

B A P T I S T B I B L E
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SEPTEMBER 2016

MISSIONARY

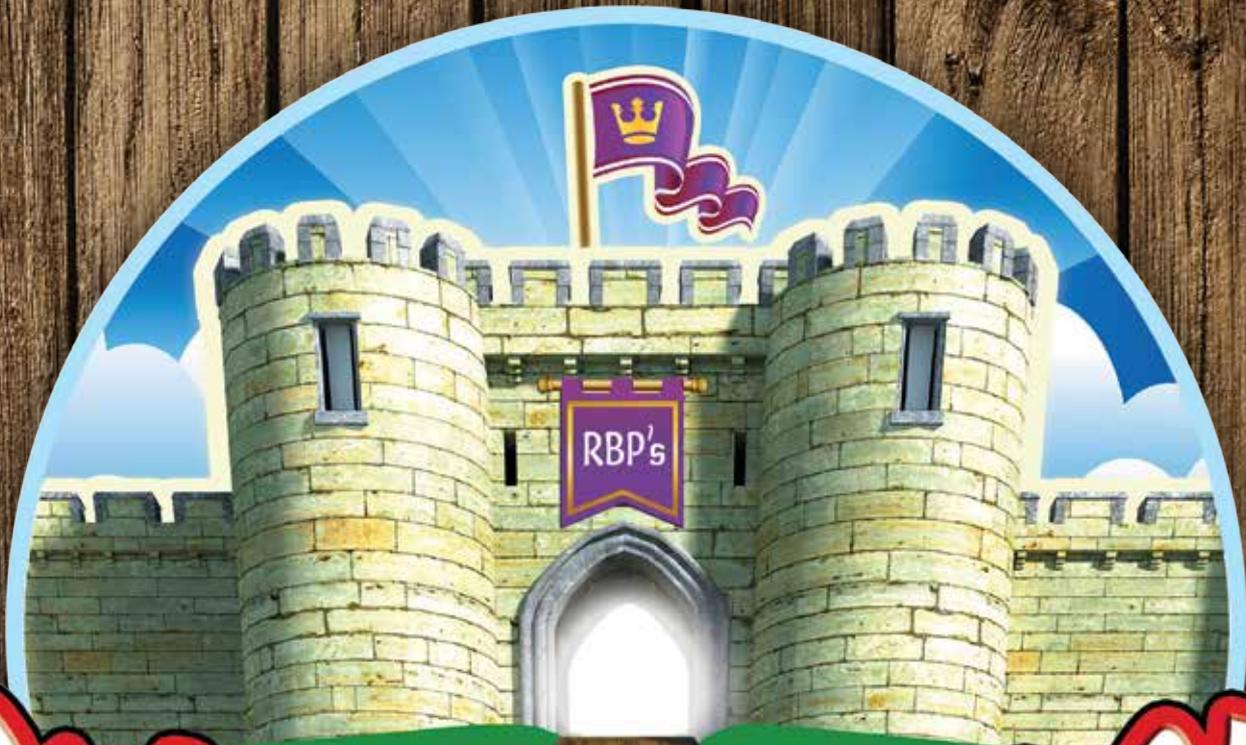
DEPUTATION



MISSION ISSUE

- p.7 The Process of Deputation
- p.17 Medical Clinic Mission in Tanzania
- p.19 Missionary-To-Missionary Care





Over *the* moat

DRAWBRIDGE TO THE KING!



rbpVBS.org/2017



ON THE TABLE

How will they go?

by Randy Harp | Editor

I will be honest, as we work toward getting this issue of the *Tribune* to our printers, I am doing it on little sleep. The reason ... I have been staying up late watching the Olympics. Whether it is the most recent edition of the “Dream Team” in basketball, the “Little Giant” in gymnastics, or Michael Phelps winning, at the time of print, his 21st Olympic gold medal, I love it all. Nothing amps up my American pride as much as the Olympics.

But even as I type this I fall under conviction. My thoughts go to a lunch I had recently with a new friend who just moved to town. In discussing how his search for a local church was going, he mentioned visiting a church the day before Independence Day. He said something along the lines of, “Having served Christ internationally for long enough, it was hard to see a church focus so much on American patriotism.” I am also reminded of the challenge from my local church. Our pastor challenged us, as a church, to raise funds to translate the Bible for a people group in the Ivory Coast that does not have a written Bible in their language. In an interview, one of the translators relayed the response of this people group to having a Bible in their language, “God is no longer a Western God. He is no longer a white God. He is ours.”

As much as I love living in the United States, I must not lose sight that we serve an international God. This is the reason we have missions and missionaries. We are commanded to “go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” But as the book of Romans points out, “How shall they preach unless they are sent?” A modern-day question might be, “How do those who are sent get there?” This issue of the *Tribune* helps answer that question. In this edition of the bi-annual *Global Partners* we focus on deputation. Many missionaries I know have a love/hate relationship with deputation. There is much more to the process than many of us realize. As you read through this *Tribune*, take time to pray for our missionaries, especially the ones who are just getting started on their journey.

I would also like to remind you about our upcoming National Fellowship Meeting at Cape Cod Church in Falmouth, MA. It is not too late to make plans to join us. There is a great lineup of speakers and activities as well as some important Fellowship business to take care of. See page 6 for more information about this meeting.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ as I serve you. If I can ever be a help to you or your church, please let me know.

MISSION ISSUE



A Closer Look At Deputation **7**

Insight into the process of missionary deputation and how it benefits missionaries, local churches, and the BBFI as a whole.



The Olorien Medical Clinic **17**

A medical clinic wasn't on the radar for missionaries Vernon and Mary Smith, until God moved all the right pieces and players into place.



A Redirected Journey **19**

The path from the mission field to the pastorate to a ministry of missionary-to-missionary care has been a long one for Don and Kathy Mingo ... and that's why they want to help.



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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT THE GIFT OF DEPUTATION

Jesus spoke words that would forever define the mission of his church just before he ascended into heaven, “*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*”

The church of Jesus was to be both local and global from its inception. For a local church to be fully functioning, it must have a global outreach. This worldwide mission focus must be a part of the DNA of a church from its birth. Sometimes so much goes into getting a church planted, it is tempting to postpone the focus of world missions. Jesus did not tell his first followers to phase in this global focus. He put them on it from the beginning.

Within the Baptist Bible Fellowship, the focus is on foreign missions even while we work to plant churches. One of the greatest characteristics of how we do missions is a plan to get real live missionaries in front of the people of our churches.

I know deputation can be long and grueling for our missionaries. It is also a great way for people in our churches to establish relationships with the missionaries they support. When our people hear the stories of missionaries who have left all to follow God’s calling, it can have a profound affect. Missions that is driven by relationships is powerful. We do not support a program, but real people whose stories we have heard.

I have heard people say things like “This is the first time I actually have met a missionary.” We have had people surrender to become missionaries because of these personal encounters. I appreciate our missionaries for their sacrifice and dedication as they minister to people in our churches. The personal connection deputation provides is a gift our missionaries give to us.



Eddie Lyons
BBFI PRESIDENT

WORLD MISSIONS DEPUTATION IS HARD, BUT THE MISSION FIELD IS HARDER

Missionaries accomplish deputation by organized, consistent, hard work. There are people who feel called of God to be missionaries, but never go because of the deputation process. Their apprehension comes from:

- Not comprehending the process.
- Reluctance to put in the hard work it entails.
- Listening to the difficulties others have experienced.
- Unwillingness to do humbling tasks.
- Not understanding the benefits God provides and teaches.
- Thinking the process is broken or believing there is another way.

In the past 66 years, thousands of missionaries have successfully raised their support through deputation. Experience shows, the more churches a missionary visits in a short amount of time, the sooner he or she finishes deputation.

Making phone calls on a weekly basis to schedule a time to present one’s passion and burden in churches is part of the hard work involved in raising support. Deputation is a stepping stone for life on the mission field. Moving to the field involves relocating your family to an unfamiliar place without the comforts of home, learning a second language, adjusting culturally, and so much more.

Whether on deputation or on the mission field, you must trust God, acknowledge His lordship, allow Him to lead in all your ways, and be assured He will direct your path. If God has called you, you must go! He will give you the grace needed to carry out the Great Commission as you go in obedience to “preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Ephesians 3:7-8).



Jon Konnerup
BBFI MISSION DIRECTOR

BBFI LEADERSHIP

CHURCH PLANTING THE CHURCH PLANTER IS A RELATIONSHIP BUILDER

Even in this era of social media connections, the most effective method for establishing new contacts is by the old standard — word of mouth and personal relationships. While social media (six percent), Internet communication (four percent), mailers (three percent), billboards and road signs (three percent), newspapers (one percent), door hangers and flyers (one percent), are all used today, 77 percent say word of mouth and personal relationships are still the most effective way to make new contacts according to LifeWay Research.

Developing and following a relationship-building schedule on a daily basis is absolutely

critical for the church planter. His goal should be to produce relationships with 10 to 15 family heads every 30 days. With this schedule, he could possibly see 150 or more in attendance at the end of 24 months. At which point he can begin training others for greater involvement in ministry.

His first goal will be to acquire 200 prospecting family heads with 50 promising heads of family who he expects to be in the service on Sunday. This will take time, but remember, it is all about relationships, relationships, relationships. The motto of many planters is, “Never eat alone.” Visit coffee shops early in the morning. It may be difficult on the diet, but you

can meet prospects at the local McDonald’s or Whataburger. Have your favorite handout card available everywhere you go. Every person you talk to receives an invitation and a card. There are no exceptions, whether it is a neighbor, the clerk at the store or the post office, parents or staff at your children’s school, a waitress in the restaurant, or someone at the ballpark. It doesn’t matter, everybody is a prospect.

Training his core group to do the same thing will multiply the possibilities for growth.



John Gross
BBFI CHURCH PLANTING (APEX)

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PHONE

As the president of Baptist Bible College, I have experienced the “other side” of the phone. While serving as a pastor, I received at least one call every week from a missionary wanting to introduce his ministry to our church. Unfortunately, I had to say no to most of those callers. There was never an easy way to do this. Each time I had to say no was difficult and disappointing.

Now, I am on the other side of the phone. I am the one phoning churches trying to catch a pastor at just the right time in hopes he will answer, “Yes! We would love to give to that!” (A guy can dream, can’t he?)

I understand the difficulties that come with both sides of the

phone. The pastor cannot always say yes. For the missionary, it can be a disappointing and disheartening work that requires persistence and commitment. As the president of BBC, I am regularly asked to be part of mission conferences and state meetings. There I connect with missionaries who are traveling and sharing their stories. My heart is always moved by their tireless commitment. Deputation is hard, but it is worth it.

I have learned from many missionaries that their greatest support comes from people they met through BBC. There is so much more to our college than just great classroom instruction. There is a special bond, a heart-

to-heart connection, and a “We-are-in-this-together!” family spirit that is very important to who we are as the BBFI.

Missions is still what we do at BBC/Life Change U. We remain committed to preparing students to fulfill the call of God on their lives.



Mark Milioni
BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

PERSPECTIVES

BBFI MISSIONS; DEPUTATION

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE MY WORLD, OUR WORLD, GOD’S WORLD

I’m fully aware Boston is a small college. Small, comparatively when you are speaking of numeric enrollment. But Jonathan, Gideon, David, and, for heaven’s sake, Jesus himself didn’t do their greatest work with a multitude — Jesus did “cap” his band of disciples at 12!

“Small” cannot and must not mean “small-minded” or even myopic. There is nothing small and everything global about what we do for you, for our students, and for the Lord.

Our scope isn’t small. Our students come from all over the world, literally, and from every kind of story and situation. While all colleges statistically draw heavily from within 500

miles of their campuses, you might be surprised to know we have more Texans in Boston than New Yorkers!

Our education isn’t small. Our students plow through a curriculum that is constantly being revised to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, all while retaining the timeless truths of Scripture. Our faculty members bring their own experiences from the Middle East, Asia, Europe, Africa, and all over the Americas into our Boston classrooms.

Our experience isn’t small. I love talking to alums about their experiences on study trips during their Boston days as highlights of their lives! Our students don’t

just know about the world of the New Testament and church history, they’ve seen it, hiked it, and experienced it!

Our focus isn’t small. Boston is just the springboard to God’s great big world. One of our alumna just returned from a year of service in one of Africa’s most remote and needy destinations. She sent me a note, partly to express her appreciation for the Boston experience that had given her “the courage to travel half way across the world by myself to do what I believe God called me to do.”

Nothing small about that!



David Melton
BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE PRESIDENT

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BRIAN
MOORE



ARCHIE
EMERSON



PAUL
BLUE

SEPTEMBER 19-21

103429

AVERAGE NUMBER OF MILES LOGGED DURING DEPUTATION PROCESS

551

AVERAGE
NUMBER OF
FAST FOOD
MEALS EATEN



A CLOSER LOOK
AT MISSIONARY

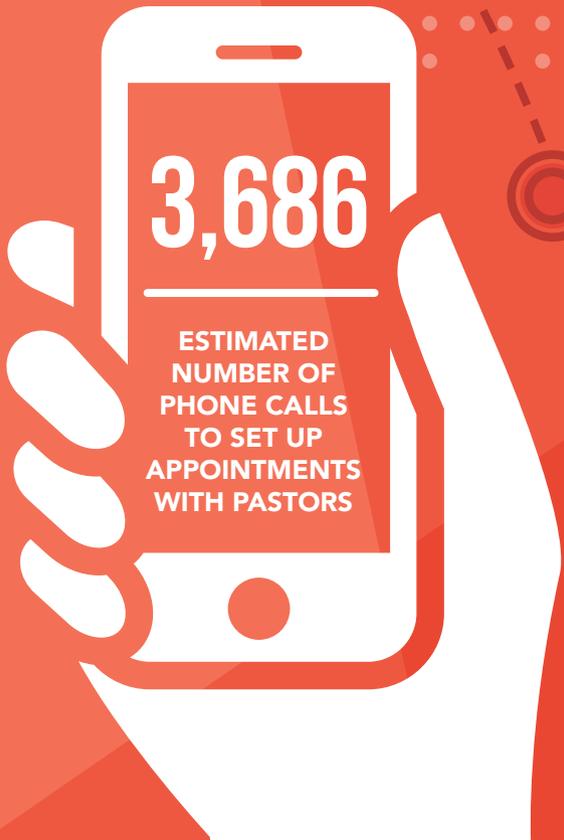
DEPUTATION

3,686

ESTIMATED
NUMBER OF
PHONE CALLS
TO SET UP
APPOINTMENTS
WITH PASTORS

87

AVERAGE NUMBER OF
NIGHTS SPENT IN A HOTEL



A labor that is not in vain

By Jon Konnerup | BBFI Mission Director

How well I remember deputation — the miles driven, the churches visited, and the new friends made. Having grown up as a missionary kid, I was accustomed to the idea of deputation and the new opportunities and excitement it provided. As an adult missionary, I didn't necessarily enjoy making all the phone calls; however, God allowed my family and me to see His amazing handiwork in our deputation.

The verse I often referred to on deputation was 1 Corinthians 15:58:

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

This verse talks about being:

STEADFAST — firmly fixed in place, determined, faithful to the end

UNMOVABLE — unyielding, unshaken, solid as a rock

ABOUNDING — to excel, never stop, keep going, walking to please God

God used these words to encourage me to stay focused and work hard to finish deputation to ultimately arrive where He was going to use my family as missionaries.

Deputation is the first major opportunity missionaries encounter following their approval. While deputation is a difficult task a new missionary will undertake, God can use it in three ways.

First, He builds the missionary's faith and character. This was vitally important to me as I learned to completely rely on the Lord instead of placing my faith and trust in pastors or churches. Had I not learned to depend on Him while on deputation, I would have quickly crashed and burned when I encountered difficulties on the field. Over the years, I have met people who felt the call of God to be missionaries, but were afraid to take on the deputation task and refused to surrender. D. L. Moody believed faith meant not only doing something, but also believing something saying, "I show my faith when I go to men and state the needs of the Lord's work, and then ask them to give to it."

Second, deputation stimulates and motivates the burden for missions within the local church. The excitement and passion of a new missionary motivates others to give, pray, and even go.

Third, deputation is a time of preparation for the missionary's field of service. Missionaries not only learn from pastors and churches they meet, but they minister alongside the churches visited and plan ahead for what they will encounter on the foreign field.

While some may see deputation as a time to endure, it should really be a time of endearment, as God's magnificent power is displayed in providing all one needs to serve Him — new friends, prayer partners, and supporting churches.

The sometimes-long-but-always-rewarding, road to the field

By Steve Bender | Assoc. Mission Director

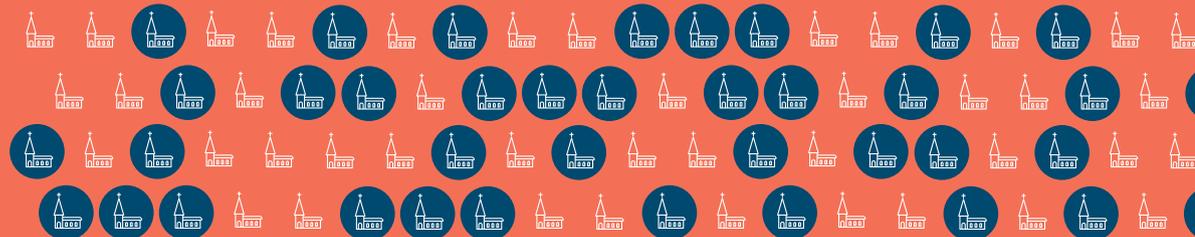
From the founding of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International in 1950, missionaries have followed the Biblical authority of being sent from a local church to fulfill God's call upon their lives. After meeting the standards of the BBFI and the formal approval process by pastors, missionaries set out to raise both prayer and monthly financial support. Simply stated, these men and women of God contact pastors, asking to visit their churches to present themselves and their ministries to the congregation. Their prayer is that the church, led by the Holy Spirit, would help them take the Gospel to the people to whom God has called them through prayer and financial support.

Following this process the past 66 years has worked well in protecting the local church's Biblical authority and autonomy in sending missionaries of their choice. The results — hundreds of missionaries sent, thousands of people led to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and over 18,000 churches established outside the United States.

While the cost of one eternal soul can never be valued, the deputation process cost has had a significant increase. Based on deputation data collected over the past six years, it takes the average BBFI missionary family of four about 39 months to raise their financial support. With the average cost of \$188,000 incurred per family while on deputation, coupled with the physical, emotional, and spiritual stress involved, the task can be overwhelming. Yet, these missionaries, called by God, continue with

156

AVERAGE
NUMBER OF
CHURCHES
VISITED
DURING
DEPUTATION



... RESULTING IN AN AVERAGE OF **59** CHURCHES THAT WILL TAKE THE MISSIONARY ON FOR MONTHLY SUPPORT AS



AVERAGE AMOUNT OF TIME IT TAKES A FAMILY OF FOUR ON DEPUTATION TO RAISE FULL SUPPORT

great resolve to complete the mission.

For years, the question has been raised, “What can we do to shorten deputation?” The problem includes: the economy, fewer church services per week for missionaries to present their ministry, and a shift in mission-giving philosophies (more project-oriented than regular monthly support).

In most instances, there is no substitute for ministers of the Gospel living among and pouring themselves into the lives of the people to whom God has called them. Perhaps if churches would begin supporting two new missionaries a year the month they are approved, without requiring the missionary to visit their church, the deputation process could be shortened saving thousands of dollars. This would get missionaries to the field much sooner to share the Gospel with those who need to hear. Maybe it’s time to stop talking and start doing!

How much support does a missionary need to go to the field?

By T. S. Long | Assoc. Mission Director

Initially, missionaries’ expenses are determined by the specific place they are going, their family size, and the ministry expenses they will need to get started. The BBFI Mission Office has information from various sources that helps to accurately project what each missionary will need on the field.

Personal Compensation

The Mission Office uses guides containing country-specific cost-of-living charts to figure the personal funds needed for a missionary. Resident missionaries also help to determine the accuracy of the information.

When calculating the personal funds missionaries need to live on the field, a predetermined personal compensation baseline along with insurance, education, and housing expenses are taken into consideration. Additional factors, such as economic fluctuation due to instability within the country, cost of living, and exchange rates are also taken into account. Following these guidelines, missionaries are given the opportunity to make necessary adjustments to their level of personal compensation on a range from 70-110 percent in order to insure that the compensation meets their specific needs.

AVERAGE MONTHLY SUPPORT OF BBFI MISSIONARIES BY REGION

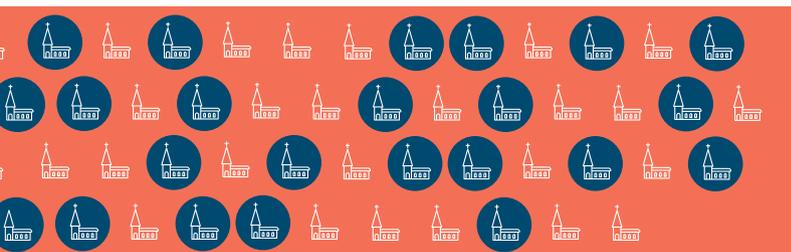


Ministry Funds

The missionary raises ministry funds for the sole purpose of conducting ministry overseas. Since TEAM missionaries are associate missionaries working as interns with a career missionary, they are not expected or encouraged to raise funds for ministry work. The only ministry funds they should need are to help with travel expenses to and from the field, transportation, small equipment purchases, communications, printing, and help with language studies while on the field. Should a TEAM missionary transition to career missionary with the BBFI, they will come back to the United States to raise only the ministry funds they will need.

Because each missionary’s ministry is different, there are no guidelines to structure the amount needed. However, accurate reporting of tax-exempt funds is expected through the quarterly report process. First-term missionaries are encouraged to only raise funds for language school, furlough travel, and initial ministry work. When they return for their first furlough, they should have a better grasp of the additional funds they need to raise for their ministry.

Raising funds for the field may be a source of anxiety for some missionaries, but it should not be so. As a missionary on deputation, I remember being given words of wisdom, “Never hold back, be hesitant, or shy to ask for others to be partners in the blessing of taking the Gospel to others.” Missionaries and the churches have the same desire — to get missionaries on the field quickly to carry out the Great Commission. The BBFI Mission Office wants to provide the resources and experience to help facilitate that process.



A RESULT OF A DEPUTATION VISIT

PROS AND CONS OF THE DEPUTATION PROCESS



Ministry experience

You get to see a variety of ministries and methods that could potentially be applied to your particular mission field. To interact with pastors and ask ministry-related questions is a great way to learn and prepare for a future ministry overseas.

Service

A missionary should always be ready to serve no matter where he or she is. Serving while on deputation keeps your heart, attitude, and love towards others in the right place.

Adventure

Although it is not a vacation, deputation allows a family to visit many great places in the United States, creating lifelong family memories.

Challenges with family life

Homeschooling while on the road can be difficult at times. Not every child is fit for that particular learning system. Some will miss the classroom and their classmates. Also, the loss of a permanent place to call home makes you feel like you have lost some stability.

Duration

The length of the deputation process can make the missionary weary and also disappointed with the process. A missionary must maintain perspective, understanding he or she will go to the field in God's time and the deputation process differs from family to family without comparison or competition.

ESTEBAN ALVAREZ
Arrived on field August 2015

An exercise in perspective

By Kevin Kolb (pastor)

When it comes to deputation, we could talk about the need to raise financial and prayer support, but if our only reason for deputation is because “it’s how we get the money,” today’s missionaries could find faster, more efficient means to “go fund me.” A more compelling answer considers Christ’s work of sanctification. **Veteran missionaries testify to how God incrementally prepared them for a life of cross-cultural ministry. Deputation trials were a significant part of that process.** Few of us ever choose the heat of the refiner’s fire, but afterward we rejoice in all God accomplished and cherish the lessons learned.

A second equally compelling answer considers Christ’s devotion to His church. Deputation puts the Great Commission front and center for the local congregation. It brings global missions within reach. **The church embraces their mission to the world with greater knowledge, involvement, and sacrifice because a missionary personally stopped in their city and opened their eyes to the cities beyond.** Deputation is a valuable tool in God’s hand. With it He shapes both the senders and the goers, all for His glory and the saving of the nations.

MATT KELLER (pastor)

I have to admit a few things before we begin — I am not a missionary. I am not a missionary kid. I have never spent a single second on deputation. What I know of deputation comes only from being a supporting, and now, a sending pastor. Currently, we have two families out of our church who are traveling across the nation looking for churches to support their vision, burden, and calling. Their experience has provided me with a glimpse into deputation.

I watched these families quit good jobs, sell houses, and part with nearly every earthly possession that would not fit into a trunk or a trailer. They have spent hours trying to connect with pastors, days driving, and months away from their church, friends, and family. They have faced uncertain times, but they have met loving and generous people. Above all, they have grown throughout this process. **Their faith has been challenged, exercised, renewed, and strengthened as they have seen God provide their every need.** They have learned, in a very unique way, to fully depend upon God. While our process isn’t perfect, and while other groups get their missionaries on the field with greater speed and efficiency, many of those missionaries miss out on a once-in-a-lifetime, faith-growing, relationship-building experience.

MAX KENNEDY

Approved as career missionary May 2014

Not long after we began deputation, we were traveling down the road when we heard about a huge Lottery payout to someone in Texas. I grinned and asked my wife, “What if someone just gave us that much money right now? I guess we would be headed to Nicaragua tomorrow, huh?” As serious as she could be she said, “I would hope not! I don’t want to miss building relationships with all the churches we’re planning to visit in the next several months!” Once again I learned something very profound from my wife. And honestly, it changed my attitude toward deputation.

The key to actually seeing deputation as a blessing is to make sure raising funds is not the primary objective. After that moment in the car with my wife, I determined my primary objective for traveling, calling pastors, presenting my field, and writing monthly newsletters would be to build a network of pastors, individuals, and churches who would not only give to our mission, but be moved by the prospect of seeing us as an extension of their church on the field.

There may be a better way to raise money, but **I can’t think of a better way to raise a team.** I’m thankful for every mile we’ve traveled, every church in which we’ve presented, and every hand I’ve shaken. The deputation road is long, but the next time you notice those dashed lines on the highway, imagine they are links to another member of your eternal impact team.

Deputation and the single missionary

By Dennis Jennings (pastor)

Concerning the local church, Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him,” (1 Corinthians 12:18). Specifically speaking of unmarried women, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 7:34, “The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit.” We are privileged to see this passage lived out to the fullest in the lives of many single missionaries!

These missionaries are a blessing to their sending church. By their presence, they help keep missions in the forefront of the church family, especially among other singles.

To a supporting church, the single missionary who shares the story of how God worked in his or her life will often be used

by the Lord in the life of a young person or another single who is wrestling with the call of God. How often does God use the testimony of a single missionary to open the hearts of others to the truth that God will use them, too, if they would surrender to His will for their lives?

By their faithful service on the field, single missionaries provide additional hands to work in the ministry. Whether teaching women and children, discipling new believers, equipping leaders, supporting the work, or serving in some other capacity, their stories are always encouraging and inspiring!

I thank God for those sent from and/or supported by our church. I am always humbled by their dedication to Christ and passion for His ministry.

DON ELMORE (pastor)

I do support some single ladies and believe they have a valid ministry on the field. However, it can be harder for them to raise support because we are a preaching Fellowship and ladies don't preach in the churches they visit. So, we will have a single missionary share her testimony, passion, and love for missions everywhere we can. We give her a time on Sunday morning to do that as well. I treat her the same as any other missionary in every area except preaching.

JUSTIN RHOADES

Approved as career missionary September 2014

I am a career missionary to London who has been on the deputation journey since September 2014, and I am also single. I am not sure why, but that last part always seems to surprise people. After almost two years of deputation, over 150 churches, and 45 pastoral meetings, I have come to realize that being a single male career missionary is about as rare as seeing a unicorn. Despite the strange looks and comments I get for being single, being a missionary on deputation can be a great season for ministry.

It always puzzles me how some view being single as a handicap or disqualification, when God called most men and women into ministry when they were single. For males who are career missionaries, the only difference between married and single is that the single guy has more time for the ministry. I currently don't have to worry about taking care of a family, which frees up time and money to do more ministry, not only on deputation but also on the field. I surrendered my life to God 15 years ago and I am thankful I get to serve Him on deputation and in London.

**OF THE 32
MISSIONARIES
CURRENTLY ON
DEPUTATION, HOW
MANY ARE SINGLE?**

a. 7 b. 5 c. 10

Answer can be found on the bottom of page 12

Q. AS A SINGLE MISSIONARY, WHAT IS ONE THING THAT WOULD HELP YOU RAISE YOUR SUPPORT QUICKER?

A. KATIE BISHOP *Approved as TEAM missionary May 2015*

I think it helps if pastors and churches understand that TEAM missionaries are only required to raise personal funds needed for the first one to three years on the field. The total dollar amount is significantly less than a career missionary who is raising both personal and ministry funds. I only need 22 churches at \$85 a month, whereas a career missionary needs almost 45 churches. As my TEAM financial partners, those 22 churches are supporting me during my internship on the field and helping me be one step closer to being a career missionary.

Q. WHAT COULD CHURCHES DO TO HELP PROMOTE YOUR MINISTRY?

A. BECKA MCMURPHY *Approved as TEAM missionary May 2015*

While a single missionary doesn't have the needs of family members to juggle while traveling, the single missionary has to do all the calling, scheduling, driving, thank yous, follow-ups, and such. One thing that would help tremendously would be for pastors to recommend us and our ministries to their friends. Pastors seem to be a little leery about bringing a single, female missionary in, but a personal recommendation goes a long way.

BILL CRAWFORD

Career missionary since 1998

We knew of so many missionaries who dreaded the deputation process, but in spite of the stories we heard, we decided to keep a positive outlook knowing there were some things God needed to prepare us for before we could get to the field.

Because we homeschooled, we used this time to educate our girls not only on the beauty of our wonderful country but also on its rich history. Another perk was meeting those who would sacrificially pray for and give to us each month. And if that wasn't enough, it was an opportunity for us to grow spiritually as we went through the trials and tests on the road. It either draws you closer to the Lord and to your family, or it reveals your true spiritual temperature.

JEREMY LYNN

Arrived on field August 2016

What deputation is like for a family can be an elusive question, mainly because it evokes reflection on some of the best and most trying times. The process of packing bags and loading the vehicle became a familiar part of life. Having the right books for homeschooling and planning the days to actually have classes was a part of that process. After you hit the road, there are many unknowns. What will we do here? Will I make new friends? Will I say and do the right things? All these questions became part of our family's thinking. Reassured by God and the overwhelming call on our lives, we continued on, ready to share our hearts for the mission field.

The unsure feelings turned into amazement as we saw the heart of local churches. We talk often about how much time each church gave to get to know us. There were churches that invested time and resources into spending time with us in order to get to know us during our stay. When we consider their desire to make our family a part of their ministry, we begin to comprehend the worth they place on what God has called us to do, and are rendered speechless.

Although we felt the pressure in many ways to share our call, one major benefit of deputation is how God uses it to bring about maturity. As parents, there were many opportunities to help our children understand and apply the Scriptures to difficult circumstances. As husband and wife, we have seen God stretch us where we needed to be stretched. There have been moments of tension, but God's grace abounds. Simply, He has used this time to nurture growth individually and as a family.

MISSIONARY PERSPECTIVES ON DEPUTATION



STAN SHERWOOD

Arrived on field January 2014

The BBFI mission office was a tremendous help before, during, and after we completed deputation. As we began, Director Jim Smith was a great encouragement and a wealth of answers. We also asked the other directors the steps they took (ordering literature, preparing a video, making phone calls and scheduling, etc.) when preparing for deputation.

The Mission Office provided many vital roles during deputation. The first was taking care of our finances. Whether it was checks sent by mail, online donations, or us dropping off monthly support checks, they were always

processed and deposited on time! The finance team and Director Paul Hylton handled our numerous inquiries about the quarterly reporting process and other finance questions in a quick and helpful manner.

The second service provided was with all of our mail and packages being handled for us. They even forwarded them to various locations along our travel route. A third service was from the IT department. New computers were programmed and necessary software was installed for us as we traveled.

Any time we had the opportunity to stop in at the office, everyone on staff knew us by

name. Also, every director was welcoming and would take the time to talk about our ministry and God's work through us in promoting missions in the churches we visited. All of these services are vital to every missionary, but truly the most important to us was to hear that during the daily staff meetings they lifted missionary families by name to the Lord in prayer! I'm so thankful for all the services the Mission Office performs, and I know there are many I didn't even list, but prayer was and still is the number one service provided for the BBFI missionaries on a daily basis!

OLE KONNERUP

Career missionary since 1979

Deputation is certainly an interesting journey for the missionary. I think it could be improved upon, but I would not replace it. To me, the process is like what a soldier goes through during boot camp to be prepared for battle. Deputation helps the missionary in many ways, but I think the biggest way is learning how to live and walk by faith, something very important to learn.

Some say deputation is much harder than it used to be. That may be a fair assessment, but it was still a lot of work and a lot of phone calls. To this day, I do not like to make phone calls.

Now, after all these years, lining up churches is much easier. I have found those who really want us to come will respond and make us feel welcome. This makes our furlough time an enjoyable and fruitful time. And I don't have to make as many phone calls!

LANCE GOTCHER

Career missionary since 1999

I can sum up our deputation experience in one word: faith. Some have said the BBFI's method of doing deputation is archaic, costly, and inefficient. I disagree. Deputation is the most amazing thing. Only through God's provision could we explain going as a family around the country, visiting places we have never been, presenting our field in churches to people we have never met in order to ask them for prayer and monthly financial support. Of course, our faith has been stretched on the mission field even more than on deputation, but had we not had that initial faith-stretching time before coming to the Philippines, I don't know if we would have attempted as much for the Lord.

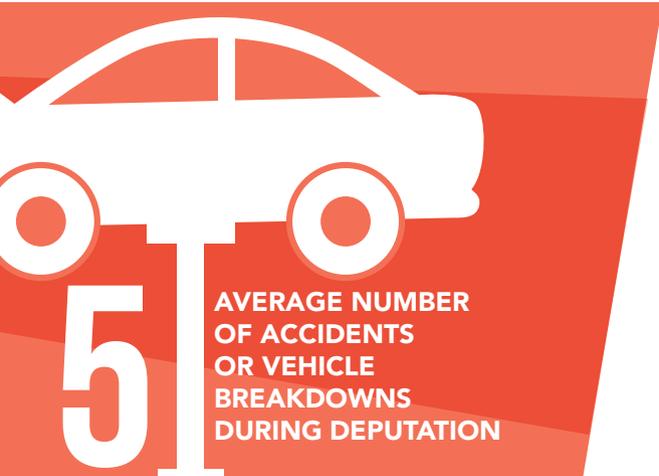
We've always been thankful for deputation. We had a blast as a young family. We were overwhelmed by people's generosity and God's provision. We wouldn't trade it for anything!

MICHAEL NELSON

Career missionary since 2006

The greatest benefit of the deputation process for our family was meeting people who have become integral partners in ministry and life. This was highlighted to our family late last year as we returned to the U.S. for our first furlough after ministering almost seven years in Australia. Our goal was to say thank you and be a blessing to our supporting churches. What we discovered was we received the blessing. We were once again reminded churches really do care and people really do pray. While on deputation we had visited churches and shared our burden for the people of Australia. We asked churches for their prayers and monthly financial partnership — and people got on board!

This has helped remind us that we are not alone in ministry, but part of something bigger and greater than just ourselves.



“...WE HAVE BEEN ON THE ROAD SO LONG WE ARE LOOKING FOR A LITTLE PERMANENCY ... EVEN IF IT IS IN SIBERIA.”

SHANE SALMON

Approved as career missionary May 2014

There are a number of benefits to the deputation process, including opportunities to preach the Gospel and connect with believers. But, through the process, missionaries also gain a stronger sense of personal identity. Whether you are a single missionary or a missionary with a gaggle of children, you garner a better understanding of who you are as an individual and how to work as a team with your family!

As you travel, you get to attend many different churches and see their various styles, formats, and participation in outreach and discipleship. What better time to build your mission field toolbox with ideas and resources than while you travel!

Deputation is also an opportunity to hone your craft of communication, which equips you to further the Gospel, both on deputation and on the field to which God has called you. God has allowed my family to have a great deputation, and we are thankful for all these benefits, and the privilege of being part of God's plan to tell others of Christ.

JOSEPH FLORY

Arrived on field July 2016

Oftentimes I believe we get caught up in the numbers of deputation. From an uninformed perspective, it might come off as a waste of time. All the miles, restaurants, and hotels can add up, but what we often forget is the missionary's preparation, the souls being won, and the encouragement to churches.

I believe deputation is a great “trial by fire” for us as missionaries. It has allowed my family to have a soft landing for the field — since we have been on the road so long we are looking for a little permanency, even if it is in Siberia. It helps solidify our perspective on the task at hand and see the Lord work in a mighty way as our faith has been tried and we have been encouraged.

SENDING CHURCH + MISSIONARY + SUPPORTING CHURCHES
A PARTNERSHIP FORMED ON
DEPUTATION

A sending church cannot do it alone

By Tracy Roby (pastor)

Sending out a missionary from your church delivers one of the highest blessings for a pastor and congregation. Immediately, the sending church feels a responsibility to provide the necessary support to sustain the needs of “one of your own.” However, you quickly realize you cannot do this alone! Trust and faith are imperative, yet God has chosen to work through independent churches.

The partnership among missionary, sending church, and supporting church is vital. And many of those connections are made during the deputation process. We need the sending church, the missionary, and the supporting churches to join together to accomplish the greatest endeavor in existence: telling the world the good news of Jesus Christ. There is value in churches working together to assist missionaries in getting to the field as quickly as possible. The broader the church base, the greater the stability of the missionary on the field. Diversity of support offers the steadiness of financial and prayer backing, providing security for the missionary’s family. This, in turn, means less stress and anxiety for our missionaries when they know we are holding the ropes back home. The enhanced security and stability frees missionaries to effectively fulfill their mission and can increase their longevity on the field.

RON ABBOT (pastor)

As a sending pastor, I know how important it is for other churches to partner with us in assuring our missionaries quickly reach their fields of calling.

A missionary sent out from our church receives a larger contribution from us than any of our other missionaries. They are family, and we try to take care of our own, but we can’t do it alone. We understand that, at any given time, we may be called upon to invest heavily in our missionary when an emergency suddenly calls them home for medical or family crises. Our partner churches are essential in this process.

DENNIS JENNINGS (pastor)

Biblically speaking, denominations don’t send missionaries. Schools don’t send missionaries. Mission agencies don’t send missionaries. We see in Acts 13, missionaries are called and sent by local churches and the Holy Spirit.

We see from Paul’s writings, the church at Philippi sent financially for the support of his missionary endeavors (Philippians 4:10, 15). It is this model from which we see the partnership of the sending church, supporting church, and missionary.

What a joy to know that as we partner with the missionary, the sending church, and their supporting churches, we are engaged in the enterprise of the Great Commission!

HARAMBEE

by Carl Boonstra
Former BBFI Mission Director

Kenya became an independent nation in 1963. Their first president, Jomo Kenyatta, was educated in an African Inland Mission school and was a professing Christian. Achieving unity among the great diversity of more than 50 different tribal groups was a great challenge facing Kenyatta. As a symbol to unify the nation, he took a cow’s tail and attached it to a wooden handle. He called this prop *Harambee*, which means “pull together.” He went to every tribal group with the same message — Let us pull together!

Henry Ford said, “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” Working together must be our method. The deputation process connects missionaries with local churches, which can then partner with other local churches in order to further the Gospel.

Let’s pull together, pray together, promote together, participate together. Think what we can do together.
Harambee!



**MISSIONARY
COMMUNICATION
WORKSHOP**

Nov. 6 – 11, 2016
Location: Camp PONDO in Southern California

Every missionary who is going to give any kind of presentation in a church should attend the Missionary Communication Workshop. The best news of all is that Ventura Baptist Church completely covers the cost for the workshop!

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3. You will develop the reputation as a missionary who pastors want in their churches.

For more information go to www.aboundmissionaryservices.com

DENNIS ISBELL (*pastor*)

I believe **the deputation process helps our church to stay on fire for God, for missions, and for fulfilling the Great Commission.** I want the missionary's burden imparted to my heart and our folks. Our folks are able to visit with the missionaries and it's a blessing to see the connections that are made.

I don't believe the deputation process should take three years, and I don't believe it would if we allow our people to see the passion our missionaries have to reach the people God has called them to.

BRUCE GARNER (*pastor*)

1. It reminds us that missionary work is done by everyday people. Missionaries do remarkable, eternity-changing work, but having missionary families visit in person, place their children in our Sunday school and nursery, and sit beside us in the worship service shows our congregation the work of missions is not conducted by superheroes. Missionaries have needs, talents, and fears just like we do. "Normalizing" missions and missionaries helps people in the pew consider they, too, can be used by God to reach across cultures.

2. It fuels passion. There is no substitute for knowing someone who is serving overseas. When countries where our missionaries work are in the news, our email and social media light up with questions. Are they safe? Will they have fresh needs? Is there something we can do? Those questions and their energy would not exist if we did not personally know someone serving the Lord there.

LEWIS MCCLENDON (*pastor*)

Missionaries who visit Ventura Baptist Church during deputation help our church in two ways:

1. Our people hear about what God is doing in the world. God has a global plan to reach the world with the Gospel. When missionaries share that God has put a specific country on their hearts, our people see God really does care for the world and is actively seeking and saving people. As they hear that message, they are challenged to reach people where they are.

2. Our people can pray specifically for missionaries they know. At Ventura Baptist Church we believe we really are partnering with our missionaries. True partnership requires relationship. Relationship requires time together. Time together requires missionaries to come to our church. We do our best to give generously to our missionaries, but we believe the greatest gift we can give our missionaries is prayer. It is hard to pray for a person who is unknown to you. During our eight-day mission conference, missionaries speak, teach, or give testimonies in all our services, Bible studies, and banquets. We schedule lunches and dinners with families throughout the week. We create every opportunity we can think of for people to spend time with missionaries. By the time the eight days are up, our people really know our missionaries and are motivated to pray for them.

Q. Pastor, how does the deputation process benefit your local church?

BOB STEPHENSON (*pastor*)

There is an important, glorious, God-blessed aspect to missionary deputation that goes far beyond fundraising. People in the pew are impacted by the faith and sacrifice of visiting missionaries. **Our congregations are challenged to attempt great things for God as they hear from ordinary men and women being used of God to accomplish the supernatural.** They think, "Maybe God could use me, too." The Holy Spirit's call is answered and new missionaries are born.

We never let a month go by at Graceway without a missionary in our pulpit. Why? Because missionaries need our help and are worthy of it. Also, as a pastor, I know nothing will challenge my people to pray, give, and go more than listening to our missionaries' testimonies.

KEITH TAYLOR (*pastor*)

May I begin by saying we want those who come to our church by way of deputation to be blessed by their time at Southside Baptist Church. We love missionaries! They are vital to our obedience to fulfill the Great Commission. We do our best to welcome them, make them feel at home, and fellowship with them.

Vital prayer support is generated when our church gets to know the missionary. The close of our mission conference is designated as a candlelight service. **Our people get excited about picking a missionary family to pray for every day throughout the year.**

Another benefit for our church is when a missionary shares a pressing need. Our church, whenever possible, comes together to meet that need immediately.

MAKING IT BETTER ... TOGETHER

CLOSING THOUGHTS AND IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

For missionaries...

DWAYNE WRIGHT (*missionary*)

As a deputation missionary, your focus is key to having a positive or negative ministry experience. One area we focused on was simply working hard. Deputation should not be seen any differently than working at a career or on staff at a church. Our schedule was tight. Monday we normally traveled, Tuesday through Thursday I would hit the phones from 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. (depending on what time zone I was calling). If we weren't making phone calls, we were doing follow-up — emails, sending out packets, or traveling to nearby churches for face-to-face meetings. We began making contacts one year before approval. By the time we were approved, we were booked a year out every week. Even while on deputation we would book out as far as two years. It's always easier to cancel if God gets you to the field earlier than planned!

SHANE SALMON (*missionary*)

Respect a pastor's time. Pastors are busy with the ministry. Being mindful of their time helped me communicate in a concise and timely manner.

For pastors and churches...

ESTEBAN ALVAREZ (*missionary*)

One of our supporting churches has a ministry called Missionary Care Team. A month before we arrived for their mission conference, members from that team sent us personal messages introducing themselves and asked us about our family and if we had any prayer needs. That made a tremendous impact because when we arrived at the church, instead of feeling like strangers, we felt we actually knew some of the congregation.

MAX KENNEDY (*missionary*)

I was a senior pastor for 18 years. Now, as a missionary to Nicaragua, I've been blessed with a unique perspective to be able to say, "If I had to do it (the pastorate) all over again, I would ..." With that in mind, I would definitely allow more new missionaries to come for love offerings whether I could take them on for monthly support or not. Generous love offerings are what keeps new missionaries' motors running ... literally.

LANCE GOTCHER (*missionary*)

One of the most helpful things for a missionary is finding a pastor available. Whether at a conference, a meeting, or on the phone, missionaries have to talk to pastors to get scheduled in a church and have the possibility of getting support.

JOHN REILLY (*pastor*)

Our church has been fortunate to purchase two homes right next to the church. In 2011, the decision was made to turn one of them into a mission home. As a ministry, two of our members took over the task of creating a warm, relaxing place for missionaries who visit our church. The home has four bedrooms and two baths. It also has a full basement and a big yard for kids to run around. It is a place for them to "stretch out" for a bit. We also stock the cupboards and refrigerator with food for their stay. We have found it a great way to get to know our missionaries on a more personal basis.

For State Fellowships...

THE TEXAS LAUNCH PROGRAM

CARL HUGHES (*pastor*)

When it comes to getting new missionaries to the field, what can we do better? This was the question Pastor Rick Carter asked in 2008 as the chairman of the Texas BBF. He realized that in the 1980s it cost \$100,000 a year for a missionary to be on deputation. Even then, it was taking each missionary a year or more to get to the field.

As the Texas board talked about this problem, the solution became apparent. Instead of having missionaries drive all over

Texas, using precious time and money, why not have pastors come to the missionaries?

We already have fellowship meetings where pastors are coming together. The pastors could meet the missionaries at these meetings, and take them on for support, all at the same time.

The Texas board developed two main qualifications. First, the missionary had to do their internship in the state of Texas. Second, the missionary had to go through an interview process and be approved by the Texas Board of Directors. Once this happened, they would be presented to the pastors at a fellowship

meeting. The idea was that each attending pastor would take them on for support.

The first candidate for the program was presented at the Texas BBF meeting in August 2008, and, in one day, Texas pastors raised \$2,035 in monthly support for the Morrows, who were headed to Curacao. The Morrows were able to gain this considerable amount of support by travelling to just one meeting and using two days. Since that time, many more missionaries have participated in the Texas Missionary Launch Program.



The Olorien Medical Clinic of Arusha, Tanzania

By T. J. Walter • Project Director, New Hope Initiative

You've likely said, "If only these walls could talk." Every building has a story, from Starbucks to the Vatican to Fenway Park or to the home where you lay your head each night.

The last time I thought, "If only these walls could talk," I was 7,628 miles from my home in a small clinic waiting room in the village of Olorien in Arusha, Tanzania. Just a two-hour drive from the southern border of Kenya, Arusha is known to many as the gateway to Mt. Kilimanjaro and as a launching point for international visitors heading to Tanzania's many safari parks. Travel a little deeper within Arusha and you will find the village of Olorien. There you will find a medical clinic where more than 125,000 people have come to seek help over the past seven years.

The history of the clinic dates back to 2007 when a college nursing student named Lindsey Griffin was on a short-term mission team with Sandy and Karen Baird, founders of New Hope Initiative. While visiting local missionaries Vernon and Mary Smith and ministering at the church and school campus across the street, Lindsey had the idea for a medical clinic that could serve the community with basic medical services. Even after returning home, Lindsey couldn't shake the idea for the clinic and the affect it could have on this community and the Smith's ministry. Raising funds from friends on campus and her local church, Lindsey soon sent a check for \$36,000 to get the Olorien Community Clinic off the ground. Through the leadership of New Hope Initiative and the generosity of North Park Baptist, Humble, TX, and North Metro

Church, Denver, CO, the clinic soon became a reality. Fast forward seven years and this small "bandage and aspirin" clinic now spans three buildings and includes a full-service lab, x-ray and ultrasound units, an operating room, in-house pharmacy, and a residence for the doctor. Lindsey's initial offering of \$36,000 was the seed that grew to an astounding investment of close to one million dollars generously and sacrificially given by God's people through New Hope Initiative.

Spend even a short amount of time around the clinic on an average day and you will encounter everything from young children with common colds to older adults awaiting life-altering diagnoses — all being cared for with compassion and expertise. One of the most amazing stories from the clinic passes through the door every day. In fact, he is the one responsible for each diagnosis and surgical incision. Since the gates opened April 9, 2008, Dr. Robert Byemba has been at the helm of this work. His journey to that opening day, and each day after, is both captivating and humbling.

BYEMBA'S JOURNEY

Born in Congo, Dr. Robert Byemba is one of eight children by his mother, who was one of eight wives to his father. Excelling in school, Dr. Byemba was educated and trained as an anesthesiologist. After practicing medicine for several years, in 1998 he was forced to flee his hometown of Bukavu, Congo, which was embroiled, like much of the country, in a vicious civil war.

With a group of 52 people including

his wife, young daughter, mother, and other relatives and friends, they set off in vehicles toward the border. The group made it only three miles before having their cars and all of their possessions stolen. Left with only one option, the group decided to journey to the next city by foot in hope of getting transportation out of the country. After three days of walking, they learned that the local militia had overtaken the city and the borders were closed. There were no options for transport except by foot. The group was told the only option for safety was the capital city of Kisangani in the north — nearly 400 miles away. If that wasn't daunting enough, Dr. Byemba's wife, called Mama Sabina by all who know her, was seven months pregnant and inevitably going to give birth at some point along the journey.

Despite the obstacles, they knew this was their only option and the quickest route was through the jungle. They walked day and night for almost two months. One afternoon, Mama Sabina started having contractions. At 11 p.m., at the base of a large tree and with the



Dr. Byemba

rest of the group resting nearby, the Byemba's second child was born without complications. He was given the name Bush as he was born in the bush.

The following morning, the entire group, including the newest family member, continued on. Surviving only on fresh fruit, cane sugar, and water, the group traveled for two more months, eventually making it to Kisangani. There, a refugee organization provided travel to Uganda and then to Tanzania where Dr. Byemba began teaching French at a local university.

The Byembas attended Bible Baptist Church of Olorien for almost three years, and endeared themselves to the church and the youth department. At the same time, plans were coming together for the medical clinic. Dr. Byemba knew this was his home and upon the opening of the clinic he found his new place of practice.

MR. SIKN

Hundreds of stories could be told about the clinic's medical victories, but one of the most powerful stories occurred late in 2015 in the life of an older gentleman named Mr. Sikn.

For years he had a benign cyst growing in his forehead. Not only was it painful, but also unsightly to the point where he was ostracized in his community and even ridiculed as demon-possessed. He went to every hospital and doctor for miles around his rural home in Tanzania searching for help. But, because he could not afford what many assumed to be an expensive and possibly fatal surgery, he was denied care everywhere he went.

One day, he heard about the Olorien Community Clinic in Arusha and he was told this clinic offered care even to those who could not afford it. Despite being hours away from his home, it was his only hope in

receiving help. After consulting with Dr. Byemba, the doctor tried to get Mr. Sikn care at the local hospital. But due to the complex nature and possible complications of the surgery, his request was denied.

Knowing Sikn's options for any semblance of a normal life were limited, Dr. Byemba committed to perform the surgery. After several hours of surgery using only local anesthetic, Dr. Byemba was able to successfully remove the cyst attached to Mr. Sikn's skull. The following day Mr. Sikn returned to his village as a new man with new chance at life.

MORE THAN MEDICINE

While a main goal of the clinic is to diagnose and repair physical problems of patients, above that is a desire to heal the spiritual inadequacy so many of the patients face. Mornings at the clinic begin with Bible study and prayer among the staff — all of whom attend either Bible Baptist Church of Olorien or another local Christian church. The morning study and encouragement is all the more important when you learn more than 60 percent of patients treated at the clinic are Muslim. The goal is to create an environment clearly grounded in Christian values and beliefs, and also one where the Gospel can be shared at every opportunity. To this end, the walls at the clinic are adorned with Bible verses, Christian music and sermons are played on the TV in the waiting areas, and prayer is freely given when the chance arises.

So, if the walls of the Olorien clinic could talk, what do I think they would say? Beyond telling countless stories of physical lives changed, I think these walls have a lot to say about bringing restoration and hope to the people of Tanzania.

VERNON AND MARY SMITH

Vernon and Mary Smith are 28-year veterans in East Africa and have employed a passionate and skilled approach to their ministry in Tanzania. The cornerstone of their current ministry is Bible Baptist Church of Olorien. Teaming up with the late Tom Foltz, his wife, Joanne, and their family, this vibrant church was birthed 14 years ago from a small sports ministry in the community. This



plan led to many salvations among teenage boys in the community. Through a coordinated program of education, discipleship, and mentoring, these young boys are now the leaders in the church and community. Very few churches in Africa are strong among the 20-30-year-old male demographic. However, this church thrives in this age group, opening up exciting possibilities for the future.

The church also operates Bible Baptist Academy, one of the finest schools in the region with great facilities, staff, and a strong Christian outreach among diverse families who frequent the school. After Tom Foltz went home to be with the Lord in 2009, Joanne returned to the field to continue as the headmistress at Bible Baptist Academy.

Establishing Olorien Community Medical Clinic, which sees 20,000 patients annually, was a great surprise in the Smith's ministry. However, God directed the circumstances and resources leading to the formation of this incredible work. Mary Smith is an integral part of the clinic ministry working as a triage nurse and general assistant in keeping the daily crush of patients moving smoothly.

The Smiths are passionate church planters, having birthed 13 churches in Tanzania. They have also used a diverse set of ministry tools like the school, camps, sports ministry, and medical clinic to reach a multitude of individuals for the cause of Christ. With over 40 students from the church enrolled in the Bible college program, the Smiths plan to continue working and training young men and women through the Bible college and other ministries. Vernon enjoys the role of a missionary/pastor, and thrills at the prospect of one day turning over this work to a national pastor and a thriving leadership team.





By D. J. Mingo

A Redirected Journey

“Pastor Don, there is a missionary who really needs to talk with you.”

Usually, only urgent calls diverted attention from my Monday morning sermon prep. “Can’t it wait?” I agitatedly replied. My assistant pleaded, “Ah, no I don’t think so. Sounds like this missionary really needs to talk with you.”

That week was already filled with two funerals, five missionary calls, two counseling

sessions, 100 emails, and hosts of other requests knocking on my door. I sat there almost out of breath just thinking of it all. Rather perturbed, I took the call.

“Uh, is this Pastor Don Mingo?” sprang out immediately when I picked up the phone. Impatient, desiring to get back to my routine of study, I replied, “Yes, yes it is, how can I help you?”

“Well, my name is Mark, and I’m a missionary. I believe Tim is a missionary out of your church? Is this correct?” Having

pastored this medium-size church in northern Minnesota for five years, Tim really wasn’t out of my church. He grew up in the church. His father was also a missionary out of the church. Tim was one of more than 100 missionaries I “inherited” upon accepting the call to pastor this church.

Mark continued, “It is true you and your wife were missionaries in South Africa for over 20 years?” Sensing a deeper connection developing, Mark continued, “Well, we’d like you to come to our field, and spend a few weeks teaching a bunch of missionaries at our annual missionary conference. There are about 50 missionary families, and to be honest with you, most of us are pretty beat up. Been in the trenches out here a long time. Since you’re a pastor, and you’ve been a missionary, well, we thought you might be able to encourage us a bit. I hear you’ve really been through it.”

Six months later, Mark met us at the airport. Arriving at his home near midnight, sleep deprivation assaulted our senses after the grueling flight. Upon entering Mark’s home, his wife greeted us, “I know you’re probably tired, but can we talk now a little bit?” Over the next few hours, they began to share their story.

A year earlier, this couple had been traveling with another missionary couple and a group of missionary kids to a nearby country when their van was highjacked. At one point in their eight-hour journey, a small pickup truck pulled alongside their van on a narrow stretch of road. The man in the bed of the pickup waved an assault weapon ordering the missionary driver to pull over. When the driver did not comply quickly enough, a shot rang out. The driver slumped over into the center space between the front seats. Their missionary friend was dead. As the van careened into the bushes, their ordeal had only just begun. Mark and Joy went on to share it all right there during our first meeting. Crawling into bed in the early hours, I thought, “God, how am I going to help these missionaries?”

The first night of the conference, standing before 60 missionaries, I shared my personal journey. In our 22 years overseeing MANNA feeding centers in South Africa, we knew of dozens of little children who had died. Most died of AIDS. Often, the little

girls, only four or five years old, contracted AIDS after being raped. One little Zulu girl, Andiswa, was very close to me. When she died, things began to change for me. Eventually I had to return to the States where I was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (P.T.S.D.). Sharing my personal vulnerabilities and struggles in missionary life (for the first time publicly) opened the floodgates for those hurting missionaries.

For the next two weeks, missionaries shared their stories. As I spoke every night, and we listened, coached, and encouraged missionary couples during the day, Kathy and I realized God was redirecting our journey. Several realities punctured our hearts while interacting with those missionaries:

Missionaries face unprecedented challenges. When American missionaries go to the field, they often already have three strikes against them. Americans simply aren't liked in many places — strike one. Sharing Jesus can be met with great disdain — strike two. The label “missionary” can have an unpleasant or disparaging connotation and often invokes hostility — strike three.

Missionaries experience severe trauma. During my pastorate, more than a dozen missionaries shared stories of physical assaults on themselves or a family member while on the field. One shared, “I know I should talk about it, but I can't. Not yet, not ever. How could anyone understand what happened to me? What I feel like? The dreams that wake me up every night?” Trauma, for many missionaries, lives just down the street.

Missionaries face pressures beyond the norm. A missionary living in one of the crime capitals of the world shared, “Rarely a week goes by someone doesn't call me asking for a funeral for a murdered family member or friend.” Another missionary shared, “Seeing four burned bodies smoldering just down the road from our church is something I'll never forget. The smells, sounds, and sights.”

Even as I compose this article, we pray for a missionary family pinned down between warring factions in the country they serve. For several nights bombs and bullets explode all around them as they lie on the floor.

Missionaries fear sharing their fears. “It's not the kind of thing you ask a church to pray about,” said a missionary friend of mine. “I'd lose my support pretty quickly if I talked

like that.” Another shared, “Who in the world understands, or even cares, what we are going through out here?” Another, “If I shared that we were afraid to go back to the field, well, we'd lose our support in a hurry! Wouldn't we?”

Missionaries often feel forgotten.

During our missionary career, we experienced hardships unparalleled in American life. During my pastorate, the church supported over 100 missionaries and the needs and requests of a missionary family that size were many. There were certainly times when our missionaries, to whom we were responsible, got lost in the shuffle of pastoral ministry.

During that intensive two-week missionary conference with Mark and Joy, my EMS, police, and fire chaplaincy training found its nesting place. Missionaries shared accounts of assaults, robberies, burglaries, loneliness, fears, and struggles. Clearly some were pressed beyond measure. My training in critical incident stress management, grief care, trauma care, life coaching, and a host of other disciplines came into play. Helping missionaries see God in their circumstances struck a chord. With great clarity I began to see every hardship we experienced on the field and in the American pastorate had prepared us for a new journey.

After the conference, we returned to our “retirement home” in the forests of northern Minnesota. But our American dream faltered. Somehow, owning a home, retiring near the lake to fish and pastor felt different now. I couldn't stop thinking about all those missionaries. My boat plans took on water as missionaries continued to call seeking counsel and someone to talk to. By September 2014,

I had marked my last Sunday as pastor in the woods of Minnesota. A new journey had begun.

Just a few months later, in December 2014, I was sitting in the Mission Office with BBFI Mission Director Jon Konnerup. After relating the burden we felt for this new journey, I asked him for any perspectives and help he might offer in our journey. At that point, we'd already sold our home. We lived with our oldest son, his wife, and their eight kids. Jon's response overwhelmed me, “Don, let's see if the Mingos can do missionary-to-missionary care right here in the BBFI.” The road map for this journey was beginning to come into focus.

After serving a six-month internship at Ventura Baptist Church in Ventura, CA, with Pastor Lewis McClendon, Kathy and I were reinstated with Baptist Bible Fellowship as Support Team Endorsed Program (S.T.E.P.) missionaries. This program offers specialized support to BBFI missionary personnel all over the world.

So, at age 59, we are on deputation again! On our redirected journey, we don't think much of that house in Minnesota. We are right where God wants us — living in missionary apartments, with occasional stops to family and friends, we busy ourselves raising support and sharing the need for missionary-to-missionary care.

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WHAT IS MISSIONARY-TO-MISSIONARY CARE?

It's an effort to offer our missionaries assistance, by missionaries who've experienced the challenges of missionary life. Whether on the field or while in the States, on deputation or on furlough, missionaries can avail themselves of a listening ear, coaching, counsel, and a missionary perspective in confidentiality. Helping our missionaries see God in their struggles is a high priority as we aim to help missionaries serve longer and stronger in the ministries God has called them.

The first mega-city

Everything in the New Testament record of first-century Christian activity takes place in the theater of the Roman Empire, colored and dominated by history's first mega-city. From the opening events in Matthew's Gospel, to the last lines of Luke's record, Rome plays a key role in shaping the story of Christ's ministry and the life of the early church.

Believers scattered across Asia Minor, the Middle East, and Northern Africa likely thought of Rome first as a system not a city. Yet it is the power and function of the city that created the system.

The city ran the empire. The empire ruled the world.

Rome's story was shaped by the influence of Roman and Greek cultures, the reign of emperors, historical and political developments, as well as its geographical location.

Historically, settlements become cities because of location. Though Rome was 15 miles inland, it had access to the sea by means of the Tiber River. Rome became a major seaport.

An extensive road system connected all the major cities with the capital city.

Archeological evidence indicates the site being occupied in the second millennium BC. Its first wall was likely built around 500 BC. The first appearance and development of temples, altars, and other religious focal points would be a study in itself.

The three elements Joel Kotkin (*The City: A Global History*) suggested help create an urban center were present: security, economy, and sacred space. These usually expressed themselves in the ancient world as walls, trade routes, ziggurats, and temples.

Paved streets, fresh running water, libraries, and baths all contributed to the sophistication of this great city. There were probably eight aqueducts in Paul's day and as many as 170 Roman baths.

The Roman Forum was the center of Roman

culture, and civic and commercial interest. The best of its temples, palaces, circuses, baths, monuments, amphitheatres, and buildings of state were adjacent to the Forum. All Roman life centered here. All roads radiated from the Golden Milestone located in the Forum.

Paul, Luke, Peter, and other great Christians must have often been in the Forum. Here, Paul may have been tried for his life.

In 1941, during the excavation of Ostia (Rome's seaport at the mouth of the Tiber), an inscription was found indicating Rome had a population of 4,100,000 when Tiberius began to reign in AD 14.

The rich lived in sumptuous villas. The households consisted of scores of slaves. Women enjoyed a great deal of freedom and moved freely in society, commonly in the company of a slave.

The poor lived in tenements made of wood and brick that may have been four or more stories high. They had no sanitary facilities or water above the first floor. Life expectancy under these conditions was likely not much over 35.

Rome boasted large numbers of slaves but manumission was easy and large numbers of slaves became free and attained Roman citizenship.

It is estimated over 200,000 were on the grain dole in the capital in Augustus's day. It became regular practice for emperors to provide free food and entertainment for unemployed masses in the capital.

When Jews came to Rome is not known. A few probably arrived in the second century BC. It is thought about 20,000 lived in the capital during the first half of the first century. Thirteen synagogues were known to have existed in Rome.

The first mega-city ran the world, was Godless, and was unfriendly to monotheism and Christianity specifically.

Paul never feared the city. The Holy Spirit

led him to the city. From the city the Gospel was spread as the Holy Spirit intended.

Rather than being deterred by more sinners and sin per square inch than any other place on earth, Paul was drawn. He was motivated. He wrote to the believers in Rome, "I am willing and eagerly ready to preach the Gospel to you also who are in Rome" (Romans 1:15 AMP).

How does a New Testament church function in an unfriendly culture? Consider the size and power of Rome, the entrenched polytheism and moral code foreign to Christianity. The Roman context was not friendly to the Christian faith, but the system facilitated the function of evangelism.

Rome's peace, trade, communication, and justice system are the very things that provided the means by which the Gospel spread so rapidly. Today, while urbanization brings many challenges, it provides the means by which the Gospel can be and is being disseminated as never before.

The intensity, immensity, density, and complexity of the matrix of paganism, power, and population did not cause Paul any reticence. He declared, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes ..." Power here describes an energy able to overcome all resistance.

Think about it. Chicago produced a President who is reshaping American reality and influencing the rest of the world. Christianity, as we have known it, is being impacted within and by this reality. Are there challenges? Yes. Can each New Testament church carry out the mission? Yes.

How does a local church function in an unfriendly culture? Boldly. Graciously.



by Charles Lyons, Pastor
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THE RIGHT ANGLE

BIBLICAL WISDOM FOR A CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Q.

How should I respond when someone comes to me with “juicy” gossip?

By Kevin Carson

A. The sins of the tongue have an incredible ability to hurt you and others (James 3:1-12). We could share so many stories of how gossip has fueled rumors, hurt friendships, tarnished reputations, damaged churches and ministries, and created division instead of unity.

Most of us have experienced the hurt of someone using his or her tongue carelessly or maliciously. Worse yet, is there any one of us whose words have not hurt someone else? James teaches that if a person can control his or her tongue, that one is mature and can control all the body (James 3:2).

Many times Christ-followers are put into a precarious situation when another person begins to share gossip. Sometimes gossip may sound like a “news” report, “Did you hear about ...?” At other times it may sound like a prayer request, “Would you please pray for ...?” Possibly it comes through a personal account by a friend, “You would never believe what happened to me ...” So how do you respond when you are in this situation?

WHAT IS GOSSIP?

Jerry Bridges defines gossip as “the spreading of unfavorable information about someone else, even if that information is true.” A definition I have found very helpful over the years is, “Sharing information about another person when you are not part of the problem or part of the solution.” Often when we gossip, we actually share information we did not experience firsthand either by hearing or seeing the events we share.

WHAT MAKES GOSSIP WRONG?

There are several reasons gossip is wrong; I will limit my answer for space sake. Paul wrote, “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification” (Ephesians 4:29). Gossip fails to meet this standard on several fronts. Gossip is corrupt communication. It does not seek to edify or impart grace to the hearer or the person as the object of the gossip. Plus, the motive of our gossip is often self-righteous pride and therefore does not honor Christ. Ultimately our words tear down instead of building up.

Have a question?

Submit your question to TheRightAngle@Tribune.org. Due to space limitations, not all questions may be answered in print. Questions that do appear in this section will have all personal identification removed. For questions requiring answers beyond the scope of a simple Q&A forum such as this, the Tribune recommends you contact a local biblical counselor. The advice given here is not a substitute for a personal conversation with your local biblical counselor.

HOW TO RESPOND

1. **Seek the reason for sharing the forthcoming information.** If this brother or sister is seeking advice, then it is appropriate to listen. Be careful to only get the information needed to give advice and not just to satisfy your curiosity.
2. **Politely ask the person to not share any further information with you than what has already been said.** Ask God to help you believe, hope, and rejoice in righteousness (1 Cor. 13:4-7). Assume what is best, hope what is best, and choose not to dwell on what you have partially heard.
3. **Remind the other person of your commitment to glorifying God by honoring Christ and serving others in love by not sharing gossip.** Let the one sharing gossip know your commitment to Christ is greater than your desire to hear anything about another person. There is no need to hear this news if, in fact, you are not part of the problem or part of the solution.
4. **Encourage him or her to go immediately to this other person to seek to reconcile the situation.** Although Matthew 18 primarily addresses those inside the same church, the principles apply to gossip, generally. If one is offended by another brother, then go to that brother with an open heart, a desire for understanding, a hope for restoration, and a goal for God’s glory.
5. **Offer to hold the other person accountable for dealing with the situation in a timely way.** If the person has already said too much before you could stop the conversation, now you are part of the situation. Therefore, it is appropriate to suggest a workable timetable in which this other person can pursue reconciliation. At that time, offer to contact the person back to see if, in fact, it has been dealt with appropriately.
6. **Pray for the one desiring to gossip, the other person as the object of gossip, and yourself.** Pray the one desiring to gossip will grow to understand gossip, grow in sensitivity toward gossip, and grow in pursuit of godliness. Pray for wisdom to know how best to handle the issue. Pray for humility and awareness of God’s empowering grace. Pray God’s will would be done and that He would receive the glory in everyone involved as they seek to honor Him and love each other through God’s grace by the power of the Spirit.

Kevin Carson serves as department chair of Biblical Counseling at Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary in Springfield, MO. He is the pastor of Sunrise Baptist Church in Ozark, MO.

LIMA, PERU

JOHNSONS TRAINING SOULWINNERS IN PERU

After 14 years of ministry in and around Cusco, Peru, Rudy and Lorraine Johnson have returned to Lima to encourage and train churches in soulwinning. Through weekly visits and challenges to area churches along with providing simple handouts sharing the plan of salvation, the Johnsons have given over

1,000 witnessing training materials to people desiring to be more effective witnesses for Christ. Pastors are also using these materials for additional training in their churches. It is reported many pastors are requesting the Johnsons come to teach in basic discipleship areas such as baptism and tithing.



Rudy and Lorraine Johnson with the 1,000th person to receive the witnessing training materials.

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"...THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS, BUT GODS." 2 CHR 20:15



TAKING THE GOSPEL BACK HOME

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Check out my testimony and ministry on SoundCloud.com, search using "Interview-Lu May"

To schedule an appointment, please email me at: may2thailand@gmail.com

MIAMI, FL

TIME INTERNATIONAL SUMMER TRIPS

TIME International took teams of students to work and serve alongside missionaries in Mongolia, Brazil, and Costa Rica this summer. "Our motto is GO - SEE - SERVE and our teams go prepared to share the Gospel in street evangelism but also serve in a variety of other ways," says Janet O'Rear of TIME International.



Team Mongolia served with Creative Access Nation missionaries teaching English, building *gers* for a camp, and building tables and chairs for a cafe. Brazil teams were in three different locations with missionaries Bud and Pam McCord assisting with a middle school camp and serving meals to a large homeless population. Team Costa Rica interacted with deaf ministries and helped in a VBS with Pastor Pablo Ramirez and Templo Biblico Bautista de Barva (Bible Baptist Temple of Barva).

TIME International gives high school and college students an extensive (19 days) summer mission experience. Since 1996 they have sent



67 teams of students to 33 different countries. Plans for 2017 include teams to Romania, Uruguay, and Nicaragua. For

more information, visit www.timeinternational.net or contact David O'Rear at International Bible Baptist Church, Miami, FL.

SPRINGFIELD, MO

30 BBC STUDENTS HIT THE ROAD TO SHARE THE GOSPEL AROUND THE WORLD

By Nate Harmon

BBC Vice President of Student Affairs

Every year BBC has the opportunity to minister and lead at churches and student camps across the United States, and the summer of 2016 was no exception. With an increased interest in using BBC teams to help facilitate camps, we went from sending out two teams, to sending out five teams this year. These teams included Breakaway, which is our college worship band, Rec teams that are trained to assist at camps



by running events, counseling, and sharing devotions, and speakers including BBC Director of Admissions John Decker and BBC Campus Pastor A.J. York.

Our teams had contact with over 4,000 students at 15 different camps! They saw kids come to know Christ, challenged them to live for the Lord, and saw many surrender their lives to fulltime ministry. We are thankful to the camps, churches, and pastors who partnered with our students and we pray our students have been a blessing.

A highlight of the summer was a trip to the United Kingdom. BBC partnered with LIFT Student Ministries, led by BBC Alumni Ed Trinkle, to take the LIFT camp experience to a group of campers in the U.K. This trip was especially moving for our students as they ministered cross-culturally to more than 100 students, some of whom were hearing of God's love for them for the first time.

Our students returned to campus exhausted, but also exhilarated. They have gained a new perspective of ministry, "It is hard but it is worth it!"

Did you know BBC Ministry Teams are available all year long? We still have openings for your church during the 2016-2017 school year! We have teams available to lead worship on Sunday mornings and guest speakers, including BBC President Mark Milioni, Admissions Director John Decker, and Dr. Craig Dunning, Missions Professor, to challenge your church. We also have teams available to help with special events including worship with Breakaway Band, games and activities by the Rec Team, and speakers to present the gospel. To learn more, visit our website at gobbc.edu. Click on the News and

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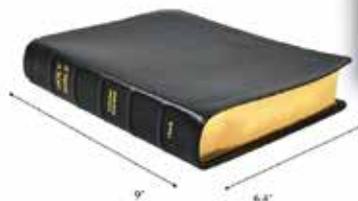
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CLYDE, TX

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH DEDICATES NEW MISSION HOUSE

Bible Baptist Church and Pastor Larry Hooper dedicated a two-suite mission house, a new addition to their property, July 17. Each suite includes a bedroom, bathroom, comfortable



living room, a fully equipped kitchen with washer and dryer, television, and a playground for children. Bible Baptist wants this to be a place missionaries can stay and rest at no cost to them. For information on staying in one of the suites, call (325) 893-5851.

RICHARDSON, TX

SUMMER LIFT CAMPS

By Ed Trinkle,

LIFT Student Ministries Interim Director and pastor of Canyon Creek Church, Richardson, TX

At the end of the 2015 camp season founder and director of LIFT Student Ministries, Dan Brown, contracted a serious strand of pneumonia. His doctor put him on a health and wellness regimen for a year. As a result, I was asked to be the interim director of the 2016 camp season. Dan had



strong regional leadership in place, so, with guidance from Melissa Tucker, the transitional year was seamless.

LIFT hosted four camps in the United States this summer and one in Wales, UK, with two college teams and a host of volunteers. Heartsong from Cedarville University and Breakaway from Baptist Bible College (Springfield, MO) led the music. BBC also sent their Rec Team to help with activities, games, and leadership! Over 2,100 students attended the five camps with 225 salvations, hundreds of personal purity decisions, 130 dedications, and 55 surrendering to fulltime ministry. The main speakers in our U.S.A. camps were D. J. Cabrerra, Wesley Beacham, Aaron Cavin, and Brian Moore, all graduates of Baptist Bible College and alumni of LIFT Ministries!

Campers participated in homeless shelters, food pantries, local churches, and church plants every week. They also collected hundreds of shoes and socks for future MANNA trips and received offerings at each camp to sponsor a MANNA feeding center. Collectively they gave \$5,000 to MANNA Director Bruce O'Neal!

Thank you for your support of LIFT Ministries and Dan Brown. We were honored to step in this year and help keep this thriving camp ministry going strong!



BRANSON, MO

2016 BBFI MISSIONARY FAMILY REUNION

By Steve Bender, BBFI Associate Mission Director

June 13 began a wonderful time of reconnecting with our missionary family as 157 of us met at the Radisson Hotel in Branson, MO, for a time of encouragement, instruction, relaxation, and fun. Perhaps the story of the week is best told from the perspectives of two of the attendees.

“Family. A word that holds so much. Family is there for you when you need them. When you get together, no matter how long it has been, it seems like time has hardly passed. Family holds a special place in each of our hearts. For missionaries, other missionaries can oftentimes feel more like family than our own families. Don’t get me wrong, we love our families and no one can replace them, but missionaries hold a different type of family bond. They understand the struggles of cultural and language barriers, loneliness, as even reintegrating into our own culture. This year’s missionary reunion was like a big family reunion — meeting new family or seeing family members we haven’t seen in ages. It was a unique time of bonding and growth. There was a lot of encouragement, love, life lessons shared, and wisdom learned. To see older and younger generations bonding over ministry we are all doing for the Lord and how He has used us was such a blessing. To hear of missionaries who have served for almost 40 years and the silly stories or heart-wrenching stories they shared were wonderful learning experiences for us younger missionaries. Bro. Housley’s teaching was encouraging and refreshing. I love being taught and refreshed in my heart language! I cannot explain how much my family and I needed this time of refreshment. Words cannot express how much I thoroughly enjoyed the missionary reunion and hope all of our missionaries get to go and be encouraged and refreshed, knowing they are not alone!”

- **Tiffany Foltz, missionary to Tanzania**

“The term outsider seems to be used a lot in today’s news. Lacking the experience on the mission field and not being raised in a church that held the banner high for missions, I consider being an outsider a blessing. When



I began attending High Street Baptist Church in 2007, I learned the importance of, and fell in love with, missions. I attended every mission event and was privileged to hear the heart of these people God called. I was in awe and responded to their call for prayer and giving while anxious for the next connection.

Our Missionary Reunion sessions began with prayer offered for God to change us, to enlarge our coasts, as Jabez prayed. I often think of change as a choice of my will to be different, yet at the reunion I learned change was the result of prayer as different missionaries gave examples of how it played out in their lives and needs.

When Steve and Jenell Bender played games and gave away gifts and money, I was happy to see these young families with children win. What champions! We had lots of fun and laughed with this part of the program, but it was serious too. We couldn’t lose sight of their commitment and vision.

Some missionaries spoke of a strengthened faith and courage after heartbreak from plans going awry, harvests not being recognized, broken health of their own or of loved ones they couldn’t assist — yet trusting God’s plans not to harm but to bless. Some spoke of going back to a place known only to God, having completed the work they planted — like Abraham’s call of faith to leave family, friends, and country not knowing where God would have them go this time.

I wish I could’ve met each missionary and listened to their call. Their testimonies and sacrifice call me to prayer. I watched

these heroes and heroines of the faith laugh with and at each other like a family reunion. I am still in awe — a term I use only to describe a God action.

The last night ended with a prayer of holy silence. I wondered what the Holy Spirit was speaking to each one about. New orders? Comfort? Assurance? I knew it was a call for valor as these ‘faith warriors’ battle on the front lines.

I am Sue Anderson, wife of Bill Anderson who spent 40 plus years in the Philippines with his wife, Donna, and their four sons. God has blessed me indeed to be part of these two families, the Anderson family and the worldwide missionary family.”

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LOUISVILLE, KY

INDIA BBF IN NEED OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING TEACHERS

The India Baptist Bible Fellowship (IBBF) gathered July 13, 2016, for a Fellowship meeting hosted by Pastor Mortha Prakasam and HopeWay Bible Baptist Church, Angara, Andhra Pradesh. Special speakers included Pastor Nathaniel Raju and Pastor Morta “Samuel” Prakas. The Indian government requested IBBF churches start English-only schools. Therefore, during the fellowship meeting, the men gathered where the HopeWay church broke ground for their first school.

The IBBF includes 53 church plants in India who adopted the BBFI's 20 Articles of Faith. Prakas serves as the IBBF mission director and Pastor Darrell Ray of Liberty Bible Baptist Church of Louisville, KY, is IBBF president. Ray says, “We are seeking dozens of teachers who will surrender to go to India. Missionaries are restricted there, but teachers are not. As our Fellowship grows, this need will also grow. Plans are to utilize the A Beka Book curriculum. Please pray for the IBBF.” For more information contact Pastor Ray at (270) 646-0205.



SPRINGFIELD, MO

MISSIONARIES RECEIVE TRAINING AT MISSION OFFICE CANDIDATE SCHOOL

Thirty missionary candidates from across America met at the BBFI Mission Office for a week of training, fellowship, and networking July 11-15. Missionary Candidate School training includes finance, security, meeting the needs of missionary kids, and everything in between. “Please continue to lift up all of our candidates and missionaries in prayer as they follow God’s call to evangelize, disciple, and start churches in the far corners of the earth,” says Craig Stevenson, Development Coordinator for the BBFI Mission Office.



*Creative Access Nation missionaries not pictured for security purposes.

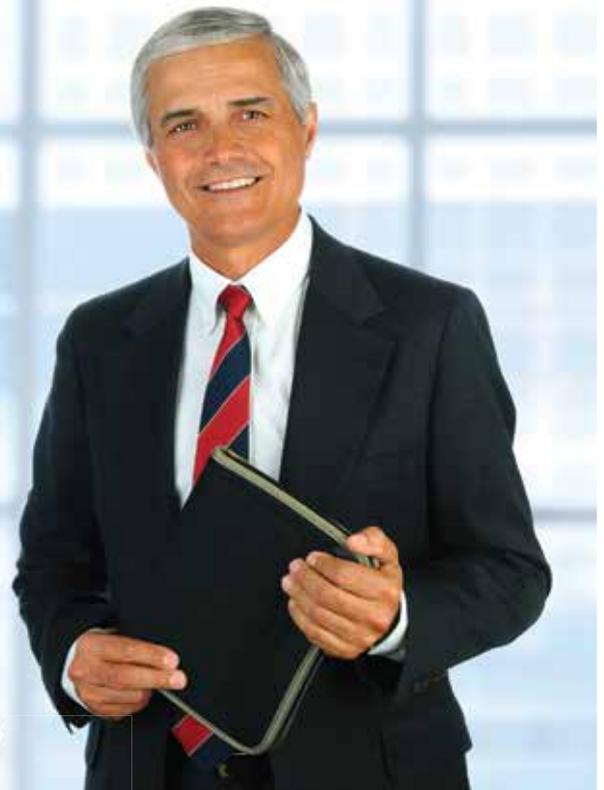
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WITH THE LORD

SPRINGFIELD, MO

RICHARD BOLAND

Richard "Doc" Boland passed to his heavenly home August 6, 2016, at the age of 76. From 1973 until he retired in 2007, Boland was a professor of music at Baptist Bible College, where he influenced thousands of students and where the recital hall is named in his honor. He also served as music minister of Cherry Street Baptist Church and South Side Baptist Church in Springfield, MO.

Doc is survived by his wife, Beverly, two children, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Services were held at Cherry Street Baptist Church August 11. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to MANNA Worldwide (online or through Cherry Street Baptist Church).

Dennis Jennings, pastor of Cherry Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

Doc was the most humble and godly minister of music I have ever known. His passion to teach music with excellence was only surpassed by his desire to serve the Savior. Those of us who were privileged to sit both in his classes and under his ministry in his local church were taught what it meant to be a genuine servant leader by his example. Dr. Boland was about ministry above performance. He taught us worship should be the context of our lives with or without music. Dr. Boland demonstrated for us how to love our Savior, our families, and our church. I was privileged to have been his student, honored to serve as his pastor, and, above all, blessed to be called his friend.

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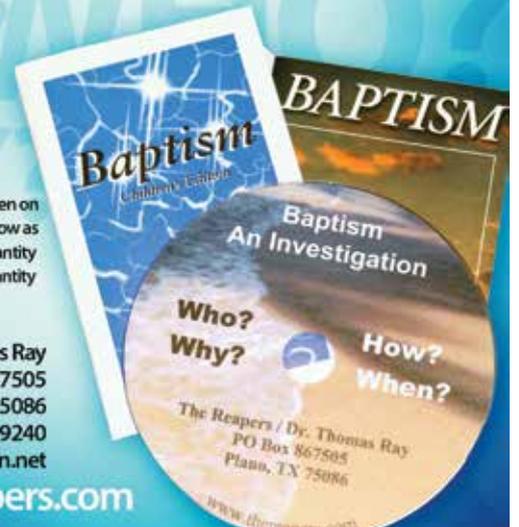
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Serving your local schools

By Randy Harp

If your church ceased to exist, who in your community would miss it? A church can make a difference in many areas of a community, but one of the most impacting could be serving a local school. According to a report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, most states provide less support per student now than before the recent recession, and local governments have also cut funding for their schools. If you are a parent with children in school and have attended any parent organization meetings recently, you know parental involvement in schools has also drastically gone down compared to the past. These are just two of several reasons why many schools welcome a church partnership.

Getting Started

The key is to start small. You need to establish a relationship with the school. Churches that seemingly have a wonderful partnership with a school typically started by just letting the school know of their desire to serve. Start with the school principal. Call and schedule an appointment, don't just show up. After you introduce yourself ... listen. Rather than coming in with ideas, simply ask how you can help. While pastoring in Michigan I made a commitment to introduce myself to every principal in my town. Two days after meeting the principal of the largest high school, tragedy struck with a student committing suicide. Because I had just volunteered to serve in any capacity needed, the principal called and asked for help. The next week I was given a room on campus and was allowed to offer grief counseling to hundreds of students. That opportunity would not have happened if I had not simply introduced myself to the principal.

A second key to getting started is finding an "insider" at the school with whom you already have a relationship, ideally a member of your church. This might be a teacher or other school employee, or it might be a parent with children at the school. They will help give you credibility.

Ideas

There is no way to provide an exhaustive list of ways to help schools in your community, nor is there a way to know all their needs. However, here are a few ideas to help get you started. It is important to note these ideas are not limited to ways churches can be involved. Many are options for individuals to help. I know of one pastor who challenged every member of his church to donate \$10 and volunteer ten hours each year.

- Volunteer to read in the classroom
- Office support such as making copies, etc.
- Event help
- After-school tutoring
- Booster clubs
- Parent teacher organizations
- Show up to school board meetings as an encouragement
- Provide treats for the teachers' lounge
- Provide pre-game meals for the sports teams
- Provide meal bags to take home over the weekend (Title I schools)
- Substitute teach on your day off
- Help coach a sports team
- Offer to be a sports team chaplain
- Offer free music classes from your worship pastor
- Provide free fingerprinting services and security packs at a school event
- Help with fall carnivals or Christmas parties
- Offer the church facility as a venue for teacher and administration training (with a lunch included)
- Offer the church facility as a "safe haven" in case of emergency

Calendar of Ideas

Take the challenge to serve a local school on a monthly basis.

September	5th Quarter Activity (after football game)
October	Coat and sock drive
November	Tell the teachers "thanks" by providing lunch
December	Christmas gifts for selected families
January	School supplies for new semester
February	Provide treats in the teacher's lounge
March	Spring break clean-up outdoors
April	After-school tutoring for upcoming standardized testing
May	Teacher appreciation month
June	Graduation support
July	School property repair, maintenance, or cleanup
August	Back-to-school supplies

SEPTEMBER 2016

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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