

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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PEACE

THE ULTIMATE

CHRISTMAS TRUCE

INSIDE

BEING A WISE GIFT-GIVER p.12

ABCs OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PRAYER p.14

PREACHING FROM A GROCERY BAG p.38

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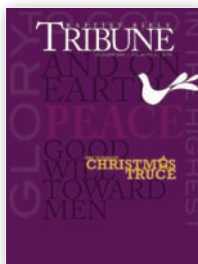
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BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

VOL. 60 NO. 4

D E C E M B E R 2 0 0 9

9

The Ultimate Christmas Truce

Silent guns and an empty auditorium remind one author of an option for peace that arrived on earth that first Christmas.



12

Proverbs: Wise Gift Giving

Extracting eight gift-giving principles from Proverbs can help your attitude and approach when it comes to holiday shopping.



14

ABCs of Highly Effective Prayer

Invest time learning these 26 thoughts on prayer and establish a solid foundation for an effective prayer life.



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

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- 4 **On the Table** - End of the year housekeeping
- 5 **Presidential Perspective** - Look at Jesus and tell others
- 6 **Digressions** - News and views
- 8 *BBFI February National Meeting information*
- 18 **Missionary Letters**
- 19 *Maine voters reject gay marriage law*
- 20 **Baptist History** - James Ireland (1748-1808)
- 21 **Urban Current** - Where is God?
- 22 **WorldScope** - All things considered — amazing
- 23 **NCPO** - October conferences productive
- 24 **School News**
- 29 **Fellowship News**
- 38 **AfterWords** - Preaching from a grocery bag

On the Table

By Keith Bassham



End of the year housekeeping

Though most readers will receive this magazine before Thanksgiving, publishing realities demand I think in terms of the end of the year, and certain housekeeping chores make similar demands.

First a word about the *Tribune* ministry in general. The *Baptist Bible Tribune* is the magazine of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International, telling the good news of what God is doing among the preachers and the churches of the Fellowship. That means in real terms that the agenda and primary content of the *Tribune* will be that of the Fellowship. We are friendly to others within the Baptist community and conservative Christianity at large, but our focus is Fellowship work.

The reasoning is self-evident. While there are other Christian publications I can recommend to readers, no one tells the story of our churches and ministries with the same enthusiasm and focus. Further, aside from the revenue we realize from individual subscriptions and advertising (generally about 20 percent of our budget), the support for this work comes from Fellowship churches. We receive monthly support from hundreds of churches, usually in conjunction with a church bundle subscription, and others participate in the annual offering we receive in February.

As I mentioned above, hundreds of churches receive bundle subscriptions for distribution among members. More than 10,000 churches receive at least one copy of the *Tribune*. The *Tribune* is made available to all the students in our Fellowship colleges. The missionaries receive the *Tribune*. Widows of ministers and retired ministers receive the *Tribune*. Newly planted churches receive *Tribunes*. All these get their *Tribunes*

without charge (although note several dozen missionaries support the *Tribune* monthly), because of the generosity of the *Tribune* supporters.

And so, not just for me, but for all those who receive the magazine at no charge to them, thank you, faithful *Tribune* supporters.

We will begin the church mailing soon for the annual February *Tribune* Offering, and I hope all our churches can participate, if only a little, to keep this vital ministry moving forward with the same quality and focus we have maintained for nearly 60 years.

If you have not visited the *Tribune* website (www.tribune.org) in a while, take the time to check out the new look. Also, we have moved archival material from *The Baptist Preacher*, *Baptist Preacher's Journal*, and important *Tribune* articles to a new website, Bread and Lentils (www.breadandlentils.org). This new website will replace the publications we had formerly produced for ministers, and both sites will have materials not available in our print editions, so you will want to check them often for changes, updates, and special downloads. For instance, during the BBFI Fall Meeting in Canton, Ohio, we provided a link on the website to allow people to see the webcasts of the meetings in real time. Also on the *Tribune* website, we featured Noel Smith's classic essay on the arrival of fall, "Her Imperial Majesty Has Arrived," last month, and this month we are featuring an audio file of Mr. Smith's sermon, "The Church – The Pillar and Ground of the Truth." This is a recorded sermon from the 1973 May Graduation Fellowship Week, and it was his last sermon given to a national Fellowship meet-

ing. You may listen to it online, or download it to listen as you want. The *Tribune* is more than a magazine, much more.

Our friend Tracy Dartt of the singing family, The Darts, is awaiting a kidney transplant at press time. In the meantime, The Darts are still working and ministering in churches (without Tracy for now), and the "God on the Mountain Legacy" CD and DVD are now available. According to Tracy's website, www.darttmusic.com, the film will be available online through iTunes and other digital music providers. I urge those friends of the Darts to visit the website and leave an encouraging message for Tracy and his family.

Speaking of friends, Robert Sumner, longtime editor of *The Biblical Evangelist*, has released a new book, *Fights I Didn't Start and Some I Did*. This newest work contains book reviews, essays, recollections, and page upon page of apologetics, irenics, and debates on theology, social issues, and Christian leadership. I found this fascinating 360 pages of logic and coherence hard to put down. I once told a friend that the trouble with a former pastor becoming an editor is that the pastor in me wants to smooth things over, and the editor in me wants to stir things up. Editor Sumner is pure hard-wired editor, bold and controversial, and the best book reviewer I can think of for preachers. Order the book from Biblical Evangelism Press (www.biblicalevangelism.org) or email doc.sumner@juno.com.

The *Tribune* staff joins me in wishing you a blessed Christmas holiday, and a very successful New Year.



Look at Jesus and tell others

In 1940 and 1941, British author Dorothy Sayers was commissioned to write a series of plays entitled, “The Man Born to be King.” These plays about the life of Jesus were later produced and broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation, but before they were ever heard they caused quite a stir. Some insisted it was sacrilegious to portray the voice of Christ over the airwaves, and many accused Miss Sayers of blasphemy by “personifying the Godhead.” Others objected to the “fictionalized” dialogue that Sayers wrote based on the gospels’ accounts of Jesus’ life. Still others balked at the “modern” language used. But the first play, “Kings in Judea”, was aired in December of 1941, and the public response was overwhelmingly positive.

I am not surprised. You see, when it comes to sheer, powerful storytelling...nothing beats the gospel. There is just no better story, because nothing beats the gospel. There is just no better story, because there is no better Storyteller. “Kings of Judea” was the story of the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of earthly kings, rabbis, wise men, and shepherds. It took the Christmas story out of the church pews and into the homes of hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children who somehow heard it with a brand new attentiveness.

When I read that, I couldn’t help but think of our missionaries on so many different foreign fields telling the story of Christmas in different languages and in new and maybe even unexpected ways to a world that is dying to hear. It is my prayer this holiday season that our Fellowship will somehow tell the story of Christmas in

effective ways. I think there is a challenge to all of us to weave the wonder of the Incarnation into every moment of every day. Tell the story. Tell it in real language. Tell it truthfully, but tell it in a way only you can tell. We might tell it in a gesture, a hug, a smile, a story, a song, a gift, or an act of self-

Isn’t that the truth! That is what life brings to us. Some gold blessings — not just money, but wonderful people, and precious moments we occasionally encounter; circumstance — lots of that, and most unpredictable; and mud — more of that than we want, the bad patches where we and our world some-

We weren’t there, but we can all take a fresh look at the Lord Jesus and tell others what we see.

less patience. Let’s tell it at home and at special church services. Let’s tell it with all the wonder of the eyewitnesses of that wonderful event that changed human history. We weren’t there, but we can all take a fresh look at the Lord Jesus and tell others what we see.

As we again approach the holiday season, let’s remember our missionaries around the world. As the earthly parents of our Lord left their homes to journey to tiny Bethlehem in the will of God, our missionaries have left their homes to proclaim the fact that He was born and the reason why He came to this world.

The children in a small Sunday school were putting on the annual Christmas pageant. A small girl was chosen to represent the magi. They practiced and practiced until everyone had the story ready to perform for the whole congregation. When it came time for the magi’s entrance, she majestically swept up the aisle, draped in jewels from many garage sales and robes of pieces of all the fine fabrics collected from a local discount store. Pausing and bowing before the infant’s crib she announced, “Greetings, baby, I bring you gifts of gold, circumstance, and mud.”

times get stuck.

The mud is around us. The news from Afghanistan, Iraq, and other parts of the world is always a cause for concern and prayer. There are so many young Americans separated from their families and living and fighting in difficult and dangerous circumstances far from home. Our missionaries face spiritual, financial, physical, and emotional challenges in different cultures. Here in the U.S. we get the news of H1N1, political and economic issues, just to name a few. Then we include our unique personal situations in whatever ministry the Lord has us in or in whatever country the Lord has us serving.

But despite the mud and the circumstance, there is gold. Maybe it is gathering with family and friends, a Christmas card from a good friend, a Christmas package for a missionary family from a church in the states, a Christmas mission love offering that alleviates financial pressure at least for a while, the special holiday events that create and trigger wonderful memories from long ago, and then there is the message of Jesus Christ. A message the whole world needs to hear in their language.



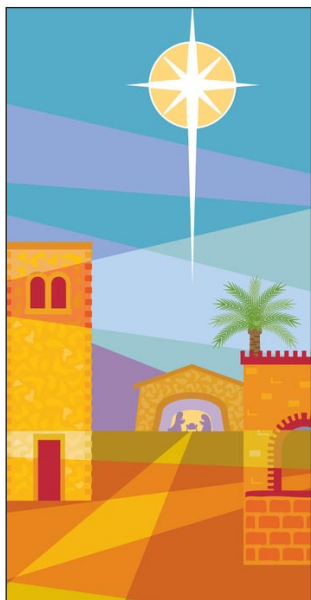
Digressions incontestably are the sunshine; they are the life, the soul of reading.

-Laurence Sterne

O Little Town of Bethlehem

The story behind the lyrics of the Christmas carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem* is well known – that is the words flowed from the pen of a preacher named Phillips Brooks (Yale Lectures of Preaching) as he recalled an evening of worship in the Holy Land some three years earlier. However, most do not know the story of the melody.

Lewis Henry Redner, the tune's composer was born in Philadelphia on December 15, 1831. We know little about him, but he was a talented organist in his youth, and he began playing for the Episcopal church.



As an adult, Redner's primary occupation, was not as a musician, but rather he was a real estate agent. On the side, he was chief organist at four churches during his career. The most important of his music assignments was with the Church of the Holy Trinity in Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, where he served for 19 years.

There, in 1868, his pastor, Phillips Brooks, gave him a last-minute job. He had written a poem, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, for Sunday school children, to be performed at the Christmas service. After struggling and searching within himself for a melody, Mr. Redner finally wrote his tune Christmas Eve, and 36 children accompanied by six Sunday school teachers introduced the carol to the world Christmas Day, 1868,

Neither Brooks nor Redner ever married.

Abortion clinic director witnesses ultrasound, quits

BRYAN, Texas (BP)--The director of a Planned Parenthood clinic in southeast Texas quit her job and is supporting a pro-life organization after watching an ultrasound of an abortion.

Abby Johnson, 29, worked at the abortion clinic for eight years and told FoxNews.com she had been "extremely pro-choice" during that time. That all changed in September when she watched an ultrasound of an unborn baby being vacuumed out of a woman's uterus. She quit in early October.

"I just thought I can't do this anymore, and it was just like a flash that hit me, and I thought, 'That's it,'" she told KBTX-TV in Bryan. Johnson added in the interview with FoxNews.com, "I would say there was a definite conversion in my heart...a spiritual conversion."

Source: Baptist Press, by Michael Foust, copyright 2009.

Viewers attracted to programs about latest evolution theories

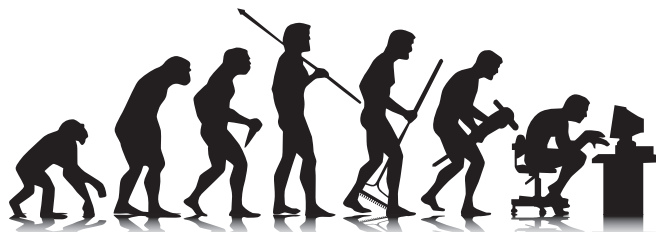
1.8 million

Number of viewers tuned in to the Discovery Channel's October special "Discovering Ardi." The show explained how the recent discovery of *Ardipithecus ramidus* could shed new light on human evolution.

2 million

Number of viewers tuned in to the History Channel's special that aired in May "The Link." The show examined the discovery of *Darwinius masillae* (nicknamed Ida), which is being billed as possibly man's earliest mammalian relative.

Source: Multichannel News, MCN staff, October 12, 2009



Student body president recalled for pro-life stance

A Christian student government president in California faces recall for allowing a pro-life display on campus.

Sacramento City College recently celebrated Constitution Day, an annual celebration of the U.S. Constitution and free speech. The Genocide Awareness Project (GAP), a pro-life organization, requested and was granted a display space at the event. Steve Macias, 19-year-old Associated Student Government president, and Monica Guzman, student affairs commissioner, now risk losing their positions for refusing to kick the pro-life group off campus.

Macias explains the GAP had given a proposal a week prior to being granted the space. The governing body voted unanimously to allow GAP to have a presence on campus. Two days into the event, several pro-abortion groups began protesting the GAP display. That same day, the administration pulled Macias out of class and told him to force GAP to remove its display and leave campus. Macias refused, insisting that GAP had a right to have a presence on campus.

Both Macias and Guzman now face a recall led by several atheist and pro-abortion groups. It is a

process in which both could lose their positions of leadership.

"They're really trying to chill free speech on this campus," says John Ficker, spokesman for the Sanctity of Life Network. "They said Steve was wrong because he didn't invite the opposing side, but the bottom line is they didn't want a pro-life display on campus, and so they tried to remove this young man, just 19-years-old, student body president and he stood his ground."

The results of the recall had not yet been released at press time.

Source: Charlie Butts - OneNewsNow

50 Years ago in the Tribune...

Baptist Bible Tribune

FOR BIBLE BELIEVING BAPTISTS

[Founded June 23, 1950]

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NO. 21

Offering: \$208,674.75

SOUTHWESTERN MEETING AT HOUSTON, TEX.

Down There They Raised \$123,143.00

HOUSTON, Tex. — Following an appeal by G. B. Vick, pastor Temple Baptist church, Detroit, Mich., and president of Baptist Bible College, the Southwestern meeting raised \$123,143.00 for the Fellowship's Thanksgiving offering. The offering was taken by Vick.

The meeting was held in Berean Baptist church, of which H. Frank Fort is pastor. On Thanksgiving Day the church served, free of charge, a turkey dinner to more than 500. The church also furnished free of charge, rooms in the

The Power of God At Jacksonville

BY W. F. ASKEW

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. —

The Southeastern regional meeting was characterized by a manifestation of the power of God. This was especially true on Thursday morning when Al Janney, pastor of New

[Continued on following page]

PACIFIC COAST RAISED \$16,475

BY JAMES O. COMBS

COSTA MESA, Calif. — The Pacific Coast regional meeting of the Baptist Bible Fellowship's 10th annual Missions Conference, raised, in cash and pledges, \$13,775 for the national and foreign work and

Missions Conference Had Revival Atmosphere: All Previous Records Broken

Offering Exceeds Budget by \$19,274.75

The four regional meetings of the Baptist Bible Fellowship's 10th annual Thanksgiving Conference raised, in cash and pledges, a total of \$208,674.75. The budget was \$189,400.00. The difference is \$19,274.75. The difference is more than \$6,000 above the total raised at the first Thanksgiving conference, in 1950, which was \$13,134.37. The Southwestern regional meet-

lege received a total of \$29,613.76. The Thanksgiving offerings have been as follows:

1950	\$ 13,134.37
1951	27,000
1952	50,000
1953	75,000
1954	82,500
1955	117,106.19
1956	143,000
1957	156,575.76
1958	175,920
1959	208,674.75

CINCINNATI

Savannah

GEORGIA



BBFI National Fellowship Meeting ■ February 14-17

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Morris Brown
Mark Hodges
William Fluker
Rick Johnson
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Special Events

Thursday Feb. 18, 2010

Savannah Trolley Tour
Leaves the church at 9:00 a. m. and includes a guided tour of Savannah, lunch at Lady and Sons, and returns to the church by 12:30. Total cost: \$37 per person.

Reservations must be made in advance of BBFI meeting

Golf Tournament
Benefits go to the BBFI National Church Planting Office

The Ultimate Christmas Truce

by Steve VanWinkle

...and on earth peace,
good will
toward
men.

I can't help but hear the voice of Linus every time I read this snippet of the proclamation by the heavenly host on the first Christmas. I remember watching Schulz's cartoon as a boy in our living room, usually cast in the warm glow of our Christmas tree. It was, for me, the official beginning of the Christmas season that seemed never to arrive.

Indeed, all the significant year-end holidays had their official herald with a Peanuts special: *It's the Great Pumpkin*, *Charlie Brown* sent me scurrying for my costume as Halloween inched closer. *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving* made me pause to be grateful that I never had to worry about mom or grandma serving up toast on the fourth Thursday of November.

Ironically, the place I was most likely to get up and scrounge for a Christmas cookie or piece of Christmas candy during *A Charlie Brown Christmas* was during Linus's recitation of Luke 2:8-14 in that hollow auditorium that bore a remarkable resemblance to the one at Meadow Lane Elementary where I went to school.

As Charlie Brown grappled to understand what "Christmas is all about," my answer was the same every year: "Look around, you stupid Charlie Brown...there are lights and gifts and Santas and winterscapes and an-

ticipation all around you...that's what Christmas is all about...stop being so philosophical and enjoy the simple av-
arice Christmas brings to us all."

Of course, I wouldn't have said avarice as an 8-year-old, but it's the word I would have wanted to use, had I actually known it.

Luke's account of the birth of Christ, which Linus offers in answer to Charlie Brown's quest, held almost no significance to me whatsoever as a child. In a kid's mind, the Bible and all things religious were just busywork to get to the tree and the jewels beneath. Christmas is all about presents, I would have concluded, and I would have mentioned days off from school, and anything comprised of more than 85 percent butter and sugar in a close race for second and third.

The Bible, no matter where quoted, was nothing more than a formality — an homage — paid to God in order to enjoy all pageantry and decorations and goodies and, well, basically anything except Luke 2:14 and its declaration of peace and good will.

Now, as my childhood recedes further into the shadows, I look at — and watch — things in ways far different from that kid lying on the shag carpet glued to a cartoon. Not so long ago, watching this old cartoon with my own

kids, I choked up at precisely the place in the show where I was most bored when I was a boy.

Linus walks onto the slats of the auditorium stage like he has done since 1965, lays his blanket down, and begins to quote Luke 2:8-14. His voice is Linus-like and echoes through the empty auditorium; there is no Vince Guaraldi track and no edits to the text he quotes. He recites from memory the King James text that ends with these words:

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men...”

...Christmas's message of “peace on earth” has a power all its own...

As an adult, this announcement is sweet poetry, and with older ears, I hear in Linus's voice a summons to memories of past Christmases, family, and innocence.

As a Christian I also now understand the power of these words. This miraculous birth ushered real hope of real peace for a creation at war with its Maker. Being middle-aged and far removed from the shelter of my childhood, I know this Ultimate War of mankind against God has led to countless other wars and has been the fountainhead of bloodshed, destruction, tyranny, and tragedy for millennia.

But, Christmas is God offering a peace treaty with the world, and that declaration of peace has a power in itself unequaled by any desire of man or treaty of nations. In those words are encapsulated the hope of every soldier, every parent, and every combatant in every year mankind has occupied the surface of the earth.

Most importantly, even when spoken softly by a cartoon character

in an empty auditorium, the primary message of “peace on earth” is the summation of every impossible hope dared not spoken by people lost in sin: Peace with God.

Christmas's message of “peace on earth” has a power all its own. It is at once an absurd idea and an unutterable hope. And its promise is more than strictly future, as this hope has occasionally overpowered the violence and misery humanity has sentenced itself to, and it reveals what can be and what one day will be. One such occasion occurred 95 years ago this Christmas...

By all accounts, the trench warfare of WWI was an amazing failure, with people dying as much from disease and

infection as from bullets or explosions. When viewed from above, muddy, filthy trenches were carved in the ground like evil, twisted snakes and brought near-certain death to anyone nicked by lead or punctured by dirty steel from artillery shells. WWI trench warfare introduced humanity to emotional plagues such as shell shock, physical plagues such as skin-blistering chemical warfare, and it is the namesake of such ugliness as trench mouth and trench foot.

Between opposing trenches lay ghastly No-Man's-Lands with the appearance of being forged in the furnaces of hell itself: Trees were reduced to charred sticks or blackened stalagmites lurching from ground swept clear of vegetation, leaving only grayish black dirt and occasional pools of stagnant water teeming with the rot and disease of decomposing corpses. Thin, menacing clouds of residue from flame-throwers, mustard gas, and artillery slowly oozed its way over the dead landscape day and night.

THE TRUCE ENDS
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ED.

Formidable
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...Christmas holds out the hope of peace on earth...

December 24 descended upon the most nightmarish of all the trenches located near Ypres, Belgium, in 1914, bringing with it the impossible hope of Christmas peace. Nightfall was always when hostilities between trenches were at their peak, as no one wanted to be exposed in No-Man's-Land during daylight. On this evening, however, instead of bombardments from the German lines, what fell upon the Allies were... carols. Christmas carols. In the midst of the ugliest war to date, the lyrical phrases and melody of "Stille Nacht," (that would be "Silent Night" for you and me) replaced the booms of German bombs in Belgium on an icy Christmas Eve in 1914.

Looking up from their festering trenches, the Allies saw candles lining the German ditches, and Christmas trees with candles adorning the branches stood in the place of mortars. The Allied soldiers returned fire by shouting Christmas greetings and carols of their own to the men who had made valiant efforts to kill them only hours before.

Witnesses say German soldiers climbed out of their self-made hell and dared cross No-Man's-Land, not with espionage in mind nor weapons in hand, but with wishes for a Merry Christmas to their enemies. Throughout the night, soldiers from each side exchanged impromptu gifts and shared a makeshift Christmas dinner. They went to church together Christmas morning.

The rifles lay useless on the ground, and the artillery cooled from lack of need. Wounded soldiers were exchanged and the dead properly buried as good will swept across the battlefield, displacing the thin clouds of poison and death. For one glorious period in a putrid war, swords were beaten into plowshares.

And somewhere unseen above must have been an echo of the first

Christmas Eve's message bouncing off the stars that night...

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men..."

The event known as The Christmas Truce of 1914 would last for days, as neither side would fire on the other. Soon, the commanders would hear of this invasion of peace into their war and order hostilities to resume. They would learn from this event, and later they implemented ways to keep soldiers in battle from perceiving their enemy as human beings. But, what can never be undone is that for one evening, at least, and in more than one place, Christmas's declaration of peace overcame war, rendering it obsolete.

Which is what it does every day in the Ultimate War. Christmas holds out the hope of peace on earth through the cessation of hostilities between God and mankind. The Christ Child that is Christmas brings peace to all who receive Him by turning away God's wrath from the lives of sinners, effectively and fully bringing peace to the Ultimate War of people at enmity with God.

The power of God's declaration that peace would come to earth through the birth of the Savior has wonderfully, if not as often as we would have liked, interceded in the affairs of men on this globe. When it has, it reminds us that peace is coming one day as inevitably as war comes to us in our day and overrides cynicism and misery and weeping with a hope that seems absurd but refuses not to be embraced.

The Christmas message of peace on earth offered through Christ is irresistible enough to silence weapons of war, subtle enough to fill the empty auditorium of a kids' cartoon, and powerful enough to offer an end to mankind's long, Ultimate War with God Himself.

It is the Ultimate Christmas Truce.



Being a Wise Gift-Giver: Choosing the Best Gifts for Everyone on Your Christmas List

by Kevin Carson

Ah, the pressures of the Christmas gift list. What do you buy and why? Did you know there are principles from Proverbs to aid you in choosing the best gifts for everyone on your list this Christmas? Before you skim the rest of the article looking for specific items to purchase, don't be disappointed that there are no specific gifts mentioned (you can go to my web page for that — free shipping if you do so in the next 30 minutes! — not really). The idea is not to tell you what is a good or bad, right or wrong, perfect or imperfect gift. Instead, I will at least help get you on the path of wisdom as you seek to buy, make, or somehow provide the best gifts for those on your list — and we won't even consider if the recipient has been good or bad this year (I often fail that one).

The Perfect Gift-Giver

Before we consider the perfect gift, it is important to consider the perfect gift-giver. There is no better example of the perfect gift-giver than God: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).

This passage says several things about gift-giving. First, the character of the gift-giver makes the gift what it is. God's every gift is consistent with His character, and is an extension of who He is.

Second, every gift is given with the gift-receiver in mind. God, who does not sin, can only give good and perfect gifts, always appropriate for the recipient. God provides gifts in the perfect timing, in the perfect amount, in the perfect manner, and to the appropriate person. So every gift from God then is both for our good, and ultimately for His glory.

Finally, every gift is given with the proper motivation. As such, every gift provided to us from God is an expression of His love. Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, is the greatest example of the perfect gift from God.

So, the Christmas gift list begins with you. Do you see your gifts as representations of who you are and what you value as a person? Do you consistently choose gifts with the good of the gift-receiver in mind — a gift that is best for the receiver's life situation? Do you consistently choose gifts with the glory of God in mind? What about your motivation for giving gifts? Are you motivated by love for the recipient and God or some other false motivation like fear of man, or opportunity for reputation-building, or hope of a gift in return, or craving the love of the gift-receiver, or some other variation of a less-than-pure heart? Certainly, we do not want to allow the pressure of our Christmas list to encourage us to miss what should be our primary concern — our own part in the gift-giving process before God and others.

Principles for Wise Gift-Giving

Now, we're ready to think about the gifts. The book of Proverbs contains wisdom, a lens through which you can consider the gifts you give.

Principle One: The gift encourages growth — including spiritual growth, wisdom, intellect, and emotion

(Proverbs 1:2-9; 8:13; 9:10; 10:27; 11:16; 15:33; 16:6; 19:1, 23; 22:1; 25:28).

Solomon's concern was that his son would grow to have both the knowledge and skill necessary to live life pleasing God and being a benefit to others. The process of growth begins with wisdom. Essential to wisdom is knowing the fear of the Lord and learning to receive instruction. Therefore, it is helpful any time you can give a gift that encourages growth. The question to ask is: How does this gift encourage the receiver to grow as a well-rounded, God-fearing person?

Principle Two: The gift exalts godly values

(Proverbs 1:10-18; 2:11-15; 3:29-31; 4:14-18; 12:20-21; 13:11; 16:29; 24:17). Today it may be hard to find and enjoy entertainment that promotes godly values. However, Solomon wanted his son to know the dangers of loving what is not God-honoring and neighbor-respecting. The question to ask is: Does this gift promote God, godliness, and love of neighbor? Or Does this gift exalt sin against others, blur lines of morality, or glamorize unwise living?

Principle Three: The gift promotes Bible memory and application

(Proverbs 3:1-8). Solomon understood that a long and full life was only possible if the child would not let mercy or truth forsake him. The way Solomon presents the concept is two-fold: the teachings are not only to become a lifestyle; they are to become the child's very nature. The benefits of such living are that you learn to acknowledge God in daily living, and God makes your path straight. The question to ask then is: In what ways does this gift promote learning and applying God's Word to life?

Principle Four: The gift engenders time with parents and other godly people (Proverbs 4:1-13; 19:20; 22:17-21; 23:12, 19). It is interesting that parents often complain about children who do not engage in conversation around the home; yet, the same parent will give a gift that discourages time spent together. The question to ask here is: Does this gift engender time with others (parents, grandparents, other godly influencers)? Or Does this gift take time, energy, and focus away from such interactions?

Principle Five: The gift reinforces sexual morality (Proverbs 5:1-20; 6:20-35; 7:6-27).

Solomon says that staying pure and not falling prey to the dripping lips of an adulterous woman is so important that the son should not even get on her sidewalk. Yet, believers struggle with saying no to some gifts that a child may want, though those gifts contain sexually explicit conduct, innuendos, or other “parts” that are on the path. The question to ask is: Does anything about this gift

minimize the power and necessity of purity or the dangers and seduction of sexual impurity and lust?

Principle Six: The gift fosters a stewardship of time and/or work, rather than laziness (Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:26; 12:11, 24; 15:19; 19:15; 20:4; 24:30-34; 26:14-16). The transition over the past hundred years from farms to cities, from walking to driving, and from activity to inactivity makes this goal that much more important. Solomon’s concern is that the lazy person ruins

his life. Therefore, in spite of the natural, cultural flow toward inactivity, the wise gift-giver will consider how his gift will encourage or discourage laziness. The question to ask is: In what ways does this gift spur activity, encourage movement, or promote action rather than making the road smooth toward laziness?

Principle Seven: The gift builds gratitude, discipline, and service to others rather than self-centered pleasure (Proverbs 16:8, 16; 17:1; 21:17; 27:20; 28:16, 27; 29:7; 30:7-9). Every person’s sin nature naturally promotes and accentuates self-centeredness. Solomon is concerned that the wise

than what others have or is most popular (Proverbs 14:21, 22, 31; 23:17; 24:19-20; 28:16, 21; 29:25). It is so easy to choose to give “what another person has,” rather than what is needed. With children who are in school, it is easy for parents to want their kids to keep up with the other kids in the class. We often want to compare piles of stuff to see who comes out the best and biggest. However, Solomon warns against these temptations and suggests that the wise gift-giver considers what is best for the person receiving the gift, based on need, rather than what the neighbor has or might think. Furthermore, a concern for the poor and underprivileged should tend to temper what is

desired or even provided.

The question to ask is: In what ways does this gift fulfill legitimate need? Or is this gift just a “want” because someone else has it or it is most popular?

Enjoy shopping your Christmas list

Understand that any single gift will not take in all the principles at once. Sometimes a certain principle may not apply. That does not mean it is a bad gift. The point is, think about what the gift says about you and the recipient.

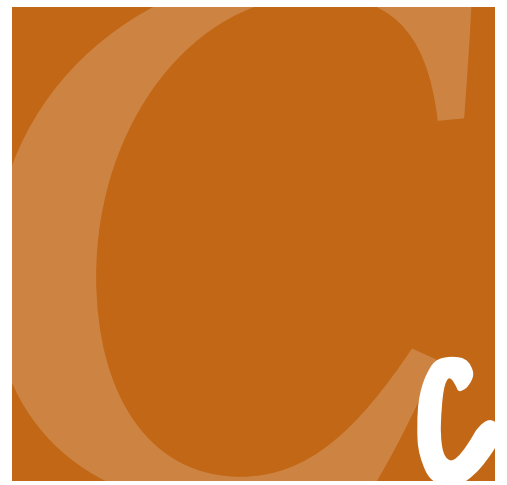
Christmas shopping

does not have to be an overwhelming task. In fact, this Christmas, as you apply biblical principles, you may find it more enjoyable to give than to receive since you will be giving with a clear purpose and defined goals. With a careful eye to your own heart and with wisdom principles in hand, go enjoy the meditation of the Scripture, the conversations with family, and shopping. (By the way, I hope that was not you in the red minivan at 5:00 a.m. at the mall the day after Thanksgiving — if it was, please forgive me.)



person learn gratitude (being thankful for what God has given and others have supplied), be disciplined (learning to say no to the self-indulgence of the flesh, temperance), and live a life of service to others. The question to ask is: Does this gift promote a growing engagement with others, a diligent lifestyle, a sacrificial service to others? Or does this gift in fact minimize those same things?

Principle Eight: The gift fulfills a purpose or fits a real need rather



ABCs OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PRAYER



BY JIM AND JERI COMBS

In the tradition of acrostic or alphabetical psalms and chapters in the Bible (see Psalm 119), it is appropriate to arrange these great truths on prayer in English alphabetical order. In fact, in one month's time you could memorize the sequence by reading this article daily before you begin your prayer time.

"Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

I come into your presence, Lord...

Asking in Jesus name personally

"Hitherto have you asked nothing in my name: ask and you shall receive that your joy may be full," Jesus said in the upper room (John 16:24).

As you begin your prayers, approach His throne with the wondrous name of Jesus in your heart and on your lips.

Believing your promises specifically

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not," (Jeremiah 33:3).

"All the promises of God in Him are yea and Amen, unto the glory of God by us," (2 Corinthians 1:20).

When Abraham was told that at the age of 100 (his wife Sarah was 90) he would have a son whose descendants would multiply to a vast number; he first laughed, but then he became "fully persuaded that what He had promised, He was able also to perform" (Romans 4:21). We believers are the spiritual "seed of Abraham" (Gal. 3:28,29). According to E.R. Storms there are actually 8,810 promises in the Bible.

Confessing my sins honestly

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Be honest and frank in your confessions, hiding nothing, defending nothing

before Him with whom we have to do. Confess your actual transgressions in the light of the teachings of Christ and the words of the Apostles in the Epistles. Self examination, including sins of omission, is necessary in order to be honest with yourself and with God. Keep short accounts with God.

Delighting in your Word and your will obediently

"Delight yourself also in the Lord; and he shall give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4).

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: thy law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).

"But his delight is in the law (Word) of the Lord; and in his law (Word) doth he meditate day and night" (Psalm 1:2).

Read no less than one chapter a day (absolute minimum) and preferably 3 chapters a day, beginning in Matthew and reading through the New Testament (260 chapters). If you are not doing this, start now! You do have time.

Just cut out one 30-minute TV program! To be in fellowship with God, you must read or hear His Word daily.

Entering your throne room frequently

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name" (Psalm 100:4).

"Evening morning and at noon, will I pray and cry aloud and He shall hear my voice" (Psalm 55:21).

"At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee, because of thy righteous judgments" (Psalm 119:62).

Some prayers may be long and some short, but even a frequent single sentence prayer in silence will benefit you spiritually.

Forgiving others their trespasses sincerely

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever you desire, when ye pray, believe that you receive them and you shall have them. And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Mark 11:24-26).

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another" (Ephesians 4:32).

Holding a grudge, resenting others, clinging to the memories of past unkind experiences is not good for your own mental and spiritual health. But what is more, an unforgiving attitude hinders your prayers.

Perhaps you feel someone in your family or church family has mistreated you . . . pray for him or her; forgive in your heart. Don't let negative thinking and unforgiveness hurt you. Talk to God about it. He will heal your soul.

Giving thanks in everything daily

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

"I exhort therefore that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men: for kings, all that are in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour" (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

Make a list of things for which you are thankful. "So count your many blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

Humbling myself before you humanly

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:10).

"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble" (James 4:6).

"Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).

With a humble and submissive spirit in your heart, remember that Jesus became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 5:8).

Interceding for others regularly

"I exhort...that...intercessions...be made for all men" (1 Timothy 2:1).

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance for all saints... and for me" (Ephesians 6:18, 19).

I advise you to make an alphabetical list of individuals for whom you can pray often, fold it, and keep it in your Bible.

Remember that Jesus Himself "ever lives to make intercession for

you" (Hebrews 7:25) and that the Holy Spirit within us "helps our infirmities and makes intercession for us" (Romans 8:26).

Joying in the Holy Spirit internally

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17).

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say rejoice" (Philippians 4:5).

In Galatians 5:22, Paul sets forth the fruit of the indwelling Spirit in your heart, mind, and life. The first three things mentioned are love, joy, and peace. The words joy and rejoice occur over 300 times in the Bible. "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

Knowing that you hear me confidently

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions we desired of him" (1 John 5:14, 15).

Now God knows what is best for us. Sometimes the answer is yes and other times (because He knows all things) the answer is no. Other times, the answer is wait. Ask always for His leadership and guidance.

Loving you imperfectly but deeply

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37, 38).

Thus Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18.

"Because the love of God is shed abroad

*in our hearts by the Holy Spirit”
(Romans 5:5).*

*“I love you, O Lord my strength”
(Psalm 18:1).*

Let His love flow into your heart.
“Now continue faith, hope and love”
(1 Corinthians 13:13).

Meditating on you nightly

*“When I remember thee upon my
bed and meditate on thee in the night
watches” (Psalm 63:5).*

*“My meditation of Him shall be sweet. I
will be glad in the Lord” (Psalm 104:24).*

If you awake in the night, think briefly of
the Lord and His love and kindness...*“I
will meditate in thy statutes...”*
(Psalm 119:48).

*“At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto
thee.” (Psalm 119:62).*

Remember that He watches over you,
as David mentioned in Psalm 4:8: *“I will
both lay me down and sleep, for you only
make me dwell in safety.”*

Needing you constantly

*“Let us come boldly unto the throne of
grace, that we may obtain mercy and
find grace to help in time of need”*
(Hebrews 4:16).

Always be ready to breathe a short
prayer to our Lord. *“I need thee every
hour, thank you for being nearby.”*

Opening my heart longingly

*“Search me, O God and know my heart:
try me and know my thoughts: And see if
there be any wicked way in me, and lead
me in the way everlasting”*
(Psalm 139:23, 24).

Always be open with God. He knows
all about you anyway.

Praising your name happily

*“Let my soul live and it shall praise thee;
and let thy judgments help me”*
(Psalm 119:75).

*“While I live will I praise the Lord; I will
sing praises unto my God while I have
any being” (Psalm 146:2).*

*“I will declare thy name unto my brethren,
in the midst of church will I sing praise
unto thee” (Hebrews 2:12).*

Both privately and in our worship
services, it is well that we “offer the
sacrifice of praise continually, that is
the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His
name” (Hebrews 13:15).

Quieting my mind peacefully

*“For thus saith the Holy One of Israel: In
returning and rest you shall be saved; in
quietness and in confidence shall be your
strength” (Isaiah 30:15).*

*“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on thee: because
he trusteth in thee. Trust in the Lord for-
ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting
strength” (Isaiah 26:3, 4).*

Jesus quieted the storm on the Sea
of Galilee. He can quiet storms and
uncertainties in your heart and mind
too. Turn to Him.

Remembering your wonderful works thoughtfully

*“I call to remembrance my song in the
night” (Psalm 77:6).*

*“I will remember the works of the Lord:
surely I will remember thy wonders of old”*
(Psalm 77:11).

*“Thou art the God that doest wonders;
thou hast declared thy strength among
the people” (Psalm 77:14).*

Peter, the apostle, not long before his
martyrdom, “thought it proper to stir
you up by putting you in remembrance.
...” (2 Peter 1:13). He has done won-
derful things for you.

Singing with grace to you heartily

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing
one another in psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs, singing with grace in your
hearts to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16).*

At home, in your church, in your car,
anywhere sing and listen to the hymns
of the faith, the simple words of praise,
giving thanks (see Ephesians 5:19, 20).

Trusting you with all my heart expect- tantly

*“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart: and
lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge Him and he
shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5, 6).*

These powerful words, penned by King
Solomon 3,000 years ago (under divine
inspiration) are applicable to believers
today and have been for all times past,
present, and future. Let us put them
into practice in our lives now.

Understanding that you will guide me faithfully

*“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the
way which thou should go: I will guide
thee with mine eye” (Psalm 32:8).*

*“Give me understanding and I shall keep
thy law; yea I shall observe it with my
whole heart (Psalm 119:34).*

Let our prayers rise to the Lord daily
and continue to “grow in grace and in
the knowledge of Jesus Christ.”

Vowing my loyalty to you fervently

"Lord, remember David and all of his afflictions: how he swore unto the Lord and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob: Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed, I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to my eyelids, until I find out a place for the Lord, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob" (Psalm 132:104).

In this passage, David emphasized his vow to select the place for the Temple of Solomon to be erected in the future. Likewise we can vow our loyalty to Him.

Worshipping you in spirit and truth reverently

"For God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

In these words of Jesus to the Samaritan woman early in Christ's ministry, the supreme principle of worship is presented in simplicity. True worship is through the Holy Spirit and as revealed in the truth of God's Word.

'Xamining myself before you carefully

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

"Examine me, O Lord and prove me" (Psalm 26:2).

"But let a man (or woman) examine himself (herself)" (1 Corinthians 11:28).

Self examination with honesty will doubtless lead to some confession and forgiveness, for you are a child of God, justified by faith and in Christ forever.

Yielding my body to you sacrificially

"I beseech you therefore by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (spiritual worship)" (Romans 12:1).

"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:13).

This is a powerful principle and the crux of the truth concerning personal commitment, dedication, and surrender to the will of God. This really is the crowning call to become a total disciple of Jesus Christ, indwelt and empowered by the Spirit of God. It will take time and practice to have this underlying foundation of the dedicated Christian life.

Zeroing in on your will for me submissively

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2).

"Therefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17).

May I suggest that you clip this article from the pages you just read. Place them in your Bible. Read them every day for at least a month, and frequently thereafter.

It will take time if you read and begin to memorize the 26 titles and meditate on the verses and ideas and you will gradually grow in grace and become a true prayer warrior for Jesus.

I suggest you address each acrostic (A-Z) with this or a similar phrase: "Lord, I come into your presence..."

**Remember Paul's short encouragements:
Rejoice evermore!
Pray without ceasing!
In everything give thanks!**

Jim Combs was the editor of the Baptist Bible Tribune 1983-1995





Russ & Faye Ivison

ENGLAND

We recently received a phone call from a woman we had not seen for years. She was reluctant to allow us to visit, but eventually agreed.

You see, years ago she came to our Sunday morning service and a ladies' Bible study. She said that she would see us again Sunday. On that appointed Sunday we were met by a man who told us that she was never coming again. Our attempts to make contact were unsuccessful. However, we did put her on our mail list and sent

her material monthly. We learned that because she came to our service and to the Bible study, in the days immediately following her attendance, her father "helped" her down the stairs of their home. She spent a large portion of the following year in the hospital and will remain permanently bound to a wheel chair as a paraplegic. When we saw her, the Bible we had given her had ample evidence of daily use. She told us that she had trusted Christ as her Savior because of the written material we mailed to her home during all those years that we had not seen her.

NEPAL

David & Karen Freeman

A small terrorist group, the Nepal Defense Army (NDA), has formed in Nepal dedicated to the restoration of the monarchy. One of the group's main demands is that all Christians and churches be removed from Nepal. In June, the NDA bombed the largest Catholic church in Kathmandu killing three. Our pastor has already been contacted, via telephone, by the NDA and was told he must close the church or risk harm to his family. The caller knew the number and

names of Pastor Jeevan's children. As you might expect, Pastor Jeevan and the dozens of other pastors in Kathmandu are undaunted by the threats. We praise our Lord for his protection and blessing on the ministry here and ask you to uphold these faithful brothers and their families as they continue to minister for Christ in this environment.



Jim & Barbie Waters

ZAMBIA

Carol was orphaned when she was around 11 years old and went to live with her uncle. Although her uncle clothed and fed her, he did little else. She was treated more like a maid. When she was around 17, she got involved with a group of devil worshipers and partook in ceremonies and drank blood. The group insisted that in order to truly

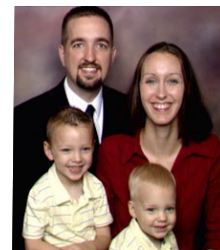
become part of them she must go and kill a family member. So Carol got on a bus and headed ten hours away to kill her aunt. When she got there, she couldn't go through with it. She quit the group but not before becoming pregnant. Her uncle was not too happy as now has another mouth to feed. Praise God that a few years later she stumbled into our church and Jim was able to show her the love of God and His amazing ability to save us from our sins.

WALES

Ricky & Jaime Owens

This was Michael Bennett's first time to go to camp and be away from his mom for a whole week. We had many language and behavior problems with him. In fact, before the week was over everybody knew Michael, mainly for the wrong reasons. On the last night, after devotions and right before bedtime, I talked with him about becoming a child of God. He listened patiently, understood, and then accepted God's free gift of salvation. When he got back to his

room, the other boys asked him if he had gotten saved. He told them he had. He also added, "God is my Father and also Brother Rick's father. That means we're brothers!" That night he told me he wanted to pray for his mom that she would also come to church and get saved. Two Sundays later she was in church. Pray for Mrs. Bennett's salvation.



Maine voters reject gay marriage law

By Michael Foust
November 4, 2009

AUGUSTA, Maine (BP)--Supporters of traditional marriage in Maine shocked the political world and even some of their own supporters November 3, overcoming a slew of obstacles to overturn a new law that had legalized "gay marriage."

By passing Question 1, 53-47 percent, Mainers rejected the law signed by Democratic Gov. John Baldacci in May and became the first state ever to reverse a legislatively enacted "gay marriage" statute. It was the first time voters in a Northeast state had considered the issue.

The law had yet to go into effect but would have done so immediately, if Question 1 had lost. In fact, local officials already had new marriage licenses in hand that removed the terms "bride" and "groom."

It was another major setback for homosexual activists, who have never won at the ballot box on "gay marriage" and vowed not to allow what happened in California last year happen in Maine. They had numerous advantages, led by a fundraising edge of \$4 million to \$2.5 million. They had a ground game and phone bank system whose organization far surpassed what they had in California, and they also had the support of the state's leading politicians and newspapers. They led in four of the final six pre-election polls, including an 11-point edge in one late-October survey. Perhaps most significantly, they had the benefit of trying to get approval for "gay marriage" in liberal Maine, the third least religious state in the country according to a Gallup survey. (California was No. 13)

But in the end, what would have been a landmark victory turned into another stinging defeat. "Gay marriage" has now lost in all 31 states in

which it was put to the voters, including left-leaning states like California, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Five states have legalized it, although the change in law in those states came either through the courts or the legislature, not the ballot.

The defeat is a significant roadblock in the effort by Boston-based GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders) to have all six New England states legalize "gay marriage" by 2012. Maine is now a holdout, joining Rhode Island.

"They were targeting New England and then wanted to use the momentum to go nationwide. We said, no, you're not going to pull it off here," Tim Kezar, pastor of New Covenant Baptist Church in North Berwick, Maine, told *Baptist Press*.

Brian Brown, executive director of the National Organization for Marriage, said the importance of the win "cannot be overstated." The group gave more than \$1 million to the Yes on 1/Stand for Marriage Maine campaign.

"If we can win in Maine, we can win anywhere," Brown said in a statement.

Stand for Marriage Maine won in part by borrowing a theme from the California debate and consistently warning voters that if Question 1 lost, "gay marriage" would be taught as normative in public schools. Of the six Stand for Marriage Maine TV commercials, five included the public school theme.

"That was a big issue," Bob Emrich, a spokesperson for Stand for Marriage Maine, told *BP*. "... This was going to have an impact on children — the way that children think, what children are taught. The people of Maine responded to that."

That point was underscored in the final days when a public high school counselor, Donald Mendell Jr., learned he might lose his social worker's license because he appeared in a TV commercial supporting Question 1. The commercial did not mention the school's name.

Despite the Maine loss, homosexual activists did pick up some big wins on Election Night:

- ◆ A same-sex "everything but marriage" law in Washington state seems headed for approval as officials continue to count the state's vote-by-mail ballots. Referendum 71, as it is called, leads by a slim 51-49 percent margin, but a large number of outstanding ballots come from pro-Referendum 71 areas, according to an analysis by *The Seattle Times*. If it passes, then a new law will stand that gives homosexual couples all the legal benefits of marriage, minus the name.
- ◆ A candidate for mayor of Houston who is an open lesbian advanced to a runoff. City Controller Annise Parker, who received a plurality of the vote with 30.5 percent, will face City Attorney Gene Locke (24.6 percent). If Parker wins, Houston would become the largest U.S. city with a homosexual mayor.
- ◆ Chapel Hill, North Carolina, elected a homosexual mayor, Mark Kleinschmidt.
- ◆ Kalamazoo, Michigan, voters passed a homosexual/transgender anti-discrimination ordinance, 62-38 percent. Critics said the measure's language on public accommodations

(continued on page 34)

Baptist History

BY THOMAS RAY



James Ireland

The preacher they tried to kill

James Ireland was born in 1748 to an affluent Scottish family. His future was filled with promise, but a youthful indiscretion forced him to abandon his home and immigrate to America. Settling in Northern Virginia, he obtained employment as a schoolmaster.

Although Ireland had been raised in a godly Presbyterian home, he would later confess that at this time in his life, "I had not the fear of God before my eyes. I was not only willing to be wicked but I studied to be so." He not only joined in the wicked amusements of his companions, but he became a leader and inventor of wickedness. Ireland possessed the ability to accommodate himself to every crowd. With the religious he could moralize; with the well-bred, he could be polite; with the merry, he would be the life of the party; and with the obscene, he could be profane. But God, who is rich in mercy, had determined to pluck him as a brand from the burning.

A godly young man, who was concerned about James Ireland's spiritual destiny and knew of his love of poetry, requested that Ireland compose a poem on a religious subject. Happy to comply with his friend's suggestion, James composed a poem he titled, "The natural man's dependency for Heaven." This composition made Ireland realize that all his hopes for heaven were useless. Convicted and burdened by his sin almost to the point of despair, Ireland began a thorough and diligent study of God's Word. There he discovered that Jesus was a perfect sacrifice for his sin.

He was like a man raised from the dead. He began to tell everyone what great things God had done for him. Not long after his conversion he was baptized by the renowned Samuel Harris and then licensed to preach. His fame as a preacher produced several invitations, one of which was from a Mr. Manif in Culpepper County. Upon his arrival, Ireland was informed that if he preached the authorities would arrest him. Ireland in recounting this event said, "I counted the cost,

freedom or confinement, liberty or a prison; it admitted of no dispute. Having adventured all upon Christ I determined to suffer all for Him." The authorities, true to their threats, arrested Ireland and confined him in the Culpepper jail.

The authorities believed Ireland's arrest would silence his voice. But to their dismay, great crowds gathered around the jail to listen to his sermons. Unable to disperse the crowds by violence or to silence Ireland, the authorities determined to permanently dispose of their prisoner. Their first attempt

on Ireland's life occurred when they placed gun powder under the jail. Fortunately, the only damage was to the jail. Disappointed but not deterred, his enemies attempted to suffocate him by burning brimstone and Indian pepper at the jail door. Ireland survived by breathing through the

**Disappointed but not deterred,
his enemies attempted to suffocate
him by burning brimstone and
Indian pepper at the jail door.**

cracks in the walls. Enraged by their failure, Ireland's adversaries bribed the doctor who was treating him for a fever to place poison in his medicine. This diabolical plot almost cost James Ireland his life. Although he survived his ordeal, there was rarely a day that he was free from the consequences of his ill treatment.

As we have observed, Ireland's imprisonment was intended to silence his voice and to curtail his influence. However, his imprisonment had the opposite effect. To his enemies' dismay, many of the leading citizens of Culpepper County were converted by his sermons. His letters, which he wrote and signed, "From my Palace in Culpepper," had a profound effect upon both Baptists and non-Baptists and resulted in several conversions. Eventually he was released from prison, but it was not the end of his persecution or the physical attacks upon his person. However, he persevered and eventually built a Baptist meetinghouse in Culpepper County, a place previously known as the devil's stronghold. James Ireland, sufferer for Christ, entered into his rest on May 5, 1808.



Charles Lyons, Pastor
Armitage Baptist Church
Chicago, Illinois

Where is God?

The untimely pregnancy sets tongues a wagging in this Palestinian village. A young maiden's betrothed does the socially improper, politically incorrect, religiously unacceptable thing; he stays true to his fiancée.

On top of that drama, a repressive governmental policy sends them on a 90-mile trek in the last weeks of the young girl's challenging, faith-stretching nine months.

A baby is born, in a barn. Less than ideal, less than reasonable. He is the Son of God they believe. He looks like any other baby, however. Somehow young Joseph probably finds some work and finds new living quarters.

Not too long after, a heavenly messenger sends them packing. It seems they are a very persecuted minority. This Jewish family is driven by a Roman tyrant to an African refuge. Was there illegal immigration involved? Do they hear of the savage bloodletting back in Bethlehem? Is it safe to assume some of the families grieving unspeakable loss are those known to Mary and Joseph? These intercontinental refugees have to wonder if life will ever settle down.

Where is God anyway? Where is God when a heathen government makes difficult times for God's chosen people? Where is God when you're trying to trust Him and every step is another step of difficulty and challenge? Where is God when you're trying to obey Him and all you get is more hardship? Where is God when you have sacrificed your security, abandoned your larger family circle, when you feel like He is leading but He leaves you virtually scrambling for your life?

The Christmas story drips universal appeal, leaks reality, reeks of relevancy.

Christmas is Emanuel. God with us. Where is God? He's in the middle of it, choosing to ride in the womb of a teenage girl over the miles of hill and vale, making His entrance in a feed box. Mary cries out in the pangs of labor. Jesus emerges. He's in the pain. He's in the pain of human existence, the pain of a depraved race, the pain of a corrupt, sinful people. Snatched up by young parents under a midnight sky and carried across wastelands to another continent. He is in the strug-

soon" conditions creating a 95 percent unemployment rate for the Palestinian congregation at First Baptist Church Bethlehem does not escape the Savior's notice.

Where is God? God is in the middle of all of it. He works not just in spite of this, He works through it. God is not bound. He is not bound by the economy, by politics, by health, by religion, or the lack thereof.

He doesn't need a smooth road. He doesn't need red states. He doesn't need Republicans or Democrats in power. He doesn't need friendly emperors. He doesn't need peace. He doesn't need

Christmas is the story of God's identification with people who are beyond hope.

gle of people trying to stay alive. He understands repression, violence, refugees, hunger, homelessness, and persecution.

The fear of Sudanese people driven from their lands by brutal warriors is not foreign to God. The passion of a young man from Guatemala walking, hitchhiking from his home and then sneaking into the U.S. hoping for a better life for his family is not strange to the Lord. The fervor of two young believers in Iran who are threatened with execution if they do not renounce Jesus does not escape our Sovereign's eye. The uncertainty of a Baptist congregation in a southern city of Kyrgyzstan due to new Islamic-driven governmental restrictions is understood by the Head of the church. The harsh "not-gonna-change-anytime-

a friendly culture. He doesn't need a home. He doesn't need a budget. He works through the heathen. He works through the power hungry. He works through trouble, trial, tribulation, and terror. He works through humble, available, trusting servants. He works through teenagers.

Jesus understands our world. He is in it. He's in every believer, in every culture, in any country, in every local assembly that worships Him and follows Scripture.

Christmas is the story of God's identification with people who are beyond hope. Christmas is the story of God's awesome power at work in a broken world to bring redemption to all who will believe. For with God nothing shall be impossible.

The Christmas story is our story.



World Scope

Jon Konnerup | BBFI Mission Director



All things considered — amazing

My recent trip to Japan was eye-opening. For centuries, the devil has kept a stronghold upon the hearts and minds of these people to keep them from seeing the Light of Jesus Christ. Things I had not even thought about are huge obstacles to overcome so some might receive the Redeemer and everlasting life. Consider the following:

- Historically the Japanese people have been against the intrusion of Christianity
- Current government opposition
- Continual religious opposition
- Given to idolatry
- Terrible testimony left by so-called “Christian” cults
- High cost of living — rent, vehicle, tolls, and food
- High cost for land and buildings
- The growing affluence among the people contributes to the hardening of their hearts
- The difficult language — one of the hardest in the world

With all these things considered, it is amazing what God has done. In spite of all these obstacles, BBFI missionaries went to Japan and remain with the goal of breaking through whatever is necessary to reach Japan for Christ.

Our early missionaries (Ike and Jane Foster, Lavern and Evelyn Rodgers, Olson and Lelia Hodges, and Alvin and Clara Marsden) went to this war-devastated country between 1948 and 1950. Each started a church with the objective of not only reaching people with the Good News, but also training national leaders — knowing this

would be the key to any success in the country. Since those first four churches were started nearly 60 years ago, BBFI missionaries and national leaders have established 88 churches across Japan. Furthermore, these churches want to send out and fully support their own missionaries to the regions beyond. To date, they have sent out eight missionary families completely supported by the churches in Japan.

I cannot attempt to capture all the struggles and successes they’ve had through the years. Just my own recent

experiences in Japan are difficult to put on one page. You really have to visit this country and spend time with the missionaries and national leadership to grasp all the barriers they must overcome and to see the miracles.

Our missionaries are putting up a strong fight. Yes, at times they can get discouraged. The weakening US dollar has placed heavy strains upon their efforts and ability to stay at task on the field. It would be easy to quit and go to a place that would seem more fruitful. However, in the face of insurmountable odds, each missionary expressed the will and desire to fight on, following what God has called them to do, even if for just a few souls. The tireless efforts of those early missionaries have resulted in strong, giving, growing, mission-minded churches that have seen young men and women surrender to the ministry to reach both their people and the unreached of the world.

We cannot neglect our part in the efforts of the BBFI to spiritually affect Japan. Our financial support is a must. In fact, it is imperative we increase our financial support to strengthen the efforts and keep our missionaries at task for our Lord. We must pray diligently, fervently, persistently, and



faithfully that the power of God would be channeled through our missionaries, the presence of God would be seen in them, and Jesus would be magnified. When He is lifted up, men will be drawn to Him.

“Greater is He that is in us, than He that is in the world.” Our God is greater than the god of this world who has kept the Japanese people in darkness. May we be willing to do all we can to brighten the light by strengthening the efforts of our missionaries. It is reported that the 150 million Japanese are the largest unreached people group in the world. Every missionary pleaded with me to challenge more young people to consider coming to Japan. Yes, it will not be easy and it is expensive to live there, but with God all things are possible!

With all the hindrances considered... it is quite amazing what God has done and will continue to do in Japan.

October conferences productive

It has been a very busy month of October for the National Church Planting Office. However, it was an exciting month for us as well.

The NCPO had the privilege of co-sponsoring the Upward Conference with the *Baptist Bible Tribune* and the BBFI Mission Office. Our thanks go out to Pastor Bruce Humbert and Sauk Trail Baptist Church for being gracious hosts for our conference. Charles Lyons and Duke Hergatt did an incredible job dealing with breaking attendance barriers through the subjects of momentum and assimilation. We also enjoyed hearing from Terry Kizer, Rob Willis, and Randy Abell. The comments from those who were present were very positive and encouraging.

At the same time our Upward Conference was going, we had our fall Church Planting Candidate School. What a blessing it was to see our seven church planters and their wives join with our other pastors for combined sessions throughout the week. It all began with an amazing time of prayer, reflection, and revival with Pastor John Arnold on Monday night. Every one of our Church Planting Schools starts off with John's sessions, and it certainly sets the tone for what God will do the rest of the week! Mark Milioni, Monty Maple, Keith Bassham, Jim Smith, and our new Third Vice-President, Dave Shaffer, all were there to help teach for the week. The week was long and some of the church planters said they were

in information overload, but all commented that "it was definitely worth it." If you or someone that you know would be interested in attending our Spring Church Planting Candidate School, please call the NCPO.

We also just finished sponsoring our Ignite Church Planting Forum on the campus of Baptist Bible College. The plenary sessions and breakouts were full of students, pastors, staff, and guests. It was our privilege to

out to Jim Edge, Greg Christopher, Jon Slayden, and staff for the wonderful job they did of hosting this event. The student interaction and excitement was overwhelming. As we have received feedback from those who attended, it was great to hear that two students told their professor that based on what they heard from the Ignite Forum, they feel that God is leading them to start

a church. This is the purpose of why the NCPO has the Ignite Church Planting Forum. We want to challenge students to consider whether God would have them go out and start a new church, and to let them know that the NCPO is here to help serve them and our BBFI churches in that endeavor.

We will be sponsoring our next Ignite Church Planting Forum on the campus of Boston Baptist College in Boston, Massachusetts, on November 16-17. If you are within driving distance of the campus, we

hope that you will join us as we hear from Nelson Searcy, pastor of The Journey Metro Church of Manhattan, New York, and well-known author and speaker. We will also be hearing from Ryan Bevan, pastor and church planter of Lighthouse Baptist Church in Chillicothe, Ohio. Please pray that God will move on the hearts of these students toward church planting!

If you would like more information about our Church Planting Candidate School or these other conferences, please call the NCPO at (417) 889-1017 or email office@bbfincpo.com.

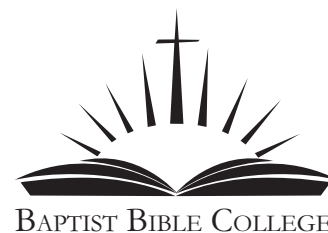


Charles Lyons (left) and Duke Hergatt have a conversation between sessions at the BBFI Upward Conference in Chicago.



Eric Geiger, executive pastor of Christ Fellowship in Miami, Flor-

ida, and co-author of *Simple Church* as our special guest. The special four-hour afternoon session with Eric was especially good as those who attended were able to interact and ask questions. Then Duke Hergatt from Albany, New York, wrapped it all up with his testimony of starting Temple Baptist Church and then bringing a challenge and commitment time to the students about church planting. Our thanks go



Our greatest resource

I am overwhelmed at God's goodness to Baptist Bible College and Graduate School. In spite of many challenges, this semester has been a time of revival for our faculty and students as we have seen God break into our schedules with His divine grace and accomplish His work in our hearts.

Sadly, two of our students, Tate and Savannah Davis, are returning home without finishing the semester. They are doing so because their dad has been admitted into hospice care and is not expected to live. Our faculty will allow them to finish their work from home so they will not lose the work they have already done this semester, and they plan to rejoin us when they are able. It was incredible to see hundreds of fellow students gather around them in chapel this past week to uplift their spirits in prayer. We hear a lot of criticism about this generation, and maybe some of it is deserved. But at BBC, our students

Dave says, "I only went to church to see him baptized because I couldn't believe it." Dave went forward in that service, but he was not convinced of the claims of the gospel. He agreed to meet with the pastor on Friday, and three months later, on December 28, 2001, Dave Loy began a lifelong relationship with the Prince of Peace.

Four months later he enlisted in the Air Force, and eventually wound up stationed in Dover, Delaware. It was there that he came into contact with the BBFI through Southside Baptist Church and Pastor Ron Secrest. Dave stated, "I had been reading a book that said, 'It's not about you,' and that really got to me."

Knowing that he didn't want to work on airplanes the rest of his life, he began to think about how God could use him, and though he didn't really want to be a preacher God kept lay-

"I was on the GI Bill so I could have gone to any school. I looked at several. But I love Baptist Bible College. The Bible never really came alive for me until my Bible History class under Dr. Sewell. He makes the Bible alive and real for me."

Dave Loy's testimony shows our greatest resource is not the money that comes in our offerings. Our greatest resource is this great army of young men and women whom God is raising up to make a difference. Yes, they can and do try our patience sometimes. In order to minister to their generation we have had to adjust the way we do some things. But at their core, they are no different than that group of young passionate firebrands who began this movement 60 years ago

this May, and we are honored that the Lord has committed their training to us.

This semester, more than 500 students enrolled on campus at Baptist Bible College and Graduate School. Every one of them has a story to tell. BBC is a unique school designed specifically to train men and women for

Christian ministry. We believe we are training the next generation of pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders in the Baptist Bible Fellowship. Students like Dave Loy provide evidence that our future is secure.

Thank you for partnering with Baptist Bible College as we seek to teach absolute Truth with excellence worldwide!

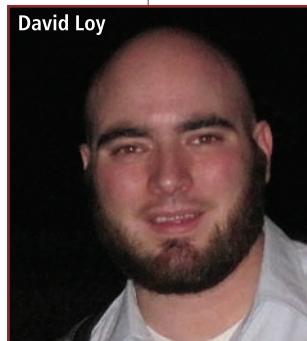
I looked at Pastor Ron and said, "I'm gonna be a preacher"

have a genuine love of one another, and they demonstrate it often with acts of kindness.

I would like to tell you about another one of our students. His name is David Loy, and he comes to us from Indiana by way of Delaware. Dave was saved because he went to a Baptist church to see a friend get baptized. But this wasn't just any friend. This friend had been an avowed atheist who only attended church in order to scoff at Christianity and to learn how to fight against it.

ing it on his heart. After six months on his own, and six months more meeting and praying weekly with Pastor Ron, Dave says, "I was in his office one day — it was as if someone flipped a switch, and my heart changed. I looked at Pastor Ron and said, 'I'm gonna be a preacher' — to which Pastor Ron responded, 'I know you are, and you are going to Baptist Bible College.'"

Today Dave is in his first semester of his sophomore year. He says,



David Loy



The season of gifts

There will be packages under the tree again. I have met about two people in all my travels in the past year who have told me that “these are great times!” For most of us, the economic realities of “right now” are tough. But Christmas is still on. Gifts will still happen.

Gifts can be funny things. Ever get one that you didn’t want? Remember that shirt that just wasn’t you? I remember one year my mother-in-law gave my wife and me a “day for two at the spa.” (I think she knew all along that she and Kim would get a girls’ day out with that one.) I don’t do spas. This kind of thing happens all the time — that’s why re-gift is now a word!

Thankfully, most gifts mean the world to you — a picture painted by your son, a sweater your wife bought you that you would never have splurged for yourself (even though she put it on your credit card!), a dinner out at a restaurant, courtesy of a friend, at a place where you don’t even have to walk up and give your order at a counter!

At Boston Baptist College, we are gift central. Even in hard, hard times, churches sacrificially support us — every envelope is a gift. And gifts aren’t always financial. I would argue that the greatest gifts we are given are the students who come here. They are gifts from moms and dads, from churches, from all kinds of places and all kinds of situations.

Not that running a college in Bos-

ton makes every day feel like Christmas, but there are “packages” to open, nonetheless.

I teach each semester — usually just one class, but I do it on purpose. I have plenty on my plate, but there is no place like the classroom to stay reminded of why I’m the president of a ministry college. My Ecclesiology course this semester is tightly wrapped! But when

light of the gospel. She is ready to teach where the doors open after graduation. Put a bow on that.

Jean Abel wants to return to his native Haiti where his people have such unspeakable needs. That’s a wrap.

Carlos wants to do “whatever God wants.” Ribbon, please.

I do get tired of raising the needed funds of this college. But I won’t quit. I get to see the gifts. I see what the Lord is putting inside those packages.

I think the students in Boston are getting something as well. We make no bones about it in Boston — we work our students hard. We treat doctrine like it matters! Ask them, they will probably roll their eyes a little bit but eventually repeat my mantra, “Bad theology always leads to bad function.” I am happy that while winds of minimalism blow across Christianity, in Boston we are asking — more than ever — “What does Scripture say?” Our students study

ministry, learn new skills, mature in their approach, but our bread and butter still is handling the Word of God with skill and passion. And when the letters after your name mean more than just a degree, they mean that you can “rightly divide the Word of Truth,” well, that one surely is going to be returned.

So go ahead and celebrate the season! Enjoy remembering the birth of Jesus! Buy a few gifts. Hopefully, even open a couple yourself. And maybe sneak in a thought of Boston. The only “returns” here are eternal.

Merry Christmas from the whole Boston family.



I shake it — it rattles! Ben will invariably stay after class to talk and ask just one more question! Chris is usually standing nearby for what he has dubbed “the after class.” Beatrice sits right up front and seems to soak it in. Maybe she’s bluffing, but I don’t think so! Anna sits over on the side by Megan — usually they are quiet, but when I ask them something they are right there with me. Scotty and Ryan usually add humor; Jill ties things together well — and... well, the experience is a gift.

Watching students mature over four years, now that is a gift.

Kristin is talking passionately about the needs of urban schools for the

Global Awareness Conference at BBC

Springfield, MO

Baptist Bible College hosted its annual Global Awareness Conference October 28-30 with keynote speaker Chris Regas, missions and discipleship pastor at Glenwood Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri. "His series of messages entitled 'What's Eating Jonah?' could not have been more on target for our students, faculty, and staff," says David Lingo, BBC's chair of the missions department.

The theme of this year's conference was "Impacting our World." Students attended breakout sessions by: Jim Smith, BBFI Associate Mission Director, on Planting a Church with a Heart for World Evangelization; Stacey Smith, founder of Precious Miracles Foundation, an orphanage for infants in Ecua-



From left: (back) Beau Moore, John Clayton, Chris Regas, Jordan and Nikki Nisley, Stacey Smith, Sharon and Jim Smith, Barbara and David Lingo (front) James Adams (left) and Charlie Bell.

dor, and author of *For the Least of These* (which she offered to the students); John Clayton, on the Power of Prayer; Beau Moore, on Surviving and Thriving on Deputation; Jordan and Nikki Nisly, on Team Missions; and Charlie Bell with Stan Sherwood, on Internship from a

Pastor's and Intern's Perspective.

During the chapel services, not only did Regas challenge the students for missions, but Stacey Smith narrated some of the experiences she had in her orphanage, Sharon Smith shared about her prison ministry with female prisoners in Quito, and BreakAway, the school's praise band, led the student body in worshipful songs with a mission emphasis. Also, students who participated in last summer's overseas Faculty Directed Field Study shared their experiences.

"For these three days, students were able to see firsthand how missions impacts the world. I am proud to say that missions continues to be the heartbeat of Baptist Bible College," states Lingo

BBC soccer tournament is more than just games

Springfield, MO

This year's NCCAA Division II Soccer Regional Tournament was hosted by BBC October 30-31. For the first time in the region, a worship service was held after the games at the Texas Auditorium on the BBC campus. Pete Fritsch from Young Life Ministries was the speaker. BBC's Breakaway band lead the worship at the service.

Almost 70 people attended, including coaches, players, and students from Baptist Bible College (Springfield, Missouri) Central Bible College (Springfield, Missouri) Manhattan Christian College

(Manhattan, Kansas), and Grace University (Omaha, Nebraska).

A food drive was also held and more than 150 cans of food were collected to donate to the Springfield Bilingual Baptist Ministries.

The coaches complimented BBC for the hospitality and the initiative to make this not only a sporting event but also an opportunity to challenge the soccer players spiritually.

Manhattan Christian College won the tournament and BBC had three nominations for the All Regional Team: Daniel Johnson, Kris Bush, Scott Kent.



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BBC/GS earns NANC certification

Springfield, MO

Baptist Bible College and Graduate School received certification from the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors (NANC) at the organization's annual conference held in Spartanburg, South Carolina, October 6.

The certification culminates five years of effort for BBC since the trustees first approved seeking certification. Though some training from other Baptist schools has been accepted by NANC, BBC is the first official NANC certified Baptist college and graduate school in the country. NANC Executive Director Randy Patton remarked, "We are excited about our partnership with Baptist Bible College and look forward to highlighting the good work happening at BBC to those interested in biblical counseling all over the country."

Students may now earn NANC cer-

tification through both the graduate and undergraduate programs. One of the highlights of the NANC annual conference was BBC graduate student Brandon York receiving his NANC certifica-



From left: Kevin Carson, Randy Patton, and Bill Piatt

tion as well. He completed the Master of Arts Biblical Counseling this year.

According to Kevin Carson, Biblical Counseling Department Chair of the BBC Graduate School, certification is important to the school for a number of reasons. He said, "It recognizes our core values represented by the words biblical, quality, and global. NANC agrees with the sufficiency of the Scriptures for life and ministry. It also demonstrates the

quality education students receive at BBC. To be certified the curriculum had to meet NANC standards for both content and quality. During the certification process, BBC students have passed the NANC exams with the highest commendations. One grader remarked 'I can always tell when I am grading a BBC exam because the quality far exceeds what is typical.'

Carson also said, "Since NANC is an international organization, there is a natural fit with BBC's global mission of sending students all over the world to be ministers for Jesus Christ. The first priority of biblical counseling is to determine whether or not a counselee knows Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. If the counselee is not saved, it is the privilege and solemn responsibility of the counselor to witness. Several missionaries with the BBFI are implementing biblical counseling philosophy and strategies in their ministries."

Those interested in becoming a student, in NANC certification, or further training in counseling should contact Kevin Carson or Bill Piatt at BBC.

Biblical Counseling minor offered

Springfield, MO

Baptist Bible College recently announced the addition of a biblical counseling minor to the undergraduate course offerings. The 18-hour minor can be added to any major and will complement the Master of Arts Biblical Counseling currently offered in the graduate school. Upon completing the minor, students will meet all educational requirements to be certified as biblical counselors with NANC.

To satisfy these requirements three additional courses were added to the present curricular offerings: Basics in Biblical Counseling, Theological Basis of Biblical Counseling, and Advanced Counseling Issues. Any student wanting more information regarding the minor, master degree, NANC certification, distance education, or biblical counseling can contact Kevin Carson (biblical counseling department chair) or Bill Piatt (campus counselor) at the college.

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2010 BBFI National Meeting Schedule



February 15-17

Bible Baptist Church
Savannah, GA

May 10-13

Baptist Bible College
Springfield, MO

Sept. 27-29

Sauk Trail Baptist Temple
Richton Park, IL

Boston Baptist students dedicate 24 hours to prayer

Boston, MA

Boston Baptist College Student Government, student body president Jill Sutcliffe, and spiritual life leader Chet Jobert organized 24 hours of prayer for the student body September 25-26. The prayer time took place in the Orelia Rawlings Student Lounge, a place designed for quiet meditation, prayer, and study. "Straight up, I would say that to have a college campus completely devoted to prayer is incredible...God answers prayer!" says Jobert.

Students began praying at noon on Friday, September 25, and continued until noon on Saturday. "At times there were as many as 10 people pray-

ing at once but always there was someone praying, out loud, through the night, for 24 hours straight; making requests known to God," says Ken Gillming, vice president of academic affairs for Boston Baptist College.

Students prayed for BBFI pastors, their wives, and families; missionaries and their needs; their churches; the lost they were witnessing to; student needs; as well as what they were thankful for. Gillming states, "By Saturday morning there were already prayers of thanksgiving for answered prayers. Thousands of prayers and over 10,000 requests were made to God who answers prayer!"

Students reach out with Trunk or Treat in Boston

Boston, MA

Boston Baptist College hosted their annual Trunk or Treat on Halloween night with about 500 children receiving candy and a tract. Grace Snavelly, director of enrollment services, says, "Students have made community outreach a high priority on campus. Hosting Trunk or Treat each Halloween is one of the most popular in the community surrounding the college. Parents begin calling and

stopping by early in October to make sure the event is planned."

This year's Trunk or Treat had students giving out candy from 18 different vehicles, and included large inflatables, a continuously running family movie, and other features. "Most importantly, Boston students get to serve the community where they live and share the gospel at the same time," says Snavelly.



Boston Baptist students sort candy in preparation for the Trunk or Treat

Cory completes 20 years at LBU

Shreveport, LA

Sandra Cory, executive vice president of Louisiana Baptist University, completes 20 years of service at LBU this fall. She began as a part-time assistant to President John Lorricks while she completed her bachelor's degree in Education. She completed her degree in 1991 and planned to teach in the local school district. LBU's current president, Neal Weaver, asked her to stay on temporarily to help get the school on its feet. Since that time, she has completed both her masters and doctorate and continues to serve the university. In October of 1992, she was named executive director and for the past decade has been the executive vice president.



Sandra Cory

She serves on the leadership committee at her church and is on the Board of Advisors for Baptist Bible College Asia under Greg Lyons. She and her husband, Danny, have three children and four grandchildren.

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Mt. Calvary celebrates 30th year

Richmond, MO

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and Pastor Tim Zielinski celebrated their 30th anniversary on Sunday, September 27, with a special morning worship service and celebration dinner. Special speaker for the event was former pastor Terry Allcorn and musical guests were Jeremy Pope, Rhonda Allcorn, and Marv and Debbie Veverka. Maurice and Shirley Smith and Gina Stickley, three of the original 22 charter members who still attend Mt. Calvary, were honored at the celebration.

Mt. Calvary was started in 1977 by three families with Everett Baty as interim pastor. They later called Clark Huff as their first pastor. Under Ed Porter, the church was officially established September 9, 1979. Since that time, Mt. Calvary has had several pastors includ-

ing Terry Allcorn, A. B. Sprunger, Dan Blakeslee, and Mike Schnelle. Allcorn was instrumental in leading the church to buy the five acres where Mt. Calvary is located and Blakeslee was the leading force behind building their current building. A ground-breaking ceremony was held in the fall of 1997 and the first

worship service in the current building was held in March 1998.

"God truly has blessed Mt. Calvary and continues to do so with Pastor Zielinski," says church member Lori Alsop. "Under his leadership, we are looking forward to the future with renewed vision, hope, confidence, and commitment."



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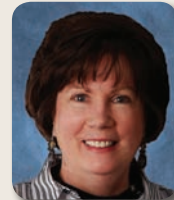
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LifePoint church plant averaging 35 in attendance

Lakeland, FL

LifePoint Church, pastored by Brady Brinson, is the newest church planting project in partnership with the Florida Baptist Bible Fellowship and sponsored by Winter Haven Baptist Church and Pastor Mark Hodges.

LifePoint Church began as a small group bible study while Brinson was on staff with Mark Jeter and Day-spring Church in Apopka, Florida. The group is now having a Sunday morning outreach worship service comprised of eight families. The church averages 35 in attendance, and had a high attendance of 48 at the first baptismal service last month. Another couple will be baptized soon. LifePoint also

has two home Bible study discipleship groups which meet during the week. Brinson's goal is to have a core group of 50 before transitioning from home meetings to a public facility.

Brady Brinson attended Arlington Baptist College, Liberty University, and

graduated from The Master's College. He completed the BBFI NCPO candidate school in April. He and his wife, Debbie, served several years with Brady's father, E.J. Brinson, and were also on staff with George Golden and Lewis McClendon at Ventura Baptist Church, Ventura, California. Debbie Brinson is a graduate of BIOLA University with a degree in business administration.

For more information on LifePoint Church or to help support this ministry, contact Brady Brinson at 805-444-1489 or brinsondaddy5@gmail.com. Brinson is also available for speaking engagements on Wednesdays and Sunday nights.



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Nights of Illusions at Timber Hill reaches kids

Hamilton, OH

Timber Hill Baptist Church and Pastor Scott Miller hosted their third annual Nights of Illusions with Steve Harney from Cool Kids September 29 through October 4. Of the event, Miller says, "There are not many things a church can do to bring 400 visitors through its doors these days, but with Steve Harney and Nights of Illusions, we did just that."



Reaching the school assembly at Van Buren Elementary School in Hamilton, Ohio (above), with a message about character development opens the door for Timber Hills Baptist Church to invite kids to its Nights of Illusion program.

By the end of the four days, close to 100 decisions were made for Christ.

During the weekdays, Harney challenged over 4,000 students in character development assemblies in the public schools. There, the students were given a ticket for a one-hour magic show at the Timber Hill Baptist Church where Harney performed his Nights of Illusions. "Adults are difficult to reach, but they'll do anything for their children and grandchildren," states Miller. "So when they come home from school with a free magic show ticket, they normally jump on the opportunity. Once there, Bro. Steve presents a full-stage illusion program just filled with the gospel."

Nights of Illusions has become one of the major outreaches Timber Hill Baptist Church does each year. "The results speak for themselves. Like the past three years, I am thrilled with the outreach and plan to continue the tradition next year," says Miller.

Steve and Cheryl Harney are both 1981 graduates of Baptist Bible College and are the founders and directors of Cool Kids Ministries, Inc. Steve has been an illusionist and ventriloquist for over 30 years and Cheryl has her masters in education and teaches children with special needs. For more information on Nights of Illusions, contact the Harneys at steve@coolkidsministries.com or check them out on the web at www.coolkidsministries.com.

Friendship kids give to touch two continents

Owasso, OK



Children from Friendship Baptist Church raised nearly \$12,000 this year during VBS to help children around the world. The Friendship kids selected to support the ministries of Mark and Sue Schladenhauffen (South Africa) and Glenn and Sheri McGhee (Ecuador) with the special offering. "This is an exciting annual event for the children who will save and work all year to bring money for the missionaries," says Pastor Linzy Slayden.



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Bible Baptist celebrates 55th anniversary

Savannah, GA

On September 20, Pastor Herb Hubbard along with members and friends of Bible Baptist Church celebrated the church's 55th anniversary. Elmer Towns, from Liberty University, was the special speaker for the day. Towns reminisced about his days in Savannah and his relationship with the church through the years. He challenged the congregation to view the first 55 years as the prelude to greater things and to continue their endeavors to reach the city of Savannah and surrounding area with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A presentation of the church's history was made to the congregation, picturing its humble beginnings to the present day. Special recognition was given to Cecil Hodges, who pastored the church for 40 years, and his wife, Kitty. A portrait of the couple, which will hang in the church foyer, was presented to their daughter, Margie, and her husband, Herman Mongin, since the Hodges were unable to attend due to health issues.

Hubbard, who has pastored Bible Baptist for the last 15 years, concluded the service with thanksgiving to the Lord for the work He has accomplished through Bible Baptist and to the congregation for being willing to be used of God to accomplish His work in Savannah.

Bible Baptist's ministry includes a Christian school, daycare center, crisis pregnancy center, family counseling center, and Lighted Pathway (a ministry for physically and mentally challenged adults). The church regularly supports over 100 missionaries and mission organizations. "During the past 55 years, literally thousands have found life in Jesus Christ as a result of Bible Baptist's various ministries," says Alan Tanner, the church's business administrator. "Through these same ministries, members and guests are now experiencing abundant life in Christ."



Herb Hubbard (right) presents a painting of Cecil and Kitty Hodges to Margie (Hodges) and Herman Mongin.



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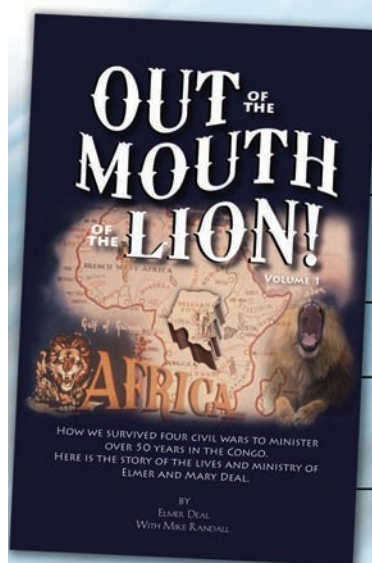
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Reception to be held in honor of Ralph Liles

Springfield, MO

The family of Ralph Liles will host a reception in honor of his 90th birthday at West Division Street Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri, on Saturday, January 9, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. All friends are invited.



Ralph Liles

Liles was saved under the ministry of Lester Singleton at Ramseur Baptist Church in Paris, Texas. He graduated from Baptist Bible College in 1953. The Christmas before his graduation, Liles began his ministry at 17th Street Baptist Church (now Grace Baptist Church), Bowling Green, Kentucky. In 1957, he began his longest pastorate at Central Baptist Church in Lewisville, Texas, where he served for 25 years. He pastored Bible Baptist Church in Coffeyville, Kansas, from 1982 until his retirement in 1990. In 1992, he became the senior citizens' pastor at South Knollwood Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, where he served until 2006.

Ralph and his wife, Ruth, now reside in Springfield, Missouri. He teaches the Foundations of the Faith class and is

involved in the jail ministry of West Division Street Baptist Church where Charlie Bell is pastor.

NTBC celebrates 46 years

Des Moines, IA

New Testament Baptist Church and Pastor James Holmes celebrated the church's 46th anniversary September 13. Holmes and his wife, Doris, started the church in 1963 after graduating from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. The first service had 13 people present, six being the Holmes family. In 1989, Doris went home to be with her Savior. Holmes married his current wife, Marjorie, in 1990 and together they have served at New Testament Baptist Church since.



James and Marjorie Holmes

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Maine voters reject gay marriage law

(Continued from page 19)

would allow men to use women's restrooms and would open women up to harassment.

But the vote in Maine was the biggest prize of the night for both sides of the "gay marriage" debate. Despite the loss, supporters of "gay marriage" were vowing not to give up and said they'd press the issue again in the legislature. A couple hours after midnight, Jesse Connolly, campaign manager for No on 1/Protect Maine Equality, sent out an e-mail urging supporters to "stay the course."

"We're in this for the long haul. For next week, and next month, and next year — until all Maine families are treated equally," wrote Connolly, who had taken a leave of absence as chief of staff to House Speaker Hannah

Pingree to run the campaign. Pingree was a leading force in the move to pass the bill.

Question 1 was placed on the ballot through a petition drive thanks to a unique "People's Veto" law that gives Mainers the opportunity to overturn new laws simply by collecting signatures. But unlike California Prop 8, Question 1 was not a constitutional amendment — meaning that the legislature can simply pass a "gay marriage" law again. Practically and politically, though, that is unlikely in the immediate future. There are statewide elections in 2010, and the gubernatorial and legislative races will have a big impact on the future of the issue. Baldacci is term-limited and can't run again.

"It will be a couple years before they do, but they will be right back

trying to bring it up again unless we can change the makeup of our legislature," Emrich, pastor of Emmanuel Bible Baptist Church in Plymouth, Maine, and director of the conservative Maine Jeremiah Project, said. "We need to stop it there."

Question 1 passed on a night when local and national media members were practically cheering in anticipation of its defeat, conservatives said.

"I had to

channel-hop quite a bit to find out the result on the marriage referendum in Maine," Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, told *BP*. "If the other side had won, it would have been trumpeted as a great victory for same-sex marriage, but since traditional marriage won, it was scandalously under-reported. Once again the bias of the media is apparent for all who have eyes to see and ears to hear."

Joey Marshall, pastor of Living Stone Community Church (SBC) in Standish, Maine, said Christians "must rejoice and give God the glory" for the win and also must make clear why they oppose redefining marriage.

"For us, the homosexual movement is not an issue of equality, but a social issue concerning moral values," he told *BP*. "I want our opponents to understand that this is not a personal attack on same-sex couples, but rather the expression of our belief that marriage is between one man and one woman as God intended. God loves all people, but He calls this lifestyle inappropriate. ... The issue of redefining marriage does not just affect same-sex couples, but it will have ongoing effects and consequences that will impact every single family within our society."

The next battlegrounds apparently will be New Jersey and New York, both of which have movements in the respective legislatures to pass a "gay marriage" bill by year's end.

Michael Foust is an assistant editor of Baptist Press. With reporting by Tom Strobe, Washington bureau chief for Baptist Press.

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Anne Theresa Brown

Springfield, MO

Anne Theresa Brown, wife of Evangelist Don Brown, went home to be with her Lord October 27. Having received Jesus Christ as her personal Savior on October 30, 1988, through the ministry of High Street Baptist Church, Anne told all she saw that her salvation was the best decision she ever made. "It changed my life and my priorities. It is my desire that all my family and friends be saved. Jesus said, 'Whoever' may come. Salvation is a free gift of God, all you have to do is accept. Jesus won't make you a perfect person, but a new person, set apart."



At her death, Anne was a member of Bible Baptist Church in Springfield. She worked for Sysco Food for 22 years and retired in 2003.

Anne is survived by her husband; step-son and daughter-in-law; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; many friends and loved ones. Anne was preceded in death by her parents, Harold D. and Juanita C. Gardner; and her brother.

Funeral services were held Friday, October 30. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Beth-Eden Bible Camp, 3068 E. Belmont, Springfield, MO 65802.

Dorothy Lucille Kimball

Sand Springs, OK

Dorothy Lucille Kimball, age 75, of Sand Springs, Oklahoma, went to be with the Lord on September 24, 2009.



Dorothy was born August 29, 1934, in Schuler, Oklahoma. She attended and graduated from Schuler High School in 1952. The next year, she attended Conners State College in Warner, Oklahoma. Dorothy was working for the W.G. Skelly Oil Company in Tulsa, Oklahoma, when she met her future husband, James Kimball. They were married in November 1954.

Dorothy was saved in a revival meeting at Grace Baptist Temple, Salina, Kansas. In 1962, she and her family moved to Springfield, Missouri, to attend Baptist Bible College where she graduated in 1967. James Kimball pastored Calvary Baptist Church in Nixa, Missouri, from 1965 to 1967. In 1967, they were called to Sand Springs, Oklahoma, to pastor Heritage Baptist Church. They have been at Heritage for 42 years.

Dorothy served as pastor's wife, Sunday school teacher, girls choir director, church secretary, and administrative assistant for Heritage Baptist Church and School in Sand Springs, Oklahoma, for more than 35 years.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, and a son, Michael D. Kimball. She is survived by her husband, James Kimball, of the home; a daughter, Sharon Fields, and husband, Hank; two sons, Mark Kimball and wife Della, and David Kimball and wife Michelle; twelve grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

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Preaching from a grocery bag

By Don Nevels

BBFI missionary to Argentina

Very soon after Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941, and during the raging battles of the Second World War, Don (that's me), Nancy, Carole, and Larry Nevels came into the world. Then during the dreadful battles of the Korean War in the early 1950s, Lee Roy and Craig joined their older brothers and sisters who lived in a duplex house on 168th and Figueroa streets in Gardena, California, a Los Angeles suburb. The house is still there today.

One day, when I was 13 years old, I answered the door and replied to a wheel-chaired lady inviting the family to the Gardena Bible Baptist Church saying, "No thank you, I am going to become a Catholic priest and will never go to a Baptist church." But Grandmother Rachel and Aunt Joan did go and soon accepted Christ as their Savior under the ministry of the church's founding pastor, Howard L. Ervin.

It was Christmastime 1952. We six children were sad and quite hungry as Dorothy, our divorced but devoted mother, was not able to provide the traditional turkey dinner nor Christmas presents for her half a dozen kids. On Christmas Eve day we soothed our hunger pangs by going out to play with Emery, Earl, Eugene and Ernie, four Japanese neighbor boys, along with Freddy and Ronnie Padilla, two Mexican brothers, and Patrick, Randy, Steve, and Frankie — all kids our age. The only girls on the block were my two sisters, Nancy and Carole Nevels, who managed to mix among the boys, that is, until we ran them off because "girls were not allowed in our tree house."

Quite early on Christmas morning, I was awakened by a knock at the front door but upon opening the door no

one was in sight. I then observed on the porch floor there was a grocery bag filled with food items including a Tom turkey, cranberry sauce, vegetables, some yams, and some stuffing for Tom turkey. Also there were Christmas gifts of tennis shoes for each of the four older children and other gifts for Lee Roy and Craig.

The hungry half dozen kids could hardly wait for Grandma Rachel to finish cooking old Tom turkey with all the trimmings. Hungry little Larry loved to lick the yam pan. Inside the grocery bag was a note dated Christmas, 1952, which read, "Merry Christmas from someone at Gardena Bible Baptist Church who loves you children."

The next summer, at daily Vacation Bible School, on

Tuesday, June 9, 1953, the Nevels children received Christ as Savior and were later baptized, and so was Dorothy, their mother.

Though more than half a century has rolled on, I recall Brother Ervin preached some powerful sermons, but perhaps his most far-reaching message was preached from a grocery bag on December 25, 1952. God used the gesture of that grocery bag

to eventually speak to me, the eldest of the Nevels children, who later on became a missionary to Argentina, and who time and again duplicated Brother Ervin's grocery bag gesture — which simply means that many people from the Land of the Gaucho will be in Heaven all because of Tom turkey.

"...for I was hungered and ye gave me meat..." and that is what it is all about.

Don and Lucy Nevels have been BBFI missionaries to Argentina since 1967. Look for Don's account of his amazing bus adventure from Argentina to Kansas in a future issue of the Tribune.

On Christmas Eve day we soothed our hunger pangs by going out to play with the neighborhood kids



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-Romans 8:37

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