

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

TRIBUNE

JULY/AUGUST 2017



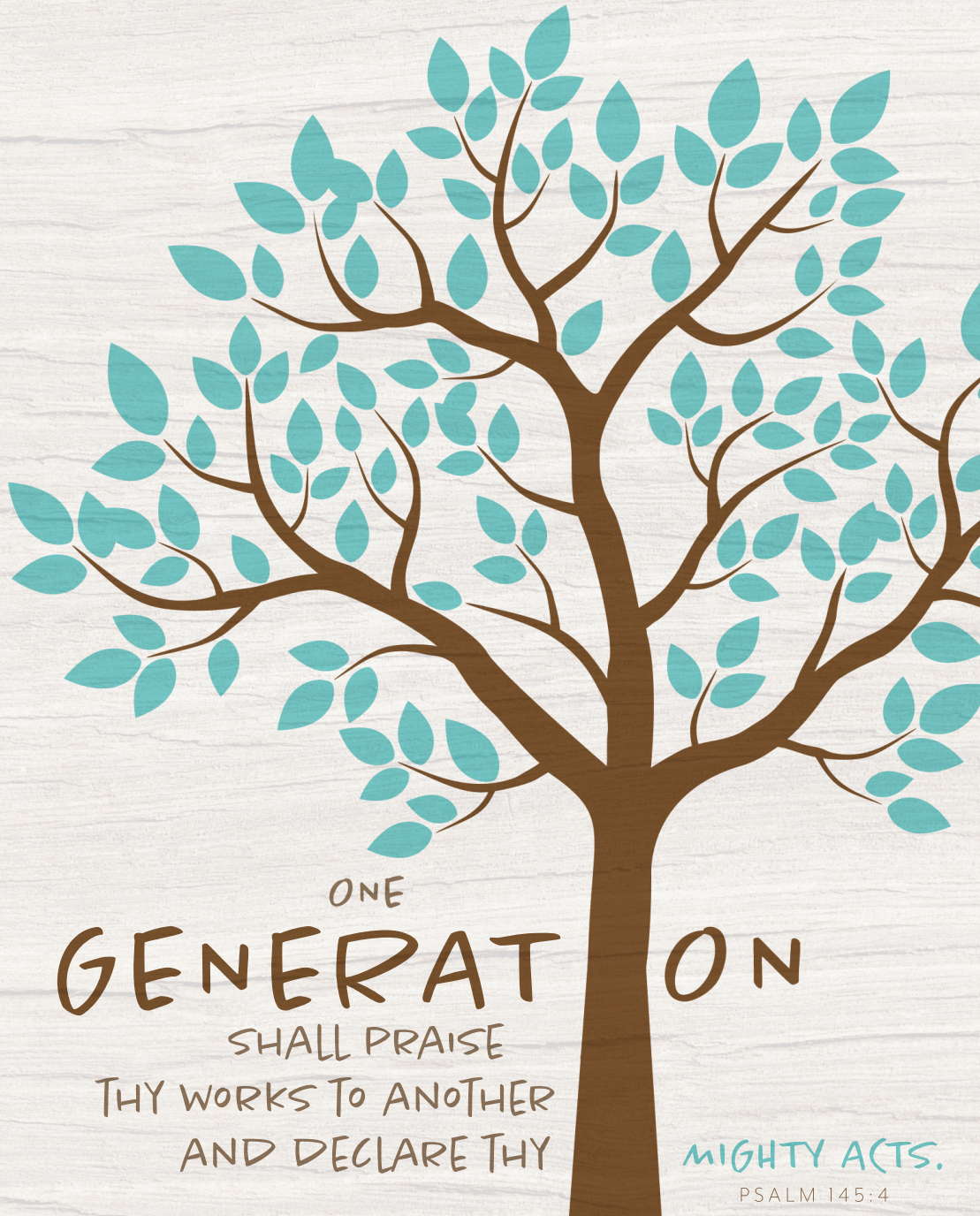
MEN & MINISTRY

p.6 Special Feature: **Men's Ministry**
p.18 **Australia: A Call for Laborers**
p.30 **Tribute to Bob Baird**

BBFI

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

OWASSO, OK | SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2017



ONE
GENERATION
SHALL PRAISE
THY WORKS TO ANOTHER
AND DECLARE THY

MIGHTY ACTS.

PSALM 145:4

SCHEDULE

Monday PM

Max Harmon, Peru

Lonnie Lehrman, Granbury Baptist Church, Granbury, TX

Tuesday AM

"In the Trenches" Breakouts:

Children's Ministry: *Steve Harney, Stephanie Loderhose*

Student Ministry: *Reuben Herrin, Jon Slayden*

Senor Adult Ministry: *Tom Porter, Loran McAlister*

"Can You Hear Me Now?" Sound Systems: *Josh Kaylor,
Mike Gleason*

Budgeting Stewardship: *Steve Chittenden, Injoy Stewardship*

Dealing with a Sexually Confused Society: *Kevin Carson*

Developing Lay Leadership: *TBA*

Recruiting Volunteers: *TBA*

Stress Intervention: *Dr. Skip Pilgrim*

TED Talks:

Michael Woodward, *Ocean States Baptist Church, Smithfield, RI*

David Klass, *Friendship Baptist Church, Montana City, MT*

Keith Gillming, *Lighthouse Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO*

Ladies Meeting

10:00 - 12:00 in the Event Center: *Anita Renfro*

Tuesday PM

Skit Guys

Jerry Thorpe

Wednesday AM

Missions Approvals

Wednesday PM

Duke Hergatt

Special Entertainment: *Comedian and Illusionist Matt Fore*

Find hotel information and register
today at www.bbfi.org/events



ON THE TABLE Men & Ministry

by Randy Harp | Editor

One of my goals when I first became a senior pastor in 2004 was to have a church that attracted men. My problem was, I had no idea how to do that. In youth ministry, I learned that if you have a lot of girls the boys will naturally show up. Probably not the best strategy for growing a youth ministry, but it was a reality. In 2005 I stumbled across a book that helped shape my pastoral ministry for the next dozen years. The book is *Why Men Hate Going to Church* by David Murrow. The author speaks of the feminizing of the American church. He states,

"Men are drawn to risk, challenge and adventure. But these things are discouraged in the local church. Instead, most congregations offer a safe, nurturing community – an oasis of stability and predictability. Studies show that women and seniors gravitate toward these things."

He goes on to say, "Although our official mission is one of adventure, the actual mission of most congregations is making people feel comfortable and safe – especially longtime members." I read those words and it stung back then and they still sting today. This issue of the *Tribune* is focused on characteristics of a spiritually healthy man and the importance and challenge of having a healthy men's ministry.

This issue of the *Tribune* also marks some significant changes to our ministry. Although July/August has been a combined issue for years, moving forward our norm will be bi-monthly issues. This was addressed at the May Fellowship meeting to help balance the budget. (See page 23 for more information.) This is also our first issue without the assistance of Karri Joy Perry. Karri has been an invaluable asset to our office for the past fifteen years and she has been a help to me as I have transitioned to this new role. Her fingerprints are all over our ministry. She will definitely be missed. I ask you to pray for the Communication Office as we attempt to do more communicating with even fewer people.

On the page immediately to your left is our ad for the upcoming BBFI national meeting in Owasso, OK. I have met with Linzy Slayden several times as he is preparing for this meeting and I can assure you that you that no stone will be left unturned and you will walk away challenged, encouraged and inspired. Yes, there are other options for pastoral conferences you can attend, but this is the one you will not want to miss.

As always, if there is ever anything I can do for you, please let me know.



Men & Ministry

6

This special feature covers everything from men in ministry, to men's ministries, to some of the challenges Christian men face.

- 6...Are Men Really Wild At Heart?
- 8...The Biblical Blueprint For A Husband
- 10...A Biblical Approach To Fatherhood
- 11...Health: And Why You Should Care
- 12...Men's Ministries: Forged For Life
- 14...Reaching Men On And Off The Sideline



Australia: A Harvest In Need Of Laborers

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BBFI missionaries are doing great work on a field where the results often come slowly, but they could use some help.



Men Of Hope, Men Of Dreams

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How a vision to gather African national pastors and challenge them with world missions became a reality ... and a success.

COLUMNS AND DEPARTMENTS

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FROM THE PRESIDENT MEN AND MORAL PURITY

We all know that to have strong churches we must have strong men. Clearly, one of the greatest struggles for men is moral purity. Some of our most admired Bible heroes struggled with moral purity. The biblical vision for sexuality certainly deviates from the current cultural standards. Men of all ages are constantly being indoctrinated with the permissive, sexual narrative of our secular society. The internet has made pornography available any time, any where in the privacy of our homes. The secret devastation it has brought has not left the church unscathed.

The shame and condemnation that goes along with acknowledging this struggle makes it delicate to deal with in a public setting. A few years ago I read that 68% of men in church regularly view porn. Once again, this is not the general population, but specifically the men sitting in the pews of our churches each Sunday. Josh McDowell commissioned research and reports that 76% of Christian young adults between the ages of 18-24 actively seek out porn. This is clearly a battle the men in our churches are facing.

While it is difficult to bring this subject up in church, we must. Even just declaring the statistics can help men realize they are not alone in their struggle. At High Street, we launched a church-wide initiative to get men to attend a video-driven study – whether they felt they had a problem with this or not. I called all leaders including deacons, teachers, small group leaders to attend. My challenge was that all of us need to understand how to strengthen each other. The response was great. The conversations began in table groups after each session. This kind of ministry needs to be a regular part of our efforts to strengthen men for the battle.

We can defeat the enemy but we need sound biblical teaching and the support of fellow men to do it.



Eddie Lyons
BBFI PRESIDENT

WORLD MISSIONS THE CHALLENGES ... AND THE OPPORTUNITIES

Today's world has many pressures, and missions and missionaries are not exempt from their influence. Following are a few of the challenges in reaching our world with the Gospel.

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

Researchers estimate there are approximately 50 difficult-to-reach people groups, each with a population of at least 50,000, who have no missionary presence, Scriptures, or church in their culture.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The worldwide desire for education is great, and many families sacrifice so at least one child can go to college.

Universities around the world have a culturally diverse student body. These students are ripe for the Gospel and universities are a great harvest field.

PEOPLE FROM OTHER WORLD RELIGIONS

The challenge to reach the world of Islam, Hinduism, Shintoism, and Buddhism is great. It is reported that more people are turning to Christ than in years past. However, these religions are strongholds that hinder people from seeing the Light of Jesus.

DISPLACED PEOPLES

Wars around our world create vast populations of displaced people. As the number of refugees increases, families are

separated, and living conditions often seem hopeless. Many are looking for help and hope.

LARGE CITIES

According to statistics, there are 500 cities with a population over 1 million. It is projected that by 2050, 75% of the world will live in urban centers.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

Take a moment to imagine the impact if believers around the world would share their faith at least once a month with someone.



Jon Konnerup
BBFI MISSION DIRECTOR

BBFI LEADERSHIP

CHURCH PLANTING YOU ARE A HUSBAND

I can think of no greater element that has brought about the casualty of a church planter than forgetting that he is a husband.

In a 1982 *Frank and Ernest* comic strip, Bob Thaves wrote about Fred Astaire: "Sure he was great, but don't forget that Ginger Rogers did everything he did, backwards and in high heels." As a planter, never forget that your wife is taking every step that you're taking. She is praying with you, visiting with you, attending services with you, she is supporting you and every step you take to be successful as a planter. She is being a wife, mother, and homemaker,

performing all of the duties required of those roles.

You as the pastor, are receiving the accolades, compliments, and encouragement of the church and community while your wife is simply being your support system without any recognition.

Even though your wife is giving her time faithfully, you as her husband need to give her your time. Your acknowledgment of her faithful service is essential.

As a husband you can become so busy doing ministry you forget you have the responsibility of allowing your wife to come alongside

and grow with you. As Amos 3:3 wisely asks us: "Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?" In Mark 3:25 we are told, "If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." As the church grows, the two of you should grow together in leadership, spirituality, and enthusiasm for the work. Nothing could be more complementary to your ministry than unity in these areas. Blessings come, as we are obedient in these places of responsibility.



John Gross
BBFI CHURCH PLANTING (APEX)

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE SPIRITUALLY HEALTHY MEN

There are many programs, events, studies, trips, and meetings a church facilitates in an effort to help people grow in their relationship with God and live for Christ. A healthy men's ministry will help and bless families and churches in so many ways.

- Spiritually healthy men lead their marriages, families, businesses, and church in a loving godly manner.
- Spiritually healthy men are not afraid of the Bible – they welcome it. They embrace the conviction, the challenge, and the honesty.
- Spiritually healthy men love

their church. They will serve, attend, and support something they love and believe in.

- Spiritually healthy men love their pastor. I continually thank God for the blessing of having great men around my life.

Believe it or not, many leaders and pastors are not spiritually healthy. This quickly leads to dangerous situations in their life, family, and church. Here at BBC, we give great attention to help our young men (and women) to develop a heart for God, His Word, and His ways.

Through special meetings, focused chapels, and men's

and women's events with guest speakers, we address issues young men and women are facing. We regularly address the reality that many in ministry are falling away from their faith, their morals, their marriage, and their family. We want to do whatever it takes for men to be convicted, challenged, and changed to develop a heart for God.

Please pray for us as we seek to raise another generation of spiritually healthy men and women.



Mark Milioni
BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

PERSPECTIVES

MEN & MINISTRY

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE THREE GUYS AND A CALCULATOR

Carl, Bob and Tim know tedium. At our church, these good men are our offering counters. Week after week, though most people never know it, they count and double check what hits the offering basket. Every church has and needs this ministry. But since you don't see you, maybe you don't think of it too often.

I have seen scores of good men serve in churches, including my own, but I have this trio in mind today for some very good reasons. First, at our church, you don't serve in this capacity unless you are a faithful giver. All money is the Lord's. Men who serve in the ministry must live that truth. My guys do. You may

have heard of somebody stealing money from the offering – it's terrible – but I've heard of exactly two such cases in all my years. The "normative" integrity of the Carls and Bobs and Tims of the world is an amazing constant in the lives of our churches. Real men minister this way. And in my church, and yours, they do.

There is so much more to this monotonous, every-week, ethically-essential ministry than just stacks of cash and checks. Counters see what everybody gives. And what they don't! And they love the people of our church just the same. In the process, they've become a team – for accountability nobody ever counts alone. And the better

things are, the more work they have. So when you start your Sunday lunch this week thank the Lord for that food, and for the guys who are still back at church doing the ministry of counting. Three good men and their trusty calculator.



David Melton
BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE PRESIDENT

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ARE MEN **REALLY**

W



WILD AT HEART?

BY TERRY KIZER

As a young boy, I developed a love and appreciation for the outdoors on my grandma's farm. That is where I learned to camp, shoot, fish, build a fire, cook hotdogs over an open flame, and just be outside. I loved exploring, discovering, and escaping from the chaos of my home environment.

My grandmother taught me to enjoy the nighttime sights and sounds - the brightness of the moon, the millions of stars, the symphony of frogs and crickets. Learning to be aware of the dangers of the night was also part of that experience.

As I transitioned into adulthood, I really began to appreciate hunting and fishing and retreating from the concrete jungle to the countryside. These days, it's more about getting away to appreciate the beauty of the outdoors than catching or killing.

Over the years, I have built many relationships while in the woods. I have had amazing and memorable spiritual conversations with teens and adults around a campfire. And it's awesome to see the true joy when someone catches their first fish or shoots their first duck.

I love it because I get to use things I'm passionate about to minister to others. I remember sharing the Gospel with Josh after a Saturday-morning duck hunt and him trusting Christ the next day.

My favorite quote from John Eldredge's book *Wild at Heart* is "don't do what the world needs. Do what you're passionate about because what the world needs is people of passion." God has certainly allowed me to merge my passion for people and a love for the

outdoors into a ministry environment.

One of my favorite memories is taking a group of grade school boys fishing. They were catching fish as fast as we could bait the hooks. It was a great experience for them and it opened communication for me to share the truths of God's word with them. Some of them are still in ministry today!

Several times a year we take the guys from our church skeet shooting. Those who are experienced like to show off their shooting skill. I stay out of that competition. We almost always have new guys attend and it's a great way to build relationships.

A few years back I wanted to start an annual Beast Feast. I thought on it for a couple of years before pulling the trigger and inviting a few area churches to attend. I was expecting around a hundred men to show up. We had 250 in attendance and raised \$4,000 for Manna. The next year, over 400 attended and we gave away guns, kayaks, gas grills, camping gear, and guy stuff. I don't even know how many men were saved that year. The place was packed. The next year we divided the event and hosted one on the north side of town and one on the south side of town.

The guys love that environment and there is nothing like hearing men singing praise to Jesus, wearing camo, helping feed kids, and gathering around the word of God. I would have never dreamed the Beast Feast would have grown like it has. It's an incredible annual event for men and boys. And best of all, God is using something I love to reach others for Jesus!

THE *BIBLICAL* BLUEPRINT FOR A HUSBAND

BY LINZY SLAYDEN



Being a husband is a high calling, and should be treated as such. It is a wonderful role with many benefits and joys that go along with it. But being a husband also comes with responsibilities. It takes character molded by God and in the process of continual improvement to juggle the responsibilities and expectations God has placed on husbands.

Many Christian husbands would summarize their biblical duty in one word - leadership. Scripture answers the question with a different word - love.

There is no doubt God's design for the husband includes leadership, but it is leadership that flows from love and is always tempered by tender affection.

It is significant that before the apostle Paul instructs husbands and wives how to love each other, he calls for mutual submission in Ephesians 5:21, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." That's a general command to all Christians in all contexts. Husbands are no exception to this rule. The Christian husband should submit to be the best husband he can be. It is colored and characterized by meekness, tenderness, and service. It is a humble, servant's love, like that of Christ. Contrary to what some men think, this is not weakness!

Submission sets the stage for Paul's instructions to husbands: "Love your wives" (v. 25). The whole idea of the husband's headship is a comparison to Christ. The husband's headship over the wife is likened to Christ's headship over the church. "The husband is head of the wife, even as Christ is head of the church" (v. 23). Therefore your love for your wife is supposed to be like Christ's love for the church: "Love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it" (v. 25).

Peter gives us some great advice, "Husbands, likewise, dwell with (your wives) according to knowledge (with

understanding), giving honor to the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life" (1 Peter 3:7).

The headship-submission relationship is not about superiority and inferiority. Let's be honest, some wives are wiser, more knowledgeable, more articulate, and more discerning than their husbands. Yet God has ordered the family so the man is the head. That is not because the wife automatically owes the husband a servant's deference as his inferior – for she is not to be treated as an inferior, but as a sister and joint heir. The reason for the divine order is that your wife is the weaker vessel and you therefore owe her sacrifice and protection.

I believe husbands who strive to make the following three actions a priority will see a world of difference in their relationships.

Consideration

"Dwell with them according to knowledge..." 1 Peter 3:7. Peter is saying to live with your wife in an understanding way. Find out what she likes and what she doesn't like. He's simply speaking of being considerate. This is opposite the cave-man mentality some today would advocate. It's incompatible with the kind of independent, proud, self-absorbed attitude many seem to think epitomizes true maleness. It calls for understanding, sensitivity, and meeting

your wife's needs. It involves a sincere effort to understand her feelings, fears, anxieties, concerns, goals, dreams, and desires. In short, you must be considerate.

Often it boils down to listening. You must understand your wife's heart. You can't meet her needs with sacrificial love when you have no idea what those needs are?

Being considerate is not something that comes naturally to us. Like our children, we wrestle against our own sinful tendencies and selfish desires. But God calls us to be models of sacrificial love in our families, and that begins by being considerate of your wife's needs.

Chivalry

When Peter refers to the wife as "the weaker vessel," he is primarily referencing the physical realm. Now, it is undoubtedly true that some wives could take their husbands in an arm wrestling contest, but, as a class, women are physically weaker than men. Regardless of a wife's physical strength, the principle still applies. You are to treat your wife with a gentle chivalry. A loving husband would not say to his wife, "After you mow the lawn, trim the trees and change the tire I'll be glad to take you to the store." We serve them with our strength. We show them a particular deference in matters where their physical weakness

places them at a disadvantage. Lending them that strength is one of the main ways we show them a Christ-like, sacrificial love.

Communion

We're to regard our wives "as being heirs together of the grace of life." Men and women are equal spiritually and should be treated as such. While you're legitimately concerned with spiritual leadership in your home, don't forget the responsibility of communion before God with your wife as a joint heir of His grace. Your role as her leader does not mean you are her superior. Both of you are dependent on divine grace, and you are heirs together of that grace.

I love it when I read in the Song of Solomon, "This is my beloved, and this is my friend" (5:16). I love that expression! She rejoices in her love for him, but it is not just his romantic devotion that thrills her. It is not his machismo or his leadership that causes her heart to sing. What is it? She is glad that he is her friend. That's the kind of relationship husbands should cultivate. It is a deep sense of intimate, equal sharing of spiritual things. It is a communion together like no other relationship on earth.

This brief article is in no way exhaustive nor comprehensive, but it's a great start! I pray it will make a difference in your marriage and it will glorify the Lord Jesus.





A BIBLICAL APPROACH TO **FATHERHOOD**

BY GARY FULLER

When news of a child on the way becomes the consuming force of our lives, we all set out to be the very best moms and dads we can be. As the years go by, we may be pleased with the outcome or we may be bitterly disappointed. I doubt young Alois Hitler set out to raise the boy who would attempt to exterminate the Jewish race. Nor did Abraham intend to raise an Ishmael whose prodigy would trouble the world with terrorism. His good boy, Isaac, reared the infamous Esau alongside Jacob the deceiver. We could speak of Eli's wayward boys, Hophni and Phinehas. We are reminded of the godly prophet Samuel, whose boys were hellions.

Parenting tends to be brutal, excruciating, and frustrating work. After nearly two decades of sacrificial training, investing, and providing for a child, parents may ultimately ask, "Where did we go wrong?" Even with the best intentions, parents of the Bible, and we who seek to be biblical parents, may or may not rear godly, successful children.

I am blessed to have three kids, ranging in age from 15 to 31, one from each planet. They are all saved and dearly loved and respected by many. All credit for that goes to God.

As a father, balancing vocation, family, discipline, grace, finances, fun, and industry is like keeping several plates spinning while being punched in the gut. Daddying is not for the timid.

We find several characteristics of

godly dads reiterated in the Word. He exhibits: Love, faith, example, stewardship, leadership, provision, protection, teaching, and temperance.

From this list of characteristics, we draw these conclusions:

1. A biblical father is a spiritual leader.

God trusts this man to lead and teach his family in righteousness. God's confidence of Abraham's spiritual leadership in Genesis 18:19 is impressive: "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."

That spiritual leadership must include private and family devotional lives, reiteration of truth, church attendance and service, sacrificial giving to the Lord's work, a vibrant prayer life, and constant care for souls. He needs to be a consistent example of faith in God and faithfulness to God.

2. The biblical dad models a solid work ethic, as well as being a responsible steward of finances.

Paul instructed his spiritual son Timothy, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." I Timothy 5:8.

Kids need to know how to live, but also, how to make a living and be good providers. A father's example and teaching

should encourage his children to honor God and work hard. There are no shortcuts to success. A godly dad capably cultivates godly, productive kids.

3. A godly daddy sets the tone of the home.

The apostle teaches the church, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4

A Christian home needs to be a little bit of heaven on earth. In a cruel world, the home needs to be a castle of safe retreat where love, joy, and peace is paramount. Dad needs to make sure the enemy is kept outside the home and not allowed to disrupt the heaven that is within.

4. Finally, a godly dad models love as we are reminded in Ephesians 5: "Husband's, love your wives."

It has been said, the greatest gift a father can give to his children is to love their mother. Love is the root of the most fruitful trees. A child incubated in a loving home becomes society's most valued citizen.

Song writers Hal David (born 1921) and Burt Bacharach (born 1928) collaborated on some of the most iconic songs of our culture. But one of the most recognizable was "What the World Needs Now is Love, Sweet Love."

Is it any wonder from where the inspiration for this song came? Two Jewish boys spent their formative years in New York City at a time when Jews were suffering from the pogroms and being forced into the European ghettos, eventually to be sent to the concentration camps for extermination. We can imagine how they were so inspired to compose this simple melodic prayer, "The world needs love, now. No, not just for some, but for everyone."

I'm thinking the Home of Alois Hitler, and the world, could have benefitted well from a dad's love, faith, example and leadership. Dads, I wish God's best to you in your efforts to provide these characteristics in your home.



HEALTH

AND WHY YOU *SHOULD* CARE

BY BRIAN MOORE

A pulpit and pew study of 2,500 clergy found that 76% were overweight or obese.¹ I've heard many pastors preach that their lips have never tasted alcohol, but I've also noticed many of their feet have never touched a treadmill.

In my younger years, I played a lot of basketball and ate whatever I wanted without gaining weight. When I worked out, it was strictly for vanity purposes. Today, my focused has changed from working out for vanity purposes to working out for energy.

Around my junior year at college, I realized I was packing on some extra pounds. And it only got worse after I graduated. A few months after I was married, my pants were fitting tight ... and this was before the days of skinny jeans. I went to the mall to buy some new pants and discovered that the pants in the next waist size up were also tight. I had gone up not one, but two waist sizes.

I've now been married 18 years and since that tight-jeans moment I have lost over 100 lbs. But, it was a seesaw battle. I would lose 20 lbs and then gain 25 lbs, lose 20 lbs again and then gain 30 lbs. I was stuck in a pattern of gaining the weight back and usually a little more. It wasn't until I understood why changing my mindset

was as important as changing my menu, that I began to see greater results.

Ministry is stressful. I know, understatement of the year. One of my mentors, Gary McIntosh, once told me, "Your church will only grow at the level of pain that the Senior Pastor can withstand." In Sam Chand's *Leadership Pain*, he says, "Growth equals pain because growth equals change and change equals loss and loss equals pain therefore growth equals pain." I couldn't agree more.

As our church starting growing and the pain increased, I once again began "growing" with the church. I was digging my own grave with a fork and a spoon. I knew I Corinthians 6:19, but often I was guilty of treating my body more like a trash can than a temple.

Although I'm tempted to share personal strategies I've used over the years, I'm convinced changing behaviors without changing beliefs is a waste of time.

Romans 12:2 tells us that we will not transform any area of our lives without the renewing of our minds. So here is challenge for you. Write down ten reasons why you want to get healthy and review them often.

Here are a few things on my list to help get you started.

- ✓ **INCREASED ENERGY WILL HELP ME ACCOMPLISH MORE WITH MY FAMILY AND CHURCH**
- ✓ **I WILL SLEEP BETTER AT NIGHT**
- ✓ **I DESIRE TO MODEL GOOD HEALTH FOR MY CHILDREN**
- ✓ **I WILL MAKE BETTER DECISIONS AND BE MORE FOCUSED**
- ✓ **I AM DOING THIS AS A WAY TO SHOW LOVE TO MY WIFE AND CHILDREN**
- ✓ **WHEN I AM OVERWEIGHT AND UNHEALTHY, I AM PUTTING MYSELF AND FOOD ABOVE GOD AND MY FAMILY**
- ✓ **GOD TELLS ME NOT TO OVEREAT, IT DISHONORS HIM WHEN I DISOBEY**
- ✓ **I DESIRE TO PRAY AND LEAD THE WAY TO HEALTHY AS A MODEL TO MY CONGREGATION**

Your body is an amazing machine designed by God, but it doesn't come with a warranty, you can't trade it in, and repairs can be costly.

1. www.foxnews.com/opinion/2012/06/03/obesity-epidemic-in-america-churches.html

MEN'S

FORG

FOR

BY ANTHONY MILAS

Life can be a gruesome, brutal, fight against a relentless enemy who is out for blood. It's a long and tough battle that can get overwhelming when we are fighting alone. We rely on God for all our support, but it is among our brothers we find true bonds in the combat of life.

And yet, many men have the lone wolf mentality and attempt to go through life alone. We know God did not wire us to do life alone because Jesus modeled the importance of walking with a "band of brothers." Because the disciples walked together with Jesus, they were more effective than they could ever be alone.

Why it is so crucial for men to stand together in unity as they follow Christ? Because, unified soldiers become an unstoppable army. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, all moving together. The trinity reveals a brotherhood, Jesus's life reveals a brotherhood, David and his rugged mighty men reveal a massive brotherhood.

When the men of your church are locked arm and arm together you will see God's power in your church. Proverbs 27:17 reminds us that, "As iron sharpens iron so does one man sharpen another." Standing together in unity and walking with one another allows men to grow in ways they cannot do alone. They will sharpen one another for battle and those around them will benefit.

The brothers you walk with can be the difference makers in your relationship with Jesus, your marriage, your family, your ministry, and your church. The men in the trenches with you are the ones who keep you going when you can't fight anymore. They can help keep your eyes on Jesus, bandage you up when you're wounded, and pick you up when you fall.

If you don't have a band of brothers in your life, then go get one! And always be on the lookout for someone who could use a brother. Be the brother you never had for someone else.

Pastors, get your men together, rally them around the vision, inspire them to grow together, and challenge them to step up and be a kingdom warriors for Jesus. Real warriors do not simply try to live for Jesus, they train to live their lives for Jesus! And strong men become stronger men when they train with a brother.

We have to challenge our men and call out the warrior God wired inside them. When men are unified and part of a brotherhood, they will arise to become mighty men of God. They will be able to accomplish things and advance God's kingdom with love, honor, and strength. And God will get the glory!



MINISTRIES

BY KIM BECKHAM

I once heard a preacher say that most churches didn't have enough active men in their congregations to take up the offering. That was no doubt an overstatement, but it has enough truth in it to resonate with many pastors. While we highly value the support of women who carry the load in many churches, we need men.

If you reach a child, you may get the family to attend. If you reach a mother, you will probably get a worker to help in your programs. But if you reach a man, you get the entire family. You also get greater financial support, their contacts with other men, and most of all, you get to shape the invaluable Biblical leadership model. The Bible declares that the man is to be the leader of his home. Just imagine how much stronger your church can be when you add men committed to living out that Biblical mandate.

Our church started investing in men over ten years ago when we began our men's ministry. It was based on two key concepts - accountability and connecting with other men. Our program, now called "ManMakers University" has had over 200 men participate in the program and has graduated more than 100 men from the nine-month first-level curriculum. The training includes Bible studies focused on men's issues and basic spirituality. It includes a weekly two-hour classroom experience with accountability and group prayer. The program ends with a graduation ceremony during the Sunday morning service on Father's Day. You should see the pride the men display wearing their special shirts and receiving their diplomas that testify of their success. Testimonies are given by the men, and some of the wives, about the life changes the program has brought to their families. It is a great day and a powerful recruitment tool.

Every program costs money and this one is no exception. The church

supplements the program financially as well as charging each man \$120 to participate. There are time and energy costs for the pastor as well. The pastor has to be the program's cheerleader or it will never get off the ground. I have led three of the classes, as well as completing all three levels of the program. I verbally support the program from the pulpit and make sure money is allocated in the budget for its cost. I also make sure we save time in the calendar for its meetings and retreats. I can tell you, it is worth the cost to have a men's ministry.

The benefits to our church continue to grow as we enter the second decade of focusing on men. First of all, our church is full of men. More men are available for ministry positions. Our families are more stable, because they are being led by men with a greater heart for God. But, most of all, our boys have a much greater pool of male role models to pattern their lives after. Boys may adore their mothers, but they naturally want to be men and their primary role model is always their father. When I launched the program ten years ago, I preached a message on the need for "heroes," and I challenged the men of our church to rise to that role. I ended the message by saying, "Oh, and there is one more reason why we need men to take leadership in the spiritual areas of our families and churches," then I turned to the side door as my three-year-old grandson ran out on the stage and jumped into my arms. I continued, "Here's why you must rise higher, here's why you should take this program. Boys like this one need you, they need heroes." We had 40 men sign up for the program after that promotion.

Pastor, what are you doing to reach the men of your church? How are you building strength and godly character into their lives? Do the people of your community know that your church values men?



REACHING MEN ON **AND** **OFF** THE **SIDELINES**

BY VERNON SMITH

There are many misconceptions and old wives tales about why the foreigners have come to Tanzania. Even today, Tanzanian parents can still use some of these myths to scare their children in to submission about certain things. It is said that *wazungu* (foreigners) have come to slay and to take lands. While most people do not believe that anymore, there is still a hesitancy to draw close to the *mzungu*, (foreigner). The question then arises, how can a missionary dispel these fears, this hesitancy? How can a man reach men, and therefore their families?

First of all, common ground or common interest must be identified. Before exploring this idea, let me say that "language learning" is paramount to being able to begin searching for this common ground. If the missionary cannot communicate well, then his common interest endeavors will be severely limited.

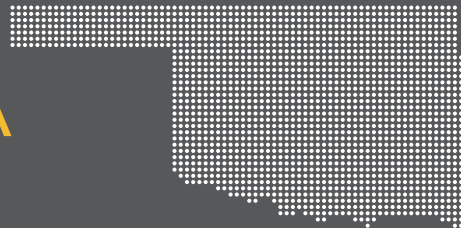
Sports ministries – soccer, volleyball, basketball. Without a doubt, sports ministry has been the key for providing a platform by which we could spend time with men and get to know them. This has been, and

still is, our most common ground. Here in Arusha Tanzania, our property is open every evening for sports. As I have played volleyball, and joked and laughed with men young and old, they have gotten to know me. This platform has given me "points" with them. Others would say, a stockpile of chips, the right to be heard, clout.

Secondly, be intentional. Anybody with a ball, and a little ingenuity can have a sports program. The fact that you have gathered some people together, and played a sport together, does not constitute "ministry." It has to be intentional. Therefore, at 6 pm three evenings per week, a 10-minute devotion is given on the basketball court. This gives us a chance to give the Gospel in creative ways. We have used short skits, object lessons, sports illustrations, all in conjunction with the Word of God. The church is promoted. Announcements are made. A spirit of excitement and expectation is portrayed and modeled. The men are invited to join classes for discipleship purposes. Many have done this, and in the process, gained an understanding of the Gospel, accepted

Christ as Savior, presented themselves for baptism, and on the story goes.

Thirdly, be consistent for the long haul. While many other ministries have developed over the years, the open door policy of our property, as a sports center with a Gospel presentation, has continued for almost 15 years now. Even men who are not players in the sports, still enjoy watching, armchair quarterbacking, or even leading in some way. Occasional tournaments of soccer, volleyball, basketball, and girls netball, have all afforded more opportunities for being around people, getting to know them, dispelling their preconceived ideas about us and about the church property, and drawing close to men. The young men we reached "back in the day," are now grown men with wives and children of their own. They are doing the devotions on the basketball court, running and refereeing the tournaments, teaching in Bible School, preaching in church, teaching classes, and now reaching a new generation of young men for Christ.



Officers

Chairman	Greg Baxter	Lawton	Faith Journey Church
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By Greg Baxter and Keith Bassham

The Oklahoma Baptist Bible Fellowship (OKBBF) has been an integral part of the Baptist Bible Fellowship since the beginning of our movement. John Rawlings and others held revivals in our state where many trusted Christ as their savior and many young people surrendered to the ministry and attended Baptist Bible College.

By the late 1950's pastors in Oklahoma began the OKBBF. The state meetings began to grow and by the 1970's there were over fifty churches and pastors represented.

By the 1980s, most of the county seats and the larger cities and towns had some fellowship presence. The church planting activity of the 60s and 70s had resulted in stable churches all over the state. The leading churches were in Tulsa and Oklahoma City, and many missionaries were coming out of the Oklahoma churches, as were scores of students going to Baptist Bible College.

The state meetings were well attended, a monthly publication called The Pastors Letter kept pastors informed, and controversy was minimal.

The Oklahoma Fellowship was also a leader among the national fellowship. One example is Oklahoma's sponsoring a "fellowship of states" in the early 90s on the campus of BBC, establishing a trend of multi-state gatherings on campus during the school year in succeeding years.

Though the major towns had thriving churches, the smaller communities languished, due to isolation, petroleum industry ups and downs, and lack of finances. Despite several attempts to plant churches, there are viable towns still without a BBF presence.

With the move of the California school to OKC in the 90s, and the accompanying conflicts, the OKBBF was dealt a blow from which it is still recovering. Those pastors and churches remaining active however have continued to make significant contributions to the worldwide work of the BBFI.

Here in Oklahoma we believe our best days are ahead. Pray for us as we continue to share the gospel and lead churches in the Sooner State.

PLANTING CHURCHES IN COLLEGE TOWNS

21,000+

Number of undergraduate students at the University of Oklahoma in **Norman, OK**

24,000+

Number of undergraduate students at Oklahoma State University at **Stillwater** and **Tulsa** campuses

"The lost are coming [to these cities] every August and staying through May. The college campus is the greatest mission field in America."

-Dean Inserra

www.namb.net/send-network-blog/9-mistakes-church-planters-make-in-a-college-setting

Cities in need of churches

Norman

Percentage of population claiming no religious affiliation

56.9%
pop. 118,040

Stillwater

Percentage of population claiming no religious affiliation

51.7%
pop. 48,406

Tulsa

Percentage of population claiming no religious affiliation

37.3%
pop. 399,682

Broken Arrow

Percentage of population claiming no religious affiliation

37.3%
pop. 104,726

Oklahoma City

Percentage of population claiming no religious affiliation

27.5%
pop. 620,602



URBAN CURRENT

Smart cities

"Cities have a way to go before they can be considered geniuses, but they're getting smart pretty fast", writes Michael Totty (*Wall Street Journal*, 4/17/17 "The Rise of the Smart City.")

He continues "... mayors and other officials in cities across the country have begun to draw on the reams of data at their disposal – about income, burglaries, traffic, fires, illnesses, parking citations, and more – to tackle many of the problems of urban life. Whether it's making it easier for residents to find parking places, or guiding health inspectors to high-risk restaurants, or giving smoke alarms to the households that are most likely to suffer fatal fires, big data technologies are beginning to transform the way cities work."

According to Frost & Sullivan, the global smart cities market is projected to reach US\$1.56 trillion by 2020. With rapid urbanization and ageing populations, cities are facing increasing strain on infrastructure, transportation, energy and healthcare resources. To address these challenges, governments are embracing the concept of the smart city applying new technologies to improve sustainability, livability and quality of life for citizens.

From experimenting with small wagon-like robots to carry packages in San Francisco to the New Orleans Fire Department tracking smoke detector distribution to sensor-equipped asthma inhalers in Louisville to parking assistance in Kansas City, metropolises are demonstrating their creativity.

Market research firm Juniper Research (Basingstoke, UK) recently crowned Singapore the smartest city on earth. "They ranked cities by an array of factors including their adoption of smart grid technologies, intelligent lighting, the use of information technology to improve traffic, WiFi access points, smart phone penetration, and the app landscape.", writes Brian Buntz in a piece, "The World's Five Smartest Cities," *ioti.com*. 5/18/16.

Singapore is leveraging one of the highest

mobile and broadband penetration rates in the world. Its centerpiece is a smart nation platform that brings together data from a nationwide sensor network. Ready-made above ground (AG) boxes are being deployed to supply power and connectivity to sensors, reducing the need for unnecessary groundwork.

Also, 98% of government services are accessible online, and an in-house Digital Government Services team has rolled out several citizen-centric mobile apps for transport, health, and municipal services.

Barcelona has more than 100 active smart city projects ranging from smart traffic lights, telecare services and electric cars to ubiquitous public WiFi.

Smart LED streetlamps activate only when movement is detected, producing 30% energy savings and are equipped with sensors to collect data from the environment. Over 70,000 elderly and disabled are connected to the city's Telecare service that proactively checks on residents. Sensors monitor rain and humidity to determine how much water is needed to irrigate parks. Municipal smart bins monitor waste levels and are cleared only when they are full, optimizing waste collection operations.

"**Copenhagen** is considered the greenest capital city in the world, is a centre for clean technology innovation and is committed to being carbon neutral by 2025", Tan Wee Kwang informs in a piece, "Top Smart Cities." Since 1995, Copenhagen has reduced carbon emissions by 50%. One billion DKK have been invested in bike lanes and super cycle highways. Every day 45% of residents bike to work or school. An intelligent traffic management system optimizes traffic flow and remedies road congestions, while a dynamic RFID-based road pricing system is used to nudge citizens towards green transportation.

Copenhagen sends less than 2% of its waste to landfills. Half of the waste is recycled and most of the waste is used to generate heat for the city's district heating network.

To address **London's** chronic congestion woes, the city has implemented congestion charging through number plate recognition, smart parking systems, and intelligent traffic lights that prioritize public transport. One of the tech hubs of the world, London fares well regarding broadband availability.

In **Seoul**, online electric vehicle technology (OLEV) was successfully developed and deployed – allowing electric public buses to be charged as they move across road surfaces.

For the disabled and elderly, U-healthcare service provides telehealth check-ups and medical consultation through remote-controlled medical equipment and smart devices.

Helsinki pilots its smart city projects through its Smart Kalasatama district, a city innovation platform where new solutions can be developed and tested in a living urban environment. Agile development and co-creation are core concepts in Kalasatama – residents are testers and initiators of smart services and new technology.

San Francisco is one of the first cities in North America to adopt smart-city technology. The city initiative enables residents to locate parking spots. It also has one of the highest densities of LEED-certified buildings in the U.S.

All of this is man's genius at work. Created in God's image, we have incredible imagination and ability to create things that make our lives easier. As human effort to make cities more livable advances at break-neck speed, one thing remains unsolved: the darkness of the human heart. In a world of high tech, high touch is more meaningful and more powerful than ever. Our personal, loving God, loving people through us, one life at a time, has never been more important or impacting.

by Charles Lyons, Pastor
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THE RIGHT ANGLE

BIBLICAL WISDOM FOR A CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Q.

How do I respond
to a call for help?

By Kevin Carson

A ● A call for help has many different sounds. In various conversational settings, people make statements that either implicitly or explicitly ask for help. One lady explains, “I am having a hard time being single. I just want to be married so badly. I feel depressed all the time.” Another may say, “I just wish we had a baby. It’s all I think about. God doesn’t seem to care.” A man says, “I can’t understand why my wife doesn’t support me. She doesn’t seem interested. I just can’t live this way.” One person laments, “I just wish I had friends. I hate not having friends.”

All of these statements flow out of disappointment and implicitly ask for some kind of help. When it is your conversation and this is your friend, how do you respond? What do you say? What do you think?

Through Peter’s writings we find help for understanding our responsibility.

Always be watching and ready to pray (1 Peter 4:7). Anytime another believer shares either sin or suffering, your first impulse should be to pray. As you do, pay special attention in prayer to the person’s response to the situational pressures. What has this person’s heart gripped? Is it fear? Loneliness? Disappointment? Discouragement? Pray to God with them related to those issues.

Respond creatively and energetically in love (1 Peter 4:8). How can you demonstrate Christ’s love to this person? You might pay special attention to those areas in your life that would keep you from sacrificially loving this other person. Peter says to love earnestly, fervently, and deeply.

Show hospitality to the person without grumbling (1 Peter 4:9). In the New Testament, often hospitality included inviting someone to your home for a short or extended stay. Today, hospitality can include all kinds of acts of kindness. The question is, what are you willing to share with this person? Your time? Resources? Energy? Transportation? How far will you go to demonstrate God’s kindness through Christ to you to this other person?

Speak and live as a steward of God’s manifold grace (1 Peter 4:10-11). God gifts each of us with grace. He requires us to be stewards of that same grace. If we speak, we speak as if God were talking. If we serve, we do so with the energy God provides. Your opportunity in this person’s life to speak and do something is part of your stewardship before God.

Therefore, we want to respond to this person’s request for help as those who are responsible to God in Christ for this moment in time. We are motivated by the glory of God and the impending nature of His coming to do something (1 Peter 4:7, 11). It is a sacred responsibility given to each one of us.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU RESPOND

Is this person in sin, suffering, or a combination of both? It is loving and biblical to address sin; however, this should be done only after we recognize the depth of suffering. See the magnitude of pain, disappointment, and discontentment. Although this person may need correction and may also need to consider an important biblical principle, do

not start there. Instead, connect with the person as one who is in the image of God and legitimately has real concerns.

What motivates my words or actions? As you contemplate how to respond, consider your own motivations. Are you striving to fulfill your God-given responsibilities with this other person? Do you desire to express love? Are you concerned whether or not your words or actions represent Jesus accurately?

If this were someone different, how would I respond? How does your response change for this individual as related to another? If this were your relative, would you change your response? If this were a very close friend, would it sound differently?

If this were me, how would I desire my friends to respond? This helps you put yourself in the other person’s place.

What are the particulars in this person’s situation of which I need to be aware? This involves thinking. Do you recognize to whom it is you are talking?

CAUTION AS YOU SERVE

Listen well. Do not interrupt. You want to hear well. In the process of you speaking, watch for careless words and spiritual clichés like: “You know God is sovereign” or “Just give this to God” or “It will be alright.” Plus try not to unintentionally minimize this person’s concerns with an “I understand” and then begin to talk about you and your story.

For all of us, may God use us better for His glory in our private conversations.

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.

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.



AUSTRALIA

A HARVEST IN NEED OF LABORERS

By Jon Konnerup

“Most Australians consider themselves non-religious” was the stark discovery I found while preparing for my visit to Australia in March. Sadly, spiritual wantonness is tangible in the Australian people’s lives with research showing that less than five percent attend church on a regular basis. The BBFI missionaries with whom I visited confirmed this as well.

Australia, one of the wealthiest countries in the world, offers many tourist attractions. Her stable economy, attractive wages and government benefits have caused people to seek materialism and pleasure instead of God and the forgiveness of sins.

With the upswing in economic growth, communities are being built throughout the country with no local church presence. Additionally, there is an influx of people coming from India, China, New Zealand and South Africa to Australia to find a happy life and good living. Surprisingly, Hinduism is the fastest growing religion in Australia. The need to reach the indigenous Aborigines people with the Gospel is ever-present.

Our missionaries not only have the daunting task of reaching Australians with the truth of the Gospel, but also the need to expand their ministries to reach those arriving from other countries. I saw the

efforts of our missionaries as they worked hard to share the Gospel and build churches. My heart was blessed as I attended powerful prayer meetings, men’s breakfasts and heard testimonies of people whose lives have been changed forever. The church services were exciting and the people were eager to hear about and participate in world missions.

While Australia is a difficult field to serve in and the results are slow, the need remains great. Please remember to pray for our people who faithfully serve. Pray for results – that lives would be changed through salvation. Pray with our missionaries for more laborers to help spread the Word to those in desperate need of a Savior.

“No worries, Mate”, commonly heard in Australia, is the summation of the country’s concern for religion and life. However, we know they need the Savior. Let’s to all we can together to show them their need.



Larry & Dawn Nelson

We are serving in Western Australia in the city of Wanneroo (pop. 190,000), which is a northern suburb in the state capital, Perth (2.1 million). It is a coastal city located on the Indian Ocean. The ministry of Gospel Baptist Church is growing numerically and expanding in several areas including Faith Promise missions, Sunday school, weekly Bible study groups, a mid-week "Mum & Me" mother's outreach, Awana program, Bible preaching, and vibrant youth outreaches. There are many nationalities in the church; people seeking a new life in Australia. The attendance is around 150 with a high of 200 this year. The Lord has also blessed with the purchase of five acres on a major road near the heart of the city. We subdivided off 2 ½ acres of unusable land, and constructed facilities that will accommodate future growth of 400. This includes a 200-seat auditorium, several classrooms, a large multi-purpose center, offices, and room for expansion. There is also a four-bedroom house on the site. All of this is now debt-free.

This church has been instrumental in starting or assisting five other churches and supporting several missionaries sent out from Australian churches. The need for solid Baptist churches in Western Australia is crucial in our witness for Christ. Opportunities abound, especially in the expanding suburbs of Perth and the regional towns in the northwest of the state. We are not aware of any independent Baptist churches north of the Perth metro area. That vast region has remote towns located along the coast separated by hours of driving. It will require spiritual men and women of conviction and vision, coupled with patience and perseverance, to effectively reach these communities for Christ.



WANNEROO BUNBURY



Michael & Tammi Nelson

My family and I love living in Australia, but the first thing that comes to our minds is not the place but the people. Especially, individuals living in our local community who are part of our church, and whose lives have been changed forever by the Gospel. People like Gary, who grew up religious but never had a relationship with Jesus. Now, Gary's entire family is saved, baptized, and serving the Lord. Marilyn was saved many years ago but was far from the Lord. She has rededicated her life to the Lord, submitted to baptism, and uses her business to witness for Jesus. Bruce, who had tried to earn his way to God through generosity and good works, is now saved by grace and being disciplined. Gavin now leads his family as the spiritual leader of his home and was recently baptized.

Our family ministers as church-planting missionaries in the city of Bunbury where we started the South West Baptist Church. We are constantly reminded of the hundreds of communities across our nation with little to no Gospel witness. This need motivates us to move forward, because there are many more Garys, Marilyns, Bruces, and Gavins who, without a local church, will likely never hear the Good News of the Gospel.





Ron & Vicki Letts

When we came back to Australia this last time we took over a small work in Pacific Pines, Queensland and had the awesome responsibility of helping them grow and change in the image of Christ. Of course that process is an ongoing experience, but what a joy it has been.

This is our fourth church here in Australia and I must admit this one has been a special one. The Lord has brought together people from 11 cultures ranging from the Pacific Islands to Europe and Asia, even some Australians and two families from the United States. Despite different backgrounds, this group has such great unity I don't even mind having a business meeting anymore.

This church is called Grace Baptist and is in a growth phase. These last couple of months we have seen three saved, three baptized and on May 21 we baptized six more. We have had at least 24 new people coming to the church lately. One of our visitors wanted to attend our ladies bible study. After hearing the testimony of two of our ladies, she wanted that peace they shared. You see Hanna is a Japanese lady who grew up as a Buddhist. I really don't think she will be a Buddhist much longer!

It seems that in Australia we go through some long "desert experiences" where nothing seems to happen, but if you keep on keeping on, the Lord brings the increase and you know it was worth it all.

Tony & Julie Sullivan

This year marks the nineteenth year Julie and I have been in Australia. We started out in Queensland and after seven years moved south to New South Wales. God has blessed in so many ways as we have seen people coming to Christ, being disciplined, and then becoming active in their Christian walk.

For the last 12 years, we have served in Port Macquarie, New South Wales, which is approximately a five-hour drive north of Sydney. God has blessed with a great church located in the rural community of Wauchope just west of Port Macquarie. Over the last two years, we have seen our membership double and our giving increase.

The Lord has also given us an active ministry at Garden Village, which is a lifestyle community for those over age 55. Currently, we have three services during the week and a chapel service on Sunday afternoon that allows us to minister to a good percentage of the 350 residents who live there. It is indeed a great blessing to see men and women in the closing years of their lives come to know Jesus in a personal way.

Over our time in Australia, the Lord has allowed us to connect with the Aboriginal community in several ways. The city of Wauchope, where our church is located, has many from the Aboriginal community and we would love to be able to develop a focused ministry to this community.

Randy & Linda Perkins

We have lived in Canberra, the capital city of Australia, for the last 16 years. It is a secular city with all the government departments here. It is also a very skeptical city where people make fun of Christianity and Christian values. Only about 6% of the people attend church on a regular basis.

Our suburb of Gungahlin on the north side of Canberra has grown in these 16 years from about 20,000 people to now over 60,000. Until recently, we were the only Baptist church in Gungahlin, now there are two. We really need about 10 to saturate the area with the Gospel.

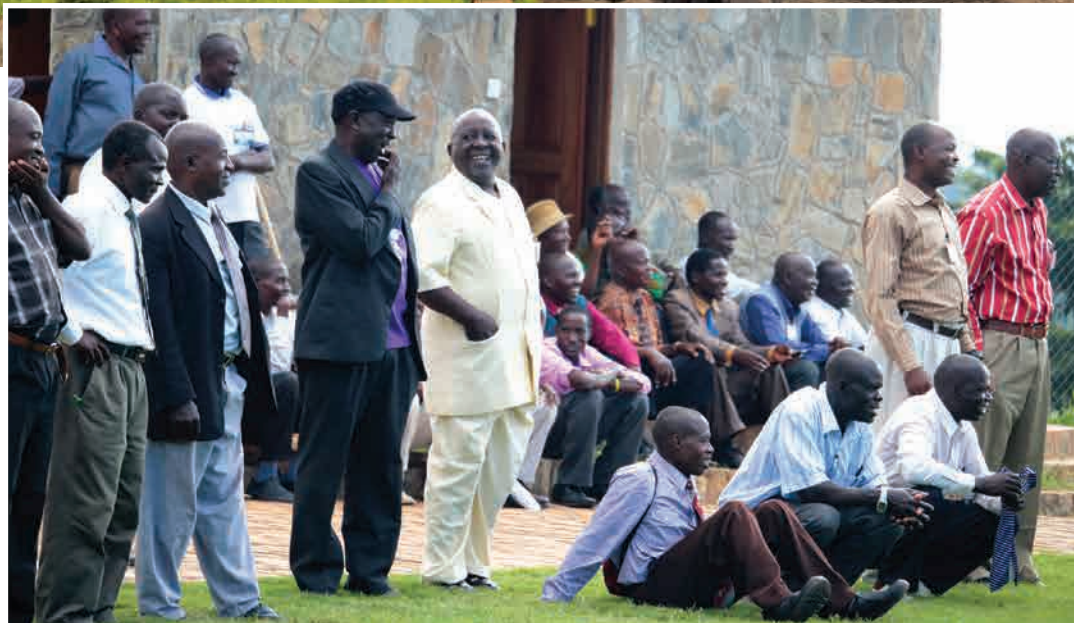
We have a particular burden for the high school students in our area. Our church has provided a breakfast club at the Gold Creek High School for the last four years. We have about 60 students who come

every Wednesday morning for a fully cooked breakfast. It has become a great place to make friends and catch up with old friends. It meets a social need and we do it as a community service. We are not allowed to share Christ with the students unless they ask questions. We are not allowed to invite them to something that is Christian. My involvement there has given me a burden to see these young people come to know Christ.

All of the high schools in our growing area are full and the schools are having to build on to make room for the growth. Our prayer is that the Lord of the harvest will send forth labourers into His harvest. We are praying God will raise up an evangelism/discipleship team to reach these students before they go on to universities where the teaching of secular humanism can greatly hinder people coming to know Jesus.

MEN OF HOPE, MEN WITH DREAMS

By Robert Dodson



It began as a dream. Many years ago, John Rawlings wanted all the Baptist pastors in Africa to meet together. Don Elmore, pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Springdale, AR, thought the pastors of East Africa could be rallied to do more collectively for missions. Both men believed the Rawlings Foundation Highlands camp in Morogoro, Tanzania was the ideal place to accomplish this dream. That

is how it began. It would be a “Men of Hope” conference - we hoped.

A precursor meeting was planned in Springdale, AR, at Temple Baptist Church. My wife, Dee, and I arrived with three guests from Tanzania. We had planned to meet Kenyan pastors from churches led by Richard Lewis. However, Kenyan and American authorities refused to allow them to travel. Our Tanzanian

guests had an opportunity to tour the BBFI Mission Office in Springfield, MO. That would wet their appetites for what was to follow.

The Waswahili people have a saying, “*Mwanza ni mgumu*,” which means, “The beginning is always hard.” This first meeting had many trying issues that tested our resolve. There had to be a reliable bus company that could carry hundreds of pastors from Uganda and Kenya all the way from Nairobi to Morogoro which is over 12 hours one way. A separate company would need to be employed for pastors in Mombasa to the East. We then had to determine how to organize the many pastors scattered all over Tanzania.

Advertising for the event was mostly word of mouth. We only had 600 beds at the camp, and those were in the form of triple decker bunk beds. Feeding 600 individuals was another challenge. The normal meager fare served up at youth camp was not what Dee had in mind. Our “upscale” menu had never been served to more than 100 people at a time. How many sloppy joes could they make in a hurry? The goal was to serve American, Mexican, Italian, and even French dishes.



More important than physical feeding, the men needed to be challenged spiritually. Most of these men thought missions was supporting a local man, sent out from their churches, to start another church somewhere else in their country where a Baptist church did not exist. They were already accomplishing this, but what about outside their borders? Prior to this conference, there was only one missionary from any of these churches ministering in another country. That was David Likama in Mozambique, sent from Tanzania. The ideal man to present this challenge was Richard Lewis, a well-accepted voice of missions in East Africa. Both the Kenyans and Tanzanians respect him.



There was another emphasis to this conference these men did not even realize they needed. Carl Kerby had contacted us wanting to return to Tanzania and teach Creationism. Other than a our pastors enrolled in Bible Training Center for Pastors (BTCPT), few had any extensive exposure to the counter theory to evolution. His Reasons for Hope ministry seemed to fit what we were looking for.

A plan fell into place. Richard Lewis would speak two hours every day before lunch. Carl Kerby would speak two hours after lunch. Every morning and every evening a vibrant worship service with great music and preaching would bookend the emphasis. Sprinkle in a soccer game between Highlands staff and pastors who were willing to venture onto the pitch. There was a water slide for the adventurous. The swimming pool was for the more sedate. And three times a day the kitchen staff served up good food. It all sounded good on paper.

Monday, May 29th the buses rolled out of Mombasa and Nairobi loaded with 304 Ugandan and Kenyan brethren. Other than two pastors who forgot to get their visas at the

border, there were no difficulties. Those two were later arrested at a highway checkpoint and spent the night in jail. They were released the next morning after appearing before a judge. Over 165 Tanzanian preachers converged on Morogoro from various and sundry directions.

Monday night, before the out-of-country buses arrived, we started with Don Elmore preaching on the Great Commission. The remainder of the men rolled in during the service or the meal to follow. Tuesday through Friday our schedule went as planned. Aside from the daily team of Lewis/Kerby we had Chris Moore from East Kenya, Ole Konnerup and Christopher Ochieng from central Kenya and myself and Asanterabi Munice from Tanzania. Jon Konnerup was our special guest. There were testimonies morning and evening. In some form, each pressed home the issue of missions over the border. Each night there was a special offering for various mission projects. Wallets were touched as well as hearts.

Our loose-knit Tanzanian missionaries demonstrated a tight-knit program. Vernon Smith engineered an all-male praise team complete with hymns, choruses, and overhead lyrics for every service. Mitch Calmes brought in the East African BTCPT representative and had a booth advertising that form of theological training. All the Tanzanian missionaries pitched in to translate so those who only spoke Swahili could get the full effect of the conference. Paul Gichuki and Eugene



Mwea did great service translating for Richard and Carl respectively during their long teaching sessions.

Friday night was the climax. Once more, Don Elmore preached his heart - missions. During the invitation, the plea was different. "Would you be willing to leave home and family to go to a country of another language, culture, and economy?" Touched and challenged, a number of men responded to the call. Will they all go? There is not a framework in place to send such a number. Yet, each one will remember the Men of Hope conference and how their heart burned within them. When, in the future, God calls young people from their midst, they will be able to guide them toward cross-cultural missions.

Saturday morning before dawn, the buses departed, loaded full for the return trip. Before those pastors got to the next bus stand they had already determined, communicating via smart phones, their first test case for their unified mission giving project - a young, single lady who is a graduate of Nairobi Bible College and is doing her internship in South Sudan with Ron and Chris Enoch.

Men of hope. Men with dreams.

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

MOTORCYCLISTS WITH A MISSION RIDE FROM DALLAS, TEXAS TO MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

Ten men from three different states joined BBFI missionary Brian Weed on a fundraising adventure riding cross-country motorcycles from Texas to Nicaragua. Weed shared about this plan, "Let's do something radical for missions that no one in the BBFI has ever done before." These eleven men left the Dallas metro on Good Friday, April 14 and crossed over into Mexico on Easter Sunday. The trip took 16 days and covered over 3,000 miles traveling through Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and ending in Managua, Nicaragua. The goal of the trip was to raise funds to help build youth/sports complexes on the 12 existing church properties spread around the country. Weed's NGO, Familia Avance serves as the primary partner with Fellowship of Christians Athletes in Nicaragua and works with over 2,000 at-risk

youth throughout the country.

Each man participating in the ride was encouraged to purchase a 650cc motorcycle with the intention of leaving it behind in Nicaragua for national pastors to use. In addition to purchasing the motorcycle, each participant was challenged with the task of helping raise funds.

Weed, along with his wife Rachel who grew up in Costa Rica, moved to Nicaragua in 1997. Over the past 20 years they have planted 12 churches and established a medical facility, a feeding center, a sports outreach, and a self-sustainable farm.

Participants included Brian Weed, missionary to Nicaragua, Bruce Judkins from Fox River

Church in Waukesha, WI, Gary Wilson, Gary Miller, Warren Propst and Kenny Muncey from High Street Baptist Church in Springfield, MO, Bruce Walker, Paul Leamon, Jeff Atkins and Dean Eiland from Midway Baptist Church in Aubrey, TX, and Mike Kurtz from Wylie, TX.

For more information about this project visit www.rideextreme.org.



SPRINGFIELD, MO

TRIBUNE TO CHANGE PUBLISHING SCHEDULE TO BI-MONTHLY FORMAT

Changes were announced to the *Baptist Bible Tribune* during the May National Fellowship Meeting. Beginning with the September 2017 issue, the *Tribune* will be moving to a bi-monthly print publication. The next issue of the *Tribune* will be the September/October issue followed by the November/December issue. The January/February issue is being planned as the Annual Mission Issue.

In an effort to improve communication the *Tribune* website (www.tribune.org) will be updated and there will be a new bi-weekly *Tribune* eNewsletter delivered to email inboxes. To ensure that you receive this eNewsletter please visit www.tribune.org and sign up through the form found in the upper right hand corner. Pastors should encourage their church members to sign up as well. Those interested in the most current information including church news, fellowship news, podcasts, sermons, pastors' blogs and the *Tribune*, can also download the BBFI mobile app through the applicable app store.



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September
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LINCOLN, NE

GENTLE SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH REJOICES OVER 20 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Gentle Shepherd Baptist Church of Lincoln, NE celebrated its 20th anniversary on Sunday, June 4, 2017. Pastor Gary Fuller and his wife, Lynn, founders of the church report that the celebration was a huge blessing in every aspect. "Fuller reports, 'The house was full, cars overflowed from the parking lot onto the grass, the unction of Spirit of God was palpable – and the BBQ was, well, baptistic!' The theme for the celebration was '... according to the good hand of my God upon me.' Fuller adds, 'We were blessed by visiting neighbors, past members,

family, and several others. Some indicated they had been looking for a church home."

Gentle Shepherd was planted under the authority of Grace Baptist Church of Rosarito Beach, Mexico where Fuller's mentor is the missionary. "Therefore, we have been a strong missions church from day one. The church supports one missionary for every two regular attenders," says Fuller.

Records show over 1,500 professions of faith and 200 baptisms

over the past two decades. Fuller concludes, "God has been awfully good to me, my family, and our church for these twenty years. The best years of my life. We pray His good hand remains upon us in the future."



DERBY, ENGLAND

LADIES RETREAT CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Ladies from England, Wales and Scotland recently gathered at the Hayes Christian Conference Center in Derby, England with special guest Laurie Humbert, wife of Bruce Humbert, pastor of Sauk Trail Baptist Temple in Richton Park, IL. The theme was "Jubilee" celebrating 25 years of the ladies retreat. This year's event had 70 ladies representing ten different churches.

Mariella Mills, BBFI missionary in Scotland serves as one of the event organizers. She states, "As we looked back over the 25 years it

was a blessing to see some young women who were once in our youth camps now married with families and attending the retreat." She adds, "We all come away each year encouraged, strengthened in our faith, and knowing we are not alone as Christian women in Great Britain."



Laurie Humbert

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WATERVILLE, NH

GRANITE UNITED HOSTS 19TH ANNUAL MEN'S WARRIOR CONFERENCE

Close to 1,000 men took part in the 19th annual Warrior's Conference hosted by Granite United Church and pastor Anthony Milas. The event took place at Waterville Valley Resort in Waterville, NH June 1-3 with over thirty different churches participating. Brad White, senior pastor of LifePoint Church in Tampa, FL was the keynote speaker.

The Warrior Conference for men has established itself as one of the largest religious gatherings in the northeast with churches from all five New England states plus Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The conference focuses each

year on teaching, "Instead of the daily demands of life driving the man, a 'Warrior' learns from the proven teaching of the Bible to never accept less than excellence from himself in every area of life."

During the three-day conference, there are varied events from mountain biking and fishing to basketball and football tournaments. The focus of the conference is helping men find and follow Jesus Christ. Austin Buck from newly planted The Refuge Church in

Windham, Maine states, "I thought for a long time on how to describe this conference and only two words came to mind – life changing!" In addition to four general sessions with worship and practical teaching there are also senior pastor breakout sessions to address some of the challenges and struggles that many church leaders face.

For more information about the Warriors Conference visit www.warriorconference.com.



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NORTH CHESTERFIELD, VA

TONY KOHOUT CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AT BUFORD ROAD BAPTIST

Buford Road Baptist Church in North Chesterfield, VA celebrated the 30th pastoral anniversary of Tony Kohout and his wife, Gail,



on July 16, 2017. Kohout has served Buford Road Baptist Church for over 36 years, one year as the Bible teacher in the Christian school, five years as the associate pastor and now 30 years as senior pastor.

Kohout is a graduate of Covington Theological Seminary in Rossville, GA. He continues and looks forward to many more years as pastor. Kohout states, "I am grateful to the Lord and my many friends across America who have had a part in influencing and partnering with me in ministry."

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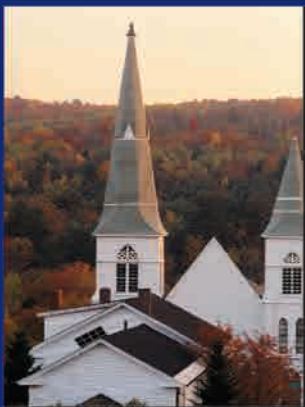
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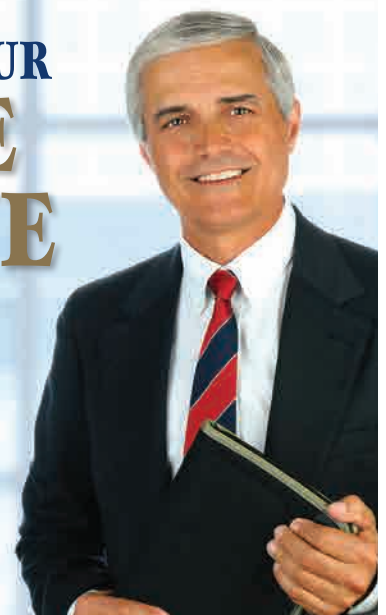
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AMES, IA

HEARTLAND BAPTIST OPENS NEW BUILDING

On July 9, 2017 Heartland Baptist Church of Ames, IA, pastored by Randy Abell, celebrated its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for its new \$4 million building with over 500 in attendance. Special guest for the day was BBFI Communication Director, Randy Harp.

The new, two-story building features a 450-seat sanctuary, a café area in the foyer, dedicated nursery, toddler, preschool and elementary school rooms with secure check-ins, and multiple rooms for adult Sunday school classes and Bible studies. Abell said plans to relocate and build a new building started about four years ago when they outgrew their former location.

Abell moved his family to Ames in 2003 to pastor a church with four families meeting in a converted auction barn with a dirt floor sitting on two acres. His first experience as a senior pastor was a building program to convert the auction barn into a 4,000-square foot meeting facility. As the church grew they went into a second building program to add an

8,000-square foot multi-purpose building including a new sanctuary. As the church continued to see consistent growth the decision was made to relocate and move into a third building program. The new facility is exactly one mile down the road, sitting on 20 acres of prime real estate with 42,000 square feet of meeting space.

Heartland Baptist

Church hired a construction crew to build the exterior and make it, as Abell called it, "weatherproof." Abell also contacted the BBFI Builders to assist in the building process. More than 100 volunteers donated at least an hour of their time every week to complete the process over the past year. Abell estimates church members/attenders donated more than 20,000 volunteer hours to finish the interior saving the church approximately \$1 million. Abell



said of completing this building program, "I'm tired but I feel fantastic. I have never run a marathon, but it kinda feels what I imagine that would feel like."

Abell plans to take several weeks to celebrate what God has accomplished through this new building. In addition to the grand opening and ribbon cutting, there will also be a dedication Sunday, an appreciation Sunday, and a community Sunday.

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WITH THE LORD

SPRINGFIELD, MO

CLYDE BARNES

Clyde E. Barnes went to be with His Lord on June 13, 2017. He was born near Ottawa, KS in 1925 and married Adaraw Rose in 1946. The two of them farmed in Kansas until 1948 when God called them into full-time vocational ministry. Barnes pastored churches in Lawrence, KS, Osage City, KS, Topeka, KS and Madison, Wisconsin. He later went into a church-planting ministry founding New Testament Church planting working out of Springfield, MO where he was instrumental in helping construct buildings for churches all throughout the United States. In his later years, he taught the Golden Agers class at Park Crest Baptist Church in Springfield, MO. He served the BBFI as a state fellowship president and mission committee representative. He earned an honorary doctorate from Great Plains Baptist College in Sioux Falls, SD.

Barnes was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 65 years. Services were held June 19, 2017 at Park Crest Baptist Church.

WAXAHACHIE, TX

SIMMIE GRIFFIN HANCOCK

Simmie Griffin Hancock, 87, of Waxahachie, TX left his earthly home May 30, 2017 surrounded by his family. He was born in Lenox, GA April 18, 1930. He met his wife, Lois Daphne Maulden, in fifth grade and they were married in 1948. He joined the Air Force in 1946 at the age of 15 and served his country for 22 years. He received the Air Force Commendation and retired in 1968 as Master Sergeant.

Immediately following his retirement Hancock enrolled at Baptist Bible College graduating in 1971. He pastored Prescott Baptist Church in Prescott, KS, Fundamental Baptist Church in Palmer, TX, Central Baptist Church in Mesquite, TX and Whittier Baptist Church in Whittier, CA. In 1981 Hancock returned to Palmer, TX for a second time where he pastored Fundamental Baptist Church until his retirement in 2006.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Lois Hancock, one daughter, two sons, ten grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Services were held at the Fundamental Baptist Church of Palmer, TX on June 3, 2017. Interment was held in DFW National Cemetery.

HATTIESBURG, MS

STEVE BROWN

Stephen Craig Brown, age 62, pastor of Lifepoint Baptist Church of Hattiesburg, MS, unexpectedly went home to be with his Savior on July 5, 2017. He was born July 5, 1955 in Fort Worth, TX. He was married to wife, Kathy Brown, for 42 years.

Brown enrolled at Baptist Bible College in 1975. Over the past forty-five years he pastored Merrimack Baptist Church in Ranger, TX, Capital City Baptist Church in Jackson, MS, Blue Ridge Baptist Temple in Kansas City, MO, First Baptist Church of Meadowview in Mesquite, TX, Calvary Baptist Church in Englewood, FL and most recently Lifepoint Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, MS. He also served with his wife as a BBFI missionary to Costa Rica.

He is survived by wife, Kathy, and children Shonda, Kimberly, Tammi, and Andrew along with nine grandchildren. Services were held July 10 at Bible Baptist Church of Petal, MS with Rev. Rick Carter officiating.

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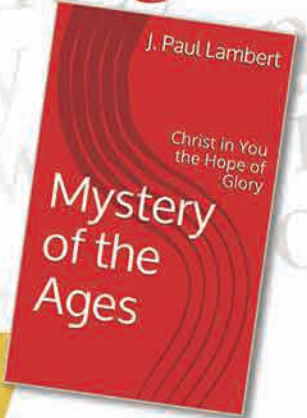
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Tributes to Bob Baird (1933 - 2017)

We all have people who have been an influence in our lives. Dr. Baird has been such a person in my life. He not only invited me to work in the Mission Office, but he also modeled a passion for missions. I saw how he encouraged missionaries and gave advice. He helped them with ideas for their ministries and even how to deal with adversity.

I personally had the privilege to visit many foreign countries with Dr. Baird, including China, Brazil, and the Middle East. Going to China helped make it possible for our people to be there today. In Brazil, we rode 600 miles in the back of a pickup truck to visit a missionary he cared so much for – Marjorie Browning. When Dr. Baird said he was going to come visit her, she said, “You won’t, it is too far.” That’s all he needed to hear. We went into the Middle East, and specifically into Baghdad, Iraq, three months after the war started. Dr. Baird’s desire was to see if the BBFI could get registered there so we could send missionaries. Although that environment continued to deteriorate and we were never able to send missionaries in, it demonstrated his passion – to get the Gospel to

as many places as possible.

Not only did I see Dr. Baird’s love and concern for missionaries, I saw his love of his Savior and his passion for the things of God – especially world missions. He loved to preach about God’s love for the people of the world. He challenged people to serve God on the mission field and he had a passion to see lost people come to Jesus Christ.

Dr. Baird made a big impact on BBFI missions. He wanted to see unreached people groups reached with the Gospel. He initiated numerous programs including the TEAM program which has been very successful in getting new missionaries on the foreign fields. During his 19 years as the Mission Director, the missionary force grew from 675 on 70 fields to 975 missionaries on 115. In addition, the giving from churches grew as never before. In fact, of the \$1.1 billion given since 1950 – 48% of those funds were given during his tenure. The Mission Office is grateful for his years of leadership.

Churches and their leaders and national fellowships around the world have appreciated Dr. and Mrs. Baird as they shared the love of

God toward them. Even today, when I travel to various countries, there are leaders who express their appreciation for the Baird’s and the impact they have had upon their lives.

There are many verses to consider of the life and ministry of Dr. Baird. The verse I think of is 1 Corinthians 15:58:

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

Dr. Baird made a huge impact on so many people here and around the world. He was steadfast with his passion for missions and for lost souls. He was unmoveable in his love and dedication to God. He worked tirelessly always abounding in the work of the Lord challenging others to be involved in world missions. No doubt his labor was not in vain. Today he is in heaven – the place I heard him preach of so often. I personally thank God for Dr. Baird and his impact upon my life, and so many others.

- Jon Konnerup

My Dad lived a high-caliber life of service and success. He had several careers in his life as a businessman, staff associate, missionary, pastor, and for over 20 years as missions director of the BBFI. Once, a respected ministry leader made this statement, “Dr Baird would be an unqualified success at whatever he attempted in life.” Such was the character, ability, and passion of this great man.

What others may not realize, however, is Dad achieved this degree of success while living a life of balance. He was first and foremost a husband, father, and grandfather. He never made us feel like he was an absentee father or that ministry was more important than his family. That is not to say he never missed family events for ministry. When you travel to almost every country of the world to passionately share Christ, it will take a great deal of time but Dad balanced his schedule to the degree that we appreciated and shared his passion for service while understanding his desire to put us as family first. He made a great deal of effort to make ball games, school events, and special church programs in which my sister and I were involved. In later years, although I lived 700 miles away, “Pops” never failed to make at least one game, one event, or one special occasion for each season of his grandchildren’s lives. Dad left his family an incredible legacy of Christian service while at the same time never making us feel as if we took a back seat to ministry. That is a difficult balance to achieve, and one I am very thankful for!

- Sandy Baird

My only contact with Bob Baird had been when, as a first year student at BBC in February, 1969, I had surgery. Though belonging to a different church, he, a staff member of High Street Baptist, visited me in the hospital.

Then, in 1974, while I was a deputation missionary to Australia, the field closed to new visa applicants. My wife and I, feeling we should stay in missions and knowing God’s will, contacted several missionaries on the field to see if any would welcome us. Dr. Baird phoned a church where I was speaking one Wednesday night to make plans for a survey trip to Jamaica. After that, he and Ann put a lot of time and effort into our transition. Though both our families had to leave the field in 1976 due to the government forcing us out, it kept us in missions. After five years in Puerto Rico, we were able to return to Jamaica. Even that return was due to Dr. Baird’s contact with the Jamaica ministry of labor on our behalf. Our return there kept the field open, so several more missionaries arrived in Jamaica.

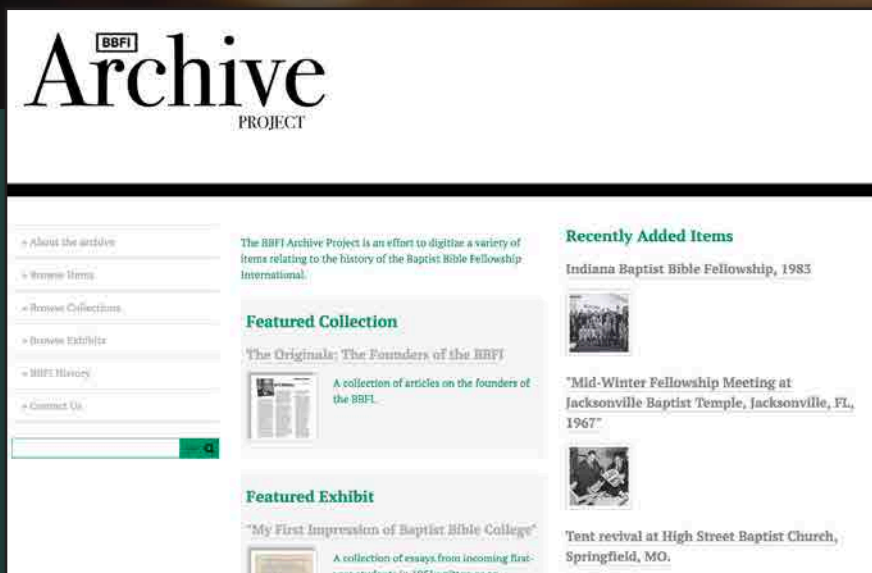
I doubt if any one except the Baird family know of his great work for us at this trying time in our lives.

- Bill Amberg

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