

# BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

FEBRUARY 2016



**SHORT-TERM**

## **MISSION TRIPS**

p.6 *GLOBAL PARTNERS:* **Foreign Mission Trips**

p.21 **Domestic Mission Trips**

p.28 **Tributes:** Wendell Corell, Eli Harju, A.V. Henderson

**To contribute online, go to [tribune.org](http://tribune.org) and click on the PARTNER button.**  
Contributions can also be sent to our office: PO Box 309, Springfield, MO 65801



ON THE TABLE

## Short-term Mission Trips

by Randy Harp | Editor

Three weeks after arriving in Orlando, FL, to begin serving as student pastor at Orlando Baptist Church I participated in my first short-term mission trip. It was just four months earlier when I flew on an airplane for the first time and now, just a month after graduating from Baptist Bible College, I was flying internationally. I look back on that trip as a defining moment not just for my ministry but for my entire life. I have served on five other international short-term mission trips since then. One lesson I am reminded of on each trip are Jesus' words, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few."

Our theme for this issue of the *Tribune* is short-term mission trips. It also includes our *Global Partners*, where the BBFI Mission Office provides the content for ten pages. Associate Mission Director Jim Smith does a great job providing a balanced approach to this delicate topic. The information is based on results from 125 missionaries and 81 pastors participating in an online survey. You will notice varying opinions on the topic, some with more conviction than others. You will see several graphs and charts based on the research. You will read through tips and suggestions for planning and participating in trips. But most of all, you will read through inspiring stories of lives changed as a result of short-term mission trips.

Our new features also speak on the theme of short-term mission trips. "In the Trenches" highlights mission trips from the perspective of the senior pastor, youth pastor, and the children's pastor. "The Right Angle" answers the question, "How can social media help our missionary work?" You will also notice a couple of helpful pages, one listing four BBFI affiliated ministries that can help you plan your short-term mission trip and one with options where you don't have to leave the country.

We ended this issue with three pages of tributes of three men who were foundational in the beginning days of our Fellowship. They were each very different and will be remembered for different things, but there is no doubt each of them left a legacy.

This past month we also launched a new component of the Communication Office with our first BBFI Leadership Podcast. These will be interview-based conversations on various topics. The goal is for a new podcast to be posted the first Tuesday of each month with a few bonus episodes here and there. You can search for BBFI Leadership Podcast on iTunes, visit [www.bbfi.org](http://www.bbfi.org), or use a QR scanner and scan the code at right.



One final note — please take a few minutes and read my letter on the facing page about our February Tribune Offering. I unashamedly ask you to consider being a part of this special offering. I am extremely excited about all God has in store, but we can't do it without strong partnerships. I am counting on you as we work together to make more disciples for Jesus Christ.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve Christ as I serve you.

## MISSION TRIPS



### Global Partners: Short-term mission trips 6

The BBFI Mission Office takes a closer look at how to approach short-term mission trips



### No Passport Required 21

Insight from a couple of church planters and the BBF Builders regarding the benefits and options when it comes to domestic mission trips.



### Tributes 28

Reflecting on the ministries and influence of Wendell Correll, Eli Harju, and A. V. Henderson.

#### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

### Mission-trip planning resources 20



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

#### COLUMNS AND DEPARTMENTS

- 4 BBFI Leadership Perspectives
- 16 In the Trenches
- 18 Baptist History
- 19 Urban Current
- 22 The Right Angle
- 23 Fellowship News

The *Baptist Bible Tribune* (ISSN 0745-5836) is published monthly, except for a combined July/August issue, by the BBFI, 720 E. Kearney, Springfield, Missouri 65803. Periodical class postage paid at Springfield, Missouri, and additional entry offices.  
Executive Editor: Randy Harp  
Assistant Editor: Rob Walker  
Director of Office Services: Karri Joy Perry  
Email address: [editors@tribune.org](mailto:editors@tribune.org)  
Web site address: [www.tribune.org](http://www.tribune.org)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Individual subscriptions are \$15 per year anywhere in the U.S.; \$20 per year in foreign countries. Postmaster send address changes to: *Baptist Bible Tribune*, P. O. Box 309, Springfield, Missouri 65801, 417-831-3996, fax 417-831-1470.

*By-lined opinions expressed in the Baptist Bible Tribune are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editorial staff or the Baptist Bible Fellowship.*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT MISSION TRIPS

I went on my first mission trip as a six-year-old boy when my missionary family moved to the Philippines. I still remember getting on the large passenger ship in San Francisco and sailing past the Golden Gate Bridge on a journey that 21 days later landed us at the port of Manila. I met people who spoke a different language, ate different food, and learned customs and traditions that were new. This mission field became part of who I am. These people became my closest friends and ministry partners. My life and worldview were forever changed.

As a missionary, it was my privilege to host pastors, leaders, and teams who had come to serve with us. The experience changed their understanding and perspective of missions. As they built relationships with people, missions went from theology to lives that had been changed by the Gospel.

Jesus took his disciples on a mission trip to Samaria in John 4. The typical Jewish man would have avoided Samaria, but Jesus was insistent they go through Samaria.

It was there Jesus encountered the woman at the well. She believed his message and called the people in her village to meet him. The disciples returned from buying food and were ready to eat, but Jesus redirected their attention to why they were in Samaria on this mission trip — the people. Jesus' instructions recorded here are, "Do you not say, There are still four months and then comes the harvest?" Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" Mission trips help our people see the fields.

The relationships within the Baptist Bible Fellowship provide connections for these trips. Mission trips surely are an important strategy to build a mission program in our churches.



**Eddie Lyons**  
BBFI PRESIDENT

## WORLD MISSIONS

### WITH PURPOSE AND PLANNING, MISSION TRIPS CAN YIELD GREAT RESULTS

If you read Christian youth magazines, visit church websites, or follow Christian social media, you will find many organizations promoting mission trips. Even Bible colleges are actively planning trips for experience, training, and credit toward one's degree. I think you would agree mission trips are certainly popular these days, but are they having the desired impact on our people and furthering the mission programs of our churches?

To be honest, participating in a mission trip to reach out through evangelism, construction projects, vacation Bible schools, youth or sports camps, medical clinics, or

locating unreached peoples is exciting and potentially self-satisfying. It is gratifying to feel that, in some way, you have impacted lives and ministries in a foreign culture.

In many instances, the firsthand experience of mission trips has proven to have a tremendous, lasting impact on a church's mission program (providing both finances and prospective missionaries) and on the mission field (lives eternally changed). However, careful planning and training must be taken into consideration to assure meaningful results. As a missionary, I hosted several groups from American churches. The purpose of some was to

minister to missionaries while others assisted in evangelism, promoting the local church in the area, training leaders, and so much more. The church and the missionary must establish a clear purpose for the mission trip before it is promoted.

Are you carefully evaluating the purpose of your mission trips? Are you seeing an increase in mission giving? Do you notice a flow of people surrendering to missions as a result of these trips? If not, why not?



**Jon Konnerup**  
BBFI MISSION DIRECTOR

# BBFI LEADERSHIP

## CHURCH PLANTING

### TAKING A MISSION TRIP TO A CHURCH PLANTER'S PROJECT

Taking a mission trip to one of our new church projects can create memories to last a lifetime for your church and also encourages a church plant in its infancy. The excitement that comes to the church planter and his people when a group comes to share and minister is unparalleled. Providing help surveying, contacting new residents, helping with property maintenance, or assisting with a vacation Bible school boosts a young church planter and his people providing much-needed manpower to reach new people.

Also, when a pastor, youth minister, couple, or youth department visits a church launch and gives a testimony,

sings, or shares a message of encouragement, it enhances the church's worship. And, a church planter cherishes and appreciates when a visiting pastor personally and privately shares with them.

The church planter may also have needs the visiting church could meet. The pastor and congregation of a new plant are encouraged when a visiting pastor publicly shows affirmation and appreciation toward the planter and his new church as they step out in faith with this new endeavor.

If you or your church has not put together a church planting project as a mission trip, I encourage you to visit our APEX website at [www.bbf.org](http://www.bbf.org) and pray

about one of the planters listed. We have a tremendous group of men scattered across the country and any one of their projects would make a great mission trip. It would be exceptional if we could have pastors visiting church planters and their projects on a regular basis. Imagine what it would be like to have a different group visiting a planter once a quarter providing the church with a visiting speaker and allowing the people to become acquainted with different supporting pastors.



**John Gross**  
BBFI CHURCH PLANTING (APEX)

**M**ission trips change lives. They change the lives of those who are ministered to — through evangelism, building projects, feeding centers, water wells, and medical stations — and those who go. People are never the same.

But mission trips are costly. They cost a great deal of money. It is expensive to make travel arrangements for a group. They cost a great deal of time. They must be planned for and prayed for months in advance. They cost a great deal of patience. You are dealing with a number of factors beyond human control: people, governments, weather, and spiritual opposition.

But nothing great comes

without great cost.

There is a very special bond formed among a group that goes on a mission trip together. It is more than just a shared experience, it is an opportunity to see God bless the sacrificial giving of your time and finances and to see the power of God break language and cultural boundaries as people come to know the Savior you are sharing. It is an opportunity to see churches started and buildings built by your own hands. It is an opportunity to bring physical and spiritual healing. Nothing will instill in you a greater passion for ministry than seeing lives changed for eternity.

I have seen the power of the

mission trip in my own family. My brothers both surrendered to the ministry following a trip. My children and my ministry have been changed forever by experiences on mission trips.

Mission trips are so important that every year BBC students are encouraged to participate in a trip. I love hearing their experiences in Africa, Cuba, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Asia, or even in the U.S. They are learning that to change a life is to change the world.



**Mark Milioni**  
BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

# PERSPECTIVES: MISSION TRIPS

## **BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE** **AT BOSTON, WE TRAVEL**

**I**f you know much about Boston, you know one of our most popular and exciting programs is our Study Trip program. Each spring break we offer our students an unbelievable value to see the world and study on location. About 90 of us will spend two weeks in Israel in early March. It's certainly not just a "tour" — but it's not all mere academics, either.

Through the years, one obvious impact of the hundreds of thousands of miles we have traveled collectively is to see our students with a widened view of this spiritually needy world. Last year in Italy, more than once I heard "I haven't seen a single Bible-preaching church since

we left Boston!" In Greece a few years back, we were on the Isle of Patmos on "the Lord's Day." Our only option was to have a church service ourselves. The irony wasn't lost on students. In Ireland, while studying the importance of Irish Christianity in the transmission of New Testament text through the Middle Ages, we worshipped on the bus. Sure, we stood in many old, dilapidated stone churches in those days traveling winding Irish roads. For my quirky sake, we sang a song of praise in every one of them (I thought those old stones that had been silent for centuries needed to hear praise!). But we know that churches aren't buildings. We didn't meet a single

Irish believer on that trip.

I am so glad many who have traveled the world with us as part of their education have embraced the world as their life's calling. A Boston student doesn't graduate and think about the mysterious wide world out there. Boston students are global. They have seen the need with their own eyes. They know the past is the past, but eternity is forever. Study trips are sacred journeys for us.



**David Melton**  
BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE PRESIDENT

## **BBFI** **CONTACT** **POINTS**

### **Baptist Bible Fellowship Int'l.**

bbfi.org  
info@bbfi.org  
facebook.com/bbfi.org

### **Mission Office**

bbfmissions.com  
info@bbfmissions.com  
(417) 862-5001  
facebook.com/BBFIMissions

### **APEX (church planting)**

apexnetwork.tv  
info@apexnetwork.tv  
(417) 536-8826

### **Baptist Bible Tribune**

tribune.org  
editors@tribune.org  
(417) 831-3996  
facebook.com/bbtribune

### **Baptist Bible College**

gobbc.edu  
info@gobbc.edu  
(800) 228-6000  
facebook.com/BaptistBibleCollege

### **Boston Baptist College**

boston.edu  
info@boston.edu  
(888) 235-2014  
facebook/pages/Boston-Baptist-College

# GLOBAL PARTNERS

A feature provided by the BBFI Mission Office



## TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS

### Introduction

James G. Smith  
BBFI Associate Mission Director

According to Rodney Stark in *The Triumph of Christianity*, "About 1.6 million Americans go abroad on short-term missions every year at their own expense."

But what does that look like among the churches and missionaries of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International? We sent a survey to all BBFI missionaries and supporting pastors, and in this edition of *Global Partners* we want to share results from the survey, report on successful trips, and offer some instructive and cautionary suggestions.

Thank you to the 125 BBFI missionaries and the 81 BBFI pastors who participated in the survey. Because of space restraints, we cannot publish everything that came in, but we have exercised our editorial discretion and hope you will benefit from this subject matter.

As we anticipated, there were some strong feelings and opinions on this subject and, perhaps, some apathy as well. We are reporting on the impact short-term mission trips (STMTs) have had in the lives of current BBFI missionaries, so you will hear directly from them. The leaders of trips and the pastors of churches were also surveyed, and we think their contributions are helpful for those who are thinking of organizing a STMT. Hopefully the responses from missionaries and

pastors will provide clearer understanding of how to make a STMT more effective and productive.

We enjoyed compiling the opinions and suggestions from the broad group of ministers that make up the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. The graphs and statistics are enlightening, and we also have included wise counsel from our friends Janet O'Rear, Richard Lewis, and Bruce Garner.

While preparing this issue, we received an attractive brochure in the mail from another Baptist missionary agency advertising "inspiring vacations." For some, any journey away from the routine of life could be considered a vacation, but we are pretty sure most of our missionaries would not be interested in devoting the ministry preparation and logistical planning necessary simply to provide a vacation for well-meaning friends. Which leads us to a recurring theme we heard from those who have experienced STMTs, successful or otherwise – the purpose of each trip should be carefully developed and clearly communicated.

If we at the World Mission Service Center can help you as you pray and plan to visit your missionaries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

### Survey: Missionary Perspectives

**What are the top three reasons that motivate you to host short-term mission trips?**

PROJECT/MINISTRY NEEDS

45%

STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIP  
WITH SENDING CHURCH

44%

87%

EXPOSE THE TEAM TO MISSION WORK

PERSONAL RELIEF AND  
ENCOURAGEMENT

25%

RECRUITING NEW  
MISSIONARIES

60%







## Making an Impact

Jon Haley | Pastor

Northside Baptist Church | Arkansas City, KS

The first short-term mission trip I led was to the Sioux Nation in South Dakota with veteran missionaries Ed and Ruby Bausell. I was able to take two different groups to help renovate a church, paint another church, host a vacation Bible school, and hold a tent revival. I have taken youth to Costa Rica and the Philippines. I have led adult groups to Africa, Cambodia, Guatemala, and a group of families with their children and teens to Belize.

It is hard to quantify the impact a short-term mission trip can have on the missionary family who is in desperate need of help, money, and encouragement. It is also hard to clarify the deep impact upon a person when he or she sees the faith of missionaries and nationals who live a completely different way of life.

Each trip I have taken has impacted me. I remember being asked to share the Gospel with a group of parents who had been watching as we gave the Gospel to their kids. We walked over and shared the Gospel in a remote African village under a mango tree. All the adults gave their lives to Christ, and to this day I carry their names in my Bible. I remember the experience of watching my own children play with kids from Africa, Guatemala, and the Philippines. I remember being asked to speak at a funeral for an infant who had died a few hours earlier. I spoke to this village about the hope of Jesus and seeing their little baby Morgan again in heaven.

I say all this to say, I can't place an exact value on short-term missions, but I can tell you it is worth it. I had my first opportunity to go to Africa in March 2009 with Chris Moore and a group. It was life-changing. As I look at the pictures, I see a young couple who has since gotten married and surrendered to be full-time missionaries. As you read this article, they are BBFI career missionaries in Kenya with their two small children. I see a man and his wife who are now serving on the board of Real 4 Christ and have made nearly ten trips to Africa since that first trip. He has also gone back to seminary to receive a degree in missions. I see a young lady who surrendered to ministry, attended Baptist Bible College, and is now married to a youth pastor. I see another couple who have been back several times and decided to get a missions degree while he continued his career as a firefighter.

God gave each person a life-changing experience. This was an experience they will never forget. This experience led them to look at missions and missionaries differently. A quantitative value cannot be placed on a such a trip.

## Changing Lives

Jon Slayden | Pastor

Second Baptist Church | Midland, TX

Taking groups of all ages on short-term mission trips has been one of the most impactful aspects of ministry I've experienced. From park ministries in the Bahamas, to youth camps in the Brazilian jungle, to ministries in the slums of Kenya, to visiting pastors in Panama, mission trips have been a growth catalyst for the ministries I've had the privilege to be a part of. These trips create unity across generations, ignite a passion for reaching people, instill a global perspective, and even increase the awareness and involvement of local ministries the church is already plugged into. Trips like this can be life-changing for everyone involved!



While on a short-term mission trip as a teenager, the Lord opened my eyes to another culture and the world. I realized that I wanted to spend my life serving Him on a foreign field. Every decision I made after that (college, marriage, etc.) was based on my decision to be a missionary.

- BBFI missionary

## Short-Term Mission, Long-Term Impact

Chris Regas | Associate Pastor  
Glenwood Baptist Church | Kansas City, MO

Short-term mission trips can have long-term impact when done with integrity and intentionality. This summer we trained a team to serve on a short-term trip to Barbuda in the East Caribbean. We helped six of the seven local churches on the island further establish their Awana ministry and prepare the foundation for a hard-court for their games. Below are components of a great short-term experience we incorporated.

- 1. Pre-trip training consisted of eight equipping sessions** that focused on serving the missionary/nationals versus serving ourselves, experiencing another culture as a learner instead of as a tourist or critic, and making disciples through the local church rather than just photo ops or simply doing a project.
- 2. Payment required both personal financial investment and trusting God to raise financial and spiritual support.** Consequently, financing did not take away from monthly missionary support. Additional costs were taken out of our Special Projects budget to help underwrite some of the cost for each team member, pastors and team leaders, and the cost of preparing the hard-court. We view this financial cost as an investment in the development of future world-changers who will pray more fervently, give more faithfully, go more fearlessly, and love more fully for having had this cross-cultural experience.

- 3. Have purposeful goals during the trip so the project does not supplant the purpose.** Team goals remain the same even when the project changes or even fails. For example, our original project goal was pouring cement for a 50'x50' hard-court, but resources on an island are dependent on ferries and barges. The aggregate for the cement had not been delivered. So the project changed to preparing the foundation for future pouring. The project unexpectedly changed, but the purpose remained the same, and a well-trained team will release their expectations and be faithful and flexible to focus on the team goals.

- 4. Physical project was balanced with personal ministry.** Our own lay leaders conducted all the training each night after working all day preparing the hard-court. The best short-term experiences reflect Paul's focus in Thessalonica: "Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the Gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us" (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

- 5. Post-trip debriefing and accountability helps us continue doing at home what was done on the campaign** with a focus on: praying more for missionaries/unreached, giving more to missions through the local church, going more on mission here at home, and loving God and others more across the street and around the world. Success is not measured by what was done on the trip but by life change after the campaign.

## It's About People

Gary & Lisa Wilson | World Project Directors  
High Street Baptist Church | Springfield, MO

When we first began taking mission trips, our focus was primarily labor and construction projects. Over the years, High Street's mission trips have become more focused on the people. We realize that sometimes there isn't a project to complete, but going and encouraging the missionary is worth the trip!

One successful trip that stands out was a trip to Ecuador in 2011. We had a team of high school students who went to work with missionaries Cliff and Neoma McGhee and Glenn and Sherri McGhee. We went to the jungle town of Tena to work with a missionary sent out of the McGhees' church in Sangolquí. It is a full circle when a missionary we support sends out a missionary from their own ministry!

When we arrived in the jungle, our project required riding in long boats down the river to find people groups who had never heard the Gospel. In one village, there were no adults who could speak Spanish, they only spoke in their own language. We talked to them through their children who had learned Spanish. Our high school students were shocked to meet people who had never heard the name of Jesus. What an impact this made on those students – seeing firsthand how important it is to support missionaries who take the Gospel around the world.

Every mission trip we take affects the life of those who go as they experience the need the world has for the Gospel. It changes how they pray, how they give, and has even caused many to become missionaries. One leader who went on the trip to Ecuador is now a missionary in Europe. We are passionate about taking mission trips. High Street currently supports 135 missionaries and is the sending church for 25 families. We believe this is largely due to exposing our church to missions through these trips.



## Let's Think This Through

Richard Lewis

Lewis Cross-Cultural Training, Inc.

Please understand I am not opposed to STMTs. In the right context, they can be helpful. I do have a problem with those who think mission trips are vital and everyone should go on one. I know these teams sometimes provide added value to ministry on the field, but, in reality, most STMTs would not come under the category of "vital" at all. In some cases, it has become a feel-good program for the American church. The truth is, there are thousands of missionaries who have gone before us who have served effectively without short-term trips.

Having said that, allow me to offer suggestions that will help make STMTs more effective. In my experience, many times there has been no clear purpose for the trip. Here are some suggested purposes:

- To strengthen the host church
- To plant churches
- For evangelism
- Social work (orphan ministry, medical, construction)
- Give the short-termers an overseas project ... an experience of a lifetime

Once a purpose has been identified, there must be some follow-up questions:

- How will this strengthen the national church?
- Will there be an evaluation of churches planted?
- What are the long-lasting results of the trip?
- How many people have become missionaries as a result of the experience?
- Does it enhance a prayer life for missions?
- Do people give more toward missions in their local church after a trip?

It is also imperative that specific, intentional training be considered as part of the preparation. Will the host missionary help deal with the sensitivity of the host culture? Will there be training on communicating cross-culturally? In cases where the team will interact with Muslims, Hindus, or Buddhists, there must be specific training.

In a world of 3.6 billion people who have never met a Christian and in a world where many career missionaries are either un-funded or under-funded, STMTs are not the answer to reaching the world with the Gospel.

## Survey: Missionary Perspectives

... we have had some very good groups, and then we have had two or three that were either missionary tourism or who thought if they preached the Gospel in a Muslim context they would get big results and didn't, so they left disappointed. The ones that missed the mark were not spiritually, mentally, or culturally prepared. They came just to watch and take pictures with our children for Facebook and did not have much to give. Good groups are well prepared spiritually and mentally for the task at hand.

The short-term mission trip can be a major drain financially for the missionary and also a disruption of schedule. Often the participants from the U.S. do not understand the situation on the field and can even believe their one-week encounter has more impact than the lifetime spent by the missionary. Our Lord can choose to greatly use the intervention of a visiting team, but that is according to His grace and at His own discretion.

Short term missions can be a blessing or a blight. Of the teams I've been involved with one was a great blessing, the others were not. The team that blessed us came to do what the missionary needed done, built a building, evangelized an area, and worked hand in hand with the missionaries involved in the project.

Sorry to sound negative, but the usefulness of mission trips - there is a limited benefit - doesn't seem worth the expense. ... Visitors don't know building codes, are sometimes not qualified to do the work, and are essentially taking jobs away from locals. In some countries that might not apply, it does here.

It's always refreshing and exciting for us to show people from a supporting church where and how we live and what God is doing. But, through the years, we've learned short-term mission trips are mostly for the benefit of the visiting group. Because of the language barrier and the pretty extreme cultural differences (in the case of our country), we don't expect to see a lot of professions of faith, disciples made, or significant ministry results, especially over such a short period of time. And that's okay. For this reason when we plan for a group to come, we primarily determine what abilities they bring and what projects they want to accomplish, and then we plan our activities accordingly. We gladly change our schedule to accommodate their visits. And it's good to see them use their time and talents for the Lord and get exposed to a previously unknown mission field.

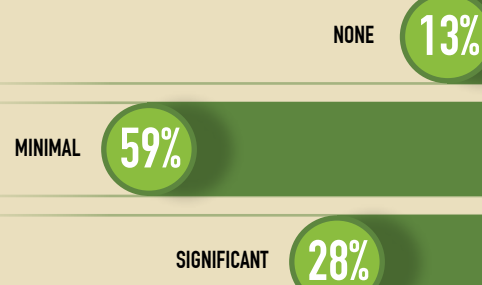
We love having them come even though it is exhausting and costly to us in time and finances. None of the churches and only one individual has offered to help with our extra expenses!

The three or four groups we have sponsored have actually been more of a burden than a blessing. One group did a great job, but the rest would have been better to stay at home since they were seemingly more interested in tourism than evangelism. Most were completely unprepared to sacrifice their American lifestyle and adapt to new food and new schedules. We probably will not invite any more groups.

## Survey:

Missionary Perspectives

**How much of a financial burden to you are short-term mission trips?**



## The “Top Ten” of Short-Term Mission Trips

We asked Bruce Garner, BBFI missionary kid, former missionary, and now senior pastor at CrossPoint Church in Huntington Beach, CA, for a “Top Ten” list for great short-term mission trips. Here are his insights:

**1. Know your purpose.** Your team should have a clear understanding of what its role will be and what you hope to accomplish. This will energize the team and bless the missionary and the locals. Your goals are clear when you can make a short written list of them.

**2. Strive to have a better purpose.** Candidly, if the trip is all about the benefit it will bring to the team, you’re settling for far too little. If the primary goal of this trip is “vision” or “exposure” for team members, that’s legitimate, but work hard to provide money and personnel so your team can do even more. Can you send funds ahead of the team to put a roof on a building? Can you recruit an electrician or carpenter to go on the team? A great trip accomplishes or accelerates the mission on the field and refuses to settle for “spiritual tourism.”

**3. Please make sure there is enough money.** When I was a missionary, I had a short-term team run out of money the first day they were in the country. The deficit was covered by our family’s already-tight funds. Charge your team members enough to cover their actual expenses, add \$100-\$200 to that amount, and then send a love offering ahead of your arrival. The missionaries will love you for it, and you’ll get the job done.

**4. Remember, a mission trip is not a “scared straight” program.** The most difficult trips I hosted as a missionary involved young people who clearly did not want to be there. They were sent to the field to “open their eyes,” or “make them realize how blessed they are.” I eventually realized they were with me because their parents wanted them out of the house for a week. (Bonus: They were out of the country!) Please send your missionaries team members who really want to be there. Send people who want to learn, bless others, and grow. One grudging team member can destroy the trip for everyone. Keep him or her at home.

**5. Train your team.** Leaving the country requires organization and preparation. Ask your missionary to provide the rules for a successful trip, and do as he says. There is much to consider: identification, insurance, transportation, meals, lodging, job skills needed, budget, on-field devotions and debriefing, team leadership, etc. Ask what it takes, and do what the missionary asks.

**6. Remember, this is stressful for your missionary too.** Your team will suffer culture shock. Your missionary will too. It is a daunting task to be the one ultimately responsible for the safety and effectiveness of 10-20 people who are far from home, don’t speak the language, and may not have many transferable skills to bring to the task. Be considerate, be kind, and follow your missionary’s lead. If you don’t trust him enough to follow his instructions for the trip, select another missionary.

**7. Keep in mind that poverty and the local children are not tourist attractions.** Many teams have instantly destroyed their reputation and influence by whipping out their cameras and loudly commenting on the poverty (and poverty-stricken children!) they were photographing and filming. This is cultural insensitivity that borders on cruelty. How would you feel if foreign billionaires came by your home to take pictures of you while making sympathetic comments about your living conditions? Yes, it’s okay - even good - to take pictures. But the Golden Rule always applies. Be kind, loving, and discreet.

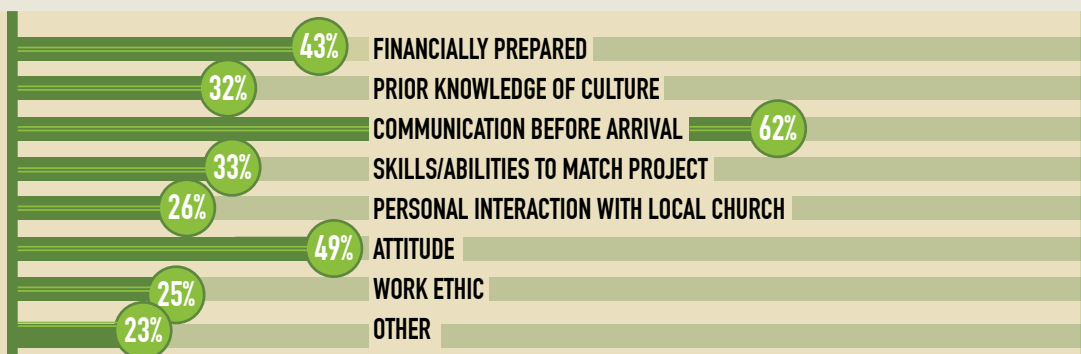
**8. Give a great report when you get home.** Tell your church what you learned, how your heart was moved, how you are different, and what you are going to do differently now. Future workers, givers, and missionaries can be moved to action by your team’s report of an effective short-term mission trip.

**9. Learn from every trip.** During the trip, keep a “next time” file to make future trips better. In a few years, your church can be a welcome, eagerly expected blessing on the mission field.

**10. Ask God to do more.** Some of the toughest trips I was part of produced generous givers, career missionaries, prayer warriors, and spectacular church members. God is willing to do far more than we dare to believe. Ask Him in faith, and see what He does.

### Survey: Missionary Perspectives

Based on your experience, what are the top three components of a short-term mission trip that teams can improve on?



## First, let's ask some questions

One of our experienced missionaries submitted a list of questions for pastors and churches to consider early in preparation for a short-term mission trip.

1. What is the relationship of the church with the missionary?
2. Is there a clear purpose for this trip?
3. Has the team properly prepared for this trip?
4. Has the trip organizer had experience in foreign travel in the past?
5. How will the locals react to an influx of foreigners?
6. Does the team have a basic understanding of life in the country they are visiting?
7. Does the team have an understanding of the particular ministry of the missionary they will visit?
8. Will the team be prepared to submit to the missionary's expertise and experience?
9. Is the team willing to follow the dictates of local government officials without question?
10. Does the team understand the dangers they might encounter on this field?
11. Does the team understand that food and accommodations might be very different?
12. Is there one main contact person who will bear complete responsibility for the team? (No infighting!)
13. Is the team willing to come when it is most conducive to the missionary's ministry rather than what is most convenient for their schedules?
14. Is the team committed to not cause a financial burden on the missionary?
15. Can each member of the team articulate a good reason for his visit?



## Mission work is like an onion

Janet O'Rear

LAMP/TIME International | Miami, FL

To rephrase a quote from Shrek, "Mission work is like an onion - it has layers." The concept of mission work is so extensive it takes layers of understanding and spiritual growth to get to the point where you can pray for people you've never met, give in faith, or even say, "Here I am, send me." Short-term mission trips help peel back the layers.

Most of my experience with short-term trips has been in leading TIME International, a program designed to take students on three-week trips during the summer. Over the past 20 years, we've taken 63 teams to 33 different countries. Many students have gone more than once, and have seen layer upon layer of understanding God's Great Commission be peeled back. The layer of poverty in underdeveloped countries, the layer of people's condition in developed countries, the layer of how a missionary goes from where they were as a student to where they are now, the layer of the finances needed to accomplish God's work, the layer of personal interest in this Great Commission, the layer of personal surrender, and on and on. The process takes time, but it has proven to be very worthwhile.

We are often asked to help others organize their trips, so here are some practical details that help in the planning:

**1. Have a clear understanding with your host missionary as to what they would like to see accomplished on the trip.** There are trips that have a definite task to be accomplished (construction, camp, evangelistic meetings, etc.). But

maybe what your missionary needs is for a few people to just be there: observe, ask questions, have conversations, and serve in any way needed at the time.

**2. Have a clear understanding with your host missionary of the financial needs of the trip.** If there is going to be a construction project, does the missionary have the funds for the project or should the group include that in their financial planning. What about food, lodging, and transportation?

**3. If you are traveling in a group, use a travel agent.** All the benefits of online ticketing and great deals are precarious if you are overseas with a group and there is a problem. A good travel agent can accomplish things that can't be done online.

**4. Flexibility has to be priority one.** On a TIME trip we have a saying, "It's not better, it's not worse, it's just different." Wrapping our heads and hearts around that phrase may be the first layer of understanding this onion.



## Vermont

Tim Taylor | Pastor

Victory Baptist Church | Vergennes, VT

Mission trips are an adventure, a learning experience, an opportunity, and an endurance test all wrapped up together. For Victory Baptist, we first determine which of our missionaries had something for us to do and could host us. Then the challenge is to help our teens raise the money. The adults pay their own way. The big fundraisers are an annual apple pie sale at Thanksgiving and an annual sticky bun sale at Christmas. Ingredients are donated or purchased and all the items are baked at the church. People throughout our area order these homemade items for the holidays.

One summer, 36 of us went to work with Wesley and Melina Lane in the Dominican Republic. Pastor Eric Malachuk, from Massachusetts, came with his daughter as well. Our group's objectives in the Dominican were construction, evangelism, and ministry. Because of the size of our group, we rented a compound of cabanas and chartered old buses for transportation. Over the next ten days, we built a building from start to finish at the youth camp, did a craft and Gospel day at an orphanage (we brought all the materials), brought and distributed baseball equipment as well as Gospel materials at a little league day, sang in Spanish in five different churches, did door-to-door evangelism, participated in a youth rally, and enjoyed some amazing sights, including white river rafting. Quite a lot of activity for a ten-day mission trip!

Tremendous pre-planning on both the church's part and the missionary's part was required. It is vital the pastor and missionary have a great working relationship for these trips to be a positive experience for the missionary, his work, and the mission group. Victory Baptist does these trips every two to three years. We have always left with our missionaries encouraging us to come back. We have seen young people surrender to ministry and adults increase their passion for missions as a direct result of these trips.

These trips are a lot of work and expense, but when well-planned, they are a great investment.



# CHURCH REPORTS

## Iowa

Randy Abell | Pastor

Heartland Baptist Church | Ames, IA

We only have a few trips under our belt, but plan to do more, including one this next summer.

So far, we have been to Guatemala and Zambia. We took a small group to Zambia and focused on teaching the Bible and being an encouragement to our missionaries there. Our trip to Guatemala was a much larger group, sort of entry level, doing good works and exposing people to missions, hoping the Lord might call some to ministry.

## Delaware

David Perdue | Pastor

First Baptist Church | Milford, DE

Our most recent trip to Costa Rica was for young single adults. We worked with a new church plant and helped with a vacation Bible school. What a blessing to see 17 accept Christ as Savior! We also helped this church by painting their building and walls and providing funds for renovation of their building. Our singles returned with a greater vision of mission work and much more interest in missionary reports.

Short-term mission trips allowed me to have firsthand experience ministering and sharing the Gospel in a foreign culture to a foreign mindset. It gave the practical application to what I had felt the Lord giving me the spiritual zeal and calling to.

- BBFI missionary

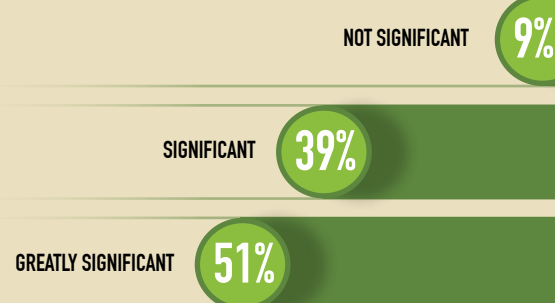


I went on my first mission trip when I was in 8th grade, never thinking God was preparing my heart for mission work. He used that experience as a young girl to develop a love for a country and people who were not my own. And He gave me a deep desire to share the love of Christ with them – a people who knew nothing of Jesus Christ. Several trips later, I knew God was calling me to serve in full-time ministry in mission work.

- BBFI missionary

## Survey: Missionary Perspectives

**How significant was your short-term mission trip experience in your decision to go into full-time mission work?**



## Texas

Terry Kizer | Pastor

Alliance Baptist Church | Ft. Worth, TX

In 2015, we took 21 of our members to Guatemala to visit feeding centers with MANNA Worldwide and our missionaries Dick and Barbie Bass. We wanted to expose our people to mission work and do a three-day VBS in the small farming village of El Arado, where we are helping start a church. Several churches are working together with MANNA to establish a church, build the building, start a feeding center, cooperate with the medical clinic in the village, and support the pastor.

While there, we helped interview and call a pastor for the church. We visited homes in the village, offering food baskets and presenting the Gospel. We saw several people trust Christ as Savior. Our people saw firsthand the hardship and heartache of the people there and their desperate need for the hope of Jesus.

A highlight of the trip was watching our people interact and play with the children. There were approximately 200 children who came to the VBS. We taught on the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus in the three days. When Pastor Jairo gave the invitation on the last day, around 70 children prayed a prayer of repentance. On that day, Susan, a member who came with her daughter, realized the money she gives to missions is actually going to help establish this church, minister to these people, and make a difference in these lives. Now she gets it. Missions is much more than a line on an envelope. It's the hope this world needs.

## California

Lewis McClendon | Pastor

Ventura Baptist Church | Ventura, CA

Sixteen people woke up early in the morning, suffered through rush-hour traffic, stood in security lines at the Los Angeles airport, and then endured a 14-hour nonstop flight to Auckland, New Zealand, to be a blessing to our missionaries, Dalton and Paulette Walker, and the local pastors of BBFI churches at their annual family camp. We cooked meals, staffed the nursery, taught children and teen classes, and preached at the services so the missionaries and local pastors could spend time with their people who attended the camp.

Our primary goal was to be a blessing to the Walkers. We were there because Dalton told us this was a way we could be a blessing to him, his family, and his work. If we can encourage the encourager, we feel our trip was successful.

Dalton Walker later said, "Family camp in New Zealand for the leaders is all about wearing many hats of responsibility – having VBC come and take the reins was refreshment to the soul and spirit and allowed our people to feel more connected to our sending church and the BBFI."

Mission trips will change your whole church. When we returned from the trip, our group was on top of the world. They saw people saved, families strengthened, and our missionaries encouraged. They got more excited about missions. They promoted the next mission conference more than I did. And, a teen who was on the trip surrendered to missions and is on the mission field today. What a blessing!

## Massachusetts

Tom Maine | Director of Spiritual Development  
Cape Cod Church | Falmouth, MA

In October 2015, Cape Cod Church sent a team of 13 members to Managua, Nicaragua, on a seven-day trip to assist missionary Brian Weed and his *Familia Avance Nicaragua* staff with the construction of a new church in Ciudad Sandino, a large and mostly impoverished suburb of Managua.

The team spent three days on the worksite building concrete forms, painting, erecting walls, and pouring concrete on the second floor of the church (with buckets!). The team saw the *Familia Avance* ministry in action and assisted the staff with a morning children's outreach and youth sports program in Sandino, worship and children's ministry at the mother church in Managua, and with children's feeding centers at both churches. Before departing the country, the team also experienced the rural beauty of Nicaragua outside of Managua, including peering into an active volcano and swimming in a volcano crater lake!

## Maine

Jerry Mick | Pastor  
Crosspoint Church, Bangor, ME

Every year our church is challenged to join me on a mission trip. We usually offer participants numerous options of ministry such as medical, building, VBS, and evangelism. Over the years, we have had as many as 50 go and as few as ten.

Our most recent trip was to Cambodia in 2015. Twelve of us went on a trip focused on medical and building tasks. We went out into the rural villages and held medical clinics while some of the men painted and did electrical work. Our host was the Highlands Camp in Cambodia and Paul Tabanao who runs the camp ministry at Highlands.

We take these trips for our people - so they can see what a third-world country is like, to give them a better appreciation of what God has done for them personally, to give them a vision of the world, to challenge them to give more to missions, and to give them opportunity to see if God may be calling them to missions. In recent years, we have been to Africa, Belize, Nepal, and the Philippines.

A short-term mission trip helped me see beyond the mere physical needs of people to their spiritual needs. It helped me see how the preaching of the Gospel and church planting is the solution to the problems people face.

- BBFI missionary

## Rhode Island

George Warren | Pastor  
New Hope Baptist Church | Pascoag, RI

On one particular trip to Haiti, we saw how the Lord could use us to accomplish His will. Our purpose was to help in the construction of a new building for Good Shepherd Orphanage, as well as having an opportunity to preach in local churches. Our church has supported this particular orphanage for several years.

We met up with BBFI missionary Ron Maggard in Haiti and immediately went to work on construction. Our group consisted of four men, plus Ron and myself. Success might be a relative term, but I would consider the trip successful for a number of reasons:

- We had men come who have never been on a mission trip before; these men were willing to do hard labor for the cause of Christ and the benefit of the children.
- We were able to be an example of Christian living and were able to preach the Word of God and see people respond.
- These men are now regular travelers when we have mission trips and have since been on trips to Spain and Ecuador.
- Our church's mission giving has increased because we have taken a hands-on approach to the ministry in Haiti. We return from our trips with a detailed presentation of our service, and that seems to inspire others to give more to missions.
- Our children's church is now directly involved in raising money for the orphanage.

## Missouri

Kevin Kolb | Pastor  
Grace Baptist Church | St. Charles, MO

The greatest mission trip I experienced was eight years ago when 13 members of our church visited Lima, Peru, for Thanksgiving. What a joy it was to celebrate an all-American Thanksgiving with four missionary families serving in Lima. (We brought fresh cranberries and cans of pumpkin with us for the full effect.) Visiting a city like Lima that has so many different ministries gave our team the opportunity to participate in a variety of endeavors including medical outreach, college campus outreach, earthquake relief, literature distribution, movie outreach, street puppet outreach, and a Frisbee and soccer outreach.

While we hope God used our team for good in Lima, we know God used Lima for good in our lives. Of the 13 members on that trip, 12 are still actively serving God today (eleven are still members of our church). Eight members have pursued, furthered, or completed their Bible training at a Christian college or seminary, four have served as deacons, three are counselors in our biblical counseling ministry, and two are finishing deputation and, Lord willing, will be in Japan as BBFI missionaries in 2016 (Tim and Jenelle McCown.) One member became our new mission trip coordinator and has since led others from our church on trips to visit other mission fields. To God's eternal glory, the labor of that one week continues to bear Gospel fruit!



## Texas

Mike Marcellus | Pastor  
First Independent Baptist Church | Austin, TX

It was the summer of 1968 and three churches collaborated on what was to be called a SMITE Trip (Summer Missionary Intern Training for Evangelism). First Bible Baptist of Wichita, Kansas City Baptist Temple, and Tulsa Baptist Temple combined their efforts, headed up by Roscoe Brewer with 220 teens and adults. Our caravan consisted of four buses, filled with teenagers, two vans with counselors and a medical team, and a food truck to provide meals for two weeks. Along with us was the VIP car with pastors Doyle Hopper, Truman Dollar, and Clifford Clark.

The group arrived in Monterey, Mexico, to work with missionary Lonnie Smith for two weeks. We stayed outside the city at Campo Rio Escondido, Hidden River Camp. Each morning we rose early for breakfast, spent the day working construction on a new church building in Cercado. Each evening we loaded onto the buses, rehearsing songs we would sing in the service that night. Each night we went to a different church in a different part of the sprawling city, always around 6:30 p.m. so we could spend an hour handing out invitations to the service that night. Even though I was only 14, I will never forget those services and the invitations when 20 to 30 people would give their hearts to Christ.

We returned the last night of our campaign to Cercado to dedicate the new church building we had built. The people packed out the new building. It had been built to hold 100. That night there were nearly 300 on the inside and sitting in the windows, and probably twice that many outside. The music was inspiring, the preaching was powerful, and the people were mesmerized in spite of the blistering heat. Instead of asking for those who would like to be saved to come forward, the preacher asked for those who didn't want to pray to receive Christ to go outside to allow others to come inside. That night, 119 prayed to become new believers in Jesus! It had a profound impact on my life.

Forty-seven years have come and gone since that first trip, and I can say the journey that started that summer hasn't ended. Since then, more than 100 times I've returned to work with various missionaries in their field of ministry. Without the experience each short-term mission trip has given me, I would not be able to do the ministry God has called me to. The passion it instilled in me no doubt is one of the reasons we have seen 97 so far who have gone into the Lord's work under our ministry, not including the half dozen currently in Bible colleges right now and more than a dozen who have surrendered their lives to go to college to prepare for ministry. I recommend every pastor invest time and money to send people to visit one of your missionaries. I am so grateful to my pastor for sending me and two other young people on my first short-term mission trip.



## IN CLOSING

### Partnering

Jon Konnerup  
BBFI Mission Director

Short-term mission trips are a valuable tool that can change lives. The goal is for culturally relevant mission trips to result in long-term impact. Equal partnership in mission trips is the ideal that sometimes is difficult to attain. A church's mission trip should not only be set up to impact the people of the church going on the trip, but also to impact the ones they are traveling to minister among. It is crucial for those on the trip to gain a better knowledge of the needs on the field, participate more in their mission program by committing to pray and investing financially, and perhaps surrender to go as a career missionary. The trip must also benefit the missionary's local ministry and the nationals.

It is important to think in terms of partnership between the church's mission team and the missionary and his work. Those on the mission trip are a blessing to the missionary and the nationals through different types of ministries. The missionary is a blessing as his ministry encourages those visiting to become more active in worldwide missions.

Each church and group that embarks on a mission trip must humbly evaluate their motivation, be honest about their goals, and be culturally informed about where they are going in order to be most effective. The potential fruit of this planning will be life change for those on the trip, a spiritual lift for the missionary, and lasting impact on lives in the region where the trip takes place.

If our mission trips were planned with much prayer, with the right motives, with the proper objectives, and the desire to impact both those going and the ones visited mutually, just think of all that could be accomplished in our churches at home and throughout the world.

BBFI  
WORLD MISSION SERVICE CENTER  
[bbfimissions.com](http://bbfimissions.com)



# IN THE TRENCHES

## Pastor

Michael Haley, Jr.  
Pastor | Cross Creek Church | Fountain, CO

### Be willing...

There has been a lot of debate on the affect of short-term mission trips. In my experience as a pastor and a former youth pastor who has taken several groups on short-term trips, these trips can be very beneficial to those who are going on the trip as well as to the church as a whole. There is nothing quite like seeing and doing missions on a foreign field. My first experience in leading a group was when I was a youth pastor. With Greg Lyons' prodding, my wife and I took nine teenagers to the Philippines for two weeks. One young girl on that trip is now a missionary in Pakistan, so I have seen first hand the benefits of short-term mission trips. To this day, when I smell diesel fuel I think of my first trip to the Philippines.

Here are a few things I've learned that will hopefully help you in preparing for your next trip. There are just two words you and those going on the trip with you need to know in order to get the most from your trip — be willing.

**Be willing to work hard.** Prepare your people to be tired, physically, spiritually, and mentally when they return from a trip.

**Be willing to get out of your comfort zone.** Stretch your group spiritually and physically. They need to engage in the culture you are visiting.

**Be willing to be flexible.** Plans are great, but things can and will go wrong. You might spend a day in some random airport, lose luggage, or equipment might get held up in customs. All kinds of things can go wrong when visiting another country.

**Be willing to follow through.** I have been guilty of not doing this in the past, but follow through

with your plans and follow through when you get home. To get the most benefit from your trip for your church, you need to allow the people who went to communicate what they experienced.

**Be willing to listen.** Listen to the missionary you are there to help. Chances are you will not start a spiritual reformation with your team in the days you are there, so listen to the missionary and follow him. There is a good chance he knows what he is doing and the best way to minister to the people God has called him to. Also, listen to the Holy Spirit. When people are on a trip they are much more sensitive to the Holy Spirit, so help them learn to listen to the Holy Spirit.

If you have never been on a mission trip I encourage you to take a trip. MANNA Worldwide might be a good place for you to start. Call one of their representatives and book a trip today. There is nothing quite like smelling, tasting, touching, hearing, and seeing what God is up to around the world.

## Missionary

Daniel Duke  
BBFI Missionary | Peru

### A lasting return

During our eight years as missionaries in Peru, we have had approximately 15 mission teams come from all over the U.S. to help us. These groups are always energizing and encouraging, and we love meeting people and involving them in our ministry. Our people also love when "the North Americans" come. The Peruvians see our U.S. churches love them and our family and they are willing to sacrifice their time and money to work side by side with them.

We have always said a mission trip should accomplish two things: Wear you out physically and fulfill you spiritually. We love having church groups of all ages come and minister with us so they can: 1) see their mission dollars in action and 2) strengthen their faith and love for missions and missionaries.

First we try to let churches know we are looking for and scheduling mission teams. Once we have a church interested, we keep in touch with the leader and even Skype with the group to prepare them before their arrival. We also ask what kinds of abilities and gifts the team members have and create a trip specifically around their strengths. We have had evangelistic mission teams whose main focus is to run camps, VBS, or street witnessing. We equip them with Spanish materials and bilingual Peruvians who are also strong in evangelism. Another kind of trip involves labor and construction — building, painting, cleaning, and using physical labor to reach our community and show them the love of Christ. When we build our ILoveCusco.org project, we will need many construction teams to make that a reality. We have also had medical mission teams hold three-day medical and/or dental campaigns. Having our own dental clinic in our church has enabled us to reach many with the Gospel. This past summer, three church groups came to Peru and we utilized

all three types of trips. Our first church painted houses and cleaned the streets and six people were saved as a result. Our second church ran kids and teen camp and 73 received Christ as Savior. Our last church helped with a dental campaign and 81 people gave their lives to Jesus.

All of our mission teams have been successful, not only in souls saved but also for those who ministered. Most of our 15 interns were part of a church mission team that came for a short-term trip. They have returned and stayed five to ten weeks to minister, work, and learn. We even have one intern getting married and preparing to come back and work with us as a couple in the near future. To us, this is the ultimate proof God still uses mission trips. This is true for our family, as Laura, my wife, was called during a trip to Argentina.

If you are looking for a place to minister, we would love to have you come and work with us! Contact us at [dukes4peru@gmail.com](mailto:dukes4peru@gmail.com).

# MISSION TRIPS

## Children's Ministry

Lesa Joubran

Children's Minister | Solid Rock Community Church | Burton, MI

### Getting the children involved

Our church was preparing for an international mission trip. Some of the children asked how old they needed to be to go on a trip. Our leadership team met with the pastor and we decided we would offer a mission trip to a local homeless shelter for the children's ministry. We presented the idea to the students and their parents and the children began raising money to buy materials to make fleece tie blankets. We provided flyers so the students could ask for support. Many of them used their own personal allowances and some even broke their piggy banks to add to the funds. We raised enough funds to make approximately 100 blankets.

We worked as a group many hours cutting and tying the blankets together. It was a sight to see, as the children were so excited to be doing this on their own. At a scheduled time the students, children's ministry volunteers, and a few parents arrived at Carriage Town Ministries in downtown Flint — a homeless shelter that serves dinner to the residents. The children were allowed to greet people, serve food, and sing Christmas carols while everyone ate. As the individuals from the shelter were leaving, they received a handmade blanket from a child. The look of joy it brought to the men, women, and children to receive something made with such care and love was a blessing. When our team left, there was so much excitement and desire to do it again.

The students and adults learned more than we could have ever imagined through this experience. They saw firsthand how they can work together and accomplish great things in our community for God's glory. Their excitement was contagious! They learned you are never too young or old to share the love of Jesus and the mission field is not far away.

## Pastor

Don Elmore

Pastor | Temple Baptist Church | Springdale, AR

### Great for the church

Short-term mission trips are the life of our mission program here at the church. The anticipation, work, planning, and executing of a mission trip gives excitement to our church. Our mission conferences are influenced by our mission trips and it is like a homecoming when missionaries we have visited on the field come to our church.

We normally pray, seek, watch, and look for open doors as to where we visit. I like to visit someone we are already supporting so

we can report back to our church. We have been to Africa, Cambodia, Peru, Costa Rica, Greece, and Ecuador, having repeated visits to three of these places. Our goal is for some of our people who go on trips to surrender to be career missionaries.

Some of our best fundraisers include a candle sale where we purchase candles from Hanna's Candles in Fayetteville and sell them, pie and cake auctions, selling flower arrangements at Valentine's Day, and selling pies for Thanksgiving. We like for those taking the trip to have skin in the game, so we ask them to share in the fundraising and pay

what they can toward the trip.

We prepare our people with meetings to discuss what we will be doing on the field, learning and performing wordless dramas, learning customs, and communicating with the missionaries we will visit. We also have prayer meetings and enlist the church to support in every way they can. We send our groups off after prayer and assigning prayer partners.

I would recommend every church do mission trips. It is a life-changing experience for the individual and the church.

## Youth Ministry

Joel Byers

Youth Pastor | Central Baptist Church | Tyler, TX

### A change of perspective

I love mission work and how it allows students to see how big God is; it's an experience they'll never forget. I've planned and gone on several short-term mission trips, and getting to be around the different cultures and see lives changed is what it's all about.

I'd like to share about the trips that had the biggest impact on our students and were also cost effective. The first was Mission Arlington, an inner-city outreach center that provides food, shelter, clothing, medical, dental, and financial assistance to the people in Arlington, TX. They partner with churches from around the country and allow you as a youth pastor and your group to participate in various projects to reach the families in their area. One of the biggest impacts our students have been able to make is by leading a VBS-style program at one of their numerous apartment ministry locations. I've taken several groups over the years to Mission Arlington and over 100 children have accepted Christ. The best part about this was seeing our students share their faith and lead the children to Christ. This mission trip is great for your junior-high-age students — it gives them the opportunity to get a feel for missions and also share their faith in a practical way. Mission Arlington provides the lodging, all you have to do is provide your own transportation and food, making it possible to do this trip for under \$200 per student.

The other mission trip that had a huge impact on our students was our trip to Nicaragua this past summer. We partnered with BBFI missionaries Max and Jennifer Kennedy. This trip was around \$1,500 per student, but it was worth every penny. It was just a four-hour plane ride from Dallas. Max and Jennifer had everything set up for our team for the week. Our students helped in orphanages, did various work projects to beautify the local church, and also shared the Gospel with the children and adults that came to the daily activities. Just having our students see how people live in other areas of the world opened their eyes to a larger worldview of missions and helped them focus their lives on others.

I encourage youth pastors to get their teens involved in mission trips, whether it is in their local towns or across the world. When students are serving others it makes their lives and their issues feel small and gets them focused on an amazing God.



## ANDREW FULLER — Missionary Advocate, Writer, and Pastor

The dominant perspective of English Baptists when Andrew Fuller was born in Wicken, England, in 1754 was that of “high Calvinism.” By a rigid application of “logic” founded on highly defective premises, those holding this view concluded that the “non-elect” had no warrant to embrace or believe the Gospel message (since, they had concluded, it was never intended for them by God). Therefore, it was proper and right for preachers to omit any offer of the Gospel to the non-elect, and indeed, it was in fact wrong for them to make a general offer of the Gospel to people at large. And the notion of foreign missions to evangelize the heathen never even crossed their minds, it was so “absurd” from this perspective. Had Edwards, Whitefield, and the Wesleys held this view, there would have been no Great Awakening in America and no sweeping spiritual revival in 18th century England.

This spiritually poisonous, zeal-deadening, and soul-killing view found its most influential advocate in the writings of the learned London pastor John Gill (1697-1771), native of Kettering in the English Midlands, the very town where, three quarters of a century later, Andrew Fuller (1754-1815) would do his great work in refuting this misguided opinion and refocusing Baptists on worldwide evangelism.

Unlike the older generation of English Baptist preachers who had deeply imbibed “Gillism,” there was a core of younger men who recognized the Bible commanded the Gospel be offered to all men and that sinners everywhere be urged to embrace the Gospel, with blessed results promised for those who did so. This group included future missionary to India William Carey (1761-1834), and pastors John Sutcliffe (1752-1814), Samuel Pearce (1766-1799), John Ryland, fils (1753-1825), and Fuller.

Though lacking any early educational advantages – no college and no mastery of any foreign language (though later acquiring rudimentary knowledge of Greek) – Andrew Fuller nevertheless became a well-read, well-informed, and quite influential leader among the Baptists of his day.

Raised by Baptist parents (of the usual Gillite persuasion), Fuller was converted in his mid-teen years, pastored two congregations, first at Soham (1775-1782) then in Kettering where he was ordained (1782-1815). I was happy to learn in a visit to Fuller’s grave in Kettering some eight years ago that Fuller’s church is still in existence, and still adheres to the fundamentals of Biblical faith, with a concerted effort to reach its community with the Gospel.

Convinced by Scripture and convicted by the Holy Spirit, Fuller, Carey, and the others organized the Baptist Missionary

Society in October 1792 in the parlor of the widow Wallis in Kettering. Carey offered himself as the first missionary, and the others, especially Fuller, vowed to “hold the rope” for Carey as long as they lived. Fuller was elected as secretary of the society, and on him fell the greatest responsibility in keeping Carey’s tenuous lifeline strong and secure (a round trip for correspondence from India to England and back required ten months, minimum).

This “novelty” of a foreign missionary society faced indifference from many Baptists, ridicule from the secular press, and strong opposition from the East India Company as well as the British government. Fuller had to deal often with each of these opponents.

Fuller traveled extensively, almost continuously, throughout England, Scotland, Wales, and even to Ireland promoting the cause of foreign missions, awakening the churches and preachers from their spiritual lethargy, raising money, and soliciting prayers for the mission enterprise. Fuller literally exhausted himself in this work which gripped his soul.

Fuller was also a voluminous writer. His most famous publication was *The Gospel Worthy of All Acceptation*, written when he was just 28. It brought him much controversy and opposition, but it drew Baptists back from the hyper-Calvinism that had widely deadened the denomination. He also wrote notable treatises against Socinianism as well as Sandemanianism (a form of “easy believe-ism” which affirmed nothing more than mere mental assent to the facts of the Gospel was required for conversion), besides numerous sermons and Bible expositions, as well as many, many letters.

Cathcart states, “to [Fuller] more than to any other human being was the first foreign missionary society of modern times indebted for its protection in infancy, and the nurturing influences that gave it the strength of a vigorous organization.” A highly commendable legacy.

A memoir of Fuller’s life by his son Andrew G. Fuller is included in the three-volume *Complete Works of Andrew Fuller* (vol. I, pp. 1-116; Sprinkle reprint 1988). William Cathcart, *The Baptist Encyclopedia* (1881; pp. 420-422); and Thomas Armitage, *History of the Baptists* (1887; pp. 583-585) also have brief accounts of Fuller’s life and labors. A biographical sketch and an analysis of Fuller’s writings by Phil Roberts is in *Baptist Theologians* (1990; pp. 121-139) edited by Timothy George and David S. Dockery.



# URBAN CURRENT

## Against the tide

**S**on of slaves, African American father, Cherokee mother, he read the Gospel of John 20 times before he was ten years old. At age 20, the testimony of Adam Clayton Powell, Sr. was, “all I could make and borrow was sacrificed to the demon of gambling which possessed me soul and body.” In that condition, he attended a Baptist revival meeting and was converted. Three years later, he was seized with an unquenchable desire to preach. Having been in pursuit of a law degree, he says, “My mind was suddenly and completely turned from the law to the Gospel.”

Pastoring two churches in the 16-year period previous, he received a call in 1908 to the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City.

Abyssinian was founded in 1808. A group of black parishioners left First Baptist Church of New York due to segregated seating. Reverend Thomas Paul, an African American minister from Boston, assisted the group of African Americans and Ethiopian immigrants in establishing Abyssinian, after Abyssinia, the ancient name of Ethiopia. Abyssinian became the first African American Baptist church in the state of New York.

Arriving in New York City, Powell discovered an enthusiastic minority opposed his call telling him the former pastor had not had a square deal. They wanted him back. Several weeks later, a church meeting was to name the pastor’s salary and arrange for Powell’s installation. It was rumored a woman of the aforementioned minority would make a motion to petition a court for an injunction restraining Powell from being installed. She was a faithful influential member of the church.

The Saturday before the meeting, she suffered what seemed to be a paralytic stroke. She never regained consciousness. She died Sunday and was buried Tuesday. No other minister could be procured. Powell was asked to conduct the service.

Powell writes in his autobiography, *Against*

*the Tide*, “The superstitious thought that this was an act of God. I do not know but I know it had the same effect. The church meeting was all harmony. Not a hand was raised or a voice lifted against the proposed program.”

The church was located in the city’s red light district. Prostitutes lined the curb after services soliciting the men of the congregation. Powell immediately announced he would preach every night in January. By January 20, under constant Gospel bombardment, the neighborhood began to crack. Pimps, prostitutes, keepers of dives, and gambling dens were drawn to the meetings, confessed conversion, and were baptized. Numerous death threats were made against the pastor. The church persisted and succeeded at least in forcing the street trade into private quarters.

Powell was often called to conduct citywide evangelistic campaigns. One effort in 1909 in Indianapolis was described by the *Christian Banner*, “... Churches ... came together in one great soul-saving effort. Citizens of both races testified it was the largest and most helpful revival of religion ever witnessed in that part of the country ...”

William H. Farris described Powell’s sermons as, “He preached eloquent sermons, real sermons that people said had life and fire.”

Former pastors had tried to move the congregation to Harlem, but Adam Clayton Powell, Sr. convinced the congregation to move and build. In 1920, they purchased the property. Crowds estimated up to 50,000 clogged streets and vacant lots to attend the laying of the cornerstone.

The edifice that rose under Powell’s vision was like no other a congregation of color had built anywhere in the country. Gothic and Tudor design, constructed of New York bluestone, the front and rear windows of European art glass were among the largest and most beautiful in the United States. The 2,000 seating capacity was centered on a white, Italian marble pulpit.

During the year, about 1,000 members were added bringing the membership to 2,000. The building committee expected it would require at least two years to build up Sunday morning attendance to 2,000. In the year following the dedication, the morning audience never fell below that number.

A young Dietrich Bonhoeffer arrived in New York City to attend seminary. He observed, “In New York, they preach about virtually everything; only one thing is not addressed or is addressed so rarely that I have as yet been able to hear it, namely, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the cross, sin and forgiveness, death and life.”

Eric Metaxes writes in *Bonhoeffer, Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*, “Bonhoeffer was invited by a fellow student to Dr. Adam Clayton Powell, Sr.’s Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. This New York preacher was unashamed of the Gospel, proclaiming the saving power of Jesus and living the Gospel out in community impact and city-wide influence. Powell combined the fire of a revivalist preacher with great intellect and social vision.”

He later reflected that any value he experienced in New York was due to his experiences in the “Negro churches.”

Developing outreach ministries, Powell saw the membership swell to 14,000. Abyssinian was the largest evangelical congregation in the country. He would shepherd this flock till 1936.

Jim Crow ruled the south. The north wasn’t exactly friendly. New York City was its own hostile force. The Great Depression hit the black community with special ferocity. Adam Clayton Powell, Sr. led a Gospel charge against the tide.

Here is the adventure! Here is the drama! Here is faith! Here are the miracles. Through history the greatest work for God has been against the tide! Now it’s our turn.

by Charles Lyons, Pastor  
Armitage Baptist Church,  
Chicago, Illinois  
[charles.lyons@armitagechurch.org](mailto:charles.lyons@armitagechurch.org)



## TIME INTERNATIONAL

Dave and Janet O'Rear

[www.timeinternational.net](http://www.timeinternational.net) | [time@timeinternational.net](mailto:time@timeinternational.net)

TIME International began taking students on short-term mission trips in the summer of 1996. Their premise: to offer trips to several countries at the same time, gather high school and college students from various churches to form one team, make the trips longer than is practical for a one-church trip, use mime dramas as a way of evangelism, and choose host missionaries who would enjoy investing time in students.

The International Bible Baptist Church of Miami serves as the host church for these trips. Teams generally include 12-14 people including two trip directors. All travelers meet in Miami for two days of training and team-building before leaving to their respective countries. Fifteen days later they reunite to share their experiences and prepare to take their experiences back to their own church.

These trips have been influential in the lives of students. In fact, today there are nine missionaries serving in England whose journey began on a TIME trip. TIME invites missionary kids to join them in discovering a different part of the world and having their own mission trip.

## MANNA WORLDWIDE

Bruce and Pamela O'Neal

[www.mannaworldwide.com](http://www.mannaworldwide.com) | [admin@mannaworldwide.com](mailto:admin@mannaworldwide.com)

MANNA Worldwide is a Christian organization caring for impoverished children around the world by fighting disease, poverty, illiteracy, and spiritual emptiness. They provide over 100 trips a year around the world consisting of churches, business groups, and medical personnel partnering with missionaries on the field.

MANNA Worldwide manages 145 projects and operates in 37 countries. Their objective is to help missionaries start new churches along with a feeding program for children and orphanages — building a greater bond between laypeople and ministries. They have seen long-lasting effects by taking people to various countries. Not only does it encourage the missionary but it also helps the traveler develop a greater love and vision for people around the world as they fall in love with the children they feed and see the changes Christ makes in the children's lives.

One pastor recently shared, "Not only did God do an amazing work in our team members' lives, but they have spread their excitement throughout the church and our entire church has become more involved in supporting the missionary on the field and desire to support a new feeding program."

# PLANNING & RESOURCES

## CHAMPS MISSIONS

Rick and Fran Schuessler

[www.champsmissions.org](http://www.champsmissions.org) | [bachamps@aol.com](mailto:bachamps@aol.com)

Champs Missions, which began in 1988 with a future missionary and Baptist Bible College student on a survey trip, offers short-term mission trips to the Caribbean where there are 38 island nations with a population of 41 million. Champs Missions' purpose is to start new churches, feed the hungry, heal the sick, educate the uneducated, and equip the saints.

Over 7,500 students and adults have journeyed with Champs Missions to conduct vacation Bible schools, help construct church buildings, hold free medical clinics, and be hands and feet in helping strengthen churches. They host trips to the Bahamas, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Trinidad, and Curacao to Christian school senior class trips, construction teams, college teams, sports teams, local church student ministries, and adult teams.

One traveler states, "After five hours on a plane and ten days in the Bahamas, I never knew my life would be changed in such a quick amount of time. From loving on precious kids at the local parks, helping teachers at the surrounding schools, to going door to door for hours telling people about Jesus, every part of ministry in the Bahamas opened my eyes to a new door of God's kingdom."

## NEW HOPE INITIATIVE

Sandy and Karen Baird

[www.newhopeinitiative.org](http://www.newhopeinitiative.org) | [info@newhopeinitiative.org](mailto:info@newhopeinitiative.org)

New Hope Initiative takes volunteers on short-term mission trips to countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, or India. They minister in various ways including working with children in Christian schools through the Penda Project, volunteering at a feeding center, serving alongside ladies in a microloan program called Biashara, or assisting at a medical clinic. These volunteers come from churches, schools, civic clubs, and businesses. Some are also individuals and families who are unable to find a team or organization to travel with but desire a personal mission experience. Many trips are general vision-casting trips, allowing first-time participants a balanced personal look at what mission work is all about.

One life changed during a trip was that of a young Tanzanian girl who fell into a fire as her parents prepared a meal. The doctor from the New Hope Initiative Clinic treated the girl but she was in need of major surgery. An American plastic surgeon taking a New Hope Initiative trip shortly after the girl's accident partnered with the clinic's doctor to perform a skin graft that has greatly enhanced the quality of the girl's life.





By the *Tribune*

**A**lthough much of this magazine has focused on international mission trips, there are other options that do not require a passport. These trips can be equally impacting and life-changing. Two options are serving with a church plant and with the BBF Builders.

From its beginning, the Baptist Bible Fellowship has been a church-planting movement. One of the best investments a church can make is helping and supporting new churches. Over the past two years, church planter Chris Highfill has had eight churches from outside his ministry area of St. Louis partner with him and his church. He states, "Most groups come in the summer months, which is usually considered a slower time in

ministry world, but it is actually one of the greatest seasons of growth for our church."

Community Baptist Church of The Woodlands, TX, and Pastor Dan Greer participated in a short-term mission trip to serve alongside Gracepoint Baptist Church and Pastor Chris Housewright outside of New Orleans. During this trip the churches worked together to host a sports clinic for the community. The week's efforts resulted in several families visiting the church the following Sunday. Other ministry options included servant evangelism, canvassing a neighborhood, ice cream truck takeovers, helping host a VBS or a movie night at a local park. Chris Highfill states, "One of the greatest challenges of church planting is letting people know you exist as a church. Having other groups of volunteers always makes a huge splash in the community. Without them there is no way we would be where we are today as a church plant."

Another domestic mission trip idea is to serve with the BBF Builders who are church construction missionaries. BBF Builders launched in 1999 with the primary purpose of helping church plants get into their first building. It has since grown to also help existing churches with renovations, additions, and new buildings. The goal is to help save a church as much money as possible so they can

use their resources to reach their community with the Gospel. For example, Faith Baptist Church of Joplin, MO, was completely destroyed after the tornado hit their city in May 2011. The BBF Builders helped the church save \$450,000.

Both church groups as well as individuals can serve with the BBF Builders. It is better if those serving have construction experience, but it is not necessary. There are ministry opportunities for anyone who chooses to volunteer. National Director Ron Trosclair says, "It is truly amazing how much can be accomplished in a very short time with a team of volunteers working together."

BBF Builders recently helped renovate an old 8,000-square-foot nightclub into a church. With the help of several churches coming in at different times, they were able to complete the renovation at minimum cost. A vacant 13,000-square-foot space above a Family Dollar store was also remodeled into a church with the help of several different church groups at different phases of the project.

The BBF Builders have two projects scheduled for this spring and fall in Illinois and Iowa and another in Arkansas in 2017.

If your church isn't ready to consider an international short-term mission trip, then a domestic short-term mission trip to partner with a church plant or with the BBF Builders may be the best solution. To learn more about opportunities to partner with a new BBFI church plant visit [www.apexnetwork.tv](http://www.apexnetwork.tv) or email [info@apexnetwork.tv](mailto:info@apexnetwork.tv). To learn more about partnering with BBF Builders contact National Director Ron Trosclair at [rontros@yahoo.com](mailto:rontros@yahoo.com).



# THE RIGHT ANGLE

## BIBLICAL WISDOM FOR A CONTEMPORARY WORLD

By Kevin Carson

**A** Social media provides opportunities to help or hurt both God's work and God's people. Because of personal safety issues and global location, some missionaries cannot engage supporting churches, friends, and pastors through social media. However, for those who can participate, the power of social media can benefit both the missionary and the congregant.

### FOR THE MISSIONARY...

1. **Communicates the needs.** Social media provides a great outlet to communicate various needs to those who love you and want God's best for your ministry.
2. **Informs prayer.** Often, service to a missionary begins with prayer. Make your prayer requests known and specific.
3. **Provides a context for life.** You live. You hope. You enjoy family. You celebrate anniversaries. You rejoice as people are saved and baptized. You hurt. You undergo suffering. You experience disappointments. With wisdom, share what you believe will bless, challenge, encourage, or help those who engage with you.
4. **Broadens support.** With a great sense of love, appreciation, and excitement, many of your friends and family will share what you have posted through social media, in Sunday school classes, at prayer meetings, and at the family dinner table. In the process, your prayer support broadens, and possibly your financial support as well.

### FOR THE CONGREGANT...

1. **Communicates you care.** With ministry pressures and, at times, almost overwhelming circumstances, your interaction may provide that special sense that God and God's people care about the missionary's life, family, and ministry.
2. **Keeps missions in the conversation.** Social media provides an additional avenue to stir hearts for missions. A timely post reminds your readers of a specific need or at least the Great Commission.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A CHURCH OR CONGREGANT?

1. **Watch, eager to pray.** The Apostle Peter encouraged all believers, "Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray" (1 Peter 4:7). As you scroll through your social media feed, be alert for people and circumstances for which to pray. Every time you see a missionary's post, determine if it is a prayer request. If it is, pray immediately. If not, say a prayer of blessing for the missionary.
2. **Read, open to give.** Often, missionaries use social media to communicate needs. If this is the case, you can ask, "Is there something I can give or encourage others to give?"
3. **Share, desiring to help.** There may be others in your social network who could pray or who could give. Practice caution when sharing missionary posts, though,

because of the public nature of social media. Be sure to share only what the missionary shares publically. It is unwise to read a personal email or hear a pastor share news regarding a particular missionary and then share that news on social media; it could jeopardize the missionary's safety or produce other undesired results.

4. **Respond, seeking to encourage.** The easiest way to respond is simply clicking "like" or something similar; this provides the originator with the confidence that you read the post. In other instances, you may reply with "Praying" or "Encouraging report, thank you!" When notified of a missionary's birthday or anniversary, a short note is always appreciated.
5. **Engage hoping to serve.** Realize missionaries are busy doing God's work in a specific location with many ministry, social, and family obligations. The missionary may be just as busy as you or busier. Your goal is to serve and not overwhelm a missionary with additional correspondence. Try to word your posts to allow the missionary the option of not replying.
6. **Participate striving to glorify God.** Whatever you say or however you use social media to love and serve your missionary, allow Paul's words to motivate you: "Whether therefore you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

### Have a question?

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

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



FINLEYVILLE, PA

## CHRISTMAS DESSERT THEATER

Crossroads Ministries and Library Baptist Church of Finleyville, PA, hosted their annual Christmas dramatic musical December 11-13. Hundreds of people saw this year's musical, "Humbug! Merry Christmas, Indeed!" which was brought to life by more than 50 people. Guests were treated to a light dessert after the program. A big hit of the evening was a photo booth that printed images as they were taken.

This year's story was set in the 1950s with lead character Winston T. Grubber, a real-estate tycoon whose hero was Scrooge. Winston planned to make a huge profit at others' expense until a young shoeshine boy helped him discover what Christmas is about. The Gospel message became plain throughout the presentation and many people prayed to receive Jesus Christ as Savior.

Crossroads Ministries has hosted Christmas theaters for numerous years and reports many people have come to Christ and made Crossroads their church home as a result of these Christmas events.

To see their production of "Humbug," visit [www.crsmin.com](http://www.crsmin.com) and select the "Messages" link.



COMPLETE YOUR DEGREE ON-LINE AT

## LOUISIANA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY & SEMINARY

Degrees in Bible, Christian Education, Christian Counseling, Christian Communications and Leadership.

### WHY CHOOSE LBU?

- ▶ **LBU** is Theologically Conservative.
- ▶ **LBU** has 42-plus years of experience as a proven leader in non-traditional education.
- ▶ **LBU** has over 30 adjunct and full-time professors holding doctorates in their fields who are committed to offering a first-class off-campus program.
- ▶ **LBU** offers Bachelor, Master and Doctorate degrees that may be completed by means of the Internet.
- ▶ **LBU** offers an affordable interest-free payment plan.
- ▶ **LBU** has outstanding alumni around the world.
- ▶ **LBU** allows you to begin anytime, work at your own pace.

*Committed to providing Excellent, Affordable Education  
Anytime, Anywhere, Around The World.*



LOUISIANA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY & SEMINARY  
3601 Westport Ave. | Shreveport, LA 71129 | 318-686-2360  
[www.lbu.edu](http://www.lbu.edu)





SPRINGFIELD, MO

## HIGH STREET HOSTS CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

High Street Baptist Church and Pastor Eddie Lyons hosted their annual Christmas party for Weller Elementary December 6. The event includes bounce houses, a hot meal, pictures with Santa, haircuts, grocery bags for families, and presents for each child to gift to their families. All of the supplies, groceries, and presents were donated by High Street's congregation.

Two hundred and fifty volunteers from High Street, the largest turnout for any High Street activity, made the party happen. The church donated 125 bags of groceries, gave away over 1,000 presents, served over 500 meals, and performed 52 free haircuts by professional stylists. Lyons said, "The true joy as a pastor in an event like this is not only loving the community in such a tangible way, but seeing so many of our church serving together for a single purpose at one time."

This year, the church developed another level of connection with Weller families by training hosts for the party to develop relationship with the mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts, and uncles who attended with their student. "We have heard some great stories from people who have connected with families of Weller, not only that night but in a continuing relationship," says Lyons. "Our hope

is these relationships will be leveraged for the Gospel and to tell of what Christ has done for us."

High Street's relationship with Weller Elementary and the school's administration began over 12 years ago. It has grown to include a lunch buddies program, a weekend food program, the Christmas party, and more.



## The KJV Store The #1 source for King James Version Bibles

KJV Bibles

Spanish Bibles

Reference Books

Church Supplies

Gifts &amp; Accessories

### KJV Rainbow Study Bible (Holman)

The KJV Rainbow Study Bible has a unique color-coding system that allows readers to identify quickly and easily twelve major themes of Scripture throughout the text: God, discipleship, love, faith, sin, evil, salvation, family, outreach, commandments, history, and prophecy. The system also underlines all words directly spoken by God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

- 12 pages of color maps with index
- Bible reading calendar
- Concordance
- Subject guide
- Table of Weights and Measures
- "Know What God Says"
- "100 Popular Passages"
- "365 Popular Bible Quotations for Memorization and Meditation"



Hardcover.....\$39.99 **\$35.00**  
 LeatherSoft (brown).....\$59.99 **\$50.00**  
 LeatherSoft (pink/brown).....\$59.99 **\$50.00**  
 LeatherSoft (brown/purple).....\$59.99 **\$50.00**

### KJV Bible Basics Sunday School Curriculum

KJV Bible Basics Sunday School Curriculum features comprehensive 13 Week Lesson Plans and materials to teach children ages preschool (2 and 3) through High School about basic Bible stories appropriate for their age level. The search for quality, full-color, KJV Only curriculum for children and adults of all ages is finally over. See for yourself why customers are raving about the quality, price, and King James Only standard. Now taking orders for the Spring Quarter (March, April, May).



#### Pre-School through Young Teens:

Learner's Manual – **\$3.55**  
 Make & Take – **\$3.55**  
 Teacher's Guide – **\$5.05**  
 Visual Aids – **\$9.50**

**Call today for a FREE sample!**

#### High School through Adults:

(HS) Student Book – **\$3.00**  
 (HS) Journal – **\$3.00**  
 (HS) Teacher's Guide – **\$3.00**  
 Adult Quarterly – **\$2.50**  
 Adult LP Quarterly – **\$3.15**  
 Adult Devotional Quarterly – **\$2.50**  
 Adult Lesson Commentary – **\$7.75**

**www.TheKJVstore.com**

Follow us!



**1-800-310-0327**

Call us today to request a free catalog

LEE SUMMIT, MO

## ABUNDANT LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH DEDICATES NEW BUILDING

Abundant Life Baptist Church and Pastor Phil Hopper dedicated their new 100,000-square-foot building January 3. At the grand opening service, ten people accepted Christ as Savior and 3,900 were in attendance.

The new building features a 2,100-seat-auditorium, a 17,000-square-foot open area with a lobby, café, resource center, and a

multi-purpose space, and a children's area that includes a large play zone, multiple classrooms, and additional space for worship and activities.

Abundant Life re-launched 16 years ago with 100 people. Their mission is to see lives changed through Jesus. In 2015, 290 people were saved, 146 were baptized, and they had 5,405 first-time guests. They also served 2,345

families at their food pantry, gave \$10,000 to single moms in their church during mother's day, served 415 families through their food pantry and schools for Thanksgiving, and delivered "back snacks" to 155 students in their area schools each week.



### INCOME TAX PREPARATION

- For all taxpayers
- Specializing in Minister/Missionary taxes

**MLM**  
www.marvinmillercpa.com

- Foreign Bank Account Report Preparation •
- IRS Tax Problem Resolution •
- Prior Year Tax Filing •

**(417) 799-0316**

**MARVIN@MARVINMILLERCPA.COM**

### WITH THE LORD

GRAND RAPIDS, MI

#### Ed Dobson

Ed Dobson, a prominent pastor and former Liberty University staff member, died December 26, 2015, after a more than 15-year battle with (ALS).

Dobson served at Liberty for 15 years (1972-1987) in various roles, including editor of the *Fundamentalist Journal* and vice president for student life. Dobson also worked as an aide to Jerry Falwell and led the Moral Majority. Before being diagnosed with the terminal disease, Dobson served as senior pastor of Calvary Chapel in Grand Rapids, MI, for 18 years.

Dobson is survived by his wife, Lorna, three children, and his grandchildren.

JEROME, ID

#### MILDRED GOSNELL


Mildred Estelle (Taylor) Gosnell, wife of longtime pastor Richard Gosnell, passed from this life November 10, 2015, at the age of 88. She was born to Lester and Sue Ann Taylor October 28, 1927, in Oklahoma where she spent her early years. Her family later moved to Roswell, NM, where Mildred met Richard. They married in 1943 and three days later Richard left for World War II. Mildred spent the next three years waiting for his return.

Mrs. Gosnell was a faithful pastor's wife. She attended Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO, and in 1956 she and her husband moved to Oregon, later serving in Washington and Idaho.

Mildred is survived by her two sons, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, Richard, parents, and three brothers.

Services were held November 23, 2015, at Jerome Bible Baptist Church, Jerome, ID, with Pastor David Gosnell officiating.

**Let not your heart be troubled**



**A booklet for those facing loss and bereavement**

For information or to order:  
The Reapers/Thomas Ray  
P.O. Box 867505, Plano TX 75086  
Phone 972.509.9240  
Email: tray1701@verizon.net  
www.thereapers.com

**BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE**  
**MAY 2-5, 2016**  
**GRADUATION AND FELLOWSHIP WEEK**



BARRINGTON, NH

## JOURNEY CHURCH AND SUMMIT CHURCH TO MERGE

Two congregations in the Northeast became one on January 3 as Journey Church of Barrington, NH, and Summit Church of Berwick, ME, merged after lengthy discussions and approval by leaders and congregations. Summit Church members were welcomed into the Journey congregation at the celebration service.

Pastor Ross Tieszen of Summit expressed desire with Pastor Rob Willis of Journey to merge churches in early November. "Summit was a small congregation of approximately 75 people, and they were struggling to make ends meet," says Willis. "We were in a great position

to consider the merger, and immediately began working on logistics. The book *Better Together: Making Church Mergers Work* by Jim Tomberlin and Warren Bird was a great help."

Summit voted to dissolve and cede all assets to Journey, and Ross became a staff pastor in charge of outreach and evangelism. Journey will launch a Saturday service right after Easter. Willis says, "Everyone is pretty excited about adding a third service on a different day, and having the leaders in place to do this quickly is great." With the merger, Journey has an average attendance of 500, and looks to launch a second location in 2017.

**WE WILL GO SEE SERVE**  
A Missions Adventure designed for those 15-19 years of age

**TIME Summer Missions Trips**

**BRAZIL.COSTA RICA.MONGOLIA**  
[www.timeinternational.net](http://www.timeinternational.net)

## TRIBUNE CLASSIFIEDS

69¢ per word (\$12 minimum). All ads subject to approval of the *Tribune*.

**The Bible Rebinder** Don't Retire Your Bible — Rebind It! Fifteen years experience rebinding and repairing Bibles. Contact Joe Gleason, 2256 E. Nora, Springfield, MO 65803, for prices. (417) 865-3823 or [thebiblerebinder@gmail.com](mailto:thebiblerebinder@gmail.com).

**Church Bus/Shuttle Sales & Service** Coach Master's is your "ONE STOP BUS SHOPPING CENTER." Call us today at (308) 234-8111 for all your bus and shuttle transportation needs. Visit our website [www.coachmaster.com](http://www.coachmaster.com).

**Alliterated Outlines** Ephesians, Jude, Jonah-James, and other outline books, send for free outlines and price list. Bob Smallwood, 311 Harlan Lane Rd., Villa Rica, GA 30180 (770) 459-3120

**Religious books for sale** List sent email [dudley1@fidnet.com](mailto:dudley1@fidnet.com) Evangelist Bill Dudley, 1116 Lacy Dr., Lebanon, MO 65536, (417) 532-2665. [www.dudleysusedbooks.com](http://www.dudleysusedbooks.com).

**Silver Lake Baptist Church of Belleville, NJ** will be receiving resumes for Youth/Assistant Pastor. Looking for a young couple who wants to minister in a highly populated urban area in NJ, and learn the ministry. Resumes can be sent to [vfmilano@aol.com](mailto:vfmilano@aol.com).

**Free income tax preparation** for clergy and religious workers. Federal and state returns prepared and e-filing available. Faith-based ministry. [www.ClergyTaxes.com](http://www.ClergyTaxes.com) or [ClergyTaxes@aol.com](mailto:ClergyTaxes@aol.com).

**Bible Baptist Church of Buffalo, MO** will be receiving resumes for the position of pastor. Contact information: Bible Baptist Church, Attn. Pulpit Committee, PO Box 361, Buffalo, MO 65622

To place an ad, call (417) 831-3996 or email [editors@tribune.org](mailto:editors@tribune.org).

*Advertising in the Tribune does not necessarily imply the endorsement of the publisher.*

**Need Church Insurance?**

**Mel Himes & Associates Insurance Agency, Inc.**

**Deltona, FL**  
**(386) 574-3030**  
**(800) 329-3031**  
[www.melhimesinsurance.com](http://www.melhimesinsurance.com)

**Free Insurance "Up"**  
Endorsed By BBFI

- Property • Liability
- Bus • Auto • Health\*\*
- Workers' compensation
- Life\* • Dental\* • Vision\*
- Disability\* • Retirement\*
- 403b Plans\*

\*Underwritten by Kansas City Life Insurance Company  
\*\*Written through CGA, a wholly-owned subsidiary of GuideOne Insurance

**GuideOne Insurance**  
[www.guideone.com](http://www.guideone.com)



## ALABAMA

**Shelton Beach Road Baptist Church**  
401 Shelton Beach Rd. • Saraland, AL 36571  
(205)675-2122 • Pastor Gary W. Shockley

## ALASKA

**Anchorage Baptist Temple**  
6401 E. Northern Lights • Anchorage, AK 99504  
(907)333-6535 • www.ancbt.org  
Pastor Jerry Prevo

## ARIZONA

**Thomas Road Baptist Church**  
5735 W. Thomas Rd. • Phoenix, AZ 85031  
(623)247-5735 • Pastor Daniel Dennis

## ARKANSAS

**Trinity Baptist Church**  
204 Trinnen Lane • Berryville, AR 72616  
Pastor Derryl DeShields

## CALIFORNIA

**Calvary Baptist Church of Oakhurst**  
At the corner of Highway 49 and Redbud (location only)  
(559)641-7984 • Pastor Bob Wilson

## The Baptist Tabernacle

1329 South Hope St. • Los Angeles, CA 90015  
(213)744-9999 • Pastor Dr. R. L. Hymers, Jr.  
www.sermonsfortheworld.com - sermon manuscripts  
www.baptisttabernacle.com - church website

## Ocean View Church

2460 Palm Ave • San Diego, CA 92154  
(619)424-7870 • www.oceanviewchurch.com  
Pastor Steven Boschen

## CONNECTICUT

**New Testament Baptist Church and School**  
111 Ash St • East Hartford, CT 06108  
(860)290-6696 • Pastor Michael Stoddard

## DELAWARE

**Southside Baptist Church**  
4904 S. DuPont Hwy (US 13 So) • Dover, DE 19901  
(302)697-2411 • Pastor Chris Kondracki

## First Baptist Church

6062 Old Shawnee Rd • Milford, DE 19963  
(302)422-9795 • Pastor David Perdue

## FLORIDA

**Palm Springs Drive Baptist Church**  
601 Palm Springs Dr • Altamonte Springs, FL 32701  
(407)831-0950 • Pastor Scott Carlson

## Tabernacle Baptist Church

6000 West Colonial Dr • Orlando, FL 32808  
(407)295-3086 • Pastor Steve Ware

## New Testament Baptist Church

2050 South Belcher Rd • Largo, FL 33771  
(727)536-0481 • Pastor Matt Trill

## Trinity Bapist Church

800 Hammond Blvd • Jacksonville, FL 32221  
(904)786-5320 • Pastor Tom Messer

## First Coast Baptist Church

7587 Blanding Blvd • Jacksonville, FL 32244  
(904)777-3040 • Pastor Richard Edwards

## Harbor Baptist Church

428 Tomoka Ave • Ormond Beach, FL 32173  
(386)677-3116 • Pastor Ronald L. Todd

## First Baptist Church of Coconut Creek

5100W Hillsboro Blvd., Coconut Creek, FL 33073  
(954)422-9611 • www.fbcocc.com  
Pastor Adam Alley

## Calvary Baptist Church

123 Thunderbird Dr • Sebastian, FL 32958  
(772)589-5047 • www.calvary-baptistchurch.com  
Pastor Clifton Cooley

## New Life Baptist Church

35000 Radio Rd (at Poe St) • Leesburg, FL 34788  
(352)728-0004 • newlifebaptistchurch@earthlink.net

## Suncoast Baptist Church

410 Warrington Blvd • Port Charlotte, FL 33954  
(941)625-8550 • www.suncoastbaptistchurch.com  
Pastor Chip Keller

## Grace Bible Baptist Church

1703 Lewis Rd • Leesburg, FL 34748  
(352)326-5738 • www.gbbconline.com  
Pastor George Mulford III

## Orlando Baptist Church

500 S. Semoran Blvd • Orlando, FL 32807  
(407)277-8671 • www.worldchangingchurch.com  
Pastor David Janney

## HAWAII

### Lanakila Baptist Church

94-1250 Waipahu St • Waipahu, HI 96797  
(808)677-0731 • Pastor Steven C. Wycle

## ILLINOIS

### Sauk Trail Baptist Temple

4411 Sauk Trail • PO Box 347 • Richton Park, IL 60471  
(708)481-1490 • Pastor Bruce Humbert

## IOWA

### Heartland Baptist Church

3504 N. Grand Ave • Ames, IA 50010  
(515)268-1721 • www.heartlandbaptistames.com  
Pastor Randy Abell

## KANSAS

### Millington Street Baptist Church

1304 Millington St • Winfield, KS 67156  
(620)221-4700 • Pastor Jeff McCaskill

## Friendship Baptist Church

2209 E. Pawnee • Wichita, KS 67211  
(316)263-0269 • Pastor Steve Day

## KENTUCKY

### Florence Baptist Temple

1898 Florence Pk • Burlington, KY 41005  
(859)586-6090 • Pastor Wayne G. Cox

## Oak Hill Baptist Church

2135 Oak Hill Rd • Somerset, KY 42501  
(606)679-8496 • Pastor Gary Phelps

## MARYLAND

### Riverdale Baptist Church

1177 Largo Rd • Upper Marlboro, MD 20774  
(301)249-7000 • Pastor Brian C. Mentzer

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Temple Baptist Church

540 Manley St • West Bridgewater, MA 02379  
(508)583-5190 • www.templebaptist.info  
Pastor Bill Smith

## Bridgewater Baptist Church

20 Summer St • Bridgewater, MA 02324  
www.bridgewaterbaptistchurch.info  
Pastor Doug Denny

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Northside Baptist Church

333 Jeremiah Blvd • Charlotte, NC 28262  
(704)596-4856 • Pastor Brian Boyles

## Mid-Way Baptist Church

6910 Fayetteville Rd • Raleigh, NC 27603  
(919)772-5864 • Pastor James L. Upchurch

## Trinity Baptist Church

216 Shelburne Rd • Asheville, NC 28806  
(704)254-2187 • www.tbcasheville.org  
Pastor Ralph Sexton, Jr.

## Central Baptist Church

6050 Plain View Hwy • Dunn, NC 28334  
(910)892-7914 • www.cbcdunn.com  
Pastor Tom Wagoner

## Berean Baptist Church & Academy

517 Glensford Dr • Fayetteville, NC 28314  
(910)868-5156 • www.bbcfnc.org  
Pastor Sean Harris

## OHIO

### Bible Baptist Church

990 W. Main • Mt. Orab, OH 45154  
(937)444-2493 • Pastor Ted House

## Ashland Ave. Baptist Church

4255 Ashland Ave • P.O. Box 86  
Norwood, OH 45212  
(513)531-3626 • Pastor Jerry E. Jones

## First Baptist Church

1233 US Rt. 42 • Ashland, OH 44805  
(419)289-3636 • Pastor F. R. "Butch" White

## OREGON

### Tri-City Baptist Temple

18025 S. E. Webster Rd • Gladstone, OR 97027  
(503)655-9326 • Pastor Ken McCormick

## RHODE ISLAND

### Ocean State Baptist Church

600 Douglas Pike • Smithfield, RI 02917  
(401)231-1980 • Pastor Archie Emerson

## TEXAS

### Central Baptist Church

2855 Greenhouse Rd • Houston, TX 77084  
(281)492-2689 • Pastor Larry Maddox

## First Baptist Church of Meadowview

4346 N. Galloway Ave • Mesquite, TX 75150  
(214)391-7176

## First Baptist Church

Hwy 64 • Wright City, TX 75750  
(903)839-2700 • www.firstbaptistwrightcity.com  
Pastor Rohn M. Boone

## North Park Baptist Church

4401 Theiss Rd • Humble, TX 77338  
(281)821-2258

## Cypress Creek Baptist Church

21870 Northwest Freeway • Houston, TX 77429  
(281)469-6089 • Pastor Carl Hughes

## Talley Rd. Baptist Church

3120 Talley Rd • San Antonio, TX 78253  
(210)675-3154 • www.talleyroadbaptistchurch.org  
trbc@satx.rr.com • Pastor Myres Drew

## VIRGINIA

### Faith Baptist Church

3768 S. Amherst Hwy • Madison Heights, VA 24572  
(434)929-1430 • Pastor Brian Hudson

## Central Baptist Church

13910 Minnieville Rd • Woodbridge, VA 22193  
(703)583-1717 • office@cbcwoodbridge.org  
Pastor Brad Weniger

## WEST VIRGINIA

### Fellowship Baptist Church

Rt 60 E. at Huntington Mall • Barboursville, WV 25504  
(304)736-8006 • Pastor Jerry Warren

## INTERNATIONAL

### BELGIUM

#### Grace International Baptist Church

Bruges, Belgium 8200  
(913)871-8901 VOIP • www.gibc.be  
Pastor Tim J. Downs

**Church ads are available to any BBFI church for \$10 per issue. To place an ad, call (417)831-3996.**

**EVANGELIST ADS** are available to any evangelist listed in the Fellowship Directory for \$10 per issue. To place an ad, call (417) 831-3996.

### Tracy Dartt • The Dartt Quartet

PO Box 422, Greenbrier, TN 37073  
Phone: 707.344.4140 www.darttmusic.com

### Alan Harris • Alan Harris Ministries

309 West 24th Street, Connersville, IN 47331  
Phone: 765.220.1629 www.alanharrisministries.org

*Participation in the Baptist Bible Fellowship International is open to any Baptist pastor of a supporting Baptist church believing in and adhering to the Word of God, on the basis of the BBFI Articles of Faith. For listing on this page, a Baptist church is one that declares in legal and/or faith documents it is Baptist in doctrine and practice. A supporting church is one that financially supports BBFI missions or colleges. (Sources: Constitution and Bylaws of the BBFI and the BBFI Contact Directory)*

## Wendell Correll (1923 - 2015)

**Longtime BBFI pastor Wendell Correll left this life**

**December 31, 2015, at the age of 92. He was born August 31, 1923, in Strawberry, KY. He committed his life to Jesus at an early age during a revival meeting in 1935 at Oak Hills Baptist Church.**

Shortly after his marriage to Mary Anne Brandon, the newlyweds enrolled in Bible Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, TX. While in seminary, he worked on staff with J. Frank Norris at First Baptist Church of Fort Worth. After graduation the now family of four moved back to Detroit, where Mary Anne was from, to work on staff with E. J. Rollings at Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle. After just a few months he was offered a job at Temple Baptist Church of Detroit pastored by G. B. Vick. Correll worked on staff at Temple for 15 years working with the music and singles' ministry. It was there he mentored and discipled a new Christian by the name of Eli Harju. In 1964, the family of six moved to Orlando, FL, to work with Jewell Smith at Temple Baptist Church. After three years as co-pastor he left the work in Orlando to move to Titusville, FL, to rebuild Westwood Baptist Church. One of the first things he did was rename the church Temple Baptist Church. He served there for 31 years seeing many saved and called to ministry including Dennis Jennings, pastor of Cherry Street Baptist in Springfield, MO. In 1996, the church hosted a "50 years in ministry celebration" for the Corrells with over 1,200 in attendance including over 200 pastors and missionaries. After retiring from the pastorate, he moved his family to Lancaster, KY, and served as chaplain for First Southern National Bank.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Mary Anne Brandon Correll. Funeral services were held at Oak Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, KY.



### From: Dennis Jennings

**O**ften when a great pastor is remembered after graduating to heaven, he is identified more by the ministries in which he served and other well-known men with whom he rubbed elbows. My pastor, Wendell Correll did not lack in those areas, having worked on staff with the likes of J. Frank Norris (First Baptist, Church of Fort Worth) and G. B. Vick (Temple Baptist Church in Detroit). When arsonists destroyed the church he pastored in Titusville, FL, Jerry Falwell personally came and brought a generous offering to help the rebuilding process of the sanctuary of Temple Baptist Church.

Those who knew Wendell Correll at all knew first and foremost he was a soul-winner. Like John the Baptist, he understood his primary responsibility was to tell others about Jesus. "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). Pastor Correll was no respecter of persons. He loved people like Jesus did.

The Correll family moved to Titusville in 1967 when he was called to pastor 17 people meeting in a carport. The church was re-launched as Temple Baptist Church, and by 1971, when my family moved to the city housing projects and my brothers and I started riding the bus to Sunday school, the church was bursting at the seams. Pastor Correll's passion for souls permeated the church. He not only was a great soul-winner, he successfully transferred his passion to win the lost to staff members, Sunday school teachers, and church members alike.

People mattered to Wendell Correll. While on staff with him, I often heard him say to the secretary as he was walking out the door, "I won't be back until I get one." Sure enough, it wouldn't be long before he came back with a wonderful story of how the Lord saved another soul. It was never about him. It was always about what Christ could do in a

person's life if he or she would just receive the gift of salvation. Eternity was always at stake.

There was never any pretense when he witnessed to a lost person. He was always "the epitome of a godly southern gentleman," as my wife often admirably described him. He shared the Gospel with love and compassion. He did so with the conviction that all men will spend eternity in heaven or in hell, and with the urgency that comes from knowing we are all just a heartbeat away from eternity.

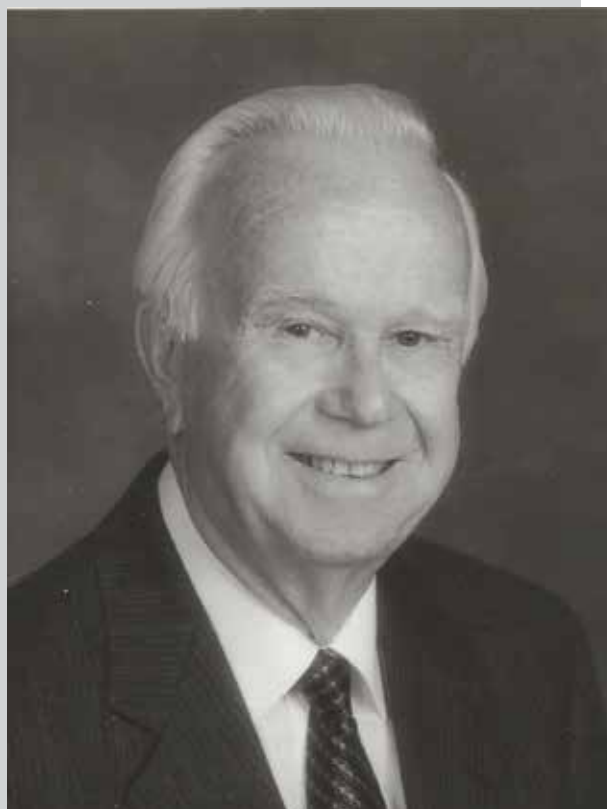
After retiring from Temple Baptist Church, Pastor Correll moved to Kentucky and served as a chaplain for First Southern National Bank. As a result of his ministry there, more than 1,200 were saved. Though failing health hindered his abilities, his heart for people and his conviction about heaven and hell never faded. There will never be another Wendell Correll. God, grant us a double portion of his conviction to reach people with the Gospel at every opportunity.

## Eli Harju (1920 - 2015)

**Lifelong BBFI educator Eli Harju met his Savior face to face December 31, 2015, at the age of 95. He was born November 2, 1920, in Rudyard, MI, to Finish immigrants. He was the youngest of 12 children and did not learn to speak English until kindergarten. During a visit home while a student at the University of Michigan he heard his older brother and two older sisters tell how they had found Christ. They invited him to attend a service at their community church and on December 26, 1948, he accepted Christ as his Savior. His brother told him before he returned to school, "If you can't find a church like this one, go to a Baptist church. It is more than likely to be right."**

After graduation, Harju attended Temple Baptist Church, Detroit, MI, and became involved with the college and career ministry. During this time, he developed close friendships with G. B. Vick and Wendell Correll. On Memorial Day 1951, Harju drove to Baptist Bible College with his pastor and enrolled in summer school. This is where he met R.O. Woodworth, the school's business manager, who would become another lifelong friend. Because of needs at the school and Harju's credentials, he was asked to teach English while also a student. This began his life's primary ministry. On July 30, 1954, he married Mary Lou Burton.

From 1953-1970 Harju served as faculty at Baptist Bible College teaching Bible History, Life of Paul, Church History, English, Homiletics, Hermeneutics, Bible Introduction, the Book of Jonah, and Church Administration. He served as dean of education from 1965-1970. During this time he also pastored Bible Baptist Church, Crane, MO. In 1970 he moved to Lynwood, CA, to pastor Olivet Baptist Church where



James Combs pastored prior to serving at *Tribune* editor. In 1983, Frank Johnson asked Harju to vice president of Pacific Coast Baptist College. He served in this capacity for six years before returning to Springfield, MO, to work again at his *alma mater*. He both taught and served as assistant to the president for Leland Kennedy. Even after retirement he continued teaching and investing in others through his Sunday school class at High Street Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Louise Burton Harju, three children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO.

Portions of this tribute are from "Eli Harju, BBFI Education" printed in the May 15, 2001, *Baptist Bible Tribune*, by Mike Randall and can be found at [www.tribune.org](http://www.tribune.org).

### From Eddie Lyons, Eli Harju's pastor

*It has been my great privilege to pastor the church where Mr. and Mrs. Harju were members. The first time I got up to preach, I looked out over the crowd and spotted Mr. Harju. It dawned on me that I would be preaching to a man who had taught pastors and missionaries all over the world for generations. He was a living legend. What I quickly discovered was he was one of the best encouragers in the church. He reminded me often that he prayed for me every day. I will miss those prayers.*

*One thing we can accomplish as a Fellowship is to train the next generation of leaders. This can only be done because of the dedication and sacrifice of those who serve in our colleges. Mr. Harju's contribution to our Fellowship lives on through the ministries of his many students. We are grateful for the life and ministry of Eli Harju.*

### Tribute from Shirley Hackler

*Eli Harju is truly one of the giants of the faith. He is a man who endured and has been faithful to not only his cause but also the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ. I knew Mr. Harju when he first came to High Street after serving in the war and attending the University of Michigan. Everyone at High Street knew him as the blonde, smart, young professor at BBC.*

*When he retired I worked in the recruiting department for BBC. I asked the students working with me, "What do you think when the name Eli Harju is mentioned?" A few responses include: "A spiritual giant whom I love and admire," "A Baptist through and through and I might add with a capital B," and "A dedicated man, a man of wisdom." One other student made the comment, "When Dr. Harju prays it is like sitting in the living room with God."*

*After he returned to Springfield in the mid 80s his office was just two doors down from mine. I would never knock on his door until I first looked through the window to make sure he was not down on his knees praying. If he ever told you he would pray for you it meant he would spend time on his knees praying for you. There is an old saying that says, "Make new friends, but keep the old, because one is silver and one is gold." Eli Harju was truly a friend of gold.*



## A. V. Henderson (1919 - 2015)

### Founding BBFI leader

A. V. Henderson went home to meet his Savior December 28, 2015, at the age of 96. Born September 18, 1919, in Anson, TX, Henderson spent more than 75 years in ministry as a pastor in the states of Louisiana, Texas (Baptist Temple, San Angelo), Indiana (Calvary Baptist Church, Connersville), Delaware (First Baptist Church, New Castle), and Michigan (Temple Baptist Church, Detroit).

Mr. Henderson succeeded G. B. Vick as pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Detroit, MI, in 1975 where he pastored for eight years. Throughout his ministry he was active in the BBFI serving in several national offices. He served as BBFI president from 1972-1974. He also is the only person to have served as founder and president of Baptist Bible College East, now Boston Baptist College, (1977-1985) and as president of Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO, (1983-1986) succeeded W.E. Dowell. During his tenure at BBC he founded Baptist Bible Graduate School of Theology.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Aubra Lee Patton Henderson. Funeral services were held at Heritage Baptist Church in Haslet, TX.



*All of us know serving in the kind of leadership roles Mr. Henderson took on requires personal sacrifice and dedication. His commitment to the vision of taking the Gospel to the world through our Fellowship efforts was evident. His contributions will continue to bear fruit. We are grateful for his life and ministry.*

### From: Eddie Lyons

*When I was a student at Baptist Bible College one of my favorite speakers was A. V. Henderson. He would walk up to the pulpit and deliver a message with great power, clarity, and conviction in 15 minutes. He always left us wanting to hear more.*

*He contributed meaningfully and sacrificially to Baptist Bible Fellowship. He could easily have limited his vision to pastor his local church, but he saw the bigger picture. When our Fellowship turned their focus to church planting in New England, a part of the country where we were not strong, he became the first president of Baptist Bible College East, now Boston Baptist College. He would later serve as president of Baptist Bible College.*

### From: Dave Melton

*We lost another giant. When A. V. Henderson passed to glory I had sadness, of course, and admiration, and thankfulness ... and a tinge of loneliness. From my perspective, there isn't another person on earth now who understands what it's like to sit where I do. I only had the privilege to meet Mr. Henderson once, and on that occasion — our college's 25th anniversary — I got that richest of privileges ... to hear him preach — actually it was more like a 12-minute oratorical limousine ride ... to Jesus. When he finished that evening, I knew why he was the last speaker of the night — nobody on earth would have wanted to follow that. I just wanted to go sit in a quiet corner somewhere and be with Jesus.*

*So many others have more memories of sermons, and certainly had more conversations and fellowship with Mr. Henderson than I, but I feel a strong kinship with him. For years we kept a quotation of his on the wall just down from my office. It said, "We will open the school in the northeast, because there are 51 million lost souls up there." I know something about how John Rawlings and Mr. Henderson worked to start our college in the northeast. What I know best is why they did it. And that reason is the same reason guys like me have to stand on their broad shoulders and carry on their work.*

### From: Mark Milioni

*The Baptist Bible College family wishes to express our deep sadness in the passing of former BBC President A. V. Henderson. Mr. Henderson served BBC during a difficult and tumultuous time for the school. Through this, he served with integrity and honor.*

*Mr. Henderson was known as a master of the pulpit. He inspired thousands with his short but powerful, fiery sermons. There is no possible comparison to his unique preaching style and he was a favorite among students. His preaching resulted in many coming to salvation and making deeper commitments to Christ. His testimony and personal character are still spoken of highly around the campus of BBC.*

*As the current president of Baptist Bible College, I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of such a great man. I came to BBC as a freshman during his tenure. Mr. Henderson offered my wife and me a Presidential Scholarship. This made a significant difference in our young marriage and made it possible for us to attend college. He also served as a pastor for many years and was a hero to me. His power in the pulpit and his loving humble demeanor has provided a great encouragement and example to me both as a pastor and as president of BBC.*

*Mr. Henderson left a legacy for us. May his life encourage us to strive for excellence in life and in ministry and challenge us to be faithful to the end. Mr. Henderson is fondly remembered at Baptist Bible College and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

FEBRUARY 2016

# PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Lonnie &amp; Martha Smith</b> <i>Mexico</i>	<b>2</b>  CHAPLAIN <b>Col. Thomas &amp; Penny Hoyle</b> <i>US Air Force Reserve</i>	<b>3</b>  MISSIONARIES <b>Bob &amp; Sandy Piatt</b> <i>Japan</i>	<b>4</b>  T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY <b>Joshua &amp; Brenda Casey</b> <i>Belgium</i>	<b>5</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Ken &amp; Debbie Norris</b> <i>Navajo Indians</i>	<b>6</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Leilonni Hamilton</b> <i>Mexico</i>
<b>7</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Larry &amp; Jean Taylor</b> <i>Belgium</i>	<b>8</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Paul &amp; Chelli Sudbrock</b> <i>Germany</i>	<b>9</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Bill &amp; Sue Anderson</b> <i>Retired</i>	<b>10</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Larry &amp; Sharon Lilly</b> <i>Mexico</i>	<b>11</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Susan Perkins</b> <i>Haiti</i>	<b>12</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Bob &amp; Dee Dodson</b> <i>Tanzania</i>	<b>13</b>  Workers in Restricted Countries
<b>14</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Keith &amp; Mariella Mills</b> <i>Scotland</i>	<b>15</b>  BBFI MISSION OFFICE <b>Steve Bender</b> <i>Associate Mission Director</i>	<b>16</b>  MISSIONARY <b>TJ &amp; Kimberly Gritts</b> <i>Spain</i>	<b>17</b> BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE	<b>18</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Leonard &amp; Susan Smith</b> <i>Mexico</i>	<b>19</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Richard Konnerup</b> <i>Kenya</i>	<b>20</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Barton &amp; Harriet Ann Carter</b> <i>Retired</i>
<b>21</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Cliff &amp; Neoma McGhee</b> <i>Ecuador</i>	<b>22</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Lance &amp; Melanie Gotcher</b> <i>Philippines</i>	<b>23</b>  BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE <b>David Melton</b> <i>President</i>	<b>24</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Robert &amp; Sondra Winters</b> <i>Polynesia</i>	<b>25</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Jeff &amp; Judy Blanton</b> <i>South Africa</i>	<b>26</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Missy Sanders</b> <i>Bolivia</i>	<b>27</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Miguel &amp; Christina Lopez</b> <i>Honduras</i>
<b>28</b>  T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY <b>Greg &amp; Mary Alberts</b> <i>Wales</i>	<b>29</b>  MISSIONARY <b>Lance &amp; Leah Patterson</b> <i>Philippines</i>					

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



**VBS  
2016**

**DR. VANGUARD'S VOYAGES**



**Bogard Press**  
800.264.2482 x 5112  
[vbs.bogardpress.org](http://vbs.bogardpress.org)

# THE CONQUERORS

## BIBLE STUDY LESSONS

Preschool through Junior - STUDENT LEAFLETS \$2.20 ea.  
Young Teen and Teen - STUDENT BOOKS \$2.20 ea.  
Adults - ADULT LESSONS \$2.55



## BIBLE TEACHING POSTERS

Colorful realistic scenes reinforce each Bible lesson.  
Bible characters include:  
Joshua, David, Hezekiah,  
Shadrach and Gideon.  
5 posters 24" x 38"

\$10.45



**IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN  
CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM THAT LOVED US.**  
ROMANS 8:37

