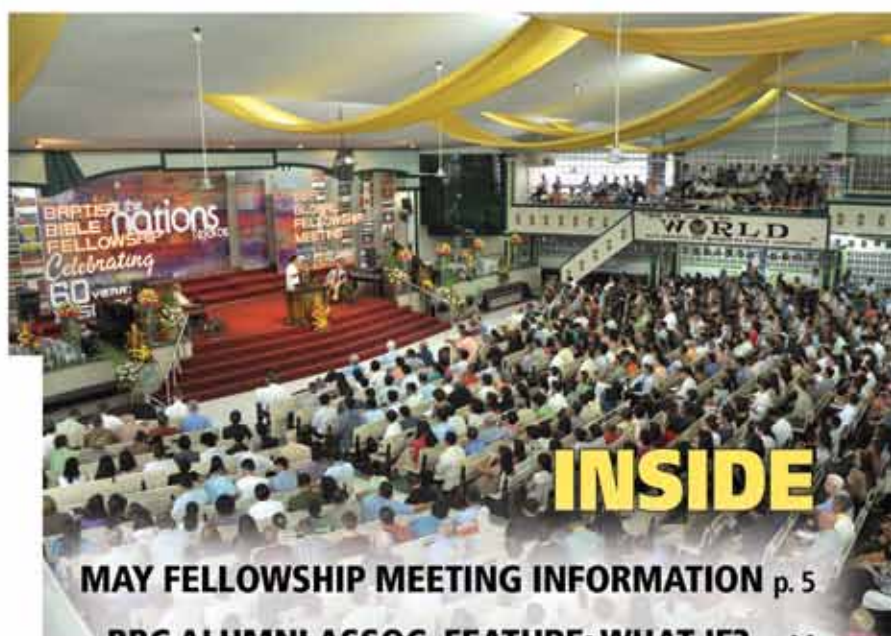


BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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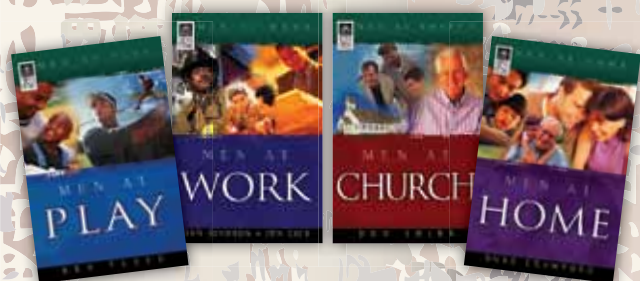
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ON THE TABLE

Shaking of the nations: Part II

by Keith Bassham | Editor

Last month in this column I spoke of the Shaking of the Nations, and I wondered what “shaking” might take place before I wrote again. I did not know the shaking would be so literal.

Around 3 p.m. local time, Friday, March 11, there was an earthquake about 100 miles off the east coast of northern Honshu Island, Japan. Earthquake, indeed. It was nearly in a class of its own; a magnitude 9.0, meaning the quake released 8,000 times the energy generated by the New Zealand earthquake (recorded at 6.9) last month. That makes it the largest instrumentally recorded earthquake ever for Japan.

And while the quake itself was responsible for comparatively little damage (Japanese engineers know how to build to withstand an earthquake), the resultant tsunami has devastated areas of Japan, changed its coastline, and triggered emergencies in several nuclear reactors on the island nation. The recorded death toll at present is not large, but we expect to learn that tens of thousands of lives were lost when the final tallies are made.

At press time, all our BBFI missionaries have reported they are safe, and at least one of our indigenous Tokyo pastors says all is well for them so far. However, the need for relief, prayer, and help will be massive. Accordingly, the BBFI Mission Office has set up a Japanese Tsunami Relief account, and contributions can be sent directly to:

BBFI Mission Office

PO Box 802757

Kansas City, MO 64180-2757

Be sure to designate your gift to Japanese Tsunami Relief. These funds will be directed toward BBFI missionaries and churches in Japan to use in their relief and outreach efforts.

As promised, this issue contains a photographic report of the first ever International Fellowship Meeting of the BBFI. While you could make the case that the BBFI is U.S.-centric — its organization, elected leadership, and general orientation toward Fellowship life all are very much American — I think this meeting showed us something. I can't remember the last time a North American BBFI meeting attracted 3,000 people. I certainly have never seen a more responsive congregation in a fellowship meeting than the one I saw and heard in Cebu. And the focus was entirely on the Great Commission. One participant from Manila was overheard to say, “I have never attended a meeting so Christ-centered as this one.”

Mind you, I did catch a few whiffs of local controversy in the sermons. But it was equally obvious that many came prepared to suppress their own agendas and preferences despite the potential for culture clash. I'm often reminded by well-meaning friends, “How can two walk together except they be agreed?” I respond, “They can agree to walk together.” Much of it depends on where they are going.

This I think is a great lesson for us back home. So many people, whose ancestors fought one another in so many places and times, have agreed to allow themselves to be united by the blood of Christ to obey the command of Christ. Something else to think about at Easter time.

Keith Bassham

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

The power of vision



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

Helen Keller was asked one time what would be worse than being born blind. She quickly replied, "To have sight but no vision."

Franklin Field reminds us that "poor eyes limit your sight; poor vision limits your deeds."

"A blind man's world is bound by the limits of his touch; an ignorant man's world by the limits of his knowledge; a great man's world by the limits of his vision." — E. Paul Hovey

We talk a lot about vision and know how important it is to our ministries. Barna once said that vision is a mental picture of a desired future. It is a picture that can be seen of what is not yet, but of what can be. It is not what we are but what we desire to become.

No organization can survive without vision. Apart from vision, individuals will perish. Without vision our children will perish; without vision communities will perish; without vision churches will perish; without vision societies will perish; without vision lost souls will perish.

Vision will turn lukewarm, lazy, sleeping church members into red-hot, living soldiers in the grand cause of changing a generation. Vision gives us stability, guidance, joy, and excitement. The God-given vision will bring glory to God and fit us into His eternal purpose. A true vision from God is not self-seeking, but praises God and brings glory to Jesus Christ. I believe one of the great things about the BBFI is our vision.

The official *Dictionary of Foreign Words*, issued in 1951 by the then Soviet government, describes the Bible as "a collection of different legends, mutually contradictory and written at different times and full of historical errors, issued by churches as a 'holy book.'" It makes me mad just reading those words! We believe we have the inspired and preserved Word of the living God not some book of fables. Let's preach it! And let the great truth of the Word build vision in us and in our churches and in our Fellowship.

Our vision can keep us connected to each other. Vision will place us in one accord. Vision will help us accomplish more together than we can individually. I have a great vision for the BBFI. We have a great heritage to build on and a great future, but we will need to work together.

Let's work with our missionaries to distribute 100,000 Bibles by December. Let's build our state fellowships by each pastor encouraging one other pastor to get involved. Let's renew a commitment to evangelism by having at least one message in each state and national meeting focus on personal evangelism. Let's pray that each church will be a sending church for a missionary. Let's pray that the Lord will direct us to cities that need a church and plant one there.

Let's work together and share a common vision to do something great for the Lord!

CHURCH PLANTING

The adventure of church planting



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

In previous articles, we have given you testimonies and stories of how the NCPO has helped church planters, state fellowships, established churches, and dying churches. This month, we are excited to tell you about a new church plant in New Orleans. We have asked our church planter, Chris Housewright, to tell you about it.

An Adventure Story

I have always enjoyed a good adventure story. It's exciting to watch characters work through the twists and turns, finally making it to the end. But as great as adventure stories can be, it is even more thrilling to see God writing the chapters in my family's story. The next step in our adventure is planting a church in the New Orleans area.

Over the last several years, New Orleans has seen its share of devastation. Today, approximately 1.2 million people are living in the metropolitan area, and this city is still in need of Jesus! The only way they can be reached is if Christ-followers are willing to give or even go to start new churches. The Baptist Bible Fellowship recognizes this need and has made multiple attempts to plant churches in the area, but none of these churches exist today. This is why God has called us to reach these hurting people.

Our family was approved by the National Church Planting Office in September 2010. While on deputation over the last few months, we have seen Christ provide in more ways than we could have imagined, and we plan to move to Louisiana on May 23, 2011. Although the generosity of churches and individuals has been overwhelming, and we are thankful for their partnership, we still have a ways to go. There are many personal

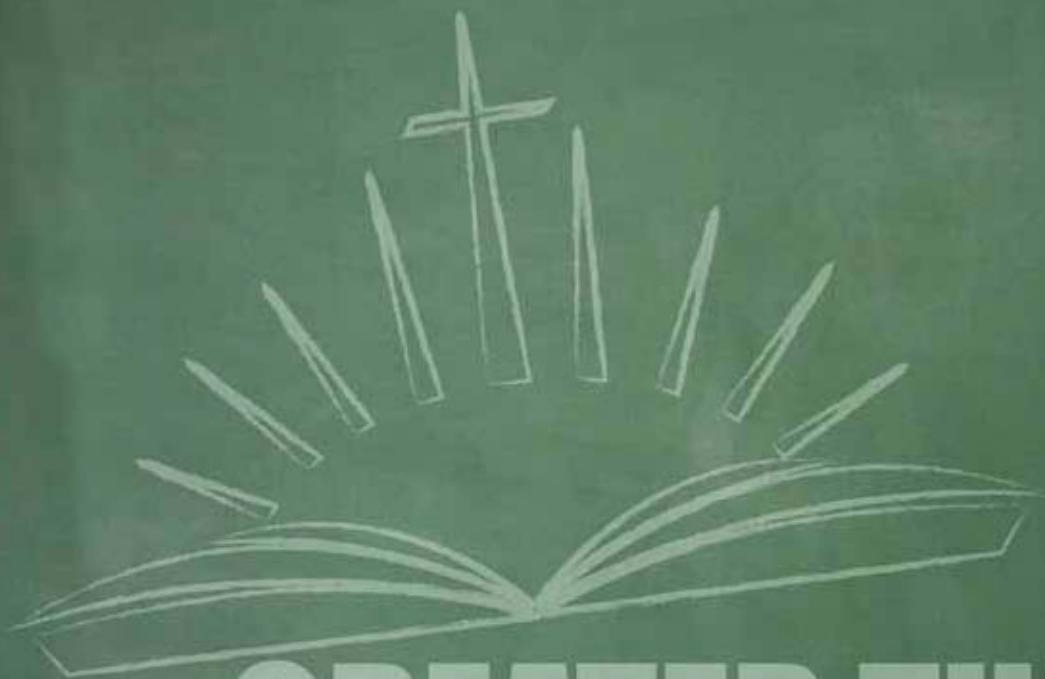


The Housewright family

and ministry needs that need to be met in order for us to make this transition. In April we will make one final visit to New Orleans to secure our housing as well as a school for our daughter. Additionally, we need to secure facilities for our future church. Our plan is to launch GracePoint Baptist Church within four months of our arrival. In order to make this happen, we must find the right location for this new ministry. Also, we are praying for a worship leader to take this journey of faith with us. We appreciate your prayers and financial support to help make this transition possible.

Perhaps God is leading you to partner through giving or going to help this church plant. I cannot wait to see what God has planned as He continues to write our adventure story.

For ways to get involved in helping establish GracePoint Baptist Church, contact us at www.chrishousewright.com or 785-554-6821.



GREATER THINGS

GRADUATION & FELLOWSHIP WEEK **MAY 9-12**
BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE SPRINGFIELD, MO

Monday

- 9 AM BBFI Executive Committee Meeting *Mission Building*
1 PM BBFI National Director's Meeting *Mission Building*
6:30 PM Evening service speaker: Linzy Slayden *BBFI president and pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Owasso, OK*

Tuesday

- 9 AM BBFI Business Meeting *Field House*
Ladies Meeting *Cafeteria*
12 PM Alumni Luncheon *Cafeteria*
1 PM BBFI Mission Field Rep. Meeting *Mission Building*
6:30 PM Evening service speaker: Jerry Thorpe *Pastor Emeritus of Crossroads Fellowship, Odessa, TX*

Wednesday

- 9 AM Missionary approvals
Refuel: Student Ministry General Sessions
12 PM Missionary luncheon *Mission Building*
7 PM 75th Anniversary Celebration of High Street Baptist Church
(held at High Street Baptist: 900 North Eastgate Ave, Springfield, MO)
Speaker: Jonathan Falwell *Pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, VA*

Thursday

- 9 AM 61st Graduation Exercises *Field House*
BBFI Golf Tournament *Branson Creek Golf Club*

CLASS REUNIONS

1962

Tuesday, May 10, 7:30 AM
Shoney's
2731 N. Glenstone Ave.
Contact: John Page at
(417) 862-6478 or
jcp6560@aol.com

1970

Tuesday, May 10, 8:30-10 AM
Panera Bread
2535 N. Kansas Expwy.
Contact: suegarard@aol.com or
driscolhbma@usa.com

LODGING

Ramada Oasis

2546 N. Glenstone Ave.
(417) 522-7725
\$71 + tax

Comfort Inn & Suites

2815 N. Glenstone Ave.
(417) 869-8246
\$75.99 + tax

Holiday Inn

2720 N. Glenstone Ave.
(417) 865-8600
\$94 + tax Sun-Thu
\$79 + tax Fri-Sat

Drury Inn & Suites

2715 N. Glenstone Ave.
(417) 863-8400
\$89 + tax

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

Scientific American asks why Americans are ill-informed about climate change

An article by Robin Lloyd published on the *Scientific American* website debates why Americans still resist the consensus among research organizations that humans are warming the globe. A reader responded:

“Surely the question is, Why is *Scientific American* so ill-informed on ‘climate change?’ as it continually uses that term and ‘global warming’ as if they were the same thing (hardly needs an Einstein to explain why they are not in any way equivalent) and has been

totally sucked into the complete myth that science has anything at all to do with consensus. If consensus was in the least bit convincing as an argument we’d still be trying to track down phlogiston, measure the ether, and prescribing cigarettes as a



True or False?

good cold preventative. A rational/ reasonable/compelling argument is not now, nor has it ever been, the same thing as ‘what most rational/ reasonable/compelling think’. Science is not a democracy in which we’re

asked to vote for the theory we like best irrespective of whether it can be proven or not. Nor is it a tyranny in which we can be told what to think. If an he evidence is not conclusive and the speculation is, well, speculation (and usually the worst kind of speculation — catastrophism!) If the evidence is

there then *present it unequivocated. If it is not (and largely it is not!) then fess up and go get it the good old fashioned way — repeatable experiment!*”

Source: www.scientificamerican.com

France declines to legalize same-sex marriage

France’s highest constitutional court on January 28 issued a decision in which it declined to legalize “gay marriage,” saying the issue is one for the legislature to decide.

In the ruling, France’s Constitutional Council said France’s current law defining marriage as between one man and one woman does not violate the country’s constitution.

“It’s not up to the Constitutional Council to substitute its assessment for that of lawmakers,” the court ruled, according to the Associated Press.

Ten countries recognize “gay marriage”: the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Iceland, and Argentina.

Source: *Baptist Press*, www.bpnews.net

Christianity Today surveys hymnals, lists most-included hymns

Based on a survey of 28 mainline Protestant hymnals, from the late 1800s through the 20th century, *Christianity Today* has listed the top 27 worship songs that make the hymn book most often. Thirteen hymns appeared in all 28 hymnals, as well as nine others that appear in 27 of the 28 hymnals, and five more that appear in 26 of the 28 hymnals

The hymns below are grouped respectively based on the criteria above:

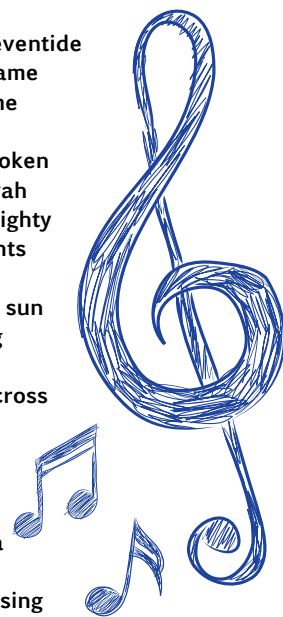
Abide with me: fast falls the eventide
All hail the power of Jesus’ name
Come, ye thankful people, come
Crown him with many crowns
Glorious things of thee are spoken
Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty
How firm a foundation, ye saints
In the cross of Christ I glory
Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
Love divine, all loves excelling
O sacred Head, now wounded
When I survey the wondrous cross

A mighty fortress is our God
All glory, laud, and honor
Come, thou almighty King
Just as I am, without one plea
Now thank we all our God
O, for a thousand tongues to sing
O God, our help in ages past
O, worship the King all glorious above
The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord

Christ the Lord is risen today!
Jesus, the very thought of thee
Saviour, like a shepherd lead us
The day of resurrection
There’s a wideness in God’s mercy

Except for two hymns (“Jesus, the very thought of thee” and “The day of resurrection” both of which are very early), the average date of composition is 1810, meaning they truly have passed the test of time.

Source: *Christianity Today*, March 2011





This was published in the April 21, 1961 edition of the *Tribune*.

Baby Boomers are retiring this year

On January 1, 2011, the oldest Baby Boomers turned 65. Every day for the next 19 years, about 10,000 more will cross that threshold. By 2030, when all Baby Boomers will have turned 65, fully 18% of the nation's population will be at least that age, according to Pew Research Center population projections. Today, just 13% of Americans are ages 65 and older.

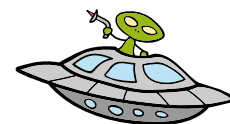
But don't tell Boomers that old age starts at age 65. The typical Boomer believes that old age doesn't begin until age 72, according to a 2009 Pew Research survey. About half of all American adults say they feel younger than their actual age, but fully 61% of Boomers say this. In fact, the typical Boomer feels nine years younger than his or her chronological age.

Among Baby Boomers, 43% say they are a "strong" member of their religion, a higher share than among younger adults and a lower share than among older ones. Four-in-ten say they attend religious services at least once a week. Conversely, 13% say they have no religious affiliation, less than younger adults but more than older adults.

Source: D'Vera Cohn and Paul Taylor, Pew Research Center, <http://people-press.org/>



Is paranormal the new normal in America?



The parade of paranormal entertainment filling American screens — from the movie *Paranormal Activity 2* to television shows such as *Ghost Hunters*, *Psychic Investigators*, and *Paranormal State* — is meeting an intense interest in otherworldly experiences, new research shows.

More than two-thirds of Americans have paranormal beliefs, sociologists Christopher Bader and F. Carson Mencken of Baylor University and Joseph Baker of East Tennessee State University report in their new book *Paranormal America* from New York University Press.

And the interest is only expected to increase, scholars say, with the growth of immigrant populations more open to paranormal beliefs.

Not everyone is interested. Those with no religious beliefs, Jewish people and the most committed Christians are among the least likely to believe in UFOs or psychics or Bigfoot.

But a generation of spiritual seekers is opening their minds and bank accounts to beliefs, practices, and experiences that are not recognized by science and not associated with mainstream religion.

"What we can say with certainty is that we live in a paranormal America," write Bader, Mencken and Baker. "Put another way, the paranormal is normal."

Source: The Association of Religion Data Archives, www.thearda.com

Iowa wrestler concedes match rather than wrestle girl

An Iowa high school wrestler with a 35-4 record gave up his chance at a state championship Thursday because he believes his faith forbade him from wrestling his opponent: a girl, reports *The Washington Post*. Homeschooled sophomore Joel Northrup, who competes for Linn-Mar High School, forfeited in the first round of Iowa's state championship — giving female competitor Cassy Herkelman the victory. In a statement released by Northrup, the teen said, "I have a tremendous amount of respect for Cassy and Megan and their accomplishments. However wrestling is a combat sport and it can get violent at times. As a matter of conscience and my faith, I do not believe it is appropriate for a boy to engage a girl in this manner. It is unfortunate that I have been placed in a situation not seen in most high school sports in Iowa." Iowa's WHOTV.com reported Friday that Northrup was then bumped to consolation bracket after his default to Herkelman. According to a story in the *Des Moines Register*, "Joel's father is a youth pastor at Believers In Faith Church, a nondenominational church in Marion, as well as a volunteer chaplain with the United States Army." Joel's father told the Christian Broadcasting Network that his son "believes, based on his conscience and faith, that girls should be treated with dignity and respect — taking nothing away from those two female athletes [Megan Black also competed in the tourney, but Northrup did not face her] — but wrestling is a combat sport."

Source: *Baptist Bulletin*, www.baptistbulletin.org



The Baptist Bible Fellowship really is International

By Jon Konnerup, BBFI Mission Director

Awesome.
Challenging.
Unbelievable.
Refreshing.
Like our meetings used to be.
Huge blessing.
Revealing.
God honoring.
Proud to be part of the BBFI.

Above are just a few of the responses I received following the Global Fellowship Meeting of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International in Cebu City, Philippines. After

two and a half years of planning and prayer, this is exactly what we were hoping from this first historic international meeting outside the United States.

God brought together people from all parts of the globe to celebrate the work of God through the efforts of the BBFI. The 23 international speakers all shared the blessing of God upon them and their churches as a result of missionaries being sent from BBFI churches in the United States. They strongly expressed their gratitude for the free gift of Jesus that had been revealed to them, which they might not have heard about otherwise.

Great excitement permeated the entire

meeting as we saw the fruit of our labors over the past 60 years. One of the speakers, a Cambodian missionary in Laos, is a great example of this. This speaker is the product of the work of a Filipino missionary in Cambodia. The Filipino missionary is a product of a church in the Philippines, which is a product of the





work of one of our missionaries years ago. In fact, many were impressed when they realized that half the attendees were either pastors or missionaries from all around the world. The first service on Monday night had 3,100 in attendance. Every service of the week saw the church building packed, and on the last night over 3,500 were in attendance.

Other responses:

"I didn't realize the BBFI had so much going on around the world."

"The leaders in our country must have a talk — we are not doing nearly enough in global missions."

"If they can do this in the Philippines, then we know God can do this in our country."



"We had such a wonderful time of fellowship, seeing long-time friends and meeting new faces, sharing the same faith and doing the same work for the Lord."

"It is exciting to see the BBFI is truly international."

"I sure wish so many more could have been a part of this meeting, it changed my life."

We saw firsthand that national fellowships are springing up across the world like islands of spotlights in a sea of darkness. These people want to be not only receiving nations but also sending nations. In all reality, missions is no

longer only from the "west to the rest," but from "everywhere to everywhere."

Does this mean our responsibility as Americans for missions is diminished or over? Not at all! It means we still have the same commission by God to reach the largest number of people ever to populate the world — but we are now doing this with others, our fruit, who have the same commission. The cool thing is they can go places many times we cannot. It is wonderful to see how God has raised up people and leaders from our 60 years of missions who can now reach people almost impossible for Americans to reach. It is all in God's plan and we must embrace this.

Further reports and photos of the wonderful, historic meeting will be coming. Watch for them, and share in the blessings of God with those of us who were able to attend.

Hundreds of volunteers from the church helped see that all guests were taken care of. Young people met airport arrivals with music and a friendly welcome, representatives manned a welcome desk at the hotel to coordinate detailed arrangements for the guests, greeters were on hand at the church, and everywhere there was a helpful and smiling face.



Bible Baptist Church Associate Pastor Jun Lumagbas (below, at right) was tireless both in the preparation and execution of the meeting. He seemed to be everywhere at once — on the platform, directing visitors, conducting the choir (all of whose music was world class in every way), making announcements, promoting good will among the foreign visitors — and he made it look effortless.



In keeping with the international flavor, preachers from around the globe wore traditional garments from their respective nations, and the Japanese visitors formed a choir fully dressed in their distinctive style.





BBFI officers, pastors, delegates, and Cebu meeting organizers enjoyed a visit with Cebu's Mayor Michael Rama in his office the morning of the opening of the meeting.



The meeting provided opportunities for other ministries in the Philippines to gather supporters and participants. The Asian Baptist Clearinghouse (an indigenous missionary clearinghouse) held a luncheon in a local restaurant Wednesday for ABC missionaries, guests from the U.S., and supporters. Speakers and presenters briefly surveyed the progress of ABC and reiterated the ministry's goals and vision for the churches of the Philippines and their missionary outreach.



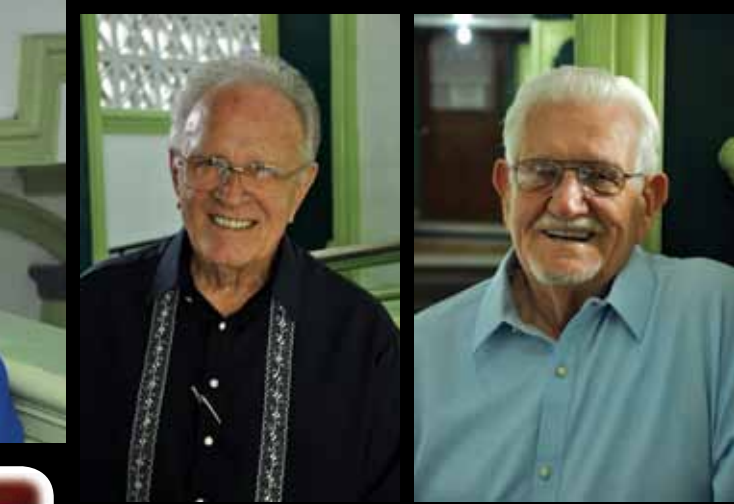


BBC President Jim Edge attended the Fellowship Meeting and brought Campus Chaplain Jon Slayden along with students Jared Barringer, D. J. Cabrera, Daniel Cox, Reuben Herrin, Blake Hunter, Brett Hunter, Marcus Mackey, and Caleb Moore, several of whom provided music for the meeting. Harold Payne of First Coast Baptist Church in Jacksonville, FL, led music for all the services.



The host church and Pastor Armie Jesalva were ever-present reminders of the contribution of BBFI Missionary Bob Hughes to the ministry in Cebu, and to a great extent, this international meeting itself. While Hughes was a traditional missionary — sent from a developed Western nation, focused on evangelism and church planting, etc. — his vision and execution was above the norm. When the massive crowds expanded beyond the space available, he laid out a plan to take the Bible to the streets, holding Sunday schools and evangelistic meetings throughout the city. He endeavored to print and to distribute one million Bibles, and he used media tirelessly. Though he died before his 50th birthday, his legacy lives on through those he disciplined, through the Cebu church and their international ministry, and through his family. The church honored the family of Bob Hughes with a replica of the portrait that hangs in the Christian Hall of Fame in Canton, OH, and gifts of appreciation. Cindy (Hughes) Lyons, wife of Springfield, MO, pastor Eddie Lyons, spoke briefly to give the family's thanks.





It was a time for recognition of pioneer BBFI missionaries who founded the churches from which many of the international delegates attended the meeting. Missionary veterans Jack Baskin, Elmer Deal, David Steffy, Boyd and Donna Lyons, Lavern Rodgers, and Richard and Kathleen Hester were among those present and honored.



What if...

BBC Alumni Association
SPECIAL FEATURE

By Marty Hughes

The theme “What if...?” is a common one in literature and movies, and even in our personal daydreams. What if we had made different choices or traveled the road not taken? What would be different if that one pivotal person had not entered our lives? The friends, mentors, job opportunities, triumphs, and tragedies have all been pieces of the puzzle that have made us who we are today. Paul said, “All things work together for good...” But what if one of those “things” had never been? No less a theological expert than Clarence, the would-be angel in *It’s a Wonderful Life*, said, “Strange, isn’t it? Each man’s life touches so many other lives. When he isn’t around he leaves an awful hole, doesn’t he?” But what if that “man” isn’t a man at all, but an institution — a Bible college made up of teachers and speakers and role models and students who changed your world on a daily basis for four years during the formative days of your Christian walk and preparation for ministry? What would your world, your life, your walk with God, and your service for Him be like if Baptist Bible College had never existed?

First, let me acknowledge that God is sovereign in the affairs of men and His plan for us

has been in place since before the world began. But it is also true that He has chosen to use things and circumstances and people to accomplish His purposes. It is hard for me to imagine the impact on my own family if Baptist Bible College had never existed. Where else would a bookish country boy from East Texas (my

father) have met up with a beautiful hill-billy from Paducah, KY (my mother) and fallen in love? In a way, I owe my very existence to BBC. The friends and influences that my parents came in contact with while in Springfield set their lives and ministry in motion, creating the backdrop for my

life as a child growing up as a preacher’s kid in a BBF church and thus having the privilege of personal contact with some of the greatest men of God of their generation — often sitting at our own dinner table.

My own experiences at BBC introduced me to some of my greatest role models and the mentors that shaped my life and ministry, not to mention the young lady who would become my partner in ministry for the last 28 years. The relationships I established while at Baptist Bi-

ble College have provided a network of friends and resources over the years that have opened every door for ministry I have ever needed. The fact that some of those men are still serving faithfully on the faculty of the college gives me the confidence that my children are receiving the same benefit from BBC that I did so many years ago.

I can see the impact that BBC has had on my parents’ lives and my life and ministry now beginning to show in the lives of my children. My daughter, Chelsea, whose testimony was that she majored in business at BBC because they wouldn’t let her major in basketball, is now on the mission field changing the world for Christ — because of contacts and relationships she established while at BBC. My son, Bobby, also a business major and a basketball player, has also caught the vision for seeing the world won to Christ during his four years on campus.

The question “What would our lives and ministries have looked like without Baptist Bible College?” is impossible to answer, but one thing is certain — it would have no resemblance to what it is today because the influence of Baptist Bible College is written all over it. And that fact motivates me to continue supporting the school through times of transition and change, to participate in the process of honoring the past while preparing for the future, and to find a way to be a part of the solution rather than a part of the problem. That way my grandchildren will never have to face the prospect of life without Baptist Bible College.





Where are they now?

Trina Ogle-Achterman

Class of 1980

B.S. Youth Ministries

Trina came to BBC in 1977 right after high school. Not knowing which direction God would take her, she enrolled in the Christian Education Department. Feeling a burden for youth, Trina later switched over and received her youth counseling degree. She met and married her husband, Greg Achterman, while



attending BBC. She began attending Park Crest Baptist Church in 1978 and has served in various ministries while attending PCBC under pastors Bob Perryman, Gary Grey, and most recently Phil Housley. She

has served in junior church, taught Sunday school classes, been a Bible study leader, and a high school counselor. Trina even went to youth camp the year she turned 50! Presently, she and Greg are counselors in the college class and sing/play in the adult choir/orchestra. She is using her degree in her capacity as staff coordinator for a large local hospital-based childcare center. She hires and oversees 117 staff members that care for over 400 children weekly while their parents work at the hospital. Greg and Trina have been married 30 years and have two children, Kurtis and Karrisa, who are very dedicated to Christ's work. Kurtis serves in the music ministry of a new church plant, Lifepoint Church in Ozark, MO. Karissa, who will become Mrs. Logan Pyle on April 16 of this year, also serves in ministry at Lifepoint. Trina says, "If it weren't for BBC I would never have met Greg and stayed at Park Crest to serve, nor see my children serving the Lord with so much passion."

Gary Phelps

Class of 1999

B.S. Pastoral Studies

Gary and Carolyn Phelps have been married for 22 years and have three boys, Spencer (15), Garrett (11), and Jackson (4). Right after graduating from Baptist Bible College in 1999, Gary started Cornerstone Baptist Church in Richmond, KY. The church initially met in the Phelps's home, then moved to a meeting room in a local restaurant, and later to a conference room in a motel — where they met for over three years. Finally, Cornerstone was able to purchase 31



acres of land and build the church building where they meet today. Gary was pastor at Cornerstone until 2006 at which time he felt called to go back to his home church, Oak Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, KY, and

serve as associate pastor. In August 2010, Harold Brown retired and Gary became the senior pastor. Gary has served as the secretary and vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Bible Fellowship and is actively involved in the state meetings, usually hosting the meetings once every year or two. Currently Gary is working on his Master of Arts in Theological Studies through Liberty University's online program. Gary has been on two mission trips, one to the Philippines, and this past June, Gary and Carolyn led a group from their church to Kenya, Africa.

Sharon Panages Fenley

Class of 1980

Business Certificate

Sharon has been actively involved at Park Crest Baptist Church since 1979. There she met her

husband, Ed, while attending BBC. They were married in 1980. In 1981 she and Ed began working as counselors in the high school ministry with Dave and Bonnie Jones. They served for 10 years and then moved to the college class for five more years. In addition to those ministries, Sharon has been actively involved in the music ministry since 1979 and is currently a member of the praise team. Sharon works as a paraprofessional with the Nixa School District in the Special Education Department. They have three children. Their first born, Erica, is a graduate of St. John's School of Nursing and is currently a nurse in the NICU. She is married to Adam Mariage (BBC graduate) and lives in Austin, Texas. Their son, Ethan, is getting married this summer and has future ministry plans. Their youngest, Brooke, is a junior in high school with eyes and a heart for full-time ministry. Sharon's decision to attend BBC after high school has made a great impact on her life. She met her husband, had the opportunity to serve in Springfield, MO, and raised her children with a love for God and a heart for the ministry.



Rachel Dawsey

Class of 2005

B.S. Music Education

Rachel came to Baptist Bible College in 2001 from Indiana. While at BBC, Rachel met her husband, Thomas Dawsey, and was married in June 2004. Since then Rachel has worked at Springfield



Where are they now?

Music, starting as the education coordinator for their lessons program. For the last four years she has been the store manager. Rachel and her husband have been ministering at Sonrise Baptist Church under the leadership of Kevin Carson. While there, they have had the opportunity to serve in the music ministry, children's ministry, and as small group mentors. During this time, Thomas has completed his Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling and Master of Divinity at Baptist Bible Graduate School. Over the past four years the Dawseys have been planning a church plant in Round Rock, TX, with Matthew and Michelle Breeden. They will relocate there this summer to start Southern Hills Baptist Church. When asked how BBC influenced her life, Rachel said, "BBC played a large role in my life and had a huge impact. I met the love of my life, my husband, at BBC. I met many wonderful life-long friends while at school; two of which are on our church planting team. I grew in my understanding of God and His Word while at BBC. One thing I have always appreciated about BBC is the wonderful interaction I was able to have with my professors, particularly the professors in the Music Department. They were always more than willing to take extra time to help me. Professor David Giles and his family were a big encouragement in my life. BBC also played a large role in encouraging the direction of our ministry. While at school we learned about the sufficiency of the Scriptures in dealing with life's problems. The focus BBC has put on biblical counseling has encouraged us to develop a counseling center at Southern Hills Baptist Church. I have started my certification with the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors (NANC), where my husband is already certified." Rachel and Thomas welcomed their first child, their daughter Avery, this February.

Jon Haley

Class of 1995

B.S. in Theology

Joy (Daniel) Haley

Class of 1995

A.A. in Business

Jon and Joy met and married while at Baptist

Bible College and will celebrate their 18th anniversary in the summer of 2011. Jon earned his Master's degree in Christian Leadership from Liberty University in 2008. They served as



youth ministers for two years at Woodcliff Baptist Church in Austin, TX, from 1995 to 1997. In

1997, Jon and Joy went to work for Jon's father, Mike Haley, at Hallmark Baptist Church in Fort Worth, TX. While there, Jon served as youth pastor and family pastor until October 2010. In November 2010, Jon became the pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Arkansas City, KS. Jon and Joy have two children, Blake (13) and Blaire (10).

Jennifer Johnston Buttram

Class of 2000

B.S. Children's Ministries

Jennifer married Keith Buttram in August 1999 and served at Flat Creek Baptist Church in Cape Fair, MO, in their youth ministry. In July 2000, God led the Buttrams to Orlando Baptist Church in Florida where Keith served for four years as the junior high youth pastor and they served on the staff of Orlando Christian Preparatory School. In May 2003, Keith and Jennifer moved to East Orlando to serve at Avalon



Church under Pastor Dale Brooks in the area of youth ministry. They were then led to Northern Virginia in August 2004 to serve full time in youth ministry. Keith and Jennifer moved to Springdale, AR, in March 2006 to serve as youth pastor at Keith's home church, Temple Baptist Church, under Pastor Don Elmore, where they continue to serve. Jennifer serves as fundraising

coordinator for mission trips and she and Keith work with the teens. God has provided Jennifer with the opportunity to visit the Philippines and Keith to visit Brazil and Ecuador. These mission trips broadened the Buttram's worldview and changed their perspective in regard to missions and missionaries. This summer Keith and Don Elmore will lead a mission trip to Kenya where Keith will have the opportunity to see the World Hope Center that was started by David Janney while they served with him in Orlando. In August 2011, Keith and Jennifer will celebrate 12 years of service in youth ministry. Keith and Jennifer have been blessed with two beautiful girls, Sadie (6) and Chloe (5).

PCBBC Grads Welcomed as Honorary Alumni

The BBC Alumni Association has extended an invitation to all Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College graduates to become Honorary Alumni of Baptist Bible College. If you are a supporter of Baptist Bible College and would like to be recognized as an honorary alumnus, please contact BBC Alumni Association President Tim Wertz at timwertz@seminolebaptist.org.



BBC Alumni Association Introduces New Website

The Baptist Bible College Alumni Association is pleased to introduce its new website (www.bbcalumni.org). Please take time to get acquainted with it. The site is still in its infancy but it will give you a great picture of what the Alumni Association is doing for BBC and its students.

Here are several interesting things you will find on the new website:

- **The Patriot Voice** - The place to find resources for use in recruiting students and promoting BBC.
- **Alumni Spotlight** - The place to find articles about BBC Alumni and how they are changing the world. (We will update the spotlight several times a year.)
- **Alumni Scholarship Recipients** - Read bios on our recent scholarship winners and find out how you can contribute to the scholarship fund.
- **Alumni Projects** - The place to find out about current Alumni Association endeavors. The 2011 Alumni Project is the renovation of the campus Student Center. You can also find out how to be a part of this exciting undertaking.

www.bbcalumni.org



Please add the new Alumni Association website to your list of favorites and visit it often to find out about upcoming reunions, spotlights, and giving opportunities. This is just one more way for you to be involved in enhancing student life at BBC.

2011 Alumni Project: Renovation of Student Center

The next phase in the Alumni Association's continuing effort to enhance student life on the BBC campus will be to renovate and refurnish the Student Center. The Student Center is used heavily by the students and has not seen any significant upgrades since its opening in 2003. Dean of Students Ray Adams says, "The Student Center is one of the most popular places on campus for students to gather and visit, and the prospect of having it renovated is very exciting." The furniture, computers, TVs, and lighting are all in dire need of replacement. The Alumni Association has set an ambitious goal of \$20,000 for this project in order to provide a first-class setting for the students to gather, fellowship, and study together. Please consider giving generously to this exciting project. It is hoped that the funds can be raised quickly so that the work can be finished this summer before school opens in September.

Support the Alumni Association today!

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HISTORY

BAPTIST

THOMAS SPURGEON – The forgotten Spurgeon

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was the most influential preacher of the 19th century. His achievements are truly remarkable. In 1854, at the age of 19, he was invited to become the pastor of the historic New Park Street Baptist Church in London. The attendance at his first service was only 200 in an auditorium seating 1,200. Spurgeon's preaching, however, electrified the congregation, and within weeks the building could not hold the crowds.

The church rented a larger facility and began construction on a new church building named the Metropolitan Tabernacle. They moved into their new home in 1861. The new auditorium would accommodate between 6,000 and 7,000. Amazingly, for the next 30 years Spurgeon would fill the great auditorium Sunday morning and night. Spurgeon's vision was unlimited. The church had 19 preaching stations, 25 Sunday schools with 491 teachers, and an average attendance of 7,786. There were 17 almshouses for aged Christian men and women and two day schools that provided education for 400 students.

In 1856 he founded the Pastor's College, which educated hundreds of future pastors and missionaries. That same year he established an orphanage that housed, fed, clothed, and educated between 500 and 600 boys and girls. His weekly sermons had a circulation of 25,000 and were translated into 23 languages. It is estimated that 10 million people heard Spurgeon preach, and 40 million read his sermons. He was also responsible for establishing approximately 200 Baptist churches.

When Spurgeon's remarkable and unequalled life ended in January 1892, the question naturally arose, "Who will succeed the great man?" Spurgeon's mantle would fall on his son, Thomas Spurgeon.

Thomas Spurgeon and his twin brother Charles Jr. were born in 1856, and both became Baptist preachers. Thomas's health had always been fragile, and in about 1876 his parents sent him to Australia, believing the warmer climate

would restore his health. The Australian sunshine and fresh air did wonders for Thomas's health, enabling him to preach throughout the country. In 1881 he settled in Auckland, New Zealand, and accepted the pastorate of the Wellesley Baptist Church. The church prospered under his ministry and was required to build a new auditorium seating 1,200. They named it the Auckland Tabernacle. The church's attendance during Thomas's pastorate averaged 1,500.

In June 1889 his health forced him to resign. However, he did not remain idle. He began immediately engaging in evangelistic meetings. His father's unexpected death took him back to London in 1892. In 1894 the Metropolitan Tabernacle

called Thomas Spurgeon to become his father's successor. Thomas would pastor the Tabernacle 14 years, years that produced great change and challenges. His greatest challenge occurred in April 1898 when fire destroyed the Metropolitan Tabernacle. The interior of the building was completely demolished; all that was left standing were the exterior walls. The church moved their services to Exeter Hall. It would take 29 months to rebuild the Tabernacle. New building and fire codes forced the church to reduce the seating capacity to 4,000. During the long and painful process many of the Tabernacle members scattered to other churches.

The Tabernacle reopened September 19, 1900, with almost 6,000 in attendance. The Tabernacle averaged approximately 4,000 on Sunday mornings and evenings during Thomas's pastorate. In 1904 the church reported 3,253 active members, 20 missions to the poor, 22 Sunday schools with 524 teachers, and a regular attendance of 8,362. In March 1908 Thomas's health had deteriorated to the point that he could no longer continue his pastorate. However, he remained as the head of the Pastor's College and orphanage until his death in October 1917. Thomas Spurgeon deserves to be recognized and honored for his ability to continue the work of his remarkable father.

Thomas Spurgeon



by Thomas Ray





THE CITY, A Global History

Read any books lately that made you go “Wow!”? Joel Kotkin’s *The City, A Global History* had just that effect on me. How does an author jam so much into such few pages? (160 pages text, 40 plus pages notes)

“Two central themes have informed this history of cities. First is the universality of the urban experience, despite vast differences in race, climate, and location.” Secondly, “Since the earliest origins urban areas have performed three separate critical functions — the creation of sacred space, the provision of basic security, and the host for a commercial market.”

Among the “essential problems facing urban regions in the West and increasingly the developed parts of the East and South Asia are of a different nature. Cities in these regions are frequently relatively safe and, when their suburban rings are included, remarkably prosperous by historical standards. Yet these cities increasingly seem to lack a shared sense of sacred place, civic identity or moral order.” Kotkin continues, “The study of urban history also suggests that even affluent cities without moral cohesion or a sense of civic identity are doomed to decadence and decline.”

Joel Kotkin is an Irvine Senior Fellow with the New America Foundation based in Washington D.C. He is the author of five books including *Tribes* and *The New Geography*, both published by Random House. He is a frequent contributor to the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, Inc., *The American Enterprise*, and the *Los Angeles Times* “Opinion” section. He serves as a Senior Fellow at Baruch College of the City, University of New York.

Given the sweep of the book, it is remarkable for its brevity. Kotkin addresses the rise of cities in a global context, classical cities in Europe, the Oriental epic, Western cities reasserting their primacy, the industrial city, and

the modern metropolis.

His observations related to Islamic cities were particularly intriguing. “The Muslim epic represented a new beginning in urban histories. The primacy of faith was evident in the layout of Islamic cities. Instead of the classical emphasis on public buildings and spaces, mosques now arose at the center of urban life.” He notes that Islam’s early success was as a city-based religion and that Islamic civilization at its core is profoundly urban. “Islam virtually demanded cities to serve as the places where men pray together.”

Kotkin cites a noted top U.N. official who pointed out that urban areas from North Africa to Pakistan represented “nothing less than social time bombs that threaten to undermine the entire global order.” It was only a few weeks after I read that section that Cairo protests became a worldwide headline days on end. As I write this, uprisings have erupted in cities across the Middle East.

Of specific interest to Bible students is the chapter titled “Rome — The First Mega City.” This certainly provides great insight, if not a whole new understanding, into the book of Romans and the first century world dominated by the Roman Empire.

The “Anglo-American Revolution” chapter will give every leader in any arena a better understanding of how urbanization has marked and molded the United States.

I don’t know how religious the author is, but I found his comments and observations related to sacred space catching my attention. “This sacred role has been too often ignored in contemporary discussions of the urban condition.” He goes after the “new urbanists” architects, planners, and developers and their campaigning for city green space, historical preservation, and environmental stewardship saying “they rarely refer to the need for a powerful

URBAN CURRENT

moral vision to hold cities together.” In his mild way he bashes those who propagate the idea that all a city needs is business and hipness to be viable. Mind you, he is not arguing for a particular religion. He simply makes the case that “without a widely shared belief system it would be exceedingly difficult to envision a viable urban future.”

Preachers need to read this book. I don’t know where, in such a brief treatment, you could gain such a grand overview of the role of the city in shaping the human experience. Professors need this book. It reminds that urbanology is not some remote, fringe realm of academic study. Rather, it bears on the life of every person on the planet, impacting how we view the world, how we learn, how we live. Anyone going into Christian service needs to interact with Kotkin’s material. Every believer will have a better understanding of the world in which he or she is seeking to serve Christ having spent a few hours with this volume.

As a result of reading Kotkin’s work, I am far more informed as to the role of the city in every period of history. I was reminded that even presumably secular academics cannot avoid the necessity of the sacred. I was encouraged by being reminded, I’m in the right place at the right time.

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





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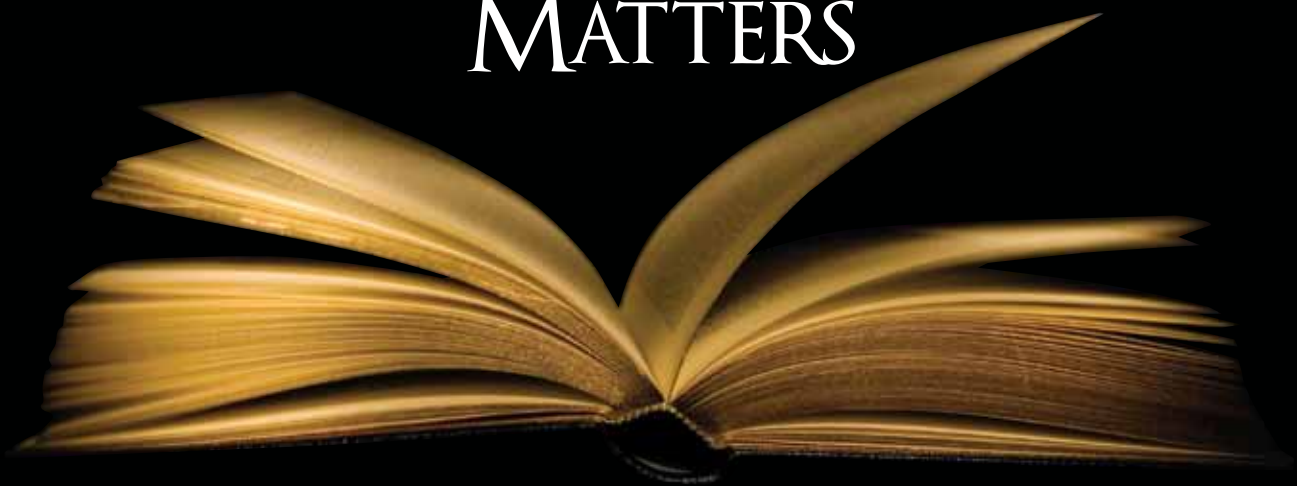


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BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Priority 4: A conservative biblical worldview

by Jim Edge | President | Baptist Bible College



We've been talking about the priorities we have on the campus of BBC. Many of our friends in ministry have determined that on the whole our world is experiencing the greatest moral crisis in the history of civilization. I believe this crisis is because many in our generation have lost the art of thinking deeply about why they believe what they believe. Our most basic assumptions about the origin of life, our purpose in life, and the future are based on a system of thought developed over a period of time in our youth. At Baptist Bible College we strive to insure that our students have the proper resources that will enable each of them to form the foundation for a biblical and conservative worldview. During their four years on campus we work with our students to equip them with a disciplined heart for God, a love for the Scriptures, and a solid and classical general education.

A fourth priority for our students is that they are able to view the world around them from a biblical and conservative perspective. Our minds are bombarded daily with secular ideas considered sophisticated, scientific, and contemporary. At Baptist Bible College we believe that it is reasonable and correct to view contemporary events through the lens of scripture. We believe that a true Christian worldview will provide every student with a consistent explanation of all the facts of reality. As Carl F. H. Henry says, "The Christian belief system, which the Christian knows to be grounded in divine revelation, is relevant to all of life." The Christian worldview is the embodiment of Christ's claim that He is "the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

We believe that if a Christian young man or woman is unaware of the principles of God's Word applied in a cultural setting, that he or she is ill-prepared to lead. In Acts 17, Paul confronted the professional humanists of his day. The apostle countered their ideas with Christian ideas; he reasoned and preached, and he accented three Christian truths — the resurrection of Christ (v. 18), the creation of the universe by God (v. 24), and the judgment to come (v. 31). Our goal is for our students to be trained to fearlessly proclaim the good news of the gospel and to stand fast in the same biblical worldview proclaimed by Paul.

Our prayer is that the hundreds of men and women who graduate from Baptist Bible College will become leading spokespersons for the claims of Christ and form the framework for a sweeping revival to our churches, our Fellowship, our nation, and our world. If you believe, as I do, that the hope for the world is the truth of God's Word, presented by godly men and women through the local church, then would you please join with me to equip our students to be men and women of distinct godly character. Just imagine with me how these sharp and committed men and women can be equipped to passionately lead the next great worldwide revival.

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE

You should see this place

by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College



I know most of you don't get to Boston very often. That's a shame. You should come. Our city is one of the world's great cities and our campus may well be as important to God as anything else in this city.

If you don't wade into the water of 21st century ministry education every day, it is easy to not see what is going on. Then, on those occasions when pastors get together at meetings, conversations about Boston are usually the necessary discussions about enrollment and budgets. Riveting! Now, don't get me wrong, I care about student head counts and cash flow (so if you want to interpret that as a fundraising pitch, go ahead and take it that way!). But I wish you could really know what happens at Boston Baptist College.

Sure, Bible college life has lots of laughs (like that synchronized table thing Rebekah, Donnie, and Stacey were teaching me in the cafe after lunch!). Our students are healthy, savvy, "normal" young people. New couples form (and un-form), new songs get played, new haircuts come and go, and new phones are admired and acquired.

That's all "salad" though. In Boston, "steak" is still our specialty. The meat of God's Word is what we do. We work at it hard, and we don't sidestep or talk more about philosophy than textual mandate. We do Bible, and we are not bashful about it.

We are right in the middle of Senior Seminar season right now. Every senior works hard on biblical worldview with Dan Burrell, charges through the aberrant new wave theologies with Bruce Garner, and then comes the committee work. Every senior, as the capstone of his or her Biblical Studies program, works through an integrative biblical topic and presents to a faculty committee. It is the impressive pinnacle of a world-class Biblical Studies program.

We spend four years getting students ready for that seminar. Mike Patterson takes them through the Old Testament. A student may not know a Jeroboam from a Jersey boy when he arrives on campus, but we will fix that! Ken Gillming gets the doctrine ball rolling at freshman level.

I know that some think today's young undergraduates don't or can't do real exposition of Scripture. Ha! Ask our students about a Snavelly Expo. Dr. Snavelly will have them with their sleeves rolled up digging deep in the Scripture ... learning how to harvest those divine treasures for themselves.

I teach a course on Jesus. I have to work hard because I don't want my course to be the caboose! We groom Boston students to work hard in the Scriptures. The truth of God is still the only hope for any age. That's what the men and women at Boston Baptist College do. I wish you could see it.

As a matter of fact, why don't you? The September 2011 BBF meeting is here at our place. This is your personal invite to come see Boston for yourself.

Friendship Baptist celebrates 25 years with Klass

Montana City, MT

On January 15, Friendship Baptist Church and Pastor David Klass celebrated the church's 25th birthday. The day was highlighted with a packed-out crowd, guest preacher Mike Wenzel from Faith Baptist in Townsend, and special music by ServantSong.

Friendship Baptist was birthed by David and Cathy Klass and has been under his pastoral care ever since.



David and Cathy Klass

Klass was saved and raised under the ministry of Clifford Clark in Tulsa, OK. The church's testimony and the Klassses' longevity has resulted in a strong impact on the three towns located in Prickly Pear Valley, the community in which the church ministers.

A recent highlight of the Friendship church was to reproduce itself in the neighboring community of East Helena through the renewing of a struggling work. In the Spring of 2012 the church plans to double their auditorium space through a debt-free building campaign.

Friendship's vision for the future is to continue to reproduce both locally and globally through a continued strong emphasis on missions. Klass would like to personally thank each BBF pastor and church that has made an investment in his life, family, and ministry.

Mississippi church celebrates 16 years

Moss Point, MS

Bible Study Baptist Church and Pastor Samuel Mitchell celebrated their 16th church anniversary January 23, 2010. The "Sweet Sixteen" theme helped attract 200 people to the church sanctuary for the morning service that included singing, testimonies, and preaching.

After the service, the church celebrated with a meal in the gymnasium. Mitchell says the church's goal is "to see people saved, settled, and serving." He is an active participant with the Brothers of Cyrene and is the BBFI National Director for Mississippi.



Sam and Letha Mitchell

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Beacon Baptist member coordinates valet ministry

Taylor, MI

Beacon Baptist Church pastored by John Riley now offers valet services on Sundays. This ministry was created by one of their members, Bill Wilson, who saw a need and was ready to take care of it. He created a valet service at the front entrance for the elderly, those needing assistance, and for single moms bringing their children.

"Bill's ability to understand the problems

some people face in coming to church is a result of his own family's experience," states Riley. "His mother was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis when he was a teenager and she depended on Bill to help her get around. His whole family was involved for 51 years in seeing that his mom had everything she needed to remain as active as possible. Because of this, Bill has a heart for many of our church members that need help. He wanted to help alleviate the 'stress' of getting into church, something many of us take for granted."

Every Sunday Bill reserves ten parking spaces with orange cones marked "valet." He has a crew of dedicated men who work designated services, with a few substitutes if needed. Two men work the door — one parks the car while the other assists the individual into the church. Wilson also designed a key caddy to keep track of the car keys

and valet cards that he hands out to those who may potentially need the service. Some have commented that their ability to come to church would be greatly hindered without this ministry.

Bill's advice to churches interested in providing this ministry is, "Just do it! You would appreciate the help if you were in their situation." "Thanks, Bill, for seeing the need!" says Pastor Riley.

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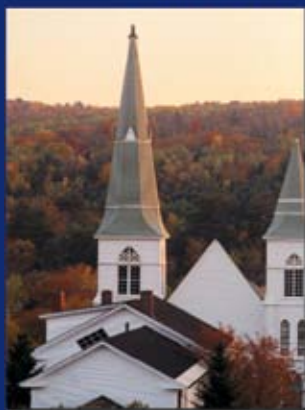
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Bill Wilson (left) with one of Beacon's valet users

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GuideStone makes it easy to take advantage of this benefit. Upon retirement, a minister may simply ask GuideStone to designate an amount for housing allowance on their benefit applications. Ministers can also request to change the allowance amount each year as long as it is deducted from retirement income not already received and falls within housing allowance guidelines.

Further, each church should consider consulting with its ministers about setting aside a portion of salary for a housing allowance that can be used to cover eligible expenses now. Learn more about how this allowance works before and after retirement by reviewing Guide-

Stone's Ministers Tax Guide.

The Ministers Tax Guide also provides essential information about many other tax issues likely to affect ministers and churches. It includes sample tax returns for both active and retired ministers. And church treasurers, other church leaders, and CPAs will find a valu-

able resource in the annual guide's special section about important federal requirements for churches.

You can view the 2010 edition of the tax guide online now or contact Cyndi Jaquez of Guidestone to order a print version. Cyndi is available at Cyndi.Jaquez@GuideStone.org.

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BBC Asia holds 11th commencement

Metro Manila, Philippines

More than 1,700 attended the graduation event with 513 students receiving certificates and degrees at the 11th commencement of Baptist Bible College Asia, Pasig City (Metro Manila) in the Philippines. Forty-three received their four-year degree. BBFI President Linzy Slayden delivered the commencement address.

Students at the college are largely drawn from area churches and the results of evangelistic efforts of the camp ministry headed by BBFI missionary Greg Lyons, who also serves as chairman of the board of directors of the college. He says, "The thought of the many souls that will be reached by these students was overwhelming. I remembered many of them when they were just freshmen and to see them complete a course was very fulfilling."



Linzy Slayden

Through the use of area churches as branches for the college, and by giving incremental diplomas and certificates, the campus can offer many options for training and mentoring in addition to classroom instruction. BBC Asia also has an affiliation with Louisiana Baptist University.

BBC Asia's president is Arthur Damaso Esmalia, and the vice president for development is former pastor Ken Adrian.

Fair Oaks celebrates 50th anniversary

Fairfax, VA

Fair Oaks Church and Pastor David Stokes marked the church's 50th anniversary with special services the last weekend of January. Organized originally as Bethlehem Baptist Church in 1961, the church changed its name in 2003. A special Friday evening service honored the church's founding members, Floyd and Mary White. Now in their 69th year of marriage, they still sit near the front every Sunday. Their grandson, Barry White, of Park Valley Church in Haymarket, VA, brought a special message that evening. Ed Holland, of Baptist Temple in Akron, OH, spoke to the church during the two Sunday morning services.



David Stokes

Stokes has pastored the church since August 1998. Previous pastors were John Bonds (1961-1975) and Ben Sanders (1976-1998).



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Second generation of Walkers to be missionaries

Auckland, New Zealand

After serving with Dalton Walker in New Zealand, Ben and Raelene Walker of Grace Baptist Community Church in Auckland are in the States preparing to gather support for their return to New Zealand as BBFI TEAM missionaries.



Ben and Raelene Walker

Working as volunteer staff trainees in youth and music for Ben's father Dalton the past four years, the couple had great success last year in a food ministry. They distributed more than \$750,000 worth of food through donations from Auckland businesses.

The Walkers are burdened to return to New Zealand by year's end where they will take up their work again with the Auckland church

training future ministry and leadership students through discipleship and mentoring. Ben believes their permanent resident status will be a great advantage later when they will seek to be career missionaries. Immigration restrictions in developed nations is hampering missionary en-

try in those countries, but the Walkers will have no such problem.

The Walkers are being sent out by Raelene's home church, Ventura Baptist Church of Ventura, CA, where Lewis McClendon is the pastor. They expect to be approved by the BBFI in May.

Konnerup honored

Springfield, MO

During chapel at BBC on March 8, 2011, Dwight Billingsley (right) presented Jon Konnerup with a plaque of recognition for his efforts in coordinating the recent BBFI Global Fellowship Meeting held in Cebu City, Philippines.



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Howard Dale Musgrave

Edmond, OK

Howard Dale Musgrave of Edmond, OK, went to his heavenly home on Thursday, February 10, 2011. He was 73 years old. Born July 28, 1937, in Fort Morgan, CO, Howard began serving as a BBFI missionary in 1967 with his wife Naomi in Puerto Rico and Venezuela, and since September 2007 they have served as USLG missionaries helping with Spanish-speaking ministries.



Mr. Musgrave is survived by Naomi, three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. A celebration service for Mr. Musgrave's homegoing was held February 17 at Southwest Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. Memorial donations may be made to the Howard Musgrave Memorial Fund at Calvary Baptist Church of Edmond.

Baptist Bible College **MAY 9-12** Graduation and Homecoming Week 2011 BBFI National Meeting

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Bringing the future into the present

By Keith Bassham

Over the years, I've learned that if you can master a few basics in just about any area of activity, you can do most anything that activity requires. Take football — you run with the ball, throw the ball, or kick the ball. Learn how to do that, and you can play. The same is true with language. Learning a relatively small vocabulary and a few grammatical rules, and though a mastery is not there, basic comprehension is possible. Conversely, I have also learned that skipping the basics is not a good practice, no matter how simple something looks.

The same is true with my Bible study. I find myself so often going back to basics, and in this stage of my life, I tend to spend more time in Genesis and the theme of Creation. It seems to pop up everywhere, whether we are talking soteriology or sociology, understanding what God was up to in Creation gives you a running start.

Even when we look at Easter, Creation comes up. And why not? Resurrection and New Creation are inseparable. In the future God has planned for us, He recreates the world (a new heaven and a new earth) and populates it with renewed people (new creatures). The older Creation groans, longs for this event, as we are taught in Romans 8. What is the event that gets the whole ball rolling? It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ, without which we could not be re-created (born again, to use Jesus' language in John 3) in the image and likeness of the resurrected Son of God (Romans 8:29).

Therefore, knowing the future God has planned, we are told to "walk in newness of life," (Romans 6:4) and to give ourselves to God "as those that are alive from the dead" (Romans 6:13). But the good news here is how God has given us a running start on that resurrection and new creation experience in the future.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, we read that when we are saved and accept Christ, we become new creations. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature," or a new creation. In other words, what God is doing when He saves us as individuals is to bring His future will and purpose back to right here in the present in bits and pieces. This is the language N. T. Wright (all of whose views I cannot espouse) uses to describe what God is doing today, but I think he is right on this particular detail. We have, after all, been given a taste of "the powers of the world to come" (Hebrews 6:5), and while no human or group of humans has the power to build the ultimate kingdom of God on earth, you and I, having tasted what God is going to do, can bring bits and pieces of that future kingdom into our homes, into our families, our churches, and

our communities. Perhaps those around us will begin to hunger for what we have tasted by embracing the resurrected Son of God and the life he offers.

So, I anticipate the future, and I hope to take people with me on that journey.

Richard Baxter, the nonconformist author of *The Reformed Pastor* (it's not what you think, by the way) from the 1600s, echoes a similar sentiment in the last section of his *Saint's Everlasting Rest*.

O my Savior, hasten the time of thy return; send forth thy angels, and let that dreadful, joyful trumpet sound!

Delay not, lest the living give up their hope; delay not, lest earth should grow like hell, and thy church, by division, be all crumbled to dust; delay not lest thy enemies get advantage of thy flock, and lest pride, hypocrisy, sensuality and unbelief prevail against that little remnant, and share among them thy whole inheritance, and when thou comest, thou find not faith on the earth; delay not, lest the grave should boast of victory, and, having learned rebellion of its guest, should refuse to deliver thee up thy due!

O hasten that great resurrection day, when thy command shall go forth, and none disobey: when 'the sea and the earth shall yield up their hostages, and all that sleep in the grave shall awake, and the dead in Christ shall rise first;' when the seed which thou sowest corruptible, shall come forth incorruptible; and graves that received rottenness and dust, shall return thee glorious stars and suns!

Therefore dare I lay down my body in the dust, intrusting it, not to a grave, but to thee; and therefore my flesh shall rest in hope, till thou shalt raise it to the possession of everlasting rest.

'Return, O Lord, how long? O let thy kingdom come!' Thy desolate 'bride saith, Come' for thy Spirit within her saith, Come; and teacheth her thus to 'pray with groanings which cannot be uttered; yea, the whole creation saith, Come, waiting to be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.' Thou thyself has said, 'Surely I come quickly; Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

"Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel." (2 Timothy 2:7-9)

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AT BBFI FELLOWSHIP WEEK

GUEST SPEAKER



Kurt Johnston has been in youth ministry since 1988 and he's still smiling! Currently, he is the Student Ministries Pastor at Saddleback Church in Southern California. Kurt also likes encouraging other youth workers and has written a few books and created a ton of resources with that goal in mind. Kurt has been married to his wife, Rachel for 20 years and they have two teenagers, Kayla and Cole.

May 10th
**Late Night
Welcome Party**
at Buffalo Wild Wings

May 11th
General Sessions
9:00 AM - Noon
(On BBC campus)

**Student Ministry
Service 7:00 PM**
(On BBC campus)

First 100 youth
pastors to
register have a
chance to win an
Apple iPad

Great worship

Free food

Register online
only at
gobbc.edu/refuel

For more
information, email:
refuel@gobbc.edu



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