has closer to 1,200 members and weekly attendance of 575. The diocese's current headquarters was purchased from the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. in 1974.

Source: www.christianitytoday.com

U.S. Navy may remove Gideon-placed Bibles from base lodging

Former U.S. Navy chaplain Gordon Klingenschmitt, now a Christian activist, says the U.S. Armed Forces are continuing to bow to atheists, this time over Bibles on Navy bases.

The American Family Association put out an Action Alert in recent days to inform the public that the U.S. Navy has instructed housekeepers to remove Gideon-placed Bibles from every hotel on its military bases.

The decision came after it received a letter from the anti-Christian group Freedom from Religion Foundation (FRFF).

A housekeeper alerted AFA about the removal that was ordered by NEXCOM (Navy Exchange Service Command) and affected 32 Navy lodge locations and 24,000 rooms on Navy bases worldwide.

The former chaplain also alleges removing the Bibles amounts to pandering to the FRFF and to Mikey Weinstein, the atheist who has been largely successful in removing faith from the U.S. Armed Forces, especially in the U.S. Air Force.

Weinstein led a push to remove Bibles from hotel lodging in the U.S. Air Force in 2012 but that decision was reversed after public outcry.

Klingenschmitt is encouraging concerned citizens to contact U.S. Rep. Buck McKeon of California, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Source: Chad Groening, OneNewsNow, www.onenewsnow.com

Scotty Alexander Accepts Call to Freeway Church

By JACK BRIDGES
Assistant Director, Baptist Bible
Fellowship Missions

Scotty Alexander, for 20 years the progressive and successful pastor of Bible Baptist Church, Enid, Okla., has accepted the call to succeed the writer as pastor of Freeway Baptist Church, Houston, Tex. The writer has been appointed Assistant Director of Baptist Bible Fellowship Missions. Dr. Alexander, former vice-president of the Fellowship and elected president at the Cincinnati meeting, and his family have moved to Houston.



Alexander

During the summer of 1950, my wife and I drove to Houston, Tex., to see the opportunities of beginning a church. I had been associate pastor to Dr. John Rawlings at the Central Baptist Church of Tyler, Tex., for almost five years. We found the large southeast section of Houston with over 250,000 people and not an Independent Fundamental Baptist church at all. We also found one family that had moved to Houston from the church in Tyler.

We returned to Tyler and Bro. Rawlings agreed to sponsor a tent revival. With several young men from the Tyler church, we moved to Houston, rented a lot, pitched the tent, and began advertising the Revival. Bro. Rawlings came and preached for us, and on Friday night the church was organized with 15 charter members. It was our purpose to locate the church near the Gulf Freeway — the main traffic artery of southeast Houston — so we adopted the



Bridges

name Freeway Baptist Church. Next, I was called as pastor, and our first act of business was to vote 10 per cent of all offerings to the mission work of the Baptist Bible Fellowship.

Central Church Gave Money

On Sunday, Sept. 15, 1950, we met in an elementary school for our first service. There were 25 present. Three months later, the church moved to its permanent location at 149 Winkler Dr. This valuable



Rawlings

piece of property consisted of almost 2 acres and two houses. The price was \$30,000, with \$5,000 down. When he heard of the opportunity to purchase this property, Bro. John Rawlings led the Central Baptist Church to supply most of the down-payment. In addition, we were supported as a home mission project of Central Church.

During 14 years of ministry, the Lord has blessed with steady progress. There were four building programs, the first in 1951, a 40'x 90' auditorium; then a 60'x124' education building. Then in 1958, the auditorium was enlarged to 60'x 100', seating 603 in opera chairs, with offices, nurseries, and baptistry. In 1960, the second floor of the Education building was added, doubling the Sunday school space. All the buildings are air-conditioned.

During Hurricane Carla in 1961,

the roof of the Sunday school building was blown off with damage to the building of \$16,854. By the grace of God, however, only one Sunday was missed having Sunday school.

Many Faithful Workers

There have been many faithful workers that have helped with the work through the years. Also, we have had a wonderful office staff to help us. One that we were especially proud of is Rev. Don Brown, who is now a missionary to Ethiopia.

No statistics can completely tell the story of God's blessings upon the Freeway Baptist Church, however, the following is a summary of the 14 years of our ministry there:

Organized Sept. 17, 1950 with 15 charter members.	
Membership July 19, 1964	1,138
Total professions of faith	1,175
Total additions to the church	2,145
Total baptized	2,088
Average Sunday school attendance in 1963	517
Record Sunday school attendance set Sept. 18, 1963	758
Total offerings in 14 years	\$526,973.91
Total offerings given to missions in 14 years	\$123,950.12

From 10 per cent at the beginning, the church increased its mission giving to 30 per cent last year. As the figures above show, 23 per cent of all offerings received during the 14 year ministry of the Freeway Baptist Church has been given to missions. At this time the church contributes to the support of 38 missionary families and the Baptist Bible College.



FORT WORTH, TEX. Victor E. Sears (seated) assumed his duties as pastor of Castleberry Baptist Church on Aug. 23. He succeeds David A. Cavin, who last spring accepted a call to High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo. Dr. Sears, a former president of the Baptist Bible Fellowship, founded the Twin City Baptist Temple of Mishawaka, Ind., 16 years ago and was its only pastor until he accepted the call to Castleberry.

On his first Sunday, Dr. Sears was extended a welcome by Mayor Jim Walker on behalf of the city and by Mrs. Irma Marsh, Superintendent of Schools, on behalf of the public school system. The Sunday school attendance was 849, 50 above the attendance on the similar date the year before. There were three professions of faith in Christ and 11 additions to the church. Dr. Sears has set a Sunday school attendance goal of 1,000 and a Christmas missionary offering of \$20,000.

In the picture, from left, are Johnny Harlow, new youth director; Gary Wilson, who resigned as youth director to accept a similar position with High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.; Mrs. Gary Wilson; Mrs. Victor Sears; Terry Sears, the Sears' only child, who is a student in Baptist Bible College; Mrs. David E. Cavin, and her husband. —Photo by Lobreto's, Fort Worth.

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BBFI

FALL
FELLOWSHIP
MEETING

SEPTEMBER
22-24

Beacon Baptist Church
Taylor, Michigan

WHILE YOU ARE IN TOWN:

Detroit Tigers Baseball (20 minute drive)

The Tigers are in town from Sept 22 thru the 28th.

University of Michigan Football (45 minute drive)

The Wolverines are in town Sept 20th and Sept 27th.

Michigan State Football (1 hour drive)

The Spartans are in town Sept 20th and Sept 27th.

Detroit Red Wings Hockey (20 minute drive)

Schedule not yet released as of May.

The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village is one of the countries finest collections of artifacts, manufacturing history, and americana.

The Detroit Institute of Arts is one of the world's best art museums



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BBFI

SPEAKERS



Keith Bassham



Paul Byars



Jon Konnerup



Dave Melton



Mark Milioni



Eddie Lyons



Linzy Slayden



Dimver Andales



Gilbert Toquero



Jun Lumagbas

WOMEN

“Sisters, Sisters, there were never such devoted sisters...”

BBFI ladies, please join us on Tuesday morning for a fun time of Fellowship! Our speaker, Jenell Bender, will enlighten us on the meaning of sisterhood! Also, be sure to visit us on our website, Thebeaconbaptist.com, and submit as many ministry ideas as you desire. We want to send everyone home with many new ideas!

*Looking forward to a great time with ya!
Glenda, Rhonda, Juliann and Jennie*

There will also be a ladies trip to the American Arab Fellowship Center to see firsthand the ministry Dwight and Jeanne Billingsley have in Dearborn to the Arab women. More details will be on our website!

GOLF OUTING

- \$60 per person/ \$240 per team – 4 man scramble
- At Taylor Meadows Golf Club, 25360 Ecorse Rd, Taylor
- 9 am shotgun start
- [Register at thebeaconbaptist.com](http://Thebeaconbaptist.com) on the BBFI page

The funds raised go directly into our Missionary Care Offering that is used to minister to our missionaries in many different ways!

WHERE TO STAY:

- Holiday Inn - Southgate, MI \$99.99/night
- Hampton Inn - Southgate, MI \$99.00/night
- Comfort Suites - Southgate, MI \$94.90/night
- Fairfield Inn - Romulus, MI \$109.00/night (top-rated hotel)
- Holiday Inn Express DTW - Romulus, MI \$95.99/night

Be sure to mention the BBFI National Meeting when booking at these hotels to get the proper rates!

THEBEACONBAPTIST.COM



Do you **love** your community?

By Kevin Carson, Pastor of Sunrise Baptist Church, Ozark, MO

Do you love your community? Simply put, I do.

My family was honored to appear on the cover of the Christian County Headliner 2014 Community Guide (ccheadliner.com/). Why was it such an honor? Because we love our community and consider it a privilege to live here. It is easy to love living in the Ozarks with friendly neighbors, strong community values, creative local businesses, gorgeous scenery, quality schools, and for us, a great local church. Package all this together and we are very fortunate.

THE PRIORITY

If you are a Christ-follower, very few things in life are more important than loving your community. You may not have it as good as my family does in the Ozarks; nonetheless, it is essential to love your community. Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments in two: love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and second, love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:36-42). In fact, Jesus later said, “They will know that you are a Christian by your love”

(John 13:35). So, if you are a Christ-follower, loving your community is key.

THE PRACTICE

If you agree that Jesus placed a high priority on loving your community, then your next question may be, “How do you love your community well?” Let me get you started with five suggestions:

BE AUTHENTIC. You first love and live like Christ (Ephesians 5:1-2). Jesus serves as an excellent example of living consistent with what you say you believe. He lived and loved well. This should be true for every follower of Christ. Doing some volunteer work recently, a man described his neighborhood to me. In his description, he called one of his neighbors the “Christian neighbors” — as a compliment! He recognized that living in his neighborhood was better since this Christian family had moved into the nearby house. This is the way it should be for every Christ-follower.

BE POSITIVE. We live in a world where every day we can say, “This is the day that the LORD has made, I will rejoice and be glad in

it” (Psalm 118:24). If God is the maker of this day, I should embrace it and be grateful for it. Sometimes people talk about seeing the cup half-full or half-empty. For the Christian, it should be half-full. For example, regardless of today’s weather, if I receive it as a gift from God, then I can be positive about it. We can meet each new day with joy in spite of the pressures in it (James 1:2-4). Instead of being negative, I can look for the opportunities to serve others even in a pressure-filled circumstance (Romans 12-13)

BE KIND. Life is hard. Days are filled with difficulties. Many people would benefit from something as simple as a smile. Your smile or act of kindness may be the ray of hope needed in an otherwise overwhelmingly cloudy day. You never know what someone is facing, has been through, or is currently fighting. Just one person can make a difference in the whole trajectory of another person’s life — possibly even significant enough to change them forever. Paul wrote to all Christians, “Be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving one another even as God in Christ has forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32).

BE SENSITIVE. Where are people hurting? Where do you see suffering? Where are people going through difficulties that you can help or assist? Would a glass of water in Jesus' name benefit another person? Look for these opportunities and seek to make a difference in another person's life.

BE ACTIVE. Volunteer. Attend games to cheer for your community team. Build into a child's life through coaching or mentoring. There are churches, nonprofits, and community organizations in every community who need help. I have been a member of Rotary since I moved into this community. As a Rotarian, I've had the privilege of helping our local school children through Care to Learn, raising money for Special Olympics through a community basketball tournament, serving our police department through a charity golf tournament, and many other worthwhile projects over the years. There are many opportunities to volunteer through the Chamber of Commerce; plus, almost countless occasions to aid and assist others through my local church ministries like biblical counseling, and even occasionally working with Children's Miracle Network and the American Cancer Society.

THE PRICE

Serving your community always costs you something. Don't be confused — it is always worth it though — but it will cost you. Anything good always comes at some price.

HUMILITY. It is never easy putting other people's desires and needs before your own. The most popular advertising campaigns do not typically start with putting others first. It goes against who we are; we look out for number one. The only way you will have joy in serving others first is through genuine humility. As followers of Christ, we find pleasure in serving others more than self just like Jesus loved and served us. This life of humility flows out of the two great commandments of loving God first and others second.

TIME. Loving your community takes time. If you wait until you have time, you never will serve anyone. Instead, we intentionally plan time in our schedules to serve others.

CREATIVITY. There are so many options to serve around us. Dream — What could you do? Where? How? Do some research — Who is known for serving their community well? What do they do? How do they do it? Listen — What does your community need? What do they want? How can they imagine you serving them well?

MONEY. Loving your community will cost you money. It does not have to bankrupt you. In the creativity stage, work off of a budget. Try to serve in ways you can afford. Many times it may just be the cost of fuel to go where you have volunteered. However, donations, dues, hospitality, and offerings all cost. Again, the cost is worth it!

PERSONAL EFFORT. Out in the country we used to call personal effort "elbow grease." Loving your community takes some of that! It may be the effort of organizing, collecting, driving, walking, running, writing, anything. You get out of it what you put into it. Anything worth doing is worth doing well.

PRAYER. As you are sensitive to your neighbor's suffering and needs, don't forget the value of prayer. Pray for those you know like neighbors, friends, community leaders, pastors, and relatives. Pray also for those you meet. When you hear a person's story, take a minute to pray for them — even with them! Most individuals are grateful for your prayer even if they do not have any relationship with God personally. Plus, pray for those you read or hear about through the medial or in typical conversation. As followers of Christ, we should always be ready to pray for those around us (1 Peter 4:7).

PERSONAL SACRIFICE. All of these costs ultimately mean one thing for you as you seek to love your community — personal sacrifice. As I've already mentioned, it is a sacrifice worth making though!

THE PAYOFF

There are some incredible benefits from loving your community. For starters, I'll name four.

YOUR COMMUNITY IS BETTER. As you love your community, everyone around

you will be better. They will be encouraged by your sensitivity and desire to show genuine love. Plus, they also will be served by your acts of kindness. In addition, your community will be a more positive place. All of these are great benefits of your loving your community.

YOU ARE HAPPIER. You will receive joy through choosing to honor Christ in your life; this is true satisfaction. Additionally, it will bring you further satisfaction when you see others who benefit from your efforts. When you do what is right and think what is right, then your emotions are influenced in positive ways. When you add everything together, you are a happier person.

CHRIST IS HONORED. When you have been motivated by Christ's love and a desire to obey God, Christ is honored. Although it is easy to live life primarily in regard to self, you learn God's best is to love Him and others more. After hearing what is best, you obey. The Bible refers to those who hear what God desires and do it as wise. As a wise person motivated by the love of Christ and desiring obedience, Christ is honored.

CHRIST IS SHARED. Those in your community see how the love of Christ is shared to them through you. They wonder and ask how you are different. You get to share the difference Christ has made in your life personally. In the process, the love of Christ that you live is shared with those you love.

THE PREDICTION

What about you? Are you ready to love your community better? Will you join me? My prediction is this: regardless of whether or not your community has all the advantages of mine, if you make an effort to love your community, your love for your community will grow as well. How about you? What are some things you love about your community? How do you practice loving your community?

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ABUNDANT FRUIT

Fruitful methodologies

By James G. Smith, BBFI Associate Mission Director



SEPTEMBER 2014 GLOBAL PARTNERS

In the Baptist Bible Fellowship International, we specialize in cross-cultural church planting. We start with evangelism, then on to discipleship, which takes us to leadership development, at which point the church planting actually takes place. When it starts to work, church reproduction becomes the new goal and we start over. To do all that in a foreign language and culture means that before anything happens there needs to be fundraising, language proficiency, and cultural adaptation!

We wanted to know how our global partners in all parts of the world evaluate their own methodologies. We have some interesting conversations on this issue that we hope will encourage you to pray more effectively.

We are not looking for a scoreboard, comparing numbers or results, but rather a discussion about methods. In the business world, they talk about “Best Practices.” In Missiology, it has been called “Fruitful Practices.”

Let us make clear that we are not looking for short cuts. The work of the ministry in all of its components is too important to skip any of the essential steps. We are very grateful to the missionaries who took the time and made the effort to answer our questions and help us with the information on the next few pages.

We begin by emphasizing that

the basis of our cross-cultural church planting efforts is our dependence on the Holy Scriptures as the foundation of our belief system and our dependence on the Holy Spirit of God as our source of strength and divine guidance.

When we talk about fruit-bearing, we have entered into a very biblical theme. The individual Christian is instructed in scripture to bear fruit. I think we would all agree that fruit-bearing has two separate connotations in scripture. We exhibit the fruit of the Spirit. Fruits are results. The Christian, filled with the Spirit of God, will bear the fruit. That is, he will exhibit the results of the Holy Spirit in his life. Those results are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

Paul told the Philippians, in the context of his discussion of missionary offerings, that he wasn't looking for a gift. He was sure that their gifts were going to accrue eternal dividends and that the people who came to know the Lord as a result of his ministry were to be counted as fruit or profit to the account of those who gave and prayed. So that would be the fruit to which we refer in our discussion of abundant fruit-bearing.

After his initial meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well of Sychar, Jesus admonished His followers to lift up their eyes to see the fields ready for harvest. Probably what they saw as they

looked out across the agricultural fields, toward the city, was a large group of people who were coming to Jesus because of the witness of the “woman at the well.”

Jesus said in John 4:35-38:

“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.”

There is a harvest of fruit that must be gathered. There are many people on their way to faith in the Savior all across the world because of the witness of the missionaries of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. Every day, somewhere out there in the harvest, people are trusting in Christ while others are following in obedience and discipleship, and some are being trained for ministry. Through it all churches are being established.

We have some very thoughtful and gracious missionaries among us. We are happy to share this issue with you.

T BEARING

WHAT METHODS OR
ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS
HAVE PROVEN TO BE
FRUITFUL IN YOUR
CROSS-
CULTURAL
CHURCH
PLANTING?

Chris & Becky Taylor **BELGIUM**

We have seen steady attendance increases through big-day events at church with steady follow-up between events. We try to schedule a major event once a quarter, get current attenders to invite friends and family, and during preparation towards the next event follow up with earlier visitors. With this method we have seen our average attendance grow from 15 to 30 on Sundays and our big-event day attendance has grown from 45 to 70. We view this as steady growth which has resulted in a doubling of attendance.

Jordan & Nikki Nisly **PHILIPPINES**

As TEAM missionaries, we were largely utilizing methods and activities that had been developed over years of experience and passed on to us. It was an enlightening process to then work to apply those methods, often in crossing cultural, social, and financial boundaries within the larger Metro Manila area and to see what was most successful and fruitful for us in our church. What we found was that the activities and events that generated a very exciting and social atmosphere, those that cultivated a lot of personal relational time and those that developed a sense of community and belonging, seemed to be the most fruitful.

Clifford & Neoma McGhee **ECUADOR**

We used a program called *Poder Para Cambiar*. I am not sure where that title (Power to Change) came from, but for several weeks we trained the people that would man kiosks located near the central park of Sangolquí, the market, and one other highly congested area. With colorful kiosks, caps, t-shirts, and materials prepared, we manned our kiosks eight to ten hours a day (including Sunday) for two weeks straight. Using clipboards, tracts, and four prepared questions that would lead into a presentation of the gospel, we interviewed more than 4,000 people.

An interesting story that came out of that campaign was Carmela, an illiterate elderly woman who is really in love with our Savior. She attended all of the training sessions and eagerly went forth the first day. That evening at debriefing, Carmela was crying. We asked, "What is the problem, Carmela?" With tears streaming she cried, "I can lead them to Christ but I cannot write down their names!" We prayed for the solution and she came back the next day just beaming. She had recruited her neighbor, a recent convert, to accompany her and write down the results. Everyone was happy! That evening at debriefing, Carmela raised her hand and said, "Pastor, I have another problem!" "What problem might that be?" we asked. "All morning long my neighbor wrote as I led them to Christ. This afternoon she wanted to lead them to Christ!" Incidentally, through our literacy program, Carmela has learned to both read and write. Just about any day of the week you will find her at the La Victoria church praying, preparing Sunday school material, or whatever might be at hand.

Maudie Meek **COSTA RICA**

Since we first went to Chile 58 years ago, I'm sure some of the methods we used then would have to be changed. Our message does not change.

Our first church planted in Costa Rica was begun under a tent. Our ministry was training teachers, song leaders, preachers, preparing lessons, preparing music, sound systems, and light systems. Our first baptistry was a huge

plywood box using a long water hose to keep plenty of water in it as it leaked.

If I could say something to the young missionaries today it would be:

1. Never let your time with God diminish. Success will be according to your fellowship with God.
2. Learn the language regardless of how hard — learn the language.
3. Learn the culture. Do not think it is a waste of time to learn the culture. As you understand the language and culture you will be able to determine your methods.

Jim & Mary Blume **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

What works one time or in one place may not work in another time or place, even from one tour of duty to the next. But generally speaking the less I do for the nationals the better off they seem to be. The same Holy Spirit in me is also in them, so I let them go at it. If they make mistakes, we try to be there to help if they humble themselves later. We have tried all kinds of things with mixed results. One has to try to fit into their way of doing things and that can be frustrating to time-conscious Americans.



Steve & Marilyn Trask **BRAZIL**

Starting a church in a new neighborhood has been a fruitful method because the people are more open as they are starting a new phase of life. Also, the land is not as expensive. People in new neighborhoods seem to be more open to the gospel.

Bob & Dee Dodson **TANZANIA**

We have been in Tanzania since 1992. The first four months were taken up in Swahili language school. The rest of our two-year first term was trying to adapt to the culture and get accustomed to the language. We worked in the first church plant of our mission with fellow missionaries just one term ahead of us. We all were green. But we did not know it! The next term we were off on our own.

Dwayne & Valerie Keefe **AUSTRALIA**

The best way to get started is with activities that involve one-on-one relationships, such as: assisting with needs, meeting for a cuppa (cup of coffee) at the local coffee shops once a week, having pizza with the pastor.

The most effective outreach we have experienced thus far is for people to personally invite people in their circle of influence (99 percent of our church growth is a result of this method). It all goes back to building relationships. We just need Christians who are willing and committed to doing so.

Another outreach we are involved in is scripture in school. Hundreds of children are taught the Scriptures on a regular basis just in our one local public primary school. We are free to teach scripture (for now) but we are not free to proselytize or promote our church. Therefore it is a wonderful ministry but the results and impact are unknown. The kids do express their excitement when scripture time comes around and enjoy learning about God.

Also we are asked to give a Christmas or Easter message (brief) in the local public schools. This is for the whole student body, teachers, and parents that attend. The same rules apply, so unless we are approached outside of the school the results are unknown.

Brian & Rachael Weed **NICARAGUA**

For our ministry, the fruitful return on our time, finances, and sweat investment has been narrowed down to a few factors. Work ethic is important. As a missionary, no one is there to tell you, "Hey, get out of bed and get to work and, oh, by the way, here is your list of to dos for the day." So, work ethic is key. When other people haven't yet woken up or have already gone to bed, we need to be willing to work like a farmer in planting season. However, we don't do all the work by ourselves. We have found that it is better to train a force of nationals to evangelize, disciple, and church plant with us.

James & Lori Bradley **MEXICO**

We shop in the small neighborhood stores as much as we can and talk with the local people as much as possible, so we can be known.

Lance & Leah Patterson **PHILIPPINES**

In general, food. In Kenya, whenever we dedicated a building or had a special occasion we could nearly double our attendance. If we roasted a goat or prepared a stew people would come. It was a great way to make new contacts to follow up on. The same works in the Philippines generally.

We have started a new work with an aboriginal tribe of people called the Aetas in the Philippines. They are very poor, but have a government-built elementary school. One of the courses is religious education, but they had no one to teach it. So we met with the tribal council and offered to teach at the school. They agreed. That was our inroad into the village.

From there we began to bring food, medicine, and Bibles for people in need, for which they seem to be very appreciative. We've brought them rice and sardines, medicine for various ailments, and have taken two into town to see a doctor. In return they have given us coconuts, avocados, bananas, clams, and crabs, and they are coming to a Bible study each week. If they memorize some scripture verses, we reward them with a Bible.



Jim & Mary Blume **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

One has to be somewhat adaptable to the culture. We are seeing some Biblically based customs among Christians who have stepped totally out of the ancestral worship. Our goal is to get them out of the old pagan ways and into a Bible-based culture. One does not have to wear a suit and tie to preach. But we do have to have church during times that people can get home by dark, since they have to walk.

James & Lori Bradley **MEXICO**

From the beginning, we wanted our church plant to be a Mexican church, but we are first a biblical church and so we try to only incorporate practices or traditions that are okay from a biblical perspective.

Bob & Dee Dodson **TANZANIA**

The best thing for us was to be left alone with the Tanzanian believers. We did Bible studies in their homes. We preached in villages. We taught Bible classes in the primary schools. It was all in Swahili. By visiting in the homes we learned more about what it took to be a Tanzanian.

We came away realizing no matter how much we wanted to, we would never be exactly like them. It helped. They knew it already.

Dwayne & Valerie Keefe AUSTRALIA

We had to get an understanding of the “no-worries-mate” mentality. Some have come over to start an “American church” and that has worked against us because the Aussies in general don’t have a positive view of Americans. They look at Americans as rich and arrogant, and unfortunately many Americans who have come over have proven them right. So we have taken some insight from the current churches here and have adapted our church to match in some degree our culture, where appropriate and biblical to do so.

Chris & Becky Taylor BELGIUM

We have come to see that things in another culture are not wrong, they are just different and they function for that culture. I think it’s important to remember not to compare the culture we serve in with the culture that we come from because we tend to view the familiar through rose-colored glasses.

Steve & Marilyn Trask BRAZIL

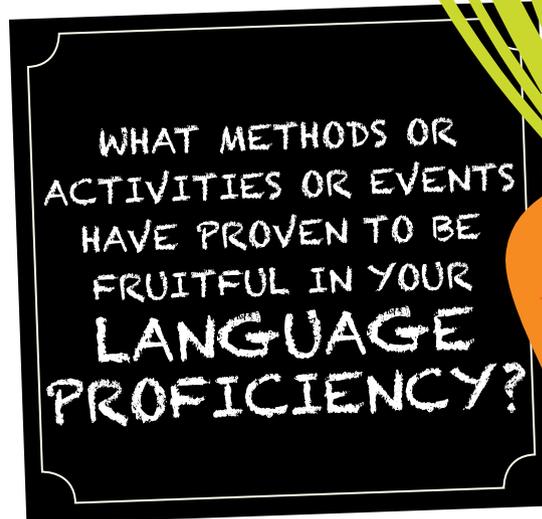
Brazilians by custom are open to Semana Santa (holy week) services so we have special Easter evangelistic services. Because family is also very important in the Latino culture, we have family related events – Mother’s Day, Family Day, Photo Day, Children’s Day. We are also aware of some anti-american sentiment and we are careful.

Brian & Rachael Weed NICARAGUA

We have learned to stay away from the temptation of North American clubs, ministries, etc. They can suck the ministry life out of you, as the enjoyment of “escaping” can become your consistent life before you know it. It would be easy to find yourself not ministering to the people that were once a part of your deputation videos and instead fellowship outside of the culture you were originally called to.

And he that reapeth receiveth wages,
and gathereth fruit unto life eternal:
**that both he that soweth and
he that reapeth may rejoice
TOGETHER.**

John 4:36



Bob & Dee Dodson TANZANIA

Learning the Swahili language was a priority. No lasting ministry will ever be accomplished without language skills. We found that showing them that we were trying, we were light years ahead of the guy with the tent traveling around preaching campaigns with an interpreter.

Dwayne & Valerie Keefe AUSTRALIA

Here, the people speak English, however, some words are different. Also words we find inappropriate in the States are acceptable here. It was difficult for a time not to take offence. So, we are having to look beyond the language and look at the heart of the person.

Chris & Becky Taylor BELGIUM

We have found that too many individuals who attempt to learn a language try to wait until they “know enough” to begin to speak or write. Reading will always come fastest amongst the Romanized languages. The key here is not to allow the fear of man to keep us immobilized in language learning and usage. We all make mistakes but we learn from them and move on.

Brian & Rachael Weed NICARAGUA
Sports Centers work well for us. We meet them head on and require them to attend church.

Randy & Sandy Roberts COSTA RICA
The three methods that have worked best for us in our ministry are: door-to-door evangelism, vacation Bible school, and special services, such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, Labor Day (church picnic), and Friends Day.

Clifford & Neoma McGhee ECUADOR
One of our strategies has been to use evangelistic teams in the schools, public meeting places, and in the jungle villages. A team usually consists of about 12 people trained in puppets, mime, songs, games, but most importantly in using large, illustrated books to present the gospel. Many of the schools give us the entire student body for an hour so we use the above presentations for about 20 minutes to focus the crowd, then we tell the story from creation, fall, separation, and on to the crucifixion and resurrection. After the message, workers gather groups of those interested and for about 25 minutes clearly present the gospel. I think that our best year we personally presented the gospel to more than 3,000 people.

As a secondary blessing (leading people to Christ being primary), our five churches here in the valley and the church in Tena are well known by our communities.

WHAT METHODS OR
ACTIVITIES OR
EVENTS HAVE PROVEN
TO BE FRUITFUL
IN YOUR
EVANGELISM?

Dwayne & Valerie Keefe AUSTRALIA
Most Aussies are comfortable with their lives without Christ. Most are affluent and those that are not receive assistance from the government, so all their needs are taken care of apart from God. Church attendance is generally something you do when nothing else is happening on Sunday. Church worship is not top priority. So evangelism is even less of a priority. That responsibility is placed on the pastor and staff because they are "better equipped" to handle such matters. So we have tried different methods of outreach with a focus on fellowship to encourage building relationships so that we can get the opportunity to share Christ. Our church currently has a fellowship activity once a month. It may be a breakfast before church, family bowling, or a games night. We also set up a booth at every community event we can (school fetes, the local Rotary Club's fair, etc.).

Bob & Dee Dodson TANZANIA
Nothing is richer than leading a man, woman, boy, or girl to the Lord in his or her own language. What's as good but never mentioned is praying with them and knowing the Spirit is in your midst working. I am not talking some spooky crying or tongues — but when you feel in the inner man the Spirit change how you phrase a prayer of faith to fit the need of those in the room with you. In both cases, please know that our work is godly work. And God must work in and through us.

That is why we willingly submit to the embarrassing process of learning a new language, talking like children at first and slowly proceeding.

James & Lori Bradley MEXICO
We have taught and trained the people in our church to witness, provided them with materials, and encouraged them in evangelism. We praise God in church every time someone is led to the Lord during the week.

Jim & Mary Blume PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Balance and patience is the key. High-pressure salesmanship is a waste of time in our culture. In the oriental mindset, one will tell you whatever he thinks you wish to hear, just to be polite. Plus there is the communal mindset that keeps people from following the Lord unless the clan approves. If the clan disapproves, the social pressure can be unimaginable to a Westerner's mind. Tribal societies are very complex.

We have found that just plain preaching is the best method. Having a conversation with people, one on one, still works but it takes lots of time. I estimate that 40 to 50 percent of professions of faith are false. Folks just want to add another god to their list or get some material benefit from the white man. One has to be constantly repeating the basics of the gospel until they get a conviction of sin. We give out lots of tracts. People here will take them. They especially like the Chick booklet tracts. We talk to people in the everyday course of living. Meeting people at the stores and workshops is a good method. I use flashcard stories a lot in the villages.

We are allowed to teach religious instruction in the public schools, so we take advantage of that all we can to instill the Bible into the minds of young people. The most number of kids saved comes from the school classes, although we do not get very many church members from that ministry. Vacation Bible schools have been great evangelistic tools.

WHAT METHODS OR
ACTIVITIES OR
EVENTS HAVE PROVEN
TO BE FRUITFUL
IN YOUR
DISCIPLESHIP?

Bob & Dee Dodson TANZANIA

Whether personally walking with men and teaching as we do ministry or in a classroom situation the language is important. We must spend time with men and women for them to see Jesus in us and at work in us.

Dwayne & Valerie Keefe AUSTRALIA

We have a mid-week Bible study in which we take a book of the Bible and work through it verse by verse. Through this we encourage our people to share what they have learned with others. It has been encouraging to see them grow and be excited about God's word.

James & Lori Bradley MEXICO

We use a discipleship book for one-on-one discipleship outside of church services, at a time when it is convenient for them to participate.

Randy & Sandy Roberts COSTA RICA

We have four methods which have all shown good results:

1. Discipleship class
2. Small groups
3. Missions conference
4. Bible seminary

Jim & Mary Blume PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Discipleship can take ages, it seems. If a new convert can read then we try to get them into a basic course for new Christians. Many folks here are illiterate and so getting them to come to meetings is a big help. Youth camps work great here. We have bi-weekly youth get-togethers with those from nearby churches. Ladies' and men's retreats have been a very good means to get people under sound teaching. Special speakers also work well to get folks to come to meetings of all kinds. Folks will sit and listen for hours to a good story. Talking is still the main form of entertainment. I use a chalkboard a lot wherever I can set one up.

Steve & Marilyn Trask BRAZIL

We have had success in discipleship by having evening classes held for new converts in the church building or in a home.



WHAT METHODS OR
ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS
HAVE PROVEN TO BE
FRUITFUL IN YOUR
LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT?

Bob & Dee Dodson TANZANIA

We have discovered that leadership comes at a cost. We have slowly seen that our leaders HAVE to make mistakes and pay for them before they will learn. Teachable moments come after the fact. If we coddle they never grow. Those that come through the process are well-equipped leaders.

We are training what few men we can get in pastoral classes. I believe that this WILL pan out in the long run. We now require the men to pay their way to and from the classes. They are in class for two weeks (away from home and ministry). But the progress is measurable. Later, some of these men will be teachers. Bible Training Centre for Pastors (BTCP) is a program EVERY mission field should look at and evaluate. It is as good as the content I got at BBC back in the day. If it is in your language consider using it!

Dwayne & Valerie Keefe AUSTRALIA

We start off small, asking individuals to participate in the service in some small way (set-up, tear-down, praying, announcements, etc.). Once they have shown willingness to get involved, then we move on to developing them in the areas of leadership by giving them greater responsibilities and the resources to carry out those responsibilities (Bible study leader, children's church teacher, etc).



Steve & Marilyn Trask **BRAZIL**

We have our Bible institute students or graduates brought into the new church plant and help them until the new church plant can take them on part-time or full-time.

James & Lori Bradley **MEXICO**

We have taught several Bible institute level classes which have elevated the skills and knowledge of our leaders.

Randy & Sandy Roberts **COSTA RICA**

We have used three methods of leadership development that I feel have been successful.

1. Mentoring one-on-one

Sharing life and ministry with specific men, one at a time.

2. Pastoral Ministry

As God calls men into the ministry, I give them a specific ministry in which to work. We meet as a group every month to

give an account of our various ministries and how to improve. We have divided up the ministries like this: Finances, Evangelism, Visitation, Discipleship, Special Days and Events, Sunday School and Children's Ministries. Every four months they rotate ministries. This gives each one very practical ministry experience. Each one is placed on the preaching schedule as well. After each one preaches, he spends personal time with me and we go over the message. At the end of the monthly meeting, all the pastors critique each other.

3. Bible Seminary

Jim & Mary Blume **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Leadership development takes much wisdom, because naturally strong leaders are not always the most spiritually minded guys. In this society, boys are very undisciplined. So, one has to have a good balanced hand of training to keep

them from "losing face," but yet keep on after failures. We lose about 70 percent of our disciples, mostly to the temptations of youth. So, we have found that admitting mostly married men to Bible school is a big help. Smaller classes seem to work best because one can have more personal input with each student. Sticking with the fundamentals has been good for us. Degrees and diplomas seem to only swell most men's heads with pride. Some of our best soul winners and church planters are men with no "higher" education. That is not to say we have no well-educated leaders but they are few. In the past, we have had good success with night classes at the church open to everybody. Some very good lay preachers have come from that ministry. One man has started several churches as a result of that program. Villages love to have fellowship meetings in which people will come from far and wide, pagans and Christians alike.

WHAT METHODS OR
ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS
DID NOT
PRODUCE THE
DESIRED
FRUIT?
WHY DO YOU THINK
THAT HAPPENED?

James & Lori Bradley **MEXICO**

We had some youth coming to our monthly youth events and once had a special speaker. After this, most of them never came back. I had told the man that we only give a 10 to 15-minute devotional for these kids who do not attend church. He preached a 45-minute sermon and lost their attention. Lesson learned: special speakers are sometimes only special to themselves.

Bob & Dee Dodson **TANZANIA**

One easy answer is the Jesus film. In Kenya they found out about ten years ago when the totals from all the Jesus film campaigns were in they had led more than the population of the country to Jesus. We had over 1,500 converts in a campaign we did several years ago. I know of one man who is in church today as a result of that campaign.

Also, bringing in evangelism groups from the states did not work. They used the gospel cube, or tracts, or some other method. They just could not reach the

heart. Boots on the ground long term still works better.

In East Africa there is a cottage industry in bringing people from the States to teach nationals, pastors, ladies, teens etc. My personal investigation has found the industry to be very management top heavy. It costs a lot of money. Our American microwave discipleship or evangelism breeds East African businessmen. We line their pockets. We feel good when we leave. But after the jetway pulls away from the plane, they are already calling another dupe in the States inviting him to come.

A while back an ambassador from a northern European country came out in the news and told the Tanzanians that this country loves seminars. After the seminar the Tanzanians go back to whatever practice they had before. They all attended and they answered correctly. They also ate well at all the meals freely offered. I have counseled Peace Corp people who spent a year or two on a project in a village, with water, cooking,



WHAT METHODS OR
ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS
HAVE PROVEN TO BE
FRUITFUL IN YOUR
CHURCH
PLANTING?

Dwayne & Valerie Keefe AUSTRALIA

Church planting is a long-term process. Because of a lack of desire among Aussies to attend church and even a lesser desire to get involved in the ministry, a church plant will take many years to reach its full potential. Some of this is dependent upon the area in which the church is planted. I have found that the areas with a higher concentration of immigrants

solar, grinding meal, etc. They left the country. Some time later they returned and found all their work for naught. Maybe we can learn from this.

Dwayne & Valerie Keefe AUSTRALIA

One of the common methods to introduce your church to your community is through letterboxing. We are allowed here to distribute flyers in mailboxes. This past year we were changing the times of our service and thought we would give this a try. We spent a lot of money on printing and distribution and had no results whatsoever. We have had little results from door knocking. In fact, most are offended when bothered. As a culture, Aussies are just not interested in spiritual things unless something drastic happens in their lives.

have a tendency to grow much quicker than those predominantly Australian. There seems to be a higher respect for religion in other cultures than in Australia. So church planting requires patience and much prayer.

James & Lori Bradley MEXICO

We planted our church where there was no gospel presence. We started with English classes to show we are there to help. We had a Kids' Club to help parents with their children.

Brian & Rachael Weed NICARAGUA

Church reproduction is a team sport. It is necessary to have a team of nationals that are on board with the idea and are willing to work. The nationals that we have been called to work with are just as called of God as we are. So, yes, they can evangelize, disciple, lead, and pastor with or without me.

Jim & Mary Blume PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Church planting works differently in every location. Since we live in a gold town there are people from many different tribal groups. We have as many as a dozen different language groups

represented in our church. Many of the men who were won to the Lord in forestry plantations later came to Bible school and then took the gospel back to their villages. It is very difficult to get into a village without someone to invite you in for a visit. I have started a couple of village churches with a handful of believers who had been won to the Lord in our town church. But it took several years to grow to the point they could call a pastor. I found that if we had a national pastor from the very start the church would grow stronger in the same amount of time.

For us it has been best to let a national start the church and we missionaries stay as far in the background as possible. We want them to depend on the Lord and not the American dollar.

Steve & Marilyn Trask

BRAZIL

We have had success by starting in the home of a solid church family who has moved to another area of the city, or another village, or new state.

Lance & Leah Patterson PHILIPPINES

We wanted to provide Bibles for everyone, but I didn't want people to take a gift for granted, so we purchased the Bibles for 600 shillings each, and sold them for 100. The word got out and we had people coming wanting to buy ten Bibles. I would only allow one each, but they would buy them and then sell them for a profit and never come back. So we quit doing that.

Chris & Becky Taylor BELGIUM

Holding events that specifically correlated with Catholic holidays did not produce any results as most individuals went out of country for their long weekends or holiday weeks. Discover the religious days and holidays of the new culture and avoid them in the activity

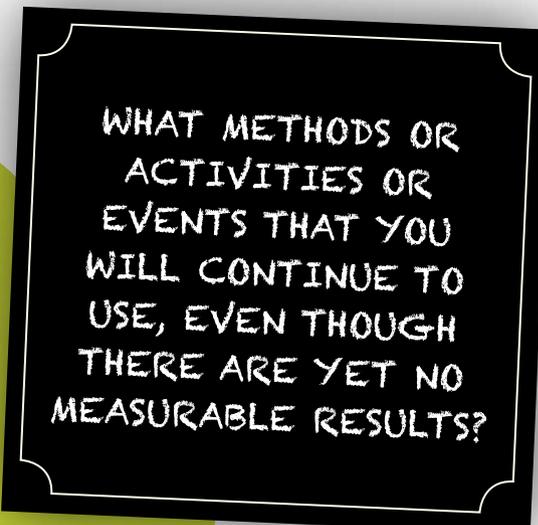
department if outreach is the goal of the activity. If "in-reach" is the goal, then by all means use those days for that purpose.

Steve & Marilyn Trask BRAZIL

Giving away chocolate candy on Easter didn't work. Giving away awards for the one who brought the most visitors only caused problems.

Brian & Rachael Weed NICARAGUA

Mass evangelism is typically a fail in Nicaragua. Yep, we have spoken to 3,000 teens in a day, and yep, 500 "accepted Christ." Where are they on Sunday morning? Not at church! So, we have gone back to the one-on-one evangelism as this produces the fruit.



WHAT METHODS OR
ACTIVITIES OR
EVENTS THAT YOU
WILL CONTINUE TO
USE, EVEN THOUGH
THERE ARE YET NO
MEASURABLE RESULTS?

Dwayne & Valerie Keefe AUSTRALIA

Being involved in community events (school projects and fetes, Rotary fairs, community fetes, etc.), inviting people over for dinners or parties/celebrations, signage, offering assistance to those in need, church fellowship activities – each of these build relationships and through these relationships seeds can be planted even though we may not see the result until we get to heaven.

Jim & Mary Blume PAPUA NEW GUINEA

One of the methods I will continue to use that seems on the surface to have no measurable results is the distribution of tracts – because that is sowing the seed of the Word. One plants and another waters. I will also continue to be active with children's ministries, because, again, one is sowing the seed that may take years to bear fruit, but it will in time.

Bob & Dee Dodson TANZANIA

I would use Bible Training Centre for Pastors (BTCP) sooner!

Dwayne & Valerie Keefe AUSTRALIA

Team missions. Because Australia is a difficult field it is easy to get discouraged. Also, because of the apathy of Christians, most of the work and responsibility of the church is placed on our shoulders and it can be easy to burn out. It would be great to have another couple to come alongside to assist with the workload and to be able to encourage one another. When one falls another can lift him up the Scriptures tell us. Also, it would enable furloughs to be more frequent and productive knowing you have someone that is familiar with your ministry looking after it in your absence. To have someone to come alongside to assist with the day-to-day ministry would be a tremendous blessing.

Brian & Rachael Weed NICARAGUA

Raise more funds as growing a ministry in a third-world environment is crazy expensive.



IF YOU WERE
TO START OVER,
WHAT WOULD
YOU DO
DIFFERENTLY?

James & Lori Bradley MEXICO

I would teach and organize weekly visitation sooner. Our church does well in giving to missions as we taught the Great Commission early on. But we still struggle with people wanting to come with us to make visits.

Jim & Mary Blume PAPUA NEW GUINEA

If I were to start over I would probably be a little more forceful in raising financial support and a little more diplomatic about a few things. But more or less I would do it the same way, because I was taught the Bible way to start with.

Steve & Marilyn Trask BRAZIL

If we were to start over, I would like to have a team effort. That is not possible if there are no missionary candidates!

MEASURING THE HARVEST

By James G. Smith

In this “Global Partners” we wanted to open a discussion on methodologies that might be helpful for each of our ministries. When we talk about fruitful practices, we acknowledge that the Lord of the harvest is the one who produces the fruit. We think that all of our global partners are in agreement with the concept that we are laborers and co-laborers, but the results, the fruit, the harvest ... that is on Him!

If some practices are working somewhere in the harvest, maybe those practices or strategies could work in our assigned area as well. If possible, we would like to avoid the comparisons that take place when we talk about our diverse ministries. We have some hard-working missionaries, totally committed to the task, who do not enjoy the same results that others do. I hope we are able to see that.

At some point in our evaluation of fruit, let's not forget that a consideration

of the soil must be given. Jesus clearly told us that not all soil would be the same. If we have a family who firmly believes it is God's will for them to be in a difficult part of the harvest, they should receive our encouragement, not our mockery or censure.

So we continually strive for more effective methods because we really do want God to be glorified. We understand that effectiveness cannot be the single measure by which we judge a ministry successful or worthy of support.

As we ponder the effectiveness of our methods, let's be cautious and gracious. Effectiveness is not easily measured from afar. There is so much more to missionary ministry than the scorecard at the end of a Sunday, a financial report at the end of the quarter, or the next furlough video presentation.

The BBFI pastors who make up the committees examine the candidates and approve those who meet the

qualifications. They are then sent by their churches to raise the funds necessary to live and serve in their particular city and country. The churches of the BBFI have the distinction of choosing which missionaries they want to support financially and prayerfully.

Armed with a clear sense of direction from the Lord, the backing of his or her sending church, and the prayerful and financial support of his or her supporting churches, the missionary then gets down to the business of crossing cultures and overcoming linguistic and cultural boundaries with the purpose of establishing and building local churches.

Let's work together as partners in the task of fulfilling the Great Commission. Let's keep our eyes on the prize at the finish line – when people from every tribe and nation and tongue will gather around the throne and together glorify the Lamb of God!





URBAN CURRENT

Multicultural adventure

I hadn't been to Albert Lea for several years but it was family reunion time. I pulled off the interstate and headed to Walmart to pick up some supplies. I was blown away.

The town of just over 18,000, a county seat in south central Minnesota, is surrounded by cornfields. I've been visiting this area all my life. A veritable tribe of relatives on my mother's side inhabit the region. Fair skinned, blond, and blue-eyed Scandinavians and Germans have been all one could see in any direction.

Within five minutes at Walmart I encountered any number of African-Americans, Asians, Hispanics, and Africans. "Here? Here in Albert Lea?" I thought. This experience dramatically underscored the truth of my own proclamation: "My reality today will be yours tomorrow."

I have preached *ad nauseum*, "My urban reality will soon be yours." Of course this includes the multicultural reality that only a couple short decades ago was found primarily in urban centers. This wonderful wave of multicultural humanity has swept the land.

One of the most striking demographic trends of the past couple decades has been a dispersal of America's immigrant population. Immigrants are settling in small towns as well as big cities, suburbs as well as inner-city neighborhoods, rural areas as well as metropolitan ones.

For the first time, racial and ethnic minorities make up more than half the children born in the U.S. In 1980, the five most commonly spoken languages in the U.S. other than English were Spanish, Italian, German, French, and Polish. By 2011, Spanish was still the most widely spoken language after English but Chinese, French, Tagalog, and Vietnamese followed it. The U.S. Census calculates that by 2043 Americans who identify themselves as Hispanic, Black, Asian, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander will together outnumber non-Hispanic whites. Four

years ago officials had projected the shift would come in 2050. Minorities, now 37 percent of the U.S. population, are projected to comprise 57 percent of the population by 2060. Children of interracial marriages have soared into the millions in the last generation.

Mind you, when we speak of things "multi-cultural," it's not just about skin color. There may be elements related to nationality, ethnicity, tribal identity, social class, political affiliation, or other designations. I just saw a new book title the other day *The Suburbanization of Poverty*. Single mothers have been one of the fastest-growing poverty groups in America. This is a unique mission field in everybody's backyard. You may live in a small town off an interstate. Who is reaching the Indians who own the motel or the people who live in a rickety mobile home outside of town on a county road?

We exist to engage our world with the gospel. It's not a mystery. The gospel is supra-cultural. Our outreach is cross-cultural. The result: Our church is multicultural. If our church is not multicultural, where do you think the problem lies? Is it the gospel or is it our outreach?

There was no greater animosity, bias, prejudice, or hatred as that between Jew and Samaritan. Yet in Acts 1:8 Jesus makes it quite clear that under the power of the Holy Spirit, witnesses would go to Samaria, not by accident but on purpose and by design. Jesus commanded His followers to make disciples among those who were quite near but very different. People who had been despised, avoided, and marginalized were to be loved, sacrificed for, and disciplined. John 4 unfolds the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

If we refuse to reach out to those who are close but different, it seems to call into question our efforts to reach those far away. I'm not ready to start a new organization over this but in Jesus' last orders, Samaria comes before the

"utmost parts."

In Acts 2, Pentecost is the occasion for a religious celebration providing commonality. However, a quick read of all of the ethnicities and nationalities represented would dare anybody to posit the idea that there were no cultural differences.

You may say, "There is no one around here but people like us." Maybe, but that would be rare. Most three- or four-square-mile pieces of any town, city, or county will have a representation of other cultures. Do we have eyes to see? The failure to reach beyond our cultural bounds is biblically indefensible.

As I was thinking about this multicultural presence, the phrase "It's a multicultural world after all" came to mind to the tune of "It's a Small World After All." This song is forever burned into my memory from a trip to Disneyworld. (The line was so long and the song looped endlessly.) Of course the world is multicultural — I mean our personal environments, where you live and serve, where I live and serve, our culture.

The problem is, that phrase has too many syllables to fit that old song title. That's the point. The new reality won't fit into the old song. The new reality doesn't fit into an old mindset. Our minds, our hearts, our vision must be biblically informed, enlarged, and supernaturally enabled.

Your adventure lies straight ahead.



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

Another exciting time for BBC



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

This past January, we achieved a great victory together.

We prayed, we worked, we gave, and together we did it! We raised \$600,000 and the Rawlings Foundation matched that amount! We met a great financial goal — we completed our fiscal year in the black for the first time in many years. It was a great time of victory for the college and for the BBFI.

Have you seen the latest slogan from Nike? “Just do it, then do it again!”

It is time for us to do it again! Our loving friends at the Rawlings Foundation have once again offered us this great challenge: If we can raise \$600,000 by October 31, 2014, then they will give a matching gift of \$600,000.

But, how do I ask again?

You may think, “Didn’t BBC just do this?”

You would be right. I know we ask a lot of our supporters, but it’s necessary. My initial reaction to the new matching gift challenge was that it is too soon, and people won’t respond. Then I realized the moment we stop accepting challenges is the moment we stop moving forward.

As a pastor, I asked each week for our church to be faithful in giving. It is different asking you to give to BBC, but God is blessing, and with each little win we are seeing progress! Each victory is due to the faithful support of you who love BBC and sacrifice to help us. Why is your gift so important at this time? Because we must continue to move forward. The world needs more pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders who have been taught the truth of the Word of God and who have been trained to share the life-changing message of the gospel. I must ask again; this is for His work, it is for His glory, it is for His church, and it is for the future of many churches. So I must ask again. Our needs are great, but our opportunities are greater!

Would you please commit to pray about this great opportunity for BBC? Pray about how you can be involved, for others to respond, for God to bless, and for us to reach this goal.

There is a renewed spirit on the campus of BBC and within the BBFI. Those of you who attended Fellowship Week commented on the inspired preaching and worship, but even more of you commented on the fresh spirit and sense of excitement we felt. I believe it was the beginning of a new day for the BBFI and for BBC. I am more excited about our future than ever before. We have seen God do amazing things in our 65-year history — and to this I say, “Dear God, just do it — then do it again!”

The opportunity we have is to receive a \$600,000 matching gift if we can raise \$600,000 by October 31. Please pray about how you can participate!

Rivals



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

I’m from Boston. I know something about rivals.

This will be a surprise to just about no one. We cheer for anything, anybody, any team from Boston. We boo, hiss, deride (or worse) anything New York. We can love an athlete with an unyielding devotion — but just let him change shirts (particularly if he wears one with pinstripes) and we will name the garbage truck after him! He has become a rival.

As we begin a new college year I have thought a lot about rivals. Not sports rivals — decision rivals. It sure seems like we are pulled more vigorously than ever. Rivalries are really about choosing between two options — acknowledging the differences between two paths — aligning our hearts and our energies and our hours for one “team” or the other.

We almost all make “rival” choices every day. Starbucks or Dunkin’ Donuts (I can help you with this call if you need it!) Going on to lunch? Where will you choose to go? Coke or Pepsi? In Boston, two incredible pastry shops, Mike’s Pastries and Modern Pastries are barely a block apart in the North End. The stuff they make is so good it can bring you to tears. But if you have any chance of becoming a “local” you have to choose which of the two is the best! I really don’t think you’re allowed to admit that you like both. They are rivals. Choose.

For our students these days, the “rivalry” is not so frivolous. The draw to our culture, to its value system and pleasures, creates a rivalry that grows fiercer by the day. Following Jesus, and even more, getting an education to equip you to lead our churches, doesn’t have the financial attraction of rival options. In recruiting new students, in keeping them all the way to graduation, and in all the work in between, I think our work at Boston Baptist College is to stoke the rivalry, to equip for the encounter, to deck out our team ready to “leave it all on the field.”

That kind of rivalry is serious work. I see it in our students. Matt McGrath spent his summer doing mission work in Africa. Clearly, he has chosen his team. Devon and Brent worked at their home church in Ohio for Pastor Randy Moore. Those guys have put on the right jersey! I had two guys at our church, Drake and David, who were indispensable to us this summer. They, too, have the rivalry thing down.

It’s a part of our lives every day. I think that’s a good reminder of what is spiritually at stake every day. Rivalry. It’s what our college is all about — grooming young men and women for “the Team.” Remember that the next time you boo the Yankees ... or the Mets ... or the Jets ... or the Knicks ... or

TULSA, OK

Bill Carter retires from pastorate

Pastor Bill Carter and Heatheridge Baptist Church of Tulsa set aside the first weekend of August to celebrate a 29-year relationship as Carter stepped down from the church's pulpit.

Carter and his wife Norma were feted in dinners and activities that spanned Friday through Sunday, August 1-3. Several guests were present for one or more of the events that included meals, a ladies' fellowship, golf tournament, and worship services. Former staff members and ministry friends attending were Ron and Donna Kauffman, Keith and Shari Bassham, Kent and Julie York, Kim and Shirley Hayes, Rick and Peggy Bradford, Gary and Jeanne Cate, Rick and Susie Biven, Loran McAlister, Lyndel and Brenda Hix, Howard and Donna Braymer, and Philip and Amber Bassham. The Carters were also joined by their

children and their families for the weekend.

The Sunday worship celebration combined personal testimonials to the Carters with Pastor Howard Braymer of Harrison, AR, delivering a message. The church presented the Carters with a plaque of appreciation, a box of cards and greetings, and a check for \$16,000.

When Bill Carter was asked to close out the service, he presented his church key to the

new pastor, Shane Peters.

Peters is a 1999 graduate of Baptist Bible College in Springfield. He and his wife Tonya served churches alongside Keith Bassham in Missouri and Don Elmore in Arkansas before becoming the associate pastor at Heatheridge in 2007. The church called him as pastor in July shortly after Carter announced his resignation and retirement.



Left photo: Longtime Heatheridge Baptist Church member Danny Martin making a presentation to Bill and Norma Carter. Right photo: Ministry guests and church members attended a dinner, hosted by Sharon Davis, to honor Bill and Norma Carter.

SPRINGFIELD, MO

BBC class of 1959 holds reunion

When the Baptist Bible College class of 1959 came together for their 55th reunion, only the attendance was down some, but their enthusiasm held. Jorene Howard said, "Our May 5th reunion was wonderful as always. It's so nice to get together and see who is 'falling apart' and share memories!"

The class, which meets every five years, had lunch in the area that was the cafeteria in the early days of BBC on the first floor of the administration building.

The guest of honor for the reunion was Jeri Combs, who, with her deceased husband James O. Combs, was a special friend and mentor to class president Carl Baugh. Others in the reunion shared their own stories of their mentors and ministries.

Jorene says the class of '59 will meet again in five years in 2019.



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DEARBORN, MI

See the Dearborn Friendship Center for Muslims when you attend the BBFI Fall Meeting

By Ken Liles

Dwight and Jeanie Billingsley are in the right place at the right time doing the right thing. They are in Dearborn, MI, the “Arab capital of America,” supervising the Arab-American Friendship Center, ministering to the pressing needs of new immigrants.

Dearborn has the largest Arab population outside the Middle East and is home to the largest mosque in America. One-fourth of Dearborn’s inhabitants (40,000) are Arabic-speakers. Four of seven city council members are of Arab descent and voted four to three to implement Sharia Law for Muslims in Dearborn. These are examples of how Arab-speakers have come to form a new presence in America.

When Henry Ford built his Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, he hired newly arrived immigrants from Lebanon, mostly Maronite Christians. They were joined by their Muslim neighbors from Lebanon, Yemen, and Jordan. Others came from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq — all forced to flee because of the political and economic hardship of wars.

The Billingsleys are reaching out to these Middle Easterners at their Friendship Center where they teach 135 Arab-speakers classes in English and U.S. citizenship. In this way they are doing good and being



Dwight Billingsley and Ken Liles outside the Arab-American Friendship Center in Dearborn, MI earlier this year.

a blessing to these mostly Muslim background people. They chose to minister in this way rather than with hostile confrontation.

More importantly, when the opportunity arises, Dwight and Jeanne explain their faith in the Lord Jesus — something Muslims would never hear in their own homelands. Some are coming to a biblical understanding and to a genuine faith in Christ.

In light of the world situation and general lack of knowledge of Islam among Americans, the Billingsleys’ presence and work in Dearborn is timely. They provide Americans with an understanding of Islam and Muslims with an understanding of biblical Christianity, and they do this in a way without needless offense.

The BBFI of Michigan is supporting this effort. Further, it would be in the interest of every one of us to do the same. Visit their work, learn from them, and participate with them in their outreach to Arab-speakers. Plan a short-term trip to their place and go work with them. If you do, you will be impressed with what is going on, and I believe you will witness a work worthy of your prayers and partnership.

Financial support can be sent through the BBFI Mission Office: BBFI Mission Office, P.O. Box 191, Springfield, MO 65801.

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O'FALLON, MO

New St. Louis church plant hosts community movie nights

As part of his launch preview strategy, church planter Chris Highfill has hosted two movie nights to publicize their efforts in the St. Louis-O'Fallon, MO, community. He reports 100 attended the first movie night, and over 200 came for the more recent movie night in late July. One more event is planned for mid-August. The events are held in a park near the school that will provide a location for the church plant in the fall.

It's been seven months since Chris and his wife Sarah moved from Springfield to St. Louis, and one of the important things they knew they had to do was find ways to connect with their community. By hosting movie nights and with the help of their partner churches, they are connecting. Church partners Crossroads Fellowship in Odessa, TX, East Side Baptist of Independence, MO, and Seminole Baptist of Springfield, MO, have all sponsored the events and sent teams to help. Grace River Church will launch preview services in the fall and Highfill plans to be holding weekly services starting in January 2015. He has been commissioned by Seminole Baptist and Pastor Don Baier in Springfield, MO.



JOPLIN, MO

Mrs. Freddie (Oletta) Wright

Oletta Evelyn Wright, age 84, of Joplin, passed from this life August 6, 2014. She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Pastor Freddie Wright. Born June 26, 1930, in Verona, MO, she married Freddie L. Wright in 1948. In 1967 they moved to Joplin, when Freddie became the fulltime pastor of Southside Baptist Church. She loved and served the Lord, the city of Joplin, and the people of Southside Baptist Church for over 51 years before the couple retired from the ministry. Mr. Wright passed away in 2012.

Oletta leaves behind four children, 10 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Services were held at Southside Bible Baptist Church August 11 with Don Carden and David Wright officiating.

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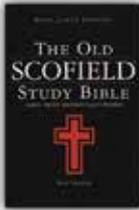
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• **Anchorage Baptist Temple**, 6401 E. Northern Lights, Anchorage, AK 99504, 907/333-6535, www.ancbt.org. *Pastor Jerry Prevo*

ARIZONA

• **Thomas Road Baptist Church**, 5735 W. Thomas Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85031, 623/247-5735. *Pastor Daniel Dennis*

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

CALIFORNIA

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

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

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

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

CONNECTICUT

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

DELAWARE

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

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

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

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

• **New Testament Baptist Church**, 2050 South Belcher Rd., Largo, FL 33771, 727/536-0481 *Pastor Matt Trill*

• **Trinity Baptist Church**, 800 Hammond Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32221, 904/786-5320 *Pastor Tom Messer*

• **First Coast Baptist Church**, 7587 Blanding Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32244. 904/777-3040 *Pastor Richard Edwards*

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

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

• **Calvary Baptist Church**, 123 Thunderbird Dr., Sebastian, FL 32958. 772/589-5047 www.calvary-baptistchurch.com *Pastor Clifton Cooley*

• **New Life Baptist Church**, 35000 Radio Rd (at Poe St.), Leesburg, FL 34788 352/728-0004 newlifebaptistchurch@earthlink.net

• **Suncoast Baptist Church**, 410 Warrington Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33954, 941/625-8550, *Pastor Chip Keller* www.suncoastbaptistchurch.com

• **Grace Bible Baptist Church**, 1703 Lewis Road, Leesburg, FL 34748. 352/326-5738, *Pastor George Mulford III* www.gbbconline.com

• **Orlando Baptist Church**, 500 S. Semoran Blvd., Orlando, FL 32807. 407/277-8671, *Pastor David Janney* www.worldchangingchurch.com

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

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

IOWA

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

KANSAS

• **Millington Street Baptist Church**, 1304 Millington St., Winfield, KS 67156. 620/221-4700. *Pastor Jeff McCaskill*

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

KENTUCKY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OREGON

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

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

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

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

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

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Light in the Darkness

By David Anderson

Death is an undeniable aspect of life. It is certain, final, and inevitable. We know it when we see it. Or do we? Death is changing. The way we define it, experience it, and make choices about it are much different than the generation before. The moment of death is still instantaneous, but the process has elongated — creating a myriad of ethical dilemmas. For most Americans, death will be a managed experience endured in a long-term medical facility with a possible move to a hospice in the final weeks.

To effectively comfort a dying believer and his/her family, we must have a working knowledge of Biblical principles and the terminology, technology, and ramifications of advances of medical science. Many of these advances produce disturbing and unavoidable questions with moral repercussions, such as; When is it acceptable to remove or withhold life support? Is it right to administer morphine if doing so diminishes pain but accelerates death? Is CPR always appropriate? Does requesting a Do Not Resuscitate order (DNR) or Allow Natural Death order (AND) violate the sanctity of life? What is the difference between coma, persistent vegetative state, and brain death?

In healthcare, a bioethical dilemma develops when complex and conflicting factors converge to create a problem that appears to have one or more feasible solutions, each with equally plausible merit. Assessing the ethics and/or morality of the options can be extremely difficult. For example, in August of 1997, a woman from Brockport, NY, suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage and was placed on life support. Soon after, she was declared brain dead by the attending physicians. According to New York State Law, once whole-brain death occurs, the patient is to be immediately removed from mechanical life support. The physicians chose instead to keep her body functioning with artificial assistance. Was this ethical? Was it moral? Since this woman was dead, what circumstance could possibly justify keeping her on life support?

If your initial reaction to this story is that the physicians were wrong for keeping her on life support, would any of the following scenarios cause you to re-evaluate your assessment? 1) Her organs were healthy and perfect for transplantation if her body was kept functioning until the organs were needed. 2) Her hemorrhage was due to a rare disease that doctors could study more thoroughly and effectively if they kept her on life support. 3) Her loving family had requested the life support for just a couple of extra days so they could have time to gather for their last goodbyes. 4) After the declaration of brain death, her limbs moved and her eyes tracked people across the room. 5) Her Living Will clearly stated that as long as her body could function, even if her brain ceased functioning, she was to be kept on life support.

In this case, none of these applied. There was another reason for not removing the mechanical life support. She was pregnant. The physicians believed they could keep her body “alive” for three months and deliver the baby by Cesarean section. They did so, and on November 14, 1997, a 15-inch baby girl was born just 31 weeks after her conception. Almost immediately after delivery, the mother was removed from life support and expired. At the time, this was one of the only cases of such an occurrence, but since 1997 it has happened numerous times.

Did the fact that she was pregnant change your opinion? Did the outcome of a healthy baby persuade you that the doctors made the right decision? For most of us, the pregnancy and baby delivery resolve the issue, but there are other questions. If the woman was dead, who had authority over her body? Can only doctors violate state law regarding health care? How long can physicians keep someone “alive?” What were the wishes of the father of the baby, the parents of the mother, or the mother herself?

A newspaper account of this event revealed that the father of the baby opposed life support and refused to participate. The woman’s parents petitioned the court to remove all life support. Neither agreed with the physicians’ decision, and neither made any commitments to take care of the baby should it survive delivery. This decision, whether it was right or wrong, was based upon the physicians’ value system, rather than that of the family. Is that ethically, morally, and spiritually acceptable? Who do you want making medical decisions for your family?

Will you trust the physician handling your care, or what the Affordable Healthcare Act mandates, or what a lawyer, court, or judge determines is acceptable?

Every week, end-of-life scenarios, transplantation protocols, blood transfusion rules, futile care parameters, stem cell and genetic therapies, feeding tubes, ventilators, rationing, emergency guidelines, immunization, physician-assisted suicide, abortion, and reproductive procedures are being discussed in hospital bioethics committees, medical schools, state legislatures, philosophy departments, law schools, and courtrooms — everywhere, but the church.

As my first pastor, Charlie Yates, use to say, “Brethren, these things ought not so to be.” We need to get involved in the debates and shine Biblical light on the rapidly growing catalogue of bioethical dilemmas. If we don’t, we have no one to blame but ourselves for the darkness that will ensue.

David Anderson (pastordave@fbcsarasota.com) is pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Sarasota, FL. He is a board member of the Florida Bioethics Network and a member of the Sarasota Memorial Hospital Bioethics Committee.

SEPTEMBER 2014

PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  MISSIONARY Richard & Joy Kelley <i>Guam</i>	2  CHAPLAIN Lt. R.T. & Karen Stringer <i>U.S. Army National Guard</i>	3  MISSIONARIES Tim & Jenelle McCown <i>Japan</i>	4  T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY Nathan & Tiffany Foltz <i>Tanzania</i>	5  MISSIONARY William & Kathleen Busch <i>Germany</i>	6  MISSIONARY Susan Perkins <i>Haiti</i>
7  MISSIONARY Jerry & Sharon Daniels <i>Kenya</i>	8  MISSIONARY Jean-Louis & Diane VanMeris <i>France</i>	9  MISSIONARY Jean Kruse <i>Retired</i>	10  MISSIONARY Randy & Sandy Roberts <i>Costa Rica</i>	11  MISSIONARY Chris & Sonya Goodman <i>Australia</i>	12  MISSIONARY Scott & Gloria Brown <i>Mexico</i>	13  Workers in Restricted Countries
14  MISSIONARY Ennis & Rebecca Pepper <i>South Africa</i>	15  BBFI Mission Office Administrative Assistants	16  MISSIONARY Ray & Ginger Crocker <i>Singapore</i>	17  T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY Jonathan & Lexi Taylor <i>Ecuador</i>	18  MISSIONARY Wesley & Melina Lane <i>Dominican Republic</i>	19  MISSIONARY Brenda Hayes <i>Philippines</i>	20  MISSIONARY David & Mary Campbell <i>Wales</i>
21  MISSIONARY Wade & Donna Rasmussen <i>Zambia</i>	22  MISSIONARY David & Peggy Disney <i>Chile</i>	23  Newly Approved Missionaries	24  MISSIONARY Frank & Marjorie Thompson <i>England</i>	25  MISSIONARY Jon & Becky Liles <i>Italy</i>	26  MISSIONARY Leilonni Hamilton <i>Mexico</i>	27  MISSIONARY James & Cristina Sinde <i>Greece</i>
28  National Church Planting Office	29  MISSIONARY Beau & Valerie Moore <i>Portugal</i>	30  MISSIONARY Michael & Pamela Hillhouse <i>Burkina Faso</i>				

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

Martin Luther

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**"CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US,
LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE,
THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS."**

1 PETER 2:21



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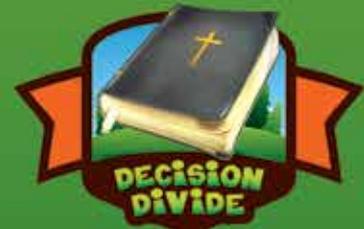
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