

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

APRIL 2015 | VOL. 65 NO. 8

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MARCH 30, 33 A.D.

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15 STEPS TO THE RESURRECTION

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WE HAVE. ARE. WILL.

FELLOWSHIP WEEK 2015

MAY 4-7 2015

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

We have. We are. We will.

This is the theme for Fellowship Week 2015 as we come together to celebrate 65 years of ministry. We invite you to join us May 4-7 for this special time of reunion as we take time to look back, time to look around, and time to look ahead. Alumni from all over the world are planning to join us to enjoy this celebration. There will be powerful preaching, inspiring worship, and encouraging fellowship. You have invested in BBC, you are excited about BBC, and you will be glad you came to Fellowship Week 2015. We can't wait to welcome you!

-Mark Milioni
BBC President



Monday, May 4 | 7 p.m.

Speaker: Jerry Thorpe

Tuesday, May 5 | 9 a.m.

Ladies Meeting, 9 a.m.. Refreshments and meeting, Mary Herman, speaker.

Speaker: Ben Feldott, Pastor, Cape Cod Church, East Falmouth, MA

Speaker: D. L. Moody, President, Arlington Baptist College, Arlington TX

Speaker: Eddie Lyons, President, BBFI, Pastor, High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

BBFI Business Meeting

Alumni Banquet, 12 p.m.

Tuesday, May 5 | 7 p.m.

Speaker: Dave Janney, Pastor, Orlando Baptist Church

Speaker: Ronnie Floyd, President, Southern Baptist Convention

Wednesday, May 6 | 9 a.m.

Missions morning presented by the BBFI Mission Office

Wednesday, May 6 | 7 p.m.

Homecoming, speaker BBC President Mark Milioni, special presentation regarding BBC

Presentation of Fellowship Faithfulness Awards: Bill Dowell Jr., Richard Bemark

Speaker: Ed Trinkle, Pastor, Marcus Hook Baptist Church

Thursday, May 7 | 10 a.m.

65th Annual BBC Graduation Ceremony

Commencement speaker: Elmer Towns

BBC Alumni Golf Tournament, 1 p.m., Rivercut Golf Course



ON THE TABLE

Easter

by Keith Bassham | Editor

This *Tribune* has two major features in the front half. This in itself is not unusual, as our readers know. But, as editor, I departed from our usual practice in a couple of ways.

First, there is the report from the MidWinter Fellowship Meeting in Orlando, FL, held February 16-18. The meeting was unique in several ways, and so I asked our national officers to provide the commentary for the meeting from their perspectives. Some facets were recognized by all the officers, while other facets stood out to them as individuals based on their respective levels of responsibility. Not only does this give our leaders an opportunity to speak to the Fellowship, but it also gives readers insight into our leadership's outlook on the Fellowship's present state and future prospects.

Second, the Easter feature in this issue is the longest article I have placed since becoming editor — taking up about eight pages total. The author is Pastor Greg Baxter of Faith Journey Church in Lawton, OK. For several years, Greg has been publishing on social media a series of meditations based on the events of Easter Week for his fellow pastors. We have enjoyed his compilations of the Gospel accounts, and I thought they should be shared more widely.

In keeping with our "15 for 2015" motif, I asked Greg to recast the material in a 15-step version. Except for the actual crucifixion portion (which takes a little more than a page), each step can be easily read as part of a devotional program leading up to Easter Sunday. We have kept all the Bible references Greg included (but we placed them in a margin), so the reader can see all the passages he used for the studies. The article represents a large amount of detailed work and study, and mastering even some of its contents will help make the events of the week leading up to the Lord's resurrection much more meaningful.

Christmas is more showy than Easter, and it is observed more universally even among nonbelievers, but for those of us with faith in Jesus Christ and His Gospel, Easter is surely the more important Christian observance.

Think about it. We are not sure about the date of Jesus' birth even now, but for Easter we have a real date to commemorate in space and time. When Jesus was born there was barely any human witness at all, while there were hundreds of eyewitnesses who bore record to the risen Lord. Outside the Gospels, there is little reference to the nativity, while references to the crucifixion and resurrection and their implications fill the pages of the rest of the New Testament.

I like Christmas, I admit, but if the holiday were banned (and it has been from time to time), I don't know that I would mind much. Skipping Christmas (which is the title of a John Grisham novel describing how a modern couple attempted to skirt Christmas observances) might not be such a bad thing, but I cannot imagine getting along without Easter.

Keith Bassham

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

APRIL 2015

VOL. 65 NO. 8

FEATURES



Orlando meeting report

BBFI officers share their views on the national meeting hosted by Pastor Dave Janney and Orlando Baptist Church.

8



15 steps to the resurrection

A great study tool or daily devotional for the two weeks leading up to Easter.

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Baptist History: Frank Boreham

This missionary and pastor put his pen to good use, writing for over 50 years and compiling more than 3,000 essays and 46 books.

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

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

It takes a team



by Eddie Lyons | President | BBFI

Yesterday I had lunch at a newly opened Mexican restaurant. It was great. I went there because a lady in our church who used to own a Mexican restaurant said this was a good place and that she now worked there. She came out to greet our table. In the conversation she mentioned it was two years ago at Easter when she first attended church. Since that time she has accepted Christ and now her family attends High Street. Many in our church worked to get her to visit. Many were involved in her discipleship. Her kids are learning the Bible in our kids' ministry and her teenage son is involved in the youth ministry. I was reminded of the fact that pulling off a special Easter service, reaching, discipling, and ministering to a family takes a team. As pastor, I am blessed to be a part of that team. I am most grateful for the leaders and staff, paid and unpaid, who make church work. When they are growing and learning and inspired we all more effectively accomplish the mission.

The Baptist Bible Fellowship is much more than a Fellowship of pastors. It is our goal to validate and support the people who form this Fellowship. We are a group of pastors, missionaries, youth directors, children's directors, college administrators and professors, Mission Office and *Tribune* leaders and staff. Each person is vital. The Apostle Paul used the illustration of the body to describe the church. Each member of the body is different but vital. It is our desire to provide an environment where relationships can be developed between our teams. This community of leaders can resource, inspire, and support one another. That is why when we have our Fellowship meetings, we provide breakout sessions for leaders who serve with youth, children, music, media, ladies, small groups, and more. Investing in our teams is very important.

I know some churches have paid staff while others rely on volunteer leadership. Both need to grow. One of the best things we can do to strengthen our teams is to bring them to a Fellowship meeting. When connections are made between leaders in similar roles, good things can happen. The sharing that comes from this kind of fellowship is so important. I'd like to encourage you to think beyond just the pastor and bring your teams to our meetings.

Men, our wives need the support and encouragement that can only come from spending time together with other ladies in ministry. The ladies' breakouts are designed to provide a safe place to get to know others who understand and can encourage. That is why my wife Cindy is hosting a "Friends in Ministry Retreat" for ministry wives and women in ministry this May. I'd like to encourage the ladies to attend. For more information and to register go to www.myfriendsinministry.com.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Korea Global Meeting March 14-17, 2016



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

We will be given an amazing opportunity to view the broader scope of the BBFI. We will meet people and pastors from all over the world whose lives have been eternally impacted through the ministries of our missionaries and the churches who sent them. We are part of something enormous that God is doing worldwide, and this meeting will help all who attend to realize this fact.

BBFI missionaries Isaac and Jane Foster first went to Korea in November 1954 and began to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ, disciple them, and start churches. During the next ten years they were joined by the Baskin, Patrick, Whicker, Chiles, Shiver, and Lasater families. Through the efforts of

these servants of God, many more people came to know Jesus as Lord. It wasn't long before more families joined the evangelistic efforts and Koreans began to surrender to fulltime ministry. Today, over 250 Korea BBF churches are preaching the Gospel all over Korea. They are also sending their own missionaries around the world. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to meet many people who are the fruit of these efforts.



A personal welcome from Korea

It is our great joy and privilege to host the Baptist Bible Fellowship International Global Meeting, March 14-17, 2016, in Korea. It will be the time for those who have the same faith around the world to gather together, encourage each other, and renew the Great Commission our God committed to us. So we welcome all of you, pastors, missionaries, and Christian workers, to Korea!

The fruit of the BBFI mission work in Korea and other countries is that they used to be mission fields, but now they have become sending fields, sending out missionaries to unreached people of the world. This makes world missions what God meant it to be. Also, as you come to Korea, you will experience Korean culture and tourism, such as the DMZ, King's palaces, Folk Village, and City Tour. Not only will you experience Korean culture, but you will also be able to see what cross-cultural missionary work is all about. We will do our best to host all of the BBF groups from various countries. We have great expectations for the Global Meeting that we will have wonderful fellowship, encouragement, and strength to do more for the Lord's Harvest.

Pastor Rhyu Hyun Taek
President of Korea Baptist Bible Fellowship

Dr. Daniel Wooseang Kim
Senior Pastor of BulKwangDong Bible Baptist Church

A church planter's vision



by John A. Gross | Church Planting | BBFI

What a thrill to see the overwhelming number of church planters at the Orlando meeting. The energy and fire they brought to the meeting was extremely exciting.

Anthony Milas is our regional leader for the New England area. He has done a fabulous job of planting churches in this region by training and mentoring several young men from his ministry. Here is part of his New England story:

If God has called you to plant a church, then He will give you the ability to do it. The time has never been better to start churches. Whatever corner of the country you live in, there are people who are waiting to come across a church like the one in your heart.

We buried the idea, the concept, and the history of the struggling Granite State Baptist Church. The funeral gave way to the birth of a new church, founded on the conservative doctrine found in the Scriptures.

From the beginning, they knew that the strength of their church wouldn't be in their seating power, but rather their sending power. So in 2001, with a few people in the pews and even less money in the bank, Granite started Crossroads Church in the small town of Pelham, NH.

In 2003, Granite launched Journey Baptist Church. Today, under the leadership Rob and Krista Willis, Journey is a thriving community looking to start a new location in the future.

In 2007, Granite partnered with their first two plants to birth the Dialogue Church in Manchester, NH, and New Heights Community Church in Haverhill, MA, both led by people from the Granite church staff.

The story continues. In 2011, Granite was faced with the issue of more people than seats, and after holding four services on a Sunday, they embraced the idea of becoming one church in multiple locations. We said, "We won't allow space or time slots to dictate our ability to reach people with the Gospel. We will meet in movie theaters, schools, hotels — anywhere that gives us the ability to reach people for Jesus." Since that shift, Granite has launched three additional locations and a church plant in the city of Danvers, MA, under the leadership of Mason and Amber Adair.

For church planters with a dream in your heart, surround yourself with others who believe God isn't finished starting churches. Today our attendance is 1,600 at Granite Church, 400 at Crossroads (our first plant), 600 at Journey Church, and 400 at Dialogue Church.

We have many other young men who are planting successful churches in our Fellowship and we want to share their testimonies in the future as we continue to make progress with our APEX program.

Editor's Note: In this column in the February 2015 issue, Dunnegan Bible Church was mentioned as a BBF Builders project. The actual name of the church is Dunnegan Bible Baptist Church.

Come in WE'RE
OPEN

Thank you

To those who have already participated in the February Tribune Offering, we would like to say "Thank you". As of early March, the *Tribune* has received \$72,111 in commitments.

We are still quite a way from our goal of \$150,000, but we have not heard from many of our friends and supporters yet.

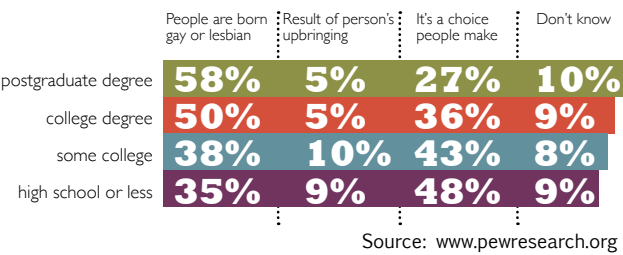
You can participate in one of three ways:

- Tell us the amount of your commitment by telephone at 417.831.3996
- Email us with a note giving us the amount of your commitment at editors@tribune.org
- Send your commitment card (call or email for a card) to Baptist Bible Tribune, 720 E. Kearney, Springfield, MO 65803

The *Tribune* will continue publishing the good news of what God is doing in the Baptist Bible Fellowship only with the aid of our partners in the Fellowship.

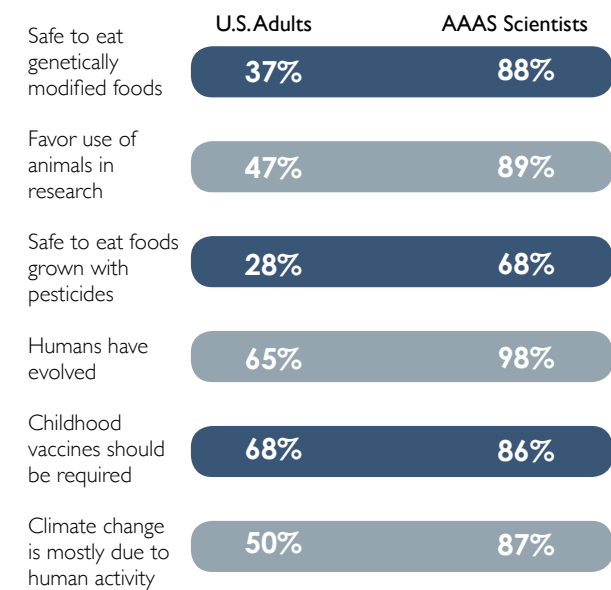
Level of education influences outlook on homosexual lifestyle

A study by the Pew Research Center seems to indicate that among Americans, the higher the level of education, the more likely they are to accept homosexuality as a natural and normal lifestyle into which someone is born.



Regarding science: U.S. public has different outlook than scientists

Despite broadly similar views about the overall place of science in America, citizens and scientists often see science-related issues through different sets of eyes. There are large differences in their views across a host of issues.



Top 10 things churches just won't give up

1. Worship and music style Even though God loves all kinds of worship, this isn't so for many congregants, many of whom leave churches solely because of the style of worship during service.

2. Order of worship service A large number of congregants believe the traditional sequence of their worship services must follow a specific order. Changes in the Sunday church lineup is frequently met with uneasiness and even contempt.

3. Times of worship service(s) Diversion from the "set" schedule can cause disharmony within congregations, who often schedule their Sundays around worship service.

4. Role of the pastor Even though the duties of pastors vary widely based upon specific congregations' needs, many come to believe that there is a set of standards by which all pastors must abide.

5. Committee structure Regardless of whether or not they are needed, church boards or other leadership groups within congregations are considered by many as being an inseparable aspect of many churches.

6. Specific ministries and programs Oftentimes, needs and finances change over time, calling for new, revised, or dropped programs. Such alterations can result in highly contentious exchanges that are detrimental to a healthy church.

7. Location of church facility Location, location, location — where the worship center is placed should not be an end-all debate that is the determining factor of one's membership.

8. Use of specific rooms Needs change, and so do available spaces within a church. Understanding and flexibility are as important inside the church as they are within the Christian home.

9. Business meetings As times and church staff change, the structure of meetings often remains the same out of "deference" to long-established traditions.

10. Staff ministry descriptions Even though concessions must never be given regarding the Scriptures, roles within the church often need to change as demographics and church needs evolve. Such changes should not be regarded as if one is altering the Bible.

Source: www.OneNewsNow.com, LifeWay Christian Resources

In the NEWS of the WEEK

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Bill Purdy, Pastor
Albuquerque, N. M.

To The Tribune:

The Lord is blessing our Fellowship churches in this city. Last Sunday we had the best day in the history of our church. We had 11 additions to the church, one by profession of faith and 10 by letter. Seven of the 10 were of the same family. This was the first time this family had been in our church.

We are working to have 125 in Sunday school Easter Sunday, which will be "family day" in our church.

Temple Baptist church, Muskogee, Okla., Bert J. Homer, pastor had the first service in the new building April 10. During March the church had eight professions of faith in Christ, one of them being a man 67 years old. He was saved in his home through the efforts of a member of the church who was visiting.

Bible Baptist church, Pampa, Texas, H. M. Hutchinson, pastor, had in March the best month in the history of the church. The Sunday school averaged over 300 a Sunday. Mr. Hutchinson writes that the church is becoming increasingly mission minded.

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH

E. D. Hill, Pastor
Arlington, Texas

To The Tribune:

The Lord has really been blessing the Lighthouse Baptist church of Arlington the past several months. When we took this small church in April, 1954, there were only one other family and my wife and I, and a total of five in Sunday school. For many weeks and months we struggled along, with just a few in number and lots of services the five of us. The church did not give anything to missions and had not baptized any of the ones that had been saved or had come into the church from other denominations. I was the fourth pastor that the church had had, the short time it had been organized. I felt led of the Lord to start tithing our offerings to missionaries of the Baptist Bible Fellowship. We voted on this, and it was unanimously agreed to give 10 per cent of our offerings, (small as they were) to the missionaries of the Fellowship. Our first monthly check amounted to only \$10. The past month has been our greatest, with \$70.40.

We completed our baptism as soon as possible and baptized the ones that had presented themselves. After a few months of testing, the Lord started blessing on every hand. We gradually began to get a family or two every now and then.

When we started averaging in the 30's in Sunday school, we started a Sunday school building that will take care of approximately 200 people. We finished this building around Christmas and since then our attendance has tripled. On Feb. 27 we had a special all-day service. We had 130 in Sunday school and the auditorium was full for the preaching service. Since then we have averaged close to 100. We have seen numbers of people saved. Last Sunday night six were saved and want to be baptized, and one came from another

We have been praying for The Tribune staff, that it might continue to do as good a job as it has done in the past. This paper has meant more to me and to our church than any other thing I know of. One of the Southern Baptist pastors said the other day, "Your paper is always fighting us, and we never fight you." But he was just angry because one of his members had left his church and come with us.

BILL PURDY.

denomination. It was a glorious sight to see the altar full of people weeping and repenting of their sins. Monday night on visitation we won a man to the Lord, and Wednesday night at prayer meeting we gave an invitation and one man, about 60 years old, was saved.

Another blessing that the Lord has given us is a wonderful pianist. We had struggled along and the song service was never what it should be. We started praying for the Lord to send us a pianist. He did send us one of the most talented young ladies I have ever known and she loves the Lord. She and her husband are consecrated and love the Lord and have really been a blessing to us.

I went on full-time with the church April 1. Thus far, I have been driving back and forth to Dallas, working 40 hours a week on a job, and pastoring the church besides. We are truly thankful and praise the Lord for this victory—that it is possible for me to be in full-time work and putting my full time visiting, working, and praying for the church.

Arlington lies between Ft. Worth and Dallas and is the center of a great industrial area. It offers a challenge to us to preach the Gospel to thousands of people that have moved and are moving here from all parts of the United States. Many of these say they have never heard the Gospel before. General Motors has a new huge automobile assembly plant in Arlington which has resulted in one of the largest transport companies to move here. God has worked among these men of this transport company in a miraculous way. God gave my wife and me the privilege of going into one of their homes and leading both husband and wife to the Lord. This family has been the key. It seems, to the growth of this church and they have brought many souls to church, where they have found the Lord.

I thank God for my training at Baptist Bible College. It is a wonderful place. I feel that the High Street church has been an equal blessing to me, under the leadership of Bro. Dowell and Earl Smith. I look back and see that it was just as much God's will for my wife and me to be in High Street church as it was to be in the college. To me they fit together perfectly.

The Tribune has been meat and a real strength to me and I thank God for it.

E. D. HILL.

The Oklahoma Baptist Bible Youth Fellowship, north-central division, held its March meeting in Grace Baptist church, Oklahoma City. The meeting was sponsored by Independence Avenue Baptist

Entertainment For Visitors to May Fellowship

[Continued from first page.]

Many of the graduates have gone out to establish churches that are regularly supporting our Fellowship work. This is a meeting every pastor should be interested in. So let's plan to promote and make this the greatest meeting ever.

The High Street church joins with me in extending to each and every one of you a cordial invitation to come and enjoy the wonderful hospitality of the Ozarks.

TEMPLE BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL GOES BEYOND 5000

DETROIT, Mich.—Temple Baptist church had a Sunday school attendance of 5,196 April 3. There were 55 additions to the church and a total offering for the day of \$11,229.67. The pastor, Dr. G. Beauchamp Vick, preached at the morning service, and his associate, Rev. Stanley Kruse, preached at the evening service.

ENID CHURCH HAS 34 ADDITIONS FROM WEEK'S MEETINGS

BY MIKE SCHEPIS

ENID, Okla.—A week's series of meetings in Bible Baptist church proved to be one of the most fruitful in the church's history. Rev. Wally Williams, Baptist Bible Fellowship missionary, preparing for work in South America, was the evangelist. There were 34 additions to the church. April 3 there were 509 in Sunday school and a total offering for the day of \$937.15.

Mr. Williams preached with great power and there was deep conviction manifested in the services. Rev. Scotty Alexander is pastor of the church.

church of Oklahoma City, E. L. Gilliam, pastor, and Sunnymeade Baptist church, James Nance, pastor. There were 300 in attendance, the largest group being from Bible Baptist church, Alva, 150 miles away. Eleven churches were represented, and an offering of \$40.00 was received, half of which was given to the Youth camp. The Fellowship is planning to have a rally in the interest of Baptist Bible College. Mike Schepis is president.

Evangelist Bob Oughton and Howard Jewell had a successful meeting in First Baptist church, Pleasanton, Kas., D. J. Sawatsky,

[Continued on page 5]

ENTHUSIASTIC FELLOWSHIP AT AIKEN, S. C.

AIKEN, S. C.—An enthusiastic fellowship meeting was held in Temple Baptist church here, Rev. Hugh Hamilton, pastor. Ten cities in South Carolina were represented, along with Augusta, Georgia.

Chief speaker at the meeting was Noel Smith, editor of the Baptist Bible Tribune, Springfield, Mo. Mr. Smith spoke to the group on existing conditions in religion and politics and what should be done about them.

"I have a contempt," he said, "for this purely negative attitude so widespread among those who have no sympathy with the ecclesiasticism of the Southern Baptist Convention. We are obligated to expose and repudiate an arrogant ecclesiasticism which has repudiated the historic principles of Baptists; but we are equally obligated to create a responsible substitute for this ecclesiasticism. I will not tear down something until I am sure that I can build something in its place."

A Corporate Responsibility

Mr. Smith said that we have a "corporate as well as an individual" responsibility. "We do not have the right," he said "to do as we please. As servants of Jesus Christ we have the obligation to do all in our power to promote unity among those of like faith and order. It is no secret that I believe in creating a brotherhood. And there is a brotherhood, or should be—a brotherhood composed of those of like faith and order—a brotherhood composed of those who believe in New Testament Christianity. There is a faith and there is an order. And say what you will, if you ignore the order you will not long have the faith. The fact that I am opposed to Modernism and an arrogant ecclesiasticism does not for a moment mean that I am a spiritual and intellectual anarchist."

Among those in attendance, besides the pastor, were Wendell Mullen, pastor, New Testament Baptist church, Augusta, Ga., and his associate, Walton Hatch; Garland Riggall of Augusta; R. R. Tucker, a layman of Spears Creek Baptist church, Blaney, S. C.; and the Spears Creek pastor, A. L. Wood; John R. Waters, Faith Baptist church, Laurens, S. C.; J. C. Cooper, Good Hope and Chimes Bells Baptist church, Warrensville, S. C.; Leo Wallace, Columbia, S. C.; Frank Duncan, Little Horse Creek Baptist church, Graniteville, S. C.; H. C. Godfrey, Grace Baptist church, Simpsonville, S. C.; T. O. Goodson, Calvary Temple Baptist church, Beaufort, S. C.; James Milion, Laurens, S. C.; C. L. Campbell, Wings Heights Baptist church, Spartanburg, S. C., and O. D. Baular, Laurens, S. C.



ORLANDO MEETING WAS ALL ABOUT CHURCH PLANTING

REPORTS FROM BBFI OFFICERS



Eddie Lyons BBFI President

We had a great meeting in Orlando. I'd like to first thank our host, Pastor David Janney and staff, for doing such a great job hosting what was a very encouraging and inspiring time. There were several things that stood out to me.

1. We had over 30 church planters in attendance. The theme of the meeting was church planting. These men brought a new level of energy because of their sacrifice and commitment. Their hearts to reach their

cities, no matter what, was contagious. The starting of new churches is vital to the health of our Fellowship. We honor these men and I urge you to support and help them.

2. We launched a new name for the Fellowship church planting effort. We are now calling this initiative APEX.
3. All of the speakers gave us something to take away. Sean Sears challenged us about

church planting and illustrated how this Fellowship can make a difference to church planters. Rick Blackwood challenged us to think about our mission and vision. His big goal for his church in Miami was inspiring. David Nasser talked about the cost of church planting. His life story showcased the power and providence of God.

4. The fellowship that took place over meals and throughout the meeting illustrated the power of having friends in ministry.



I want to give a special thanks to all of the State Chairman, Representatives, and those who came as their proxies. These leaders of our state fellowships do a good work. It is the strength of the state fellowships that makes us strong. We are not a denomination that has a top-down power structure. The power flows from local churches and state initiatives. We, at the national level, are here to coordinate and serve the grass-root efforts that begin at the local level. It is a privilege to serve with you.



Lewis McClendon
First Vice President – Missions

Dave Janney and his staff put a great meeting together in Orlando. It was exciting to see the large number of pastors, missionaries and fulltime workers who attended. The workshops were very practical and I went away from every workshop with ideas that will be put into practice in my church.

To set up a future meeting, Mission Director Jon Konnerup promoted the March 14-17, 2016, meeting in Seoul, South Korea. The last meeting held outside the United States in the Philippines had a big impact on national pastors who were saved and trained by BBFI missionaries. The meeting in Seoul will be another chance for everyone to see and to be encouraged by the worldwide impact the BBFI is making.



Rob Hoffman
BBFI Treasurer

We do not have final statistics but I was encouraged by the large group of pastors, fulltime workers, and their wives who attended. I was able to meet several new church planters whom I had only known through social media. There was a good balance between older and younger leaders present.

The theme of the meeting was “Compelled,” and the focus was church planting. I was impressed by the compassion and determination of the planters that I met. We have a great young group of men who are compelled to plant churches in significant areas of our country, and they are succeeding.

Pastor Janney and his team did a great job of balancing the worship and media. Everything was done with excellence, and I sensed a passion to do things right. The choice of speakers was balanced, biblical, and challenging. There was no controversy or negativity from the meeting. Those I spoke with were blessed by the morning seminars, the attendance, and the youthfulness of those who attended.

I was challenged in two specific areas. I was blessed by the excellence displayed in the buildings, the media, the worship, and the preaching. Second, I was challenged to lead our church to focus more on evangelism.

Paul Foster
BBFI Secretary

To me, there are three things imperative for an outstanding meeting: great preaching, great fellowship, and, although not as important, a great location. The meeting in Orlando met all three criteria. The preaching was phenomenal, and the breakouts relevant and helpful. And the fellowship was great, seeing so many new faces both young and old. The highlight for me was the fervor of church planting throughout the week. We saw younger men on fire with a passion, enthusiasm, and energy that gives a shot of spiritual adrenaline which I believe will result in hundreds of new churches.

Sean Sears’s message moved me Monday night. (If you missed the meeting, download the message). As he preached, my mind went back a few years when we planted RiverWest Baptist Church. I understood when he talked about the concern for support, and when he talked about eating and sleeping church planting. He wept as he confessed he was a sinful man with a sinful heart who has a great task before him. What a convicting sermon as the Holy Spirit made us search our hearts.

The ship is turning, and the momentum is evident as we move forward to the May meeting at BBC and then High Street in September.





BREAKOUT SESSIONS



Doug Cox

Second Vice President – Education

The Orlando meeting showcased the need for a cause to drive us. By definition we need a cause to drive the engine that empowers our movement to achieve Godly impact in the world today. In recent years, the cause has been diminished by a variety of secondary issues. The Orlando meeting was focused on church planting as were the original energies of our founders. This past week we embraced many styles of ministry in the excitement of building young church planters into successful and God blessed pastors. The cause was back.

The need for our passion to be directed to church planting (the cause) was graphically displayed when President Lyons mapped our Fellowship across the 50 states in a media presentation during the directors' meeting, and we were forced to look at glaring holes in our structure. Orlando lifted the whole movement of rebuilding and increasing the outreach of our Fellowship onto the next level by welcoming men on the fringe to join in the mainstream.

It was noted that church planting isn't measured by loan values but eternal values. Our flagship school announced that the strenuous efforts of the past two years resulted in some very good news from ABHE (an accrediting association). However, the meeting allowed us to see the benefit of having a meeting focused on one area — church planting. We had committee meetings and breakouts, but the day belonged to the church planters and the momentum grew.

Looking ahead, would it be too much to assume that on our 65th birthday, the May meeting could be focused on the value of our educational entities? And could we begin even now to fuel the excitement of missions in Korea for March 2016.

Dan Greer

Third Vice President – Church Planting

I think Dave Janney and his team did a remarkable job putting the program together. The music was a great mix of classical hymns and contemporary worship with a massive multi-church choir on the first night. The speaking format was ingenious with ten-minute testimonials representing various age groups in the evening followed by a great sermon, and then morning sessions coupled with breakouts before lunch.

One of the most exciting things for me was to see the large number of young pastors, church planters, and prospective church planters at the meeting. We even had a few young men attending from the SBC with interest in our network. Younger pastors and potential planters from all over the country were engaging John Gross and me in conversations about networking, information sharing, fund raising, mentoring, regional organization, and training. It seems that issue-oriented fragmentation that has caused considerable damage in the past is on its way out and these young men want to reunite in an effort to make a major impact in our country for the cause of Christ.

Our business meeting was conducted on a positive note with good reports from all the subcommittees. One of the highlights of the business meeting was a report from the church planting office that, over the past six months, we have seen a reduction of nearly a million dollars in our exposure to mortgage liabilities associated with NCPO.

I personally think we accomplished much in Orlando. The atmosphere was great, the preaching challenged us, and I left encouraged. I want to thank Dave Janney and Orlando Baptist Church for hosting the winter meeting and making it such a pleasant experience.

15 STEPS TO THE RESURRECTION

The Christian faith is unique because of Easter. The founder of every major religion except Christianity is dead and buried.

Yes, Jesus Christ died a sacrificial death but he also rose from the dead after three days. True salvation was provided by God himself through the atoning death of his Son. And his resurrection proved, among other things, his deity (John 2:19-22), the guarantee of the believer's resurrection (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:12-14, 20; Col. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:3; Rev. 1:5), and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and resurrection power (John 14:17; Acts 2:38; Rom 6:4; 8:11-14; Eph 1:13-14, 20; Phil 3:10-16).

The final steps leading up to the most profound and far-reaching event in human history unfolded over eight days. The sequence of events in the last week in the life of our Savior's life that lead to his death, burial, and resurrection are recorded in the four Gospels. In fact 28% of the Gospels deal with the last week of Jesus' life. Matthew's Gospel deals with the least at 9% and John the most at 48%. Mark's record uses 38% of his work to report the events of Holy week and Luke spends 21% of his gospel documenting the final days of the Son of Man's life on earth.

In dating the chronology of Holy Week I used the 33 C.E./A.D. crucifixion date as presented by several Bible scholars. Specifically I follow Harold W. Hoehner (*Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*) and Darrell L. Bock's (*Studying the Historical Jesus: A Guide to Sources and Methods*) timeline regarding a 33 C.E./A.D. crucifixion. Their conclusions are presented in a very helpful chart and article by Pete Smith, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Kingman (Kingman, KS). Ron Minton also wrote an excellent thesis on the chronology of the life of Christ as well.

My desire is for each of us to step alongside our Savior and reflect devotionally on this pivotal week day by day, and journey with our savior as he walks towards the cross! If you have different templates from what I am presenting, then plug in the appropriate event that happened on that particular day. Let's keep the focus on the cross not on being cross with each other over differences in chronology.

Now join me as we spend the next 15 days reflecting on Christ's last week of activities focusing on one step, one event at a time, as a way to prepare us to celebrate the greatest event in human history; Jesus Christ is alive! He has risen from the dead!

STEP 1

SATURDAY MARCH 28, 33 A.D.

STEP 2

SUNDAY MARCH 29, 33 A.D.

STEP 3

STEP 4

MONDAY MARCH 30, 33 A.D.

STEP 5

STEP 6

TUESDAY MARCH 31, 33 A.D.

STEP 7

STEP 8

STEP 9

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1, 33 A.D.

THURSDAY APRIL 2, 33 A.D.

STEP 11

STEP 10

STEP 12

FRIDAY APRIL 3, 33 A.D.

STEP 13

SATURDAY APRIL 4, 33 A.D.

STEP 14

SUNDAY APRIL 5, 33 A.D.

STEP 15

BACKSTORY

STEP 1

The backstory of Jesus journey to the cross was the final showdown between our Lord and the religious leaders. All Palestine was waiting to see if the Lord would, once again, confound the religious leaders as they tried to counter Jesus claims of being Israel's Messiah. The people enjoyed watching the Lord completely frustrate and expose the religious leaders as being full of pride and out of touch. They had about enough of this kind of treatment and were plotting to arrest, convict, and execute Jesus during the feast. They feared that if they waited he would slip from their grip again. The leaders were terrified the entire nation would perish if they accepted Jesus as Messiah, and he established a kingdom that would threaten Rome. They reasoned that one man's death is better than all Israel perishing. The Sanhedrin's plot included killing Lazarus (1) because it proved Christ's claims. Then they would arrest Jesus, put him on trial, and finally execute him (2).

(1)
John 12:10

(2)
John 11:57

Father, help me put the Easter season in its proper perspective. Instead of making it about new clothes, Easter parades, and egg hunts, or dinner with family, may I make Easter a time of worship, praise, and thanksgiving for what Christ accomplished for us on the cross.

Lord, we are reminded that the world is broken and does not value the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. They rebel against God and suppress the truth of the Gospel. We pray the lost will discover the true meaning of this holy season.

SATURDAY: MARCH 28, 33 A.D.

STEP 2

Today marks the beginning of the passion of our Lord. On Saturday, March 28, 33, Jesus arrived at Bethany (1). He was anointed at Simon the Leper's house and a large crowd gathered knowing Jesus was there (2).

As an act of devotion, Mary poured very expensive perfume, worth a year's wages, over the head of Jesus while he was reclining at supper. She then wiped his feet dry with her hair. The disciples, led by Judas, were furious at her for wasting such a costly resource. Jesus immediately came to Mary's defense and praised her for her selfless act of devotion. He praised her for her spiritual insight and understanding of his ultimate mission — his death on the cross. As a result, Mary will always be remembered for this act of love.

(1)
John 12:1

(2)
Matt. 26:6-13
Mark 14:3-9
John 12:1-9

Lord, as we begin this holy season help us to distinguish between the good and the best. May we not become consumed with planning and preparing for all of the Easter activities. Keep us from becoming frustrated and angry over missed deadlines, computer glitches, and overworked edgy people in our family and our church. Help us to pace ourselves and not be consumed with the work of ministry above families, friends, and our walk with the Lord. We want the most important things; to worship our savior for dying in our place, for forgiving us of our sins so we will have credibility when we share the Gospel with our friends, family, and our community. We pray in Jesus name, Amen.

SUNDAY: MARCH 29, 33 A.D.

STEP 3

The next day our Lord and His disciples entered Jerusalem. The date of the triumphal entry was Nisan 10 when the Passover lamb was chosen. Jesus was presenting Himself as Israel's Paschal lamb.

As Jesus enters Jerusalem from Bethany through the Sheep gate, he begins to weep for the holy city. His lament over the nation's failure to respond in faith is deep and profound. Our Lord understands the consequences for rejecting Him as Savior and Lord. He sounds like Jeremiah weeping over the exile (1) or Isaiah proclaiming the fall of Jerusalem (2). He wept uncontrollably and violently as he looked out over Jerusalem and contemplated their rejection of him and ultimate destruction by Titus in 70 A.D. There is no hope for any of us outside of Christ (3).

(1)
Jer. 6:6-21

(2)
Isa. 29:1-4

(3)
Luke 19:41-44

Lord Jesus, we worship and praise you as King over all creation and over our lives. All honor and glory belong to you alone. May we weep over our community knowing that rejecting Christ is a sentence of eternal death.

SUNDAY (CONT.): MARCH 29, 33 A.D.

STEP 4

After directing two of His disciples to Bethghe to retrieve an unbroken colt, He enters Jerusalem as the crowd shouts “Hosanna to the son of David, Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our Father David! Hosanna in the highest!” The triumphal entry is recorded in all four Gospels indicating the significance of this event in the life of Christ. He was officially presenting himself as the Messiah and King. This was the appointed day that the Prince of Peace would bring peace to the nation (1). Jesus’ claim to be king is verified by four events. First, He proves his claim by exercising his kingly authority by having the disciples bring him a donkey and her foal that has never been ridden. Matthew and John record our Lord fulfilling Zechariah’s prophecy of Israel’s King entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey (2). Second, the crowd proves his claim as King by waving palm branches shouting out parts of Psalm 118:26 — a direct reference to the people’s identification of Jesus as their Messiah. Third, the creation proves Jesus’ claim by being prepared to cry out that he indeed is King if the people did not (3). Finally, Christ’s compassion for Jerusalem and all Israel proved his claim as King (4).

(1)
Dan. 9:24-27

(2)
Zech. 9:9

(3)
Luke 19:39-40

(4)
Matt. 21:1-9
Mark 11:1-10
Luke 19:28-40
John 12:12-19

Lord, your Kingdom is not just for a particular political brand. Renew the church’s vision to aggressively extend the rule and reign of the Kingdom of God throughout the world until you come again or we enter into your presence. Keep the church from focusing on programs and projects that will take away from sharing the Gospel with all people groups. Compel each of us to remain faithful to our main mission which is missions. In Jesus name, Amen.

MONDAY: MARCH 30, 33 A.D.

STEP 5

Early the next day, Jesus and His disciples left Bethany and proceeded to Jerusalem. On the way to the temple complex He became hungry. Seeing a mature fig tree with healthy leaves and sturdy limbs He decided to pick some fruit. Finding no fruit on the tree He cursed it (1). In cursing the fig tree Jesus was pronouncing judgment on the generation of Jews who refused to produce “fruits of repentance” (2). Like the fig tree, they were outwardly religious but inwardly barren of any good works.

(1)
Matt. 21:18-19
Mark 11:12-14

(2)
Matt. 3:8

Lord, search our hearts so we may exhibit fruits of repentance, examine and test our motives for serving you. Judge us based on our relationship to Jesus Christ not our good works. Our good works are not the basis of our salvation but the result of our changed lives, and our desire to serve you out of love and devotion.

MONDAY (CONT.): MARCH 30, 33 A.D.

STEP 6

Arriving at the temple complex that same day, Jesus immediately drove out the money changers, sat down, and began to teach the people. Three years earlier he had cleansed the temple (1) for its corruption and now he finds God’s house has become a place of merchandise once again. He immediately drove out the moneychangers and overturned the benches of those selling doves. This house cleaning was in the area reserved for all nations, where the gentiles who wanted to worship the Lord (2) could come and declare their devotion to the God of Israel. He immediately sat down, staying at the temple on guard to prevent further abuses, and began to teach the people that the temple was not the place for commercial activities. Yes, Jesus has the authority not only to purge, but to provide security and safety in the Father’s house. The religious leaders were furious but could not do anything because they feared those who were listening and agreeing with Jesus’ teaching (3). After a long day, Jesus and the apostles returned to Bethany for the night (4).

(1)
John 2:13-16

(2)
Isa. 56:7

(3)
Mark 11:18
Matt. 21:10-17
Mark 11:11

(4)
Matt. 21:17
Mark 11:11
Luke 21:37

Lord, may we never lose sight of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Restore our passion for meeting people’s spiritual needs. Keep the church from using God’s people as a tool to become wealthy. We know we are stewards of the Gospel message. It is our duty to have integrity, the right motives, and a humble spirit. Keep us from serving the Lord for personal or professional gain. May we continue to be faithful stewards of the Gospel message by guarding it and protecting it from becoming distorted.

TUESDAY: MARCH 31, 33 A.D.

STEP 7

Today is the longest and most challenging day for our Savior leading up to his crucifixion. The Gospel records no fewer than 30 separate exchanges by our Lord with His detractors and disciples. In a word, the theme of the day is judgment. There are five movements in which Jesus weaves this subject matter into the conversation with friend and foe alike.

Early in the morning Jesus and the disciples returned to Jerusalem. The disciples saw the withered fig tree (1) and remembered Jesus cursing it as a lesson that Israel was under divine judgment for their unbelief. Peter could not reconcile Israel's judgment with the unconditional covenant given to Abraham, so Jesus encouraged him to have faith in God that the promises given to the nation would come to pass (2). Our Lord taught the disciples that faith grows through the power of prayer (3).

(1)
Matt. 21:20-22
Mark 11:20-26

(2)
Mark 11:22

(3)
Mark 11:23-25

Father in heaven, remind us that every person must face divine judgment. Thank you that our sins were judged at the cross of Jesus Christ. We are justified freely by God's grace through the redemption of Jesus Christ because we have trusted him as our Lord and Savior. Amen.

TUESDAY (CONT): MARCH 31, 33 A.D.

STEP 8

Upon entering the temple, Jesus spent the day debating with the religious leaders (1). He taught the priests and the elders truths concerning the Kingdom program through three parables. Later he turned the tables on the Pharisees' and Herodians' attempt to trap him politically with regard to taxes (2). Then the Sadducees tried to undo him with regard to the resurrection, and our Lord turned the tables on them as well (3). The Pharisees take one final shot by asking Christ which law was the greatest (4). Jesus' answer of loving God and loving your neighbor silenced them (5). Our Lord overcame the priests' and elders' trap about authority, the Herodians' political snare, the Sadducees' theological objections, and the Pharisees' concerns about the law. Next, Jesus challenges the religious leaders by asking the Pharisees who the Messiah was (6). If they answered honestly and correctly they would have to recognize Him as the Messiah and King. Realizing their dilemma they remained silent.

After these discussions, Jesus pronounced judgment on their generation — specifically, condemned the Pharisees' misinterpretation of the law and the Scriptures, their hypocrisy, and their external observances that made people appear righteous but within they were full of wickedness and rebellion (7). Finally, Jesus teaches the disciples a lesson concerning wealth and money brought to the temple by the wealthy and a widow. Spiritual giving is based on worship not wealth (8).

(1)
Matt. 21:23-23:39
Mark 11:27-12:44
Luke 20:1-21:4

(2)
Matt. 22:15-22
Mark 12:13-17
Luke 20:20-26

(3)
Matt. 22:23-33
Mark 12:18-27
Luke 20:27-40

(4)
Matt. 22:34-40
Mark 12:28-34

(5)
Matt. 22:37-39

(6)
Matt. 22:41-46
Mark 12:35-37
Luke 20:41-44

(7)
Matt. 23:1-39
Mark 12:38-40
Luke 20:45-47

(8)
Mark 12:41-44
Lu. 21:1-4

Father, the world has rejected the Lord Jesus. The result is that every person who rejects Christ remains under the wrath of God. May we be bold and share the good news that those who believe in the Son have eternal life and will never face the Father's wrath. Amen.

TUESDAY (CONT): MARCH 31, 33 A.D.

STEP 9

In the afternoon, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives and preached on the judgment of the world and the future millennial age; the Olivet Discourse (1). Our Lord's announcement of coming judgment on the city and the nation caused the disciples tremendous angst, so he revealed God's future plans. This message was focused on the eschatological program for Jerusalem, Israel, and the people of Israel.

(1)
Matt. 24:1-25:46;
Mark 13:1-37;
Lu. 21:5-36

Lord Jesus, teach us to pray in faith believing that you will fulfill all your promises to your people in spite of opposition, conflict, and controversy.

Help us to emphasize the heart over habits, a holy life over law, and a commitment to grace living and giving.

Help us to always remember that our future is secure because we will rule with Christ in the Kingdom to come. Come quickly Lord Jesus. Amen.

THURSDAY: APRIL 2, 33 A.D.

STEP 10

The next day, the Gospel writers record 29 separate incidents and exchanges of our Lord on the way to Golgotha. This day seems like it never ends for our precious Savior as the mantle of sin begins to wrap itself around the one who will ultimately bear all our transgressions and drink the cup of death and perdition bearing it on the cross in less than a day's time.

On April 2, 33, Jesus and his disciples prepare for the Passover meal. They make preparations (3:00-5:00 p.m. slaying of lamb) (1) and Jesus then washes the disciples' feet as a reminder that we are to serve one another (sunset/during supper) (2). Jesus then explains that one of them will betray him (3) and Peter wants to know who that person will be (4) and Jesus obliges him (5) and then pronounces judgment on Judas (6). Judas then responds to Jesus and the others (7).

Jesus then shares the Passover meal in the upper room (8). Judas leaves (9) and our Lord shares the new commandment of love (10), predicts Peter's denial (11), and tells His disciples that the sword they will wield in the future church age is the Word of God not physical violence (12).

(1)
Matt. 26:17-20
Mark 14:12-17
Luke 22:7-14

(2)
Luke 22:24-30
John 13:1-20

(3)
Matt. 26:21-22
Mark 14:18-19
Luke 22:21-23
John 13:21-22

(4)
John 13:23-25

(5)
Matt. 26:23
Mark 20
Luke 22:21
John 13:26

(6)
Matt. 26:24
Mark 14:21
Luke 22:22

Lord, deepen our love and devotion to you as we remember your broken body and shed blood so we may experience the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life.

Deliver us from the fear of evil men who may intimidate or persecute us for sharing the Gospel and declaring Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord.

Discourage us from using the weapons of the world to fight spiritual battles and give us courage to stand on the Word of God. We pray in Jesus name, amen.

(7)
Matt. 26:25
Luke 22:23

(10)
Luke 22:24-30
John 13:31-35

(8)
Matt. 26:26-29
Mark 14:22-25
Luke 22:15-20
1 Cor. 11:23-25

(11)
Matt. 26:30-35
Mark 14:26-31
Luke 22:31-34
John 13:36-38

(9)
John 13:26-30

(12)
Luke 22:35-38

THURSDAY (CONT.): APRIL 2, 33 A.D.

STEP 11

Jesus moves on to comfort the disciples by leaving them with a helper and encourager in the farewell/upper room discourse. He tells them, "Let not your hearts be troubled (1). A helper is coming (2) and He gives them the gift of peace (3).

On the way to the garden, he continues with the teaching on the true vine (4), they should remain in His love (5), the world will hate them (6), the Holy Spirit is their helper (7), they will face persecution (8), the Holy Spirit will help (9) and their sorrow is turned to joy (10). They are to pray in Jesus' name as well (11). He predicts their flight (12) and then He prays an intercessory prayer (13).

(1) John 14:1-14
(2) John 14:15-26
(3) John 14:27-31
(4) John 15:1-8
(5) John 15:9-17
(6) John 15:18-25
(7) John 15:26-27
(8) John 16:1-4
(9) John 16:5-15
(10) John 16:16-22
(11) John 16:23-28
(12) John 16:29-33
(13) John 17:1-26

Holy Spirit, be our comforter, guide, teacher. Show us the things of Christ and unite them to our souls. Lead us to the cross and show us the depth of the love the Savior has for us. Help us comprehend the reality of His love. Help us open up the Word of God so that we might remain in you and bear much fruit, overcome persecution by the evil one, and love one another.

THURSDAY (CONT.): APRIL 2, 33 A.D.

STEP 12

Arriving at the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus instructs the disciples to wait while he agonizes in prayer that He would be victorious over death's hold on him (1). Jesus is betrayed, and arrested (2), Peter cuts off Malchus's ear (3), and the disciples run away (4).

(1)
Matt. 26:36-46
Mark 14:32-42
Luke 22:39-46
John 18:1

(2)
Matt. 26:47-50
Mark 14:43-46
Luke 22:47-48
John 18:2-9

(3)
Matt. 26:51-55
Mark 14:47-49
Luke 22:49-53
John 18:10-12

(4)
Matt 26:56
Mark 14:50-52

Lord, teach us to pray. Let us know that prayer brings our will to yours. We can only succeed when we pray according to your divine will. Help us to have a holy boldness to pray for big things for your people and for ourselves. Draw us close to you through prayer and keep us from the evil one, sanctify us in your truth, and send us into a lost world to declare the love of God in Christ,

There are 71 separate descriptions of the events leading up to the death and burial of Jesus Christ. The Gospel writers used three movements to record the day our Savior died for the sins of the world; the trials, the crucifixion, and the burial of our Savior.

The day started after midnight on 3 April, 33, with the first of several trials. A preliminary hearing before Annas (1) then Peter's first denial (2). They then took Him before Caiaphas (3) and Peter denied our Lord the second time (4). Finally Jesus is taken before the entire Sanhedrin and is sentenced to death (5). Immediately Peter denies the Lord the final time, the rooster crows, and he goes out and weeps bitterly (6).

Jesus is then taken before Pilate (7) while, outside the city, Judas, full of remorse, kills himself (8). Jesus does not answer Pilate's questions (9) who sends Jesus to Herod when he learns Jesus is a Galilean (Galilee was part of Herod's jurisdiction). Herod sends Jesus back after mocking and beating Him (10). Pilate declares Jesus innocent (11) offering the people a choice between sparing the life of Jesus or Barabbas. The crowd cries out for Jesus to die and Barabbas to live (12). Pilate's wife is terribly afraid for her husband and his decision to condemn Jesus (13) and Barabbas is released (14).

The second movement is Jesus' crucifixion. He is condemned and sentenced to death (15). He is stripped, beaten, and mocked, then led away for execution (16). His cross has the title "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews" (17) and the soldiers mock Him mercilessly (18). The journey to the place of the skull, Golgotha, begins (19). Simon of Cyrene carries our Lord's cross when he stumbled (20). Many people followed the condemned (21) and they arrived at the place of execution (22).

Jesus is crucified at 9:00 a.m. (23), rejecting wine and myrrh (24) between two thieves (25). He utters the first of seven sayings "Father forgive them..." (26). His clothes are divided (27), and the guards posted the charges that Jesus died claiming He was the King of the Jews (28). The religious leaders are furious (29) as the crowd (30) and they (31) mock our Lord along with the soldiers (32). Jesus is offered wine and vinegar (33) while the criminals mock Him as well (34). One thief repents and the Lord promises that the thief will be in paradise with Him (35). Jesus designates His mother's provision (36) and darkness covers the land from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. (37). In agony Christ cries out for the fourth and fifth time, "My God, my God..." 3:00 p.m. (38) and, "I am thirsty" (39). The crowd reacts (40) and He is again offered a narcotic for the pain (41). The crowd is looking to see if Elijah will save Him (42) while He receives the wine and vinegar (43). Jesus cries out (44) with, "Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit" (45) and finally, "It is finished" (46).

(continued on page 19)

(1) John 18:13-14, 19-24	(16) Matt. 27:24-26 Mark 15:15 Luke 23:24-25 John 19:16	(29) John 19:21-22
(2) Matt. 26:69-70 Mark 14:54, 66-68 Luke 22:54-57 John 18:15-18	(17) Matt. 27:28-31a Mark 15:17-20a John 19:1-15	(30) Matt. 27:39-40 Mark 15:29-30 Luke 23:35
(3) Matt. 26:57-68 Mark 14:53-65 Luke 22:54, 63-65 John 18:24	(18) Matt. 27:27-31a Mark 15:16-20a John 19:2-3	(31) Matt. 27:41-43 Mark 15:31-32a Luke 23:35
(4) Matt. 26:71-72 Mark 14:69-70a Luke 22:58 John 18:25	(19) Matt. 27:31-32 Mark 15:20-21 Luke 23:26-32 John 19:17a	(32) Luke 23:36-37
(5) Matt. 27:1 Mark 15:1 Luke 22:66-71	(20) Matt. 27:32 Mark 15:21 Luke 23:2	33 Luke 23:36
(6) Matt. 26:73-75 Mark 14:70-72 Luke 22:59-62 John 18:26-27	(21) Luke 23:27-32	34 Matt. 27:44 Mark 15:32b Luke 23:39(35) Luke 23:40-42-43
(7) Matt. 27:1-2 Mark 15:1 Luke 23:1 John 18:28-38	(22) Matt. 27:33 Mark 15:22 Luke 23:33a John 19:17b	(36) John 19:25-27
(8) Matt. 27:3-10	(23) Matt. 27:35a Mark 15:24-25 Luke 23:33b John 19:18a	(37) Matt. 27:45 Mark 15:33 Luke 23:44-45a
(9) Matt. 27:11-14 Mark 15:2-5 Luke 23:2-5 John 18:28-38	(24) Matt. 27:34 Mark 15:23	(38) Matt. 27:46 Mark 15:34
(10) Luke 23:6-12	(25) Matt. 27:38 Mark 15:27 Luke 23:33b John 19:18b	(39) John 19:28
(11) Luke 23:13-16	(26) Luke 23:34a	(40) Matt. 27:47 Mark 34:35
(12) Matt. 27:15-23 Mark 15:6-14 Luke 23:17-23 John 18:39-40	(27) Matt. 27:35b Mark 15:24b Luke 23:34b John 19:23-24	(41) Matt. 27:48 Mark 15:36a John 19:29
(13) Matt. 27:19	(28) Matt. 27:36-37 Mark 15:26 Luke 23:38 John 19:19-20	(42) Matt. 27:49 Mark 15:36b
(14) Matt. 27:24-26		(43) John 19:30a
(15) Matt. 27:24		(44) Matt. 27:50a Mark 15:37a Luke 23:46a
		(45) Luke 23:46b
		(46) John 19:30b

Jesus dies for the sins of the entire world (47), the temple curtain is torn (48), an earthquake shakes the city (49) and the dead are resurrected (50). The centurion laments the Savior's death (51). The Jews want the bodies down due to Sabbath regulations (52) so the soldiers break the legs of the criminals (53) but only pierce the side of Jesus with a spear (54) as the witnesses watch (55).

Jesus is taken down from the cross and Joseph of Arimathea requests His body (56). Pilate is surprised at Jesus' quick death (57) but released His body to Joseph of Arimathea for burial (58). He buys linen cloth (59) while Nicodemus brings a supply of myrrh and aloes (60). Joseph removes Jesus' body from the cross (61) and His body is wrapped in linen cloth and spices (62). Nicodemus and Joseph place Jesus in the tomb (63). The women witnessed Jesus' body laid in the tomb (64). A stone is rolled in front of the entrance (65) and Joseph of Arimathea leaves (66) as the women go to prepare the spices (67).

(47)
Matt. 27:50b
Mark 15:37b
Luke 23:46c
John 19:30c

(48)
Matt. 27:51a
Mark 15:38
Luke 23:45b

(49)
Matt. 27:51b

(50)
Matt. 27:52-53

(51)
Matt. 27:54
Mark 15:39
Luke 23:47-48

Lord, as we kneel before your cross we see the horror of our sins. Our transgressions have made you a curse.

Show us our guilt by your crown of thorns, wounds of hands and feet, your bruised body, and cries of agony.

(52)
John 19:31

(53)
John 19:32

(54)
John 19:33-34

(55)
Matt. 27:55-56
Mark 15:40-41
Luke 23:49
John 19:35-37

(56)
Matt. 27:57-58a
Mark 15:42-43
Luke 23:50-52
John 19:38a

(57)
Mark 15:44-45a

(58)
Matt. 27:58b
Mark 15:45b
John 19:38b

(59)
Mark 15:46a

(60)
John 19:39

(61)
Mark 15:46b
Luke 23:53a

(62)
Matt. 27:59
Mark 15:46c
Luke 23:53b
John 19:40

(63)
Matt. 27:60a
Mark 15:46d
Luke 23:53c
John 19:41-42

(64)
Matt. 27:61
Mark 15:47
Luke 23:55

(65)
Matt. 27:60b
Mark 15:46e

(66)
Matt. 27:60c

(67)
Luke 23:56a

BUT THAT IS
NOT THE END.
THERE IS AN
AFTERWORDS...

SEE P. 30

BAPTIST history

By Doug Kutilek

FRANK W. BOREHAM — Pastor and author

Frank W. Boreham (1871-1959), a native of England and raised by devout Christian parents, attended school through age 14, worked for wages for several years, and then went to London hoping to secure a career position at 17 (he was accomplished at short-hand). He was converted while in that metropolis.

After a brief and unpleasant association with the Plymouth Brethren, he eventually became a Baptist, submitting to believer's immersion. Experiencing God's call into the ministry, he sought admission to Spurgeon's Pastors' College — reportedly being the last student personally interviewed and admitted by Spurgeon before his own death in January 1892. Boreham spent two and a half years studying at the college.

During his days in London, Boreham heard and was influenced by Charles Spurgeon, D. L. Moody, F. B. Meyer, but especially A. T. Pierson. Burdened for missions, Boreham applied to J. Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission, but was not accepted due to a pronounced and painful limp he had because of a nearly fatal leg injury in his teens. Ultimately, Boreham went out to pastor a small congregation — in New Zealand, as remote from England as any inhabited spot on earth! Unmarried at his departure at age 24, he left behind Stella, a 17-year-old who would, as soon as she turned 18, sail

unaccompanied to New Zealand to be married to the young pastor.

Boreham spent about a decade in each of three pastorates, first in New Zealand, then on the island of Tasmania, and finally in Australia proper. During his first pastorate, he became a religious columnist in a local New Zealand newspaper, the beginning of a half-century writing career, during which his multiplied essays (more than 3,000) and some 46 books (often compiled from the essays, though several of them originated as sermons) were written. Among his books of sermons is *A Bunch of Everlastings, or Texts*

that Made History (1920) which is perhaps the most famous of his many published books. It is part of a series of 125 sermons on Biblical texts that transformed individual lives. In it Boreham discusses notable names from Christian history such as Martin Luther, John Bunyan, David Livingstone, Charles Spurgeon, William Carey, and Andrew Fuller, and particular

Biblical texts that had a dramatic and transforming effect on their lives, sometimes in conversion, sometimes in directing them toward their life's work as servants of Christ.

Boreham was a voluminous reader. He recognized that to write much and well, he had to study much, in order to have something worthwhile to say. He resolved to buy and read at least one book per week (biographies and autobiographies were areas of special interest to him), a practice he continued for decades, accumulating a great wealth of information in the process. He incorporated his accumulated stores of knowledge into his Sunday sermons and his weekly newspaper essays.

He retired from the pastorate at age 57 in 1928, devoting the rest of his life to writing and preaching.

The chatty, familiar, and engaging style in his essays and books, in conjunction with the diverse and interesting information they contained, made Boreham's writings a delight to read, and he became an internationally famous author during his lifetime. Once he was introduced by another preacher to an audience of preachers as "the man whose name is on all of our lips, whose books are on all our shelves, and whose illustrations are in all our sermons!"

Nearly all Boreham's books have quaint titles: *Arrows of Desire*, *The Luggage of Life*, *A Casket of Cameos*, and *Mushrooms on the Moor* are typical examples (a complete list of his books, with the dates of original publication, can be found on p. 257 of *The Story of F. W. Boreham* by T. Howard Crago). While Boreham's writings are generally far from rare in the used book trade, the original English and American editions fetch somewhat above average prices. Many of his writings have been reprinted in recent years, mostly in paperback, some with altered titles; some never-before-issued-in-book-form new compilations have also appeared. All these are easily acquired through internet booksellers. These literary gems will most assuredly repay the trouble to obtain and read them.

A brief account and appreciation of Boreham's life and labors was included by Warren Wiersbe in his book Walking with the Giants (Baker, 1976), pp. 152-160. The Wikipedia article on Boreham is an adequate short survey. There are two full-length biographies of Boreham: My Pilgrimage: An Autobiography (1940); and T. Howard Crago's, The Story of F. W. Boreham (Marshall, Morgan and Scott, 1961), written with Boreham's cooperation, and published not long after Boreham's death.





URBAN CURRENT

Thriving in an Urbanized World

Whatever your address, you live in an urbanized world. Cities run the world. The powers, ideas, and influences of urban centers impact every person on the planet.

The benefits of living in an urbanized world are many. So much is so much closer. Information. Data. Culture. Opportunity. Options.

We readily recognize the negatives of an urbanized world. The frenetic pace. So many voices. So many powerbrokers. A tsunami of information. Innumerable ideas and influences competing for the same space. These all contribute to the intensity of our day.

Yes, there is the rip and tear inflicted by an urbanized world. Many are not doing well in this environment. How about you?

Ironic. Humans have created this urbanized world which can be so hostile to humanity. Life complexity is exhausting. The problems can seem stifling. These elements take their toll on us physically. Never has it seemed that so many are suffering from non-accident related ailments and damage. There is a mental toll. Too much data, limited capacity to process. Emotionally we are taxed, strained, weary.

It goes without saying this urbanized world sucks the life out of our souls. There is no rest, no life-space. People living in rural areas are experiencing as much rat race as anybody else. What, with all the physical, material, sensual temptations, and external stimuli, spiritual life suffers big time.

William Wilberforce nailed it 200 years ago when he said, "The multiplication of great cities also, and above all, the habit, ever increasing with the increasing wealth of the country, of frequenting a splendid and a luxurious Metropolis, would powerfully tend to accelerate the discontinuance of the religious habits of a purer age, and to accomplish the substitution of a more relaxed morality. And it must even be confessed, that the commercial spirit, much as we are indebted to it, is not naturally favorable

to the maintenance of the religious principle in a vigorous and lively state."

And don't get me started about our impaired relational health. An urbanized world isn't friendly to relationships. Families are scattered, separated, rootless, tired, frayed. Many are technically tethered but practically estranged. With all the emphasis on the external, true intimacy becomes rarer.

Can we survive in an urbanized world? Can we thrive in this 21st-century environment?

Scripture centers on the city of Jerusalem. The New Testament drama is populated by characters thriving in 1st-century cities.

Jesus grew up in Nazareth, which, truth be told, was a hick town. But it was on a ridge with a view of Sepphoris a few miles away. This was a large, brand spanking new Roman city throbbing with life and activity foreign to the God-fearing Jew. Jesus undoubtedly was a frequent visitor.

Jesus said to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and these other things will be added to you. Spiritual things are first. Spiritual values and investments, spiritual relationships, and activities are a priority.

Paul was an erudite urbanite, comfortable in every situation, with any kind of people or culture. He speaks of supernatural strength. In an unstable world, in a taxing environment, we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.

Think of Daniel, Nehemiah, Esther each thriving in challenging urban environments.

Daniel and his captive friends remind us that life commitments are absolutely necessary in a hostile culture. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.

What does Nehemiah's life say to people living in places like Detroit, New Orleans, Mogadishu, or our own disintegrating culture? Nehemiah didn't run from the destruction. He ran to it. Let's not hide behind church walls. Hear his call. "Rise up and build." Let's envision renewal. Let's get out in our world and build

something that honors God and serves people.

Esther reminds us to understand our moment. She received Mordecai's exhortation. Maybe you have "come to the kingdom for such a time as this." Understanding God placed us in this generation and armed us with everything we need to survive and thrive is key.

How to thrive? There must be a deliberate acknowledging of reality. You do live in an urbanized world! If you receive an inheritance but don't acknowledge it is actually yours, it will sit unused, unspent, uninvested. If you have a disease, you probably will not deal with it proactively until you acknowledge you have it.

Next, love the world God loves. The earth is the Lord's, all of it. The world and everybody who lives in it is His. For God so loved the world He gave His only Son. We are called to love the world God loves.

Think of living as serving, and living the life of a servant as thriving. We are called to serve. Fulfilling that purpose is to thrive, whatever the environment.

God provides us with practical anchors in our stormy world. The Lord's church is our spiritual family, our local spiritual army unit, our shelter, our feeding station, our encouragement depot.

The Lord's day anchors our schedule. The first day of every seven is devoted to worship, spiritual nurture, and service.

The Lord's tithe helps us remember to trust God day to day, lay up treasure in heaven, and live for eternity.

Scripture is jammed with people who thrived in hostile cultures. It's our turn now.

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



Everywhere



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

They are everywhere! Everywhere I go I meet BBC alumni. They are serving faithfully in every city, state, and country I visit. Over 50,000 people have walked the halls of BBC and they have gone everywhere.

One great thing about our Alumni is their continuing love for BBC. They want to make the lives of our current students better. They have shown this through recent projects. They have remodeled the Student Center and have provided air conditioning and new mattresses for the dorms, making campus life so much better.

Another great thing about our Alumni is their desire to share with our students what they have learned — during Spiritual Emphasis Week, the Next Generation Conference, and at weekly chapel services. There is nothing as powerful as learning from someone who has sat where you sit and then gone on to do great things for God.

One piece of wisdom our Alumni and Friends Association wants to share with our current students is the dire importance of preparing for ministry not only spiritually and mentally, but also physically. Many of our Alumni are facing the consequences of not being prepared physically as health issues have made them unable to properly fulfill their ministry. The alumni want to give our students a way to develop physical habits that will benefit them for a lifetime.

How can they do this? Herb Koonce, president of the BBC Alumni and Friends Association, is leading the way. After meeting with BBC Alumni and current students, the association has adopted a very important project for 2015 — providing a new student fitness center. This fitness center will be located in the W.E. Dowell Fieldhouse and will replace the old run-down center. The new fitness center will feature a renovated room and new fitness equipment. This center, along with the new healthy choice options in our dining hall, will provide students with the opportunity to develop healthy lifestyles that will impact their health, life, and ability to serve the Lord.

When you look at BBC, what do you see? On the outside, it is obvious our buildings need a lot of attention. On the inside, at the heart of what we do, we are preparing students for ministry. I am thrilled with the idea that we can do something really nice for our students that will benefit them in ways that will last a lifetime.

This is a big project with big benefits, but it also has a big price, \$50,000. I am sure the long-term benefits will far exceed this amount, but we need your help, and the help of every alumni and friend, to make this project a reality. What can you give to help provide a stronger, healthier future? Will you help? You can give online at www.bbc alumni.org or you may send your gift to BBC Alumni, 628 E. Kearney St., Springfield, MO 65803.

Saying “Goodbye”... to winter



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

It will officially be springtime by the time you read this. But if you sit where I do, right now, springtime is a dream. Boston has experienced the snowiest six weeks on record — and it has been almost the coldest as well.

How have we managed? Some of you have been kind enough to text or email, a few have even called to check on us. Thanks. It hasn't been easy. C'mon, we even had to reschedule a Super Bowl victory rally in downtown Boston! We embraced the snow for the first few weeks. We called it Snow-mageddon and some of our students even built this monstrous snow “thing” out in front of Henry Hall. But this winter just would not stop! Even our trustee meetings got “blizzarded” out! I finally started looking at students asking God if we had a “snow Jonah” on campus — throw somebody out and maybe then it would stop!

Everybody around here knows I cancel classes for “snow days” at about the same rate as I embrace New York sports teams. Yet we have missed five days of classes in just five weeks! No choice. Many of those we cancelled because the city or state officials were ordering people to stay home. The clincher of how bad it really has been dawned on me a few days back. I was about to walk out the door and went to put on my snow boots for yet another day. I slid my feet in and as I hit the front steps I noticed it. At some point in the past few weeks, I had tied my boot strings about half way up, so I could get in and out of my boots faster. This is the ultimate commentary on the winter of 2015. Snow-slipper-boots. When you have begun to think of snow boots as your “slippers” you just know it has been a winter like no other.



Let me tell you what that means, in real terms, for us at Boston Baptist College. Every typical storm costs us about \$1,000 just for snow removal. We are so far over budget it is amazing. Our energy budget is upside down, with record costs to adequately heat our buildings. And we can't even see what physical repairs will be necessary — because the snow and ice hasn't melted yet. We can tell that we don't expect to have a single gutter anywhere on our property that will survive the winter of 2015 intact. Wow, what a winter.

So as it warms up, soak it all in. When (if) that happens here we sure will! But don't forget the cold. The past few months have been for us like natural disasters in other climates — ice storms for some of you, wind storms for other. The cleanup is enormous and expensive. We sure will need your financial help to put the winter of 2015 behind us.

Plan now to attend the 2015 Missionary Communication Workshop

Pastor Lewis McClendon and Ventura Baptist Church, Ventura, CA, host an annual Missionary Communication Workshop to help provide communication tools for BBFI missionaries.

The next workshop will take place November 1-6, 2015, at Ponderosa Pines Christian Camp in Running Springs, CA.

This past November, 32 missionaries and church staff members attended the workshop, held at camp Pondo, 6,500 feet in elevation surrounded by pine and oak trees. Participants typically work through three daily elements. The first element is the morning classes. Workshop leaders Brian Weed, Steve Bender, and Lewis McClendon show participants how to make a presentation of any kind clear and memorable. The second element is the afternoon presentation writing time. Every participant constructs a presentation based on the instruction received in the morning. The last element is evening evaluations.

McClendon says the results are more than

satisfactory. One missionary told him, "I wish I had taken this before starting deputation. This provided structure for preparation and the needed repetition for it to become a habit."

Another participant said, "Communication has been a passion of mine for 30 years. I've read many books and dedicated myself to better communication my entire ministry.

This Missionary Communication Workshop is hands down the greatest instruction, coaching, and tool I've ever had. I've narrowed my focus and sharpened my skills. My public speaking will never be the same."

For more information on the next Missionary Communication Workshop visit www.aboundmissionaryservices.com.



2014 Missionary Communication Workshop participants

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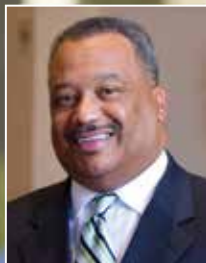


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Don Ledbetter to retire from pulpit

Pastor Don Ledbetter announced his retirement from the pastorate of Heritage Baptist Church in Georgetown, TX, Sunday, February 8, 2015. Ledbetter has been at the church since founding it in 1979 with his wife Bettye.

He has been in ministry since the age of 14, teaching Sunday school for his father Lloyd Ledbetter. After graduating from Baptist Bible College in 1958, Don worked with Art Wilson in Wichita, KS. He and Bettye married in 1959 and the couple served with Victor Sears in Mishawaka, IN.

In 1962, Don founded the West Erwin Street Baptist Church (now Willowbrook Baptist) in Tyler, TX, and pastored there seven



years, followed by a ten-year ministry at Puente Baptist Temple in La Puente, CA.

In 1979, the Ledbetters felt the call of God to start a ministry in Georgetown. They started Heritage Baptist Church, where they have served for over 35 years. Active in the community and local organizations, he was twice elected as a school board member in a local school district. Don is a well-known figure in the Baptist Bible Fellowship, serving in several leadership positions and ministering on mission fields around the world.

The Ledbetters have three children — Steve, Stacy, and Chris (deceased). Steve has served as associate pastor with Don for 23 years.

Don and Bettye plan to remain in Georgetown as church members and will continue teaching the Senior Saints class. Friends and ministry colleagues are encouraged to send greetings and well wishes to the Ledbetters through the church or by emailing hbcgeorgetown@gmail.com. The members of Heritage are planning a retirement celebration for them April 19, 2015.

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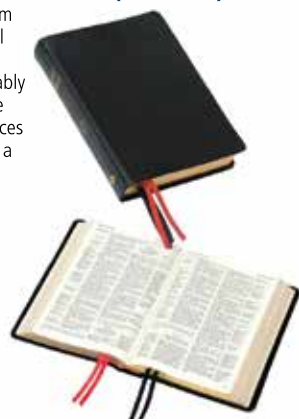
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Piedmont International University and Tennessee Temple merge

In a press release March 3, 2015, the Trustee Boards of Tennessee Temple University (TTU) in Chattanooga, TN, and Piedmont International University (PIU) in Winston-Salem, NC, announced they had voted unanimously to approve a merger of these historic institutions. The merger will officially take place April 30, 2015, pending the approval of the Transnational Association of Colleges and Schools, which accredits both universities.

Established only a year apart in the mid 1940s, the two universities share similar histories and a common mission that stretches back to their founders, Charles Stevens (Piedmont) and Lee Roberson (Lee Roberson). They were friends, and Roberson said, "When we established Piedmont and Tennessee Temple within months of each other, [we] had a gentleman's

agreement that if either school ever faltered, the two should come together." The current merger, born from this common ancestry and mirrored purpose, is, in the words of Tennessee Temple's current president, Steve Echols, nothing short of "providential."

"Little did our founders know that their pledge of support to each other would find fruition nearly 70 years later," said Echols. "Merging with Piedmont is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Piedmont International University is a well-respected, outstanding Christian institution of higher education whose impact through the years for the cause of Christ is immeasurable. We are proud to return to our roots and unite as one."

Following the merger, TTU online students

can expect decreases in their tuition rates and a seamless transition. Online programs will be transferred in their entirety to PIU. Also, residential students who move to Winston-Salem will experience a drop in tuition and room and board of around 25 percent. Several TTU Board members will join PIU's Board, and a portion of TTU's faculty and staff will be making the move to Piedmont.

PIU's president, Charles Petitt, believes the merged school will have far greater potential together than either school could have realized alone. While TTU is moving and PIU will retain its name, neither school disappears. Tennessee Temple's legacy will be preserved through the continuation of Temple Baptist Seminary as a school of Piedmont International University.

O'FALLON, MO

Grace River Church celebrates grand opening with 141 in attendance

Grace River Church had its grand opening Sunday, February 8th. Pastor Chris Highfill was thrilled with the results of the day. "Our team and supporters from all over the country prayed and asked God to do something big. We feel like those prayers were answered."

Grace River Church launched January 11th with 105 people in attendance. Leading up to the grand opening, the church did a mass mailer to 20,000 homes five different times all to the same homes for a total of 100,000 hits. "We knew we were seeing some good traction when we noticed our website traffic had gone up four times the amount from previous months," explained Highfill.

Grace River Church is expecting to see some great things happen this spring. Please pray for Easter services as the church sends out more mailers, gets ready to launch their small group campaign, and baptizes some of their first converts.



WITH THE LORD

DOTHAN, AL

RONALD CANNON

Long-time pastor Ronald Cannon, 86, of Dothan passed from this life February 11, 2015. Born August 3, 1928, in Chiefland, FL, he worked for J. Frank Norris at First Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, TX, while attending Bible Baptist Seminary. He graduated in 1946 with a Bachelor of Divinity and was called to Canton Baptist Temple where he served with Harold Henniger a little more than 13 years as an associate pastor and minister of music.

Mr. Cannon was called to Lima Baptist Temple in Lima, OH, in 1961 and was that church's pastor 40 years, retiring in 2000. He also served as interim pastor at Westgate Baptist Church in Dothan, AL.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn, four children, and a host of grandchildren. Services were held February 15, 2015, with Kim Cannon officiating.

SAN ANGELO, TX

CHARLES BEAL

Charles R. Beal, 76, went home to be with his Lord and Savior March 6, 2015. He was born December 29, 1938, in San Angelo, to Charles Turner Beal and Daisy Isabell Lawler Beal. He was married to his wife of 55 years, Winnie Mae Beal.

Mr. Beal pastored Central Faith Baptist Church in San Angelo for 28 years until his retirement in 1995. For the past ten years, he served as the pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in San Angelo.

He is survived by his wife, Winnie, three children, and four grandchildren. Services were held March 11, 2015, at Lifepoint Baptist Church, with Jeff Waller and Lester Swan officiating.

Four BBC students participate in collegiate choir at music educators conference

At the end of January, four Baptist Bible College students performed in the all-collegiate choir for the Missouri Music Educators Association (MMEA) and National Alliance for Music Education (NAfME) convention held at Tan-tar-a Resort in Lake of the Ozarks. BBC students participating were seniors Noah Lyons (Bachelors of Arts in Music and Worship) and Whitney Vowell (Bachelors of Science in Music Education), and juniors Lauren Collingsworth (Bachelors of Science in Music Education) and Joshua Osborne (Bachelors of Arts in Church Ministry with Music Emphasis). Students were chosen for their musical ability, leadership, and attitude.



From left: Josh Osborne, Lauren Collingsworth, Whitney Vowell and Noah Lyons.

The all-collegiate choir consisted of 200 students from 32 colleges and universities. Conducting the choir was Professor Dale Kruse, Director for the Minnesota Opera: Project opera education program and vocal faculty for St. Olaf College in Minnesota. "After the first rehearsal, all four students were excited to perform with such a talented and prestigious group. Mr. Kruse mentioned to me personally about the high caliber of our students and their positive attitudes," said Carol Akers, Baptist Bible College music faculty.

Over two thousand people attend the conference each year, including vocal and instrumental teachers, music ministers, school administration, and parents and students from Missouri high schools, colleges, and universities that are performing at the conference.

"This conference gives all of our musicians the experience of observing other conductors, learning from workshops, and networking with other music teachers whether church or education. It also gives our students a way to expand their horizons," said Akers. "It's a great opportunity to expose the many high school students that attend the convention to the quality music degrees and programs offered at BBC."

SPRINGFIELD, MO

60th Class Reunion

The 60th class reunion of the Baptist Bible College class of 1955 will take place during the May Fellowship Meeting (class of 1954 is also welcome to attend). For information about the reunion, contact Bill Hathaway at (417) 459-5780 or sos4souls7@sbcglobal.net.



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Fellowship Faithfulness awarded to Al Janney

During the Monday evening service of the Midwinter Baptist Bible Fellowship meeting held in Orlando in February, the Fellowship recognized the long Christian service and leadership of one of its founders, Al Janney.

Born January 26, 1928, in Florida, Al Janney received Christ as his Savior at the age of 14 while attending Beaver Street Baptist Church in Jacksonville, FL. He served honorably in the U.S. Army during World War II, and after his return to the States, he married Elinor Brantley in 1947.

He was a student at Bible Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, TX, in May 1950, when the Baptist Bible Fellowship was formed, and

he was among the founders of the new fellowship. He transferred to Baptist Bible College where he was the president of each of his classes and the first president of the BBC Alumni Association.

He assisted Pastor John Rawlings at Lockland Baptist Church in Cincinnati, OH, which was later renamed Landmark Baptist Church, and in 1954 he moved his family to Miami, FL, where he founded New Testament Baptist Church.

Ten years later, the membership numbered more than 2,000, and Dade Christian School had been founded.

As a longtime advocate of Christian education, Pastor Janney led in the founding of both the Florida Association of Christian Schools and the American Association of Christian Schools. In recognition of his leadership and accomplishments, in 1969 Bob Jones University awarded Janney an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

As pastor of New Testament Baptist Church, and later Jacksonville Baptist Temple, now known as First Coast Baptist Church, he served three terms as president of the Baptist




Bible Fellowship.

Mr. Janney now resides in Orlando, FL, assisting in the ministries of Orlando Baptist Church pastored by his son, David Janney, and traveling, speaking, and writing for the cause of Christ and missions.

Because of his close association with the Baptist Bible Fellowship International from its formation to the present, and recognizing his leadership in the areas of missions and Christian education, and as he continues to model faithfulness to his calling and his unflagging commitment to the ministry of the Gospel, he is a rightful recipient of the Baptist Bible Fellowship Faithfulness Award.

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SATURDAY: APRIL 4, 33 A.D.

STEP 14

The day after our Savior was brutally tied, beaten, and executed was the Sabbath. His followers, mostly women, feeling traumatized and numb, try to rest and make sense of what they experienced (1). Their grief was deep and profound.

All is quiet; the kind of quiet that follows a raging storm, a horrible hurtful family fight, or the end of a bloody battle between two powerful armies. The shroud of death hung over the city, the nation, and the earth like a thick dark cloud. Jesus' body lay in repose still bearing the open wounds, bruises, and dried blood from the beatings and trauma of being nailed to a cross for hours and dying an excruciating death. His tomb was sealed and guarded.

The Sanhedrin meet and request guards from Pilate for the tomb (2) but Pilate refuses and the leaders use their own guards for security (3). The leaders were desperately afraid the disciples would come steal the body of the Lord. They believed Jesus deceived the people about his Messiahship and about rising from the dead. The truth was, they deceived themselves and were trying to deceive others. The tomb is sealed and the guard posted (4).

- (1) Luke 23:56b
- (2) Matt. 27:62-64
- (3) Matt. 27:65
- (4) Matt. 27:66a

Lord, today it would seem the enemy has won. Jesus is dead and there is no hope.

Teach us to wait in faith when it seems we are beat down and defeated, when our faith is weak, when people desert us and forsake us, when no one cares for our souls, or when we cannot make sense of our calling. Wait ...

Sunday is coming! In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

SUNDAY: APRIL 4, 33 A.D.

STEP 15

On April 4, 33, our Lord rose from the dead. He is risen! The women at the tomb are met by an angel (1). Jesus appears to the women (2) and the guards report to the Sanhedrin what took place (3). Jesus appears to Simon Peter (4), two followers on the Emmaus Road (5) and finally His disciples, less Thomas (6).

On the first Lord's day there was an earthquake, followed by the appearing of an angel, the opening of the tomb, and the resurrection (7). The group of women came together and started for the tomb just before dawn while it was still dark. Mary Magdalene, being a young woman, ran ahead and arrived first at the tomb, finding it open. Immediately she ran back by the nearest way to inform Peter and John of this fact (8).

The other women completed their two-mile walk from Bethany to the grave site arriving just after sunrise (9). An angel suddenly appeared to them and gave them an urgent message for the disciples (10). Another party of women come a little later and saw "two young men" dressed in white at the tomb, and receive words of comfort and instruction (11). About 6:30 a.m. Peter and John arrive, John getting there first (12). Mary Magdalene coming a little later saw two angels (13). The other women had returned to bear the message to the other apostles (14).

About 7:00 a.m. Jesus first revealed Himself to Mary of Magdala (15). A little later, He appeared to the company of women returning to the sepulcher, and sent them with the charge to the brethren to go to Galilee (16). About 4:00 p.m. he appeared to Simon Peter (17), and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to Cleophas and his companion on the way to Emmaus. Finally, in the evening, probably around 8:00 p.m., he appeared to the eleven and others in the room with barred doors (18).

- (1) Matt. 28:1-8
Mark 16:1-8
Luke 24:1-12
John 20:1-13
- (2) Matt. 28:9-10
Luke 24:10-11
John 20:14-18
- (3) Matt. 28:11-15
- (4) 1 Cor. 15:5
Luke 24:34
- (5) Luke 24:13-35
- (6) Luke 24:36-43
John 20:19-23
- (7) Matt. 28:2-4
- (8) John 20:1
- (9) Mark 16:2
- (10) Matt. 28:5
Mark 16:5f
- (11) Luke 24:4
- (12) John 20:3-10
- (13) John 20:11-13
- (14) Luke 24:10
- (15) John 20:14-18
Mark 16:9
- (16) Matt. 9f
- (17) Luke 24:34
1 Cor. 15:5
- (18) Luke 24:36f
Mark 16:14
John 29:19f

The resurrection is true. It confirms Jesus to be Lord of all. It is proof God's demand for justice is satisfied, and it frees us from the power of sin. The resurrection ultimately provides for our physical resurrection as well. Praise God our Savior is alive! He is risen. He has risen indeed Halleluiah!

APRIL 2015

PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1  MISSIONARY Scott & Gloria Brown <i>Mexico</i>	2  CHAPLAIN Lt. Col. Chip & Sherry Fields <i>U.S. Army</i>	3  MISSIONARY Mike & Sandy Todd <i>Argentina</i>	4  T.E.A.M. MISSIONARIES Daniel & Lauren Schlager <i>Dominican Republic</i>
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12  MISSIONARY Jean-Luis & Diane Van Meris <i>France</i>	13  WORKERS IN Restricted Access Nations	14  MISSIONARY David & Tonya Liles <i>Peru</i>	15  BBFI MISSION OFFICE - SPRINGFIELD, MO James G. Smith <i>Mission Director</i>	16  MISSIONARY Erwin & Amy Santosa <i>New Zealand</i>	17  MISSIONARY Fern Patrick <i>Retired</i>	18  MISSIONARY Billy & Cindy Hargis <i>USLG</i>
19  MISSIONARY Paul & Ellen Byars <i>Philippines</i>	20  MISSIONARY Damian & Ruth Ann Pickett <i>England</i>	21  MISSIONARY John & Tammy Cooley <i>Burkina Faso</i>	22  MISSIONARY Steve & Marilyn Trask <i>Brazil</i>	23  Boston Baptist College <i>Boston, MA</i>	24  MISSIONARY Jonathan & Joanna Liggett <i>Guatemala</i>	25  MISSIONARY Doug & Nedra Shoultz <i>Alaska</i>
26  MISSIONARY Lionel & Carol Martin <i>Portugal</i>	27  MISSIONARY James Henry <i>Retired</i>	28  Brothers of Cyrene	29  MISSIONARY Kevin & Sarah Pine <i>England</i>	30  MISSIONARY Ray & Ginger Crocker <i>Singapore</i>		

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

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THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS."

1 PETER 2:21



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