

B A P T I S T B I B L E T R I B U N E

FEBRUARY 2017



- p.10 Coaching and Mentoring
- p.13 Volunteers: Equipping and Inspiring
- p.15 Coaching Missionaries

2017

BBFI

BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
INTERNATIONAL

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TYLER, TEXAS

FEBRUARY 20-22

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



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PASTOR OF ABUNDANT LIFE
LEES SUMMIT, MO

SPEAKING MONDAY NIGHT
FEBRUARY 20



STEVE STROOPE

PASTOR OF LAKE JOINTE CHURCH
ROCKWALL, TX

SPEAKING TUESDAY NIGHT
FEBRUARY 21



KRISH DHANAM

SPEAKER, TRAINER & CONSULTANT
DAVID ZACHARIAS MINISTRIES

SPEAKING WEDNESDAY NIGHT
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ON THE TABLE

Coaching

by Randy Harp | Editor

I will never forget my sixth-grade Little League baseball coach, but not for a good reason. That year, I missed making the travel all-star team by one vote. I found out later my coach didn't vote for me (though he did vote for his own son ... the only vote he received). Yes, I need to let it go, but it has haunted me most of my life. I even gave up baseball, my favorite sport, the following year. Don't get me wrong, I have had some great coaches, like my eighth-grade football coach who made us run until we puked. He taught us to believe we could push ourselves a little further if we worked a little harder. That led to an undefeated season right up until our last game when we lost to our crosstown rivals. Yes, I should probably let that go, too.

I no longer have athletic coaches in my life. I gave that up years ago. But I still have a need for coaches — people who will help me improve. I really hope I have yet to hit my limit or reach my full potential. If I am going to grow as a leader, I need help from leaders who have been down the road a little further than me. If I am going to grow as an editor of a magazine, I need others in the industry to guide me along. If I am going to grow as a Christian, I need other Christians to hold me accountable and mentor me. I need people who will push me a little further and encourage me to work a little harder and smarter.

This *Tribune* focuses on coaching — a topic I am passionate about. I truly believe growing churches and ministries are led by growing leaders. This is the reason we are launching the BBFI Coaching Network (see page 9). We have partnered with some bright minds in Christian ministry to help leaders accomplish more for the cause of Christ.

I truly believe the BBFI's future is bright, but we must not be satisfied individually or collectively. We must continue to grow as leaders, pastors, shepherds, preachers, disciple-makers, and worldwide evangelists.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve Christ as I serve you.

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

VOL. 67 NO. 6

FEBRUARY 2017

COACHING



Coaching and Mentoring — 10

Effective leaders are constantly growing and refining their skills. Coaching can be a great tool for improvement and sustainability in ministry.



Volunteers: A Vital Aspect of Ministry — 13

Six keys to finding, equipping, and inspiring your volunteer base and strengthening the culture of volunteerism in your ministry.



Coaching Missionaries — 15

With a passion to encourage missionaries and a little help from technology, D. J. Mingo is able to help missionaries around the world.



Spain: A Light in the Darkness — 17

A small group of faithful missionaries is working to bring hope and light to a country facing increasing darkness and modern influences.



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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT UPDATING BY-LAWS

As many of you know, we are in the process of updating the BBFI Constitution and By-Laws. A sub-committee was formed during the May 2016 national meeting to examine the current document and present a revised document to the state representatives. This revised document was presented during the September 2016 meeting with the intention to vote to approve in the upcoming February 2017 meeting. From the beginning, the purpose was to clarify and simplify.

Since September, there have been a few suggested amendments submitted to the executive committee. We are anticipating a motion from the floor to amend the proposed by-laws in the following two Articles (note: new content in red italics).

Article VII – Directors ...

A. The Executive Committee shall recommend a Mission Director, Church Planting Director, and Communication Director for indefinite terms of service and these recommendations shall be approved by the State Representatives and the Fellowship.

B. Should it be necessary, the Executive Committee shall be responsible for dismissal of the Mission Director, Church Planting Director, or Communication Director.

C. Concurrently the responsible sub-committee is tasked with providing a recommendation to approve/disapprove the EC decision. They will then submit their recommendations to the State Representatives. The State Representatives may vacate the recommendation/decision of the Executive Committee with a two-thirds vote.

Article VIII – Committees, E. Education Committee, C. Relationship of the BBFI to Educational Institutions, 2. Affiliate institution ...



Eddie Lyons
BBFI PRESIDENT

CONTINUED AT FAR RIGHT OF PAGE 5

WORLD MISSIONS LOOKING AHEAD

If you watch any world newscasts, you have to agree humanity is struggling spiritually. In some countries, people wash themselves in a “holy river” — sincerely believing the water will wash away their sins. Others place their dead on piers of wood for cremation and then sprinkle the ashes in a river — anticipating a sequence of endless reincarnations that will bring hope of enlightenment. It is hard to watch the many faces of despair worship and give sacrifices to lifeless idols or pray five times a day to one who provides no assurance of eternal hope. Burning of incense, clanging of bells (to obtain a

spirit’s attention), turning of prayer wheels, sprinkling of holy water, and kissing of shrines all testify to the hopelessness of people without Jesus Christ.

It seems people are more desperate than ever. Having their hope and faith in investments, religion, jobs, and governments, people are reaching out for something or someone who can bring true peace and meaning to their lives.

While our missionaries go, we need to pray for power and boldness upon them. We must continue to give so we can reach people with the love, peace, and light of Jesus Christ. We can’t hold back, give in, or quit now, for this is the time to shine the

light brighter than ever before — believing what Jesus said in John 12:46: “I am come as a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.”

Looking ahead to 2017 brings a renewed commitment to the Great Commission. May we dedicate ourselves and our churches to reaching the unreached, praying for more missionaries, and bringing light and hope to a world in darkness — that light and hope is Jesus Christ!



Jon Konnerup
BBFI MISSION DIRECTOR

BBFI LEADERSHIP

CHURCH PLANTING FIVE QUESTIONS FOR EVERY CHURCH PLANTER

Although there are many questions a church planter should ask himself before accepting the responsibility, here are five questions he must be able to answer “yes” to.

Can I say I have been called? It is essential you have a clear-cut explanation of his calling. It is not enough just to say, “I would like to plant a church.” There must be a God moment that establishes the hand of God on your life for church planting.

Can I preach? It is not a question of style but rather are you able to expound the Scriptures in a manner that draws others to decision and

action. The Scriptures say Jesus went about preaching in the synagogues and villages. Paul told Timothy, “Preach the word.” Proclaiming the Gospel is an absolute for the church planter.

Can I lead? Leadership is tandem with preaching. What are you leading today or what have you led in the past? Do you have followers today? If not, you are not leading. Remember, it was Jesus who set the example. He said, “Come and follow me.”

Can I shepherd? The Scriptures say the shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. Among many things, shepherding involves: compassion, sacrifice, giving,

going, and working when everyone else has quit. To be a shepherd is to compassionately supply the needs of others.

Can I say my wife is 100 percent behind me?

The church planter’s most compelling and supportive person is his wife. Take time to reconsider the issues if both of you are not on the same page when it comes to church planting.



John Gross
BBFI CHURCH PLANTING (APEX)

I graduated from BBC in 1988 and returned to my home church to become the youth pastor. Within six months, I was the interim pastor, having lost two of my greatest mentors, my pastor, Barry Jones, and my father, Joe Milioni. It was a tough, lonely time.

During this interim period, the church grew and I reluctantly became the pastor. I quickly ran out of chapel outlines and I did not know what to do, how to lead, or how to preach. I spent a lot of time alone with God and then sought out godly men to help me.

I remembered reading about Truman Dollar in *Leadership Journal*, so I called him. This

began an incredible season of friendship, mentoring, learning, and growing. He insisted I read at least one book per week. He taught me how to study, plan, and truly preach the Bible. He listened to my messages and critiqued me harshly. I learned so much.

Following his tragic death, I reached out to Howard Sugden. He was nearing the end of his ministry at South Baptist Church in Lansing, but he lovingly agreed to help me. Years later, I learned from Paul Dixon, president of Cedarville University. God knew I would need to glean wisdom from this man for my current position.

I have learned to seek a

mentor — that special friend, coach, or encourager to help me become better. In our Fellowship, that includes Jim Goodman, Gene Milioni, Jerry Thorpe, and Rick Blue. But I have to be humble enough to seek, willing to accept what is said, and committed to my best effort.

Coaching and mentoring are invaluable for life and ministry. At BBC the life experiences of our faculty and staff are poured into preparing young lives for future service.



Mark Milioni
BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

BY-LAWS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Affiliate institutions - shall be defined as schools which have a stated commitment to the purpose and mission of the BBFI, but do not have a historic relationship with the BBFI, did not originate through the efforts of the early leaders of the BBFI, and may or may not reside within the legal jurisdiction of the United States. *The relationship of an affiliate school with the BBFI shall be governed by the most current edition of the approved standing policies of the Education Committee entitled, BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP EDUCATION POLICY, at the time of application for affiliate status.*

BBFI Communication Director Randy Harp has also properly reformatted this document. This new proposed constitution and by-laws can be found at www.bbfi.org/legal or by contacting Randy Harp at (417) 831-3996.

Some have asked if absentia voting is possible. Since this is a work in progress, it will not be possible. Until we have our meeting in February, nothing is official.

Please continue to keep our Fellowship and our upcoming meeting in your prayers. God is at work in the BBFI and our desire is to continue to be used by Him.

PERSPECTIVES

COACHING

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE FOR ANDY

During the recent college football season, I reveled in a few victories by one of my alma maters ... the University of Oklahoma. If you prefer the color orange, I just lost you. Sorry ... sort of. I remember my days at OU for some football games, but mostly for one professor, Andrew Jackson Heisserer. He was my primary professor in the History Department and he taught me more about how to study history than anybody else.

Heisserer would eventually become "Andy" many years later — but in my student years he was the scholar who set the bar high and then helped me find a way over it. I remember writing a project for him about the ancient

Philippines which I thought was worthy of publication! Dr. H gave it back with a short synopsis: "David, I can tell you have spent some time on this, but it is, shall we say, problematic." I also remember my grief over a B he gave me. His response, "Well, I'm not sure I understand your angst ... I think this is above average work! Congratulations!" He pushed me to get better at my craft. To whatever degree that happened, he must get some serious credit.

I appreciate Andy now more than ever. When I teach students about source analysis, as I do every year here at Boston Baptist in my course on "Jesus and Christianity through the

Ages," Andrew Jackson Heisserer is doing much of the teaching. I stood in a classroom a few weeks back and talked with students about the ancient "Palatino Graffito" — important stuff for understanding the rise of Christianity. My history coach, Andy, had his fingerprints all over the thing.

I and the rest of us can do what we do because others coached us up along the way. For me, remembering with gratitude what Andy did for me was long overdue. And even better than football.



David Melton
BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Why?

I love what we do at the *Tribune*! Each issue represents months of hard work and I love holding that finished product in my hand. I have loved expanding our ministry to include a mobile app, a leadership podcast, and a social media strategy that promotes BBFI churches and mission works, as well as the upcoming BBFI Coaching Network. I am excited for what the future could look like as we continue to expand our ministry.

As I prayed asking God for His wisdom and direction regarding the *Tribune*, one question kept coming to mind: Why? Why do we exist? For

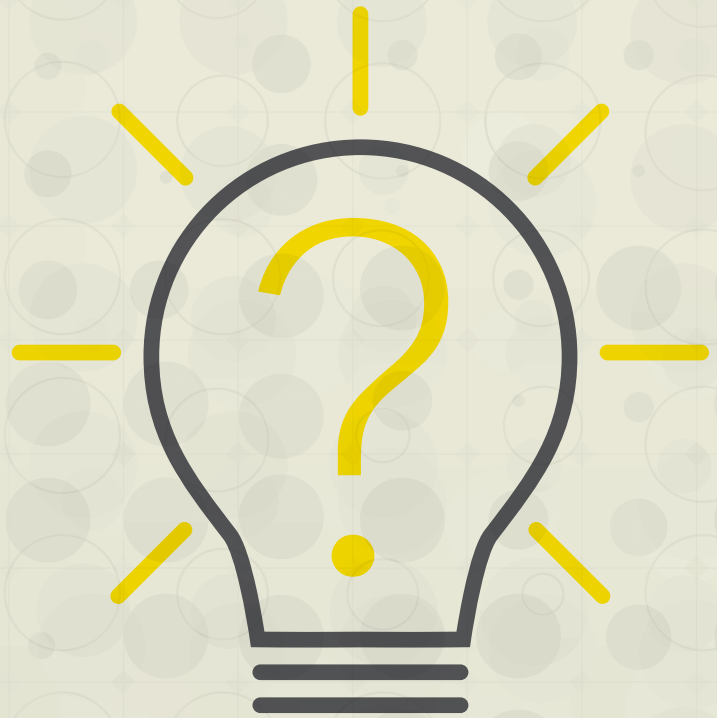
almost 67 years the *Tribune* has been telling the good news of what God is doing through the churches and ministries of the BBFI. It has served as the face of the Fellowship. While serving as communication director/editor, I have focused on what we should do, not why we do what we do. Our why is essential.

During the May 2016 business meeting, I said, "If things don't change, there may not be a *Tribune* by this time next year." There is hope, but the fact is we need to raise \$150,000 in this year's Annual Tribune Offering. This is a God-sized goal, but this amount has been raised before and I believe it can, and

must, be raised again.

To participate in this offering, you can send a check directly to the office (720 E. Kearney St., Springfield, MO 65803) or give online through the *Tribune* website, BBFI website, or mobile app. If you would like to participate, but can't immediately, visit www.tribune.org and select "Annual Tribune Offering" to make a digital commitment. This helps us in our planning.

How much should you give? A good place to start is with the cost of the magazines you receive, which is \$15 a year. Any amount beyond that goes toward providing other valuable



resources to pastors, churches, and missionaries. Whatever you decide, we appreciate your participation in our annual offering.

If you have any questions or need more information, don't hesitate to call us at 417.831.3996. We are committed to the Lord and to our Fellowship and are determined to do our best on your behalf. Your support helps us to do so.

Randy Harp
Communication Director, BBFI
Editor, Baptist Bible Tribune

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IN THE TRENCHES

Pastor

Steve Switzer
Pastor | Calvary Baptist Church | Taylorville, IL

DISCIPLESHIP

If you were to ask me to describe discipleship, I would probably use the word *journey* at some point in the description. When Jesus called his disciples, he said, “Follow me,” which implies a step-by-step journey with the master – a process of a follower maturing on a journey of faith. However, I have also been on a journey recently to discover what biblical discipleship looks like personally and especially in the local-church setting. The Great Commission has been emphasized in my life and in our church for decades, but the practical work of making disciples seems to have become obscured.

What we are learning at Calvary is not revolutionary, but it is giving our mission to “make disciples” a fresh and much-needed emphasis. For instance, we no longer see discipleship as a program of the church, but rather as *the* program of the church. Everything we do needs to reflect our ultimate goal of making disciples who make

disciples. Evangelism is not separate from discipleship, but instead, evangelism is the first step in the disciple-making journey. After conversion, every believer has to take steps to walk with Christ.

I am also convinced every believer is called to be a disciple-maker. Often, the mission of making disciples is relegated to the trained professionals, or at least certain church teachers or leaders. Our goal is for every follower to be involved in a ministry and in the mission of making disciples.

What we learn from the Scriptures and see repeatedly in experience, is that discipleship happens in the context of relationships. These relational environments come in all shapes and sizes. We are learning to make every relationship an intentional opportunity to make disciples. In reality, our profession is a disciple-maker, while our career (preacher, teacher, doctor, nurse, truck driver, mom, etc.) is our platform.

We are also learning to provide environments in the church where relational discipleship can more naturally take place. This makes our connections with one another, beyond our weekend services, even more critical. When someone attends Calvary, they are encouraged to join a life group. The group leaders are intentional about caring for each person and encouraging members to take a spiritual next step. That step may be salvation, daily time with God, prayer, or serving within the church or community. The leader may also suggest a one-on-one mentoring relationship, a Bible study, or a class focused on doctrine or spiritual growth. Each of these supplementary groups are also designed to facilitate the relational aspect of discipleship.

At Calvary, we’re making some crucial changes and beginning to see progress as a church in this discipleship journey. I am excited to see what God is doing at Calvary, one disciple and one step at a time.

Student Ministry

Clint Chiles
Elkview Baptist Church | Elkview, WV

Every month I receive flyers and emails telling me how to grow our youth department. Let’s be clear, the youth pastor’s responsibility is not to grow the youth department numerically. Jesus stated, “I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18). The youth ministry is part of the church. It’s Jesus’ job to grow it, not mine.

What then is the goal of youth ministry? Just like every other ministry in the church, the youth ministry should be dedicated to making committed followers of Christ. Dodgeball may bring a crowd, but building

a crowd isn’t our goal. The church exists to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and to grow people in the knowledge of Him. God desires for all of us, including teenagers, to look more like Christ. Christ-likeness doesn’t happen by accident, but is intentional. If discipleship is going to take place, youth ministries must plan for it.

So what does disciple-making look like in youth ministry? It looks like leaders coming alongside students and showing them what it means to be a follower of Christ. This means opening the Word of God, explaining it, and demonstrating to the students how the truth is lived out. Our responsibility is to show them the Bible is extremely relevant.

The most effective form of discipleship my wife, Rachel, and I have seen has come through our Dinner & Discipleship event. Every Thursday night we hosted dinner and a Bible study at our home. We had an average of 8 to 12 students weekly. About six months after we started, a few of our teen leaders saw the spiritual growth in our students and they launched Dinner & Discipleship at their own homes! At one point, one in four of our students were in active discipleship.

God desires to see teenagers grow in Christ. It is our responsibility to help them grow. Discipleship is not an event, but a process. What a joy it is to be involved in that process!

Missionary

Brian Clark
BBFI Missionaries | United Kingdom

We want to be disciples and make disciples – that's it. The rigors of church planting in a city like London has forced us to travel light. Trying to consistently fill a room with people who would rather be somewhere else is exhausting. You often entertain, inspire, serve, and placate only to have them leave anyway. We endured books and seminars trying to crack the code. Let me save you the trouble. There's no secret, there's no code. We were hunting for the answer to one question – What is going to work? Let's just say, we don't ask that anymore.

Today, a new question drives us: What did He tell us to do? It begins with evangelism and results in a church, but the command is single – make disciples (2 Timothy 2:2). This answer brought us so much relief because, honestly, we were tired. We were tired of events and programs and we were tired of chasing people. So we stopped. From that point on, we made the choice to be interested in those who are interested. I am constantly sharing the Gospel with anyone who will listen, but I am on the lookout for faithful men who are truly interested in following Jesus. These are the men I give myself to and I teach them to do the same. Even when we focus on this one thing, and the work is still hard! But, I love my job and it brings me and my family so much joy.

When I read Paul's writings, I am amazed by what is missing. He never mentions church attendance, he never lays out his church growth strategy, and, God help us, I don't think he ever had a tag line. His ministry was focused exclusively on making disciples. But there is more. He was happy. His quality of life was nothing we'd desire to attain, yet he's constantly going on about how much joy he has. He was, in the truest sense, content. Now, that is the code we need to crack.

Discipleship is so important to us because it's real. It is not a program or assimilation process. For me, a man completely in over his head, discipleship is freedom. It is the freedom to enjoy Christ and the honor of magnifying him to others. It is the joy of watching our kids discover this stuff is for real. To see their eyes, as it dawns on them, that success has nothing to do with being successful. So, for all of you who might be feeling a bit lost in the minutia of keynotes and mood lighting, I encourage you to embrace the simplicity of discipleship. Be a disciple and make a disciple. Don't start a program, just take 2 Timothy 2:2, pour the Bible into a faithful man, and teach him how to do the same. I cannot promise you results, but it may bring you some relief.

BBFI COACHING NETWORK

NEW!

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MAC BRUNSON
The New Guide for Pastors

COACHES



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KEVIN CARSON
Author:
Biblical Counseling and the Church



STEVE STROOPE
Author:
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- Volunteer leaders

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COACHING —AND— MENTORING

By Tom Messer

Most of my ministry responsibilities have been in roles for which I had little or no previous experience. Right out of college I began my career in fulltime Christian work as a recruiter and basketball coach for a Christian college. My first two years of coaching were marked by mixed success. I knew we could win with good talent and hard work, but I did not know how to build a sustainable and consistently successful program.

After my second year of coaching, I was introduced to Ron Bishop, who was, at that time, the head coach at Tennessee Temple University. Ron became a great friend and mentor as we spent hours talking about everything from recruiting, to practice schedules, to utilizing assistant coaches, and game strategies. He gave me a simple formula modeled off his success and I went on to apply that formula for eight successful seasons.

In 1992, I was called to be senior pastor of a fairly large, well-established, and multiple-ministry (church, college, academy, rescue mission, and youth camp) church. I had no previous pastoral experience beyond staff experience in the church where I was called to serve.

I quickly realized what I did not know far outsized what I did know. When you are in over your head you look for someone holding a life preserver. Since then, my involvement with

mentoring and coaching and my commitment to it has only intensified. Good coaches are essential to building winning teams in the church as well as on the basketball court.

The pattern for mentoring is found throughout the Scriptures — Elijah and Elisha, Moses and Joshua, Jesus and the disciples, and Paul with Timothy and Titus.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The need for coaching centers on personal development. John Maxwell, among others, is known to say, “You will be the same a year from today as you are right now except for the books you read and the people that you meet.” Effective leaders are constantly growing and refining their skills. I would constantly stress to players when I was coaching that good teams are made from October through March (basketball season) and good players are made from March to October (off-season). The key to improvement and sustainability in ministry is a personal growth plan that should include education and coaching.

KINDS OF COACHING

There are a number of ways to get coaching, and you will need different kinds of coaching for different seasons and to meet different challenges.

Early in my ministry, I relied on informal

coaching. I had relationships with people who were willing to take me under their wings and impart wisdom and advice. One such man was Mac Heavener, who was a real estate executive and leader in our ministry, and who had leadership skills and experience he was willing to share. God also allowed my path to cross with Elmer Towns at a time when I was trying to understand systems and processes for church life. He helped me balance the need for processes that made sense without minimizing spiritual anointing.

Included in my informal coaching were conferences where I gathered with other

“COACHING
IS A GAME
CHANGER.”



leaders and learned from experts in the field. These conferences were more likely to be inspirational and often required follow-up to learn and apply what was being taught.

The second type of coaching I received was from an executive coach who focused on personal development and leadership skills. After about 15 years of ministry, we were not getting the results I thought we should be getting and I sensed a growing frustration. I went through a process of self-discovery to learn about my leadership styles, the importance of being clear about where we were going as a ministry, and creating a plan to

help us get there. This was primarily one-on-one coaching, although we used a process to report to our leadership team on our progress.

The third type of coaching is through coaching networks. This is where you join in with others and go through coaching groups, often focused on specific outcomes. Leadership Network is known for innovating in this area and has helped develop many effective and growing leaders who are impacting church life and culture.

As a note, I regularly teach and coach as part of a network of related churches. We typically go through a six-month season with

preselected topics and a group of 12-18 pastors who want to sharpen their ministry skills.

Currently, I am using a coach to lead our senior staff through ministry systems to simplify and clarify what we are doing in vision, mission, and strategy. These are monthly sessions that involve four of our senior staff with one coach who has served as lead pastor in a church of over 5,000.

BENEFITS OF COACHING

In preparation for this article, I contacted those who have helped me in leading coaching networks and those who participated in them as ministry leaders seeking help. We believe there are many benefits to coaching, including:

- A resource for answers to complex questions regarding ministry philosophy and practice – What may seem simple and clear to you, can almost always be improved with an outside set of eyes and perspective.
- A sounding board for ministry vision and ideas that are in development stage – Some ideas are not ready for primetime and you need a place to work through your plans to help refine them for implementation.

(continued)

In 2015, I was asked to be part of a coaching group for church planters in Michigan. Many of these men were working by themselves and needed a coach.

The all-day event included training and a lot of practical, hands-on coaching experience. On a weekly basis I was involved in discipleship, counseling, and mentoring. But coaching is a game changer and I was able to quickly connect with just a few good questions.

This short experience gave me the desire to coach and be coached. I was able to share my celebrations and struggles and talk through what I wanted to do about them with someone who cared. Key questions helped me learn to concentrate on what is really important.

Since the training, I have used these coaching skills in coaching relationships and casual conversations. I would encourage everyone to be involved in a coaching experience. Coaching gives you a sounding board, accountability, and encouragement. With many church leaders feeling alone and susceptible to the unique pressures of ministry, coaching will keep many of us in the game.

Greg Burdine • Faith Baptist Church • Adrian, MI

An unbiased, non-agenda driven voice who is pulling for you and ministry – feedback, both instructional and encouraging, can be critical. You do not always get that from your own ministry context and an extra set of eyes can be invaluable.

Accountability – coaches can evaluate and voice feedback in a way staff and lay leadership cannot.

An opportunity to be stretched in your thinking and leadership ability by


someone who has been where you are – good coaches teach what they know and on subjects where you can really benefit from their expertise.

Fresh ideas – over the years, most good ideas I have had are not original, they have come from other people or are adapted from those who are looking for creative solutions in ministry contexts.

Comradery and relationship for what can be a lonely position – you can benefit from

having people stand with you. Having a coach can help avoid burnout and will keep you from spending energy on things that do not produce good results.

FINDING A COACH

The first step for finding a coach would be to do an evaluation of where you are personally and where your ministry is. That may take gathering some key people to pray together, dream together, and walk down a new path together. 

When we moved to Africa, communication was poor and I found myself in the role of trainer/mentor more than trainee. Once ministry coaching became available online, I knew I wanted to get involved.

The skillset I was looking to improve revolved around church planting and ministry. The exposure to new books and authors was invaluable. Since there is accountability, work doesn't get pushed to the back corner of the desk. The Q&A time with other pastors and missionaries drives one to evaluate and question his own ministry on a regular basis.

We must all be lifelong students and coaching is a good way to facilitate a challenging learning scenario.

Tim Downs • BBFI missionary • Ivory Coast, Africa

I have been blessed to be in many coaching networks since 2008 and I highly recommend coaching. Through it, I believe I was given keys that helped create systems and structure in various areas of our church.

Every pastor needs a Paul – someone with experience who can speak into his life. Every pastor also needs a Timothy – someone to pour themselves into. Coaching can satisfy both of those needs.

Brian Moore • Crosspointe Church • Yorba Linda, CA

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

In 2003, I set out on the arduous journey towards planting the church where I currently pastor. Like many of my contemporaries, I came to faith and served under a pastor who came from an admirable generation of men who went out alone as frontiersmen with tenacious grit, unshakeable faith, and a clear vision to win their community to Jesus. His no-nonsense strategy to church planting was also his approach to training and sending. God used that old-school method to build in me the character and fortitude needed to follow God's call on my life. However, I still felt inadequate in the nuts-and-bolts of planting and pastoring a church. I knew I needed more training.

I deliberately sought out competent leaders who I could learn from. Through a series of providential relationships, I was introduced to a larger network that was planting churches across the region. Their commitment to coaching church planters and the subsequent success rate of new churches was very attractive to me. I was paired up with a seasoned pastor/planter who wisely coached me through the tumultuous process. His insights and guidance were paramount in the pre-launch and launch stages of SouthPointe Church.

This network also provided coaching groups of 8-12 other pastors/planters. We gathered every other month for focused instruction and

peer interaction. We were then led in an activity that pressed us to apply the content by developing a personalized action plan. These gatherings were extremely beneficial to me, as well as for the health of our church.

Fast-forward to autumn 2015. I began to feel ineffective and questioned my leadership capacity. Thoughts lurked in the recesses of my mind that SouthPointe needed a new pastor. While in a conversation with a pastor friend, he told me he was engaged with an online coaching group. As he described the dynamics of his group, my heart was shouting, "I need this!"

As a part of this coaching group for the last year, I have been challenged and equipped with sustainable and transferrable tools to be a growing, confident, secure, and humble leader who is worth following ... I just need to apply them!

We are not meant to journey alone. We need to be stretched. We need to be challenged. We need to be exposed to the experienced as well as the novice. Weave yourself into a network of men who value life-long learning. Perhaps you need to create an environment within your city, county, or region that focuses on mutual development and encouragement. Maybe you need an intense coaching experience that drills deep into your soul for the fount you have to give.

Charles J. Howard • SouthPointe Church • Whiteland, IN

VOLUNTEERS:

COACHING AND EQUIPPING A VITAL ASPECT OF MINISTRY

By Tiffany Lyons

GET IN THE GAME

Whether you have a church of 200 or 2,000, your ministry's impact can be directly related to your volunteer culture. Maintaining a steady flow of new volunteers is the first step in strengthening your volunteer base. In our church, we invite volunteers to join the team in several ways. Once a month we offer the Starting Point Class for people to learn more about the church and get connected to a small group and a volunteer team. We also occasionally use church-wide invitations through videos or personal appeals that inspire people to be part of something greater than themselves. The tone of these invitations should not be of desperation and need, but rather vision and opportunity. Lastly, and by far the most effective tool in recruiting new volunteers, is a personal invitation. God is already working on people's hearts and He is preparing the way, so ask the Lord to guide you to the right people.

Recently, one of our teenagers was given the task of recruiting and training a media team for a weekly service. One of the young men recruited told me he had asked God for a place to serve the same day his friend called and invited him to serve on the media team. To that teenager, this was more than being recruited to volunteer, it was God answering his prayer.

MAKE IT EASY

If people are intimidated by the process of becoming a volunteer, they may simply choose not to serve. By making volunteering as simple as possible, someone can test drive a volunteer position without feeling they have committed themselves for the next 20 years. One of our jobs as church leaders is to help individuals find their place to serve. This might take several test drives, but when they find that perfect fit, they will serve with enthusiasm and with a sense of satisfaction knowing God made them for this.

There was a man at our church who tried volunteering in several different ministries, but had not found a place where he felt comfortable. Finally, he landed in the sound booth. When he started serving as the sound engineer he came alive. He had a fulltime job and a family, but he gladly came early or stayed late whenever it was needed. He wasn't just filling a spot, he found a place to use his unique gifts and abilities to serve the church.

ORIENTATION

Nothing scares people more than being thrown into a situation and feeling ill-equipped. Taking time to go over the basics and even stating what we think might be obvious gives a new volunteer confidence to fill that position. We have all our new children's ministry volunteers come to an orientation before they can serve. The orientation is offered once a month and volunteers fill out their background checks, we ask them why they want to serve, and we explain our vision and child-protection policy.



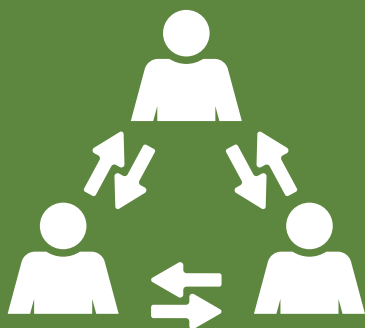
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VOLUNTEERS

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

While in college, I had a job waiting tables. There was an orientation process on how to do the job, but then I spent several shifts waiting tables alongside an experienced server. I got hands-on experience so I would be confident and fully prepared when it was time to go solo.

That same approach can work great for new volunteers. When we have a new greeter, we pair him or her with the friendliest greeter. When we have a new small group leader, we put him or her with one of our best small group leaders to catch a vision of what an effective small group looks like. Taking the time for on-the-job training can help retain happy and equipped volunteers.



HUDDLE UP

Volunteers do more than just hold doors open or play with toddlers, they can reflect God's goodness as they interact with people. Greeters are really telling each person who comes in the door he or she is wanted, and that can make people more receptive to the life-changing message of Jesus. Those volunteers playing with toddlers are showing these kids that church is safe and fun, and that Jesus loves them.

Keeping that vision in front of volunteers is important. Meeting with your volunteer team before they serve is an effective way to accomplish this and is also a good opportunity to relay any timely information for that day. A volunteer huddle might take only a few minutes, but it creates community among your team, provides relevant information, and allows the vision to be cast once again.



INSPIRE AND CHALLENGE

While orientations and on-the-job training are effective throughout the year, having a yearly volunteer conference is a valuable tool for equipping volunteers and casting fresh vision. One goal of a yearly volunteer conference is to inspire your volunteers. It is important to not be so consumed with what you want your volunteers to do that you forget to talk about why they volunteer in the first place. Our Annual KidStreet Volunteer Conference has an entire session dedicated to inspiring volunteers. In the past, we have had our senior pastor, a children's ministry leader from another church, and our children's director speak to inspire our volunteers.

A yearly conference is also a great time to equip volunteers with specific training. To lead these breakouts effectively, you must have leaders who oversee each of these ministries, can talk about specifics, and can answer any questions your volunteers might have.

Casting vision is one of the most important aspects of a yearly volunteer conference. You need a clear vision of where you want your ministry to go and you need to set a course for how to get there. 🤝





COACHING

MISSIONARIES AND NATIONAL PASTORS BY D. J. MINGO

People regularly describe me as a missionary counselor. To be sure, we offer biblical counseling to missionaries and national pastors. But when I say I prefer the term coaching, a disconnect often follows. The simplest way to differentiate between counseling and coaching is to think of counseling as dealing with issues of the past, whereas coaching is the process of preparing and equipping for the future. Sure, it's a matter of semantics, and such a broad definition leaves room for much overlap, but both resolving the past and preparing for the future require the same thing — a commitment to improving in the present. Professional Christian leadership coaching can be a wonderful tool to help our missionaries discover the Kingdom potential for their lives and ministries.

In Matthew 6:33, Jesus commanded, “Seek first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness ...” When we adhere to these

two commands, Christ promises all we need for life, and peace, and the pursuit of purpose becomes ours. Seeking first the Kingdom of God is a bedrock principle of my coaching ministry with missionaries and the people they serve.

WHAT IS PROFESSIONAL CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP COACHING?

Coaching missionaries and national pastors seeks to help an individual discover God's best next step for life, family, and ministry. That missionary's next best step often lies deep within his or her soul. The direction forward is a journey and adventure of the soul. King Solomon, in Proverbs, spoke to this: “Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out” (Proverbs 20:5).

Heart here represents the soul, the most inner part of a person. Professional Christian coaching seeks to draw out God's working in a

Christian's soul. The way forward lies in God's stirring within that person's heart.

During his short ministry, Jesus asked over 300 questions. There are over 3,000 questions asked in the Bible. An open-ended question is a powerful tool and Jesus often employed this approach to draw out God's will from the hearts of his listeners. Before Jesus began his parable of the two sons in Matthew 28, he asked, “What do you think?” Rather than tell the crowd what they needed to do, the son of God took his listeners on a journey into their souls with a single question.

MISSIONARY COACHING

Note: Clients must be assured that what is spoken in the coaching session stays in the coaching session. Confidentiality is foundational in coaching. The following example contains general aspects of one of my missionary coaching experiences. This information was reviewed and approved by the missionary and appears here with his permission.

A missionary recently contacted me through Facebook, “I'm struggling to know what's my next step here,” the young missionary began. Faced with several good choices for his ministry's future, he asked, “What's the best way to move forward?” His overgeneralization in those first two questions pointed to the work that lay before us. So we began the coaching process via Skype.

SETTING THE AGENDA

Coaching explores the depth of God's working in one's soul, so my first question was the same one Jesus asked, “What do you think?” At first, the missionary, as most clients do, stumbled about in an effort to answer. “I'm not really sure,” he said. After talking about several aspects of his current ministry challenges, another question narrowed the focus. “For today, what is your greatest concern?” I asked. That one question set the agenda for the next 45 minutes of our Skype session. From general exploration to exact, he said, “I really need to figure out the best way to train my national pastors on my team here. I am training them, teaching them everything I know, but they are thinking of going somewhere else. This culture highly values academic credentials. My national pastors may leave to enroll in

a university-style of education.” My next question frustrated him a bit. “What might it take to offer an academically respected education to your national pastors?” He blurted out in some despair, “I don’t know.” We struggled together in his dilemma for some time.

Narrowing it down further, I probed, “What part of this do you want to work on today?” Slowly, he perked up a bit, “I need to figure out how I’m going to train my pastors in a way that is both biblical and culturally academically acceptable.” With those words, we set sail on his journey forward.

DEVELOPING AWARENESS

In the awareness stage, possibilities are explored. For me, this stage is most rewarding. Exploring the Holy Spirit’s leading with God’s Word as our compass to guide the journey leaves me awestruck every time. Nothing quite excites me more than a person’s discovery of God’s direction for his or her next best steps.

“What methods do you currently use?” I asked. The young missionary shared his current approach to training his young national pastors. After ten minutes, I posed another question, “How is this approach working for you?” The young missionary spoke of the challenges and frustrations of pouring himself into his pastors, only to hear it wasn’t enough. To adequately train national pastors

in a culture that highly valued educational credentials, he felt he fell short. He lamented, “It’s just not enough, and I can’t give more than I am giving of myself.”

In professional Christian coaching, we call these moments of discovery “dancing in the moment.” It was a deepening relationship with my missionary client as we explored further into his soul.

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

“How are other missionaries training their national pastors?” I continued. A three-minute pause ensued. The young missionary processed the question. As we looked at each other in total silence, he finally replied, “Uh, I really don’t know? I haven’t talked with any missionaries about this. Being in such a remote place, it’s hard to know how and who to speak with. I mean, it’s not like I can enroll these national pastors in a Bible college or school them online.”

The best part of our session occurred next. He smiled, “I guess I might need to find other missionaries who train their nationals well, and ask them for advice?” The inflection in his voice towards the end of that question indicated he was looking to me for an answer. I asked another question, “What other missionaries can you speak with who are knowledgeable on training national pastors?”

ACTION PLAN

A good coach not only helps his clients develop an action plan to accomplish their goals but also provides accountability regarding the effort to reach those goals. I offered resources and the names of a few good missionaries with expertise in training national pastors my client might contact.

My young missionary friend laid out his personal action plan:

1. Find missionaries training national pastors in countries valuing academics as in his country.
2. Connect with those missionaries over social media seeking their advice and expertise.
3. Ask his national pastors for their perspectives on the matter.
4. Gather information from other missionaries in his country.

As we concluded our session on developing his plan of action, he said, “Sounds like a plan! Talk with you next month!”

The next month, my first question was, “How’d your homework go?” And with that, we began another exciting coaching session.

ASSESSMENT
ANALYSIS
NAVIGATION
ACCOUNTABILITY
MOTIVATION

D. J. Mingo and his wife, Kathy, are Baptist Bible Fellowship missionaries serving in the Support Team Endorsement Program (S.T.E.P.). They served 22 years in South Africa, and Don pastored in Minnesota for eight years. As reinstated missionaries, they help missionaries, pastors, and native pastors reach their full Kingdom potential.

Don and Kathy are currently on deputation raising support and are available to speak and present their ministry in your church. Don can be contacted at (763) 213-2994 or dr.domingo@gmail.com.

Don and Kathy trained and continue to train with Professional Christian Coaching Institute as professional Christian life and leadership coaches. They offer free coaching to missionaries and national pastors, helping them serve longer and stronger in their lives and ministries.



By Jon Konnerup

Una luz en A LIGHT IN la oscuridad THE DARKNESS

In its early history, Spain was largely populated by the Iberians, Basques, and Celts. The peninsula later came under rule of the Roman Empire. During the early Middle Ages, it came under Germanic control. Later, much of it was conquered by Moorish (Muslim) invaders from North Africa. In

a process that took centuries, the small “Christian” kingdoms in the north gradually regained control of the peninsula with the last Moorish kingdom falling the same year Columbus reached the Americas. A global empire began which caused Spain to become the leading world power for 150 years and the largest overseas empire for three centuries. This has led to a vast cultural and linguistic legacy that includes over 500 million Spanish-speakers, making Spanish the second most-spoken mother language in the world.

Roman Catholicism has long been Spain’s main religion. There have been four Spanish Popes. According to an April 2014 study by the Spanish Centre for Sociological Research, about 69 percent of Spaniards identify as Catholics, two percent claim to be of other faiths, while 26 percent do not identify with any religion. Most Spaniards do not participate regularly in religious services.

Recent polls and surveys show atheists comprise anywhere from 8 to 20 percent of the Spanish population. Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons are among the various cults in the country. The increasing number of Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, and Muslims is on the rise due to the recent waves of immigrants.

While Spain has been a religious country outwardly for centuries, with many Spaniards knowing of Jesus, sadly, few know him personally as their Savior. Less than one percent of the population — 400,000 people — claims to be evangelical. With more than 6,500 cities and towns having no evangelical witness at all, Spain has fewer evangelical Christians than many Muslim countries. Behind the facade of Spain’s imposing cathedrals and vibrant culture is a dark, spiritual void. Spain is at a crossroads: still recovering from economic crisis while moving from a long history of cultural religion to a modern culture

of secularism and materialism.

In response to the need for a spiritual awakening, Lavon and Carolyn Waters, who pioneered the field of Uruguay for the BBFI after their approval in May 1958, once again blazed the untraveled trail by changing fields to Spain in May 1970. Upon their arrival November 1, 1971, they began their ministry in the capitol city of Madrid. Other missionaries soon followed and our current list of missionaries includes the Waters, Jack and Joy Loveday, Bill and Theresé Williams, Steve and Kelli Mowery, Fernando and Carolyn Torres, Arnold and Leslie Belasco, and T. J. and Kimberly Gritts.

In October 2016, I visited with each missionary family serving in Spain. It was a delight to stay in their homes, enjoy special meals, and meet the friendly and inviting people to whom they minister. What impacted me most was hearing the church members' amazing stories of salvation as a direct result of our missionaries' ministries. Seeing the joy of the Lord on their faces was priceless. Although the churches may not be large, many lives have been eternally impacted. I was able to visit four churches and participate in one church's third anniversary.

The missionaries use numerous outreach opportunities to effectively impact people

with the Gospel. One such ministry is the camp led by the Waters and Lovedays, which has had an influence on hundreds of lives over the years. The facility is used for youth camps, family camps, and all types of seminars. It plays a vital role in the future of the churches in Spain.

Our missionaries plead and pray for more missionaries to help reach Spain with the Gospel. They desire to see more churches started and more leaders trained to pastor the existing churches. This would, in turn, allow even more churches to be started. With the increase of immigrants all the way from Latin America, our missionaries' churches have more opportunities to reach people. Many who are saved are looking for good, Gospel-preaching churches in their new communities and they're excited to find Baptist churches to attend with their families. Our missionaries yearn to have more people meet Jesus in a personal way — whether they be native Spaniards or immigrants from other countries — have their sins forgiven, and find peace, joy, and hope.

The country is open to missionaries. Would you consider helping reach Spain with the Gospel by joining our current missionaries? Would you answer the call of the Great Commission?

Bill & Theresé Williams

Twenty-eight years ago, Theresé and I, with our three small children, arrived at the Madrid airport. What a journey it has been — filled with many challenges, blessings, and difficulties. There were several discouraging times when we were not sure if we would make it, but we stuck it out because our calling was clear. Spain is a very difficult field in regards to seeing people come to Christ. We knew results might be few in number, but the eternal destiny of souls was in the balance. If we left for "greener fields," how would they hear about the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Now, more than two decades later, with two churches established, dozens of souls saved and baptized, new converts discipled and trained for the ministry, many young couples formed into families, three men prepared for the ministry with one taking over as the pastor of the first church established, it is evident God has honored our decision to "stick by the stuff."

Due to the difficulty of the field, many missionaries here in Spain have come and gone over the years. We are so grateful for the prayers and financial support of all the churches that have steadfastly sacrificed for souls here in Spain.



"Why is Spain so hard?" – by Steve Mowery

I wish I had a million dollars for every time someone asked me that question or, "What is it that makes Spain so unresponsive to the Gospel?" or "Why does it take so long to start a church in Spain?"

As a BBFI missionary to Spain since 1987, I wish I had the answers to those questions. One of my struggles is to find out how to understand the Spanish mentality and break through this hard Spanish soil. Here are a few ideas.

1. The Spanish people are hedonistic. After 36 years of the Fascist, hard-right Catholic dictatorship of Francisco Franco from 1939 to 1975, the people have swung to the other extreme of liberalism and licentiousness. They have cast off the chains of repression and now embrace all the world has to offer: hedonism and consumerism. They want to be like the rest of Europe. But I have hope. I see the children of this generation questioning their parents' goals and lifestyles. They can see it doesn't satisfy. They are looking for something deeper.

2. The Spanish people are Catholic – when it's convenient. They tell you they are Catholic, but only 10 to 15 percent of the population practices their faith. Spain is becoming more post-Christian, post-modern, and atheistic in belief than. The Catholic faith is like a vaccination against the Gospel. They are baptized as children, do the first communion, and then think they are "Christians" who are good to go even though they don't have a clue of what the Bible says. They have been inoculated against the Gospel and it is very hard to convince a Spaniard of his or her need for Christ. Only the power of God can do that.

3. Mistreatment of the Jews. Others believe, as a result of the Inquisition and persecution of the Jews throughout the Middle Ages, that God has written "Ichabod" over Spain. According to Genesis 12 there is a curse on those who harm or hate the chosen people. Spain still, to this day, is Anti-Semitic.

The number of evangelical churches in Spain is growing slowly. But according to one source that confirms what I see, "The numerical growth in recent years has not been due to conversions of Spaniards, but to the arrival of believers from all over the world." According to *Operation World*, the percentage of evangelicals in Spain is one percent, (India is two percent) and the majority of those churches don't preach good doctrine (Pentecostal, Charismatic).

Spain is hard, but it is rewarding to serve our Savior and to be a light in the darkness. The need is still great for laborers to come to Spain. We have towns all around us that need missionaries to preach the truth. Maybe the Lord could use you! Are you up for the challenge?

Arnold & Leslie Belasco

The truth makes our jobs as American church planters in Valencia, Spain, possible. It also reduces the stress that would otherwise suffocate our efforts. This truth, given by Christ, encourages us daily to live and work among the proud people of Spain.

Many Spaniards have a form of godliness, but you soon realize it is culturally driven. The more time you spend among the Spanish people the more you hear biblical references and comments. But, chances are they don't know the significance of their words. It's just how things are said. For example, parents, not realizing they're quoting the Bible, say, "The last shall be first" to their children as a means of teaching them to wait in line or perhaps to soothe their own impatience. You also hear thanks being given to God for what has happened and words of hope toward God for things to come. But again, they're habitual statements that are void of any true devotion to God. In our province of Valencia, many pueblos are prefixed with the name *Beni*, such as Benidorm, Beniparrel, Benicolet, and so forth. The reason: they were settlements given to and/or named after the youngest son, known as the Benjamin of the family. Our language professor knew himself to be the Benjamin of his family, but he had no idea of its origin in the book of Genesis.

Ministering the truth to the Spanish people will continue to be rich with discovery. However, penetrating their hearts with this truth is a task that requires more laborers than we currently have!

The Ministry in Spain - by Joy Loveday

I grew up as a missionary kid (MK). Being an MK has many wonderful advantages, especially when God calls you to serve Him on the mission field as an adult! Jack and I just celebrated 35 years of ministry in this precious country we call home. Twenty-nine years ago, God allowed us to start the church where we currently serve. We started another new work three years ago.

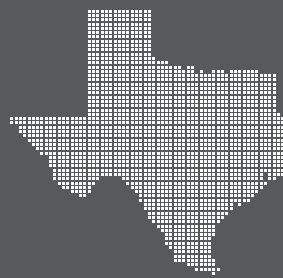
As a wife, mother, and grandmother, I enjoy teaching the ladies, counseling ladies and teens, and training future pianists for the music program at our church. God has given me the privilege to train Sunday school teachers and one pastor's wife. And yet the years go by, and our hearts cry to God for more laborers. More than ten million Spaniards live in a city or town where there is not even one Christian living nearby who can witness to them. Will you pray for Spain and the need of the Gospel? Will you answer the call to come and see Spanish souls won to Christ? If God is calling you, please get in touch with us. We'd love to answer your questions and encourage you to serve Him in Spain.

Spain needs missionaries - by Jack Loveday

The lack of long-term commitments by missionaries ministering in Spain has been one of our greatest challenges. This commitment hinges on: a call from God, a stable home life, an understanding of Spanish culture and the European mindset, and a decision to stay when slow growth causes discouragement.

If you feel that call of God to fulltime service, pray fervently, count the cost, and then be prepared to watch God bless in unexplainable ways. It is a life of faith, and although, as in any Christian's life, there will be heartaches and difficulties, remember the One who called you into His service is always faithful to love and guide you. To see the long-term blessings of a mature, healthy, and deep-rooted work on the mission field takes many years, but it is for His glory and for His Kingdom.

Consecrate your life to the Lord, surrender your will to his, and pray earnestly to see if God would have you serve Him in this great country of Spain.



A pioneering spirit *By John Gross*

As a young boy in the early 50s, I attended Fellowship Baptist Church in Borger, TX, which was one of the churches that made up the first group to become part of the Baptist Bible Fellowship. I remember it being an exciting time with churches in Borger and neighboring towns sharing Fellowship meetings with each other and combining revivals and youth meetings on a regular basis. Excitement for church growth was everywhere. Art Wilson from Wichita, KS, or John Rawlings from Tyler, TX, would come to town for a two- or three-week revival meeting. In those days, if people continued to respond, the meeting would be extended for another week or so. Many families were saved, baptized, and joined the church. Even as a young boy, these were thrilling times. I must say, however, because my mother was faithful to attend every meeting, as a young kid I was not always excited about those three-week revivals.

There are very few records to be found concerning the beginnings of the various Texas fellowships in the early days. We are all familiar with the famous Texas Hotel meeting in 1950 when the Baptist Bible Fellowship International was formed. In the late 50s and early 60s it was basically the West Texas/New Mexico Fellowship and the State Fellowship of Texas. From these beginnings, Texas has had a phenomenal church planting experience. Later, the Red River Valley Fellowship formed and was successful in planting churches in the Dallas/Fort Worth area as well as in other parts of the country.

This article is too short to name all the pastors associated with these churches, but I was personally acquainted with men such as Howard Ingram who pastored in Roswell, NM, and Abilene, TX. It has been said that, from these two ministries, Ingram had over 100 individuals surrender to fulltime ministry. Some of the young men from his ministry who planted and pastored churches were Johnny Morgan in El Paso, TX, Charles Yates in

Albuquerque, NM, Cecil Wagner in Hobbs, NM, Waudell Maple in Las Cruces, NM, Ed Courtney in Denver, CO, J. C. Joiner in Tucson, AZ, and Joe Penrod in Abilene, TX.

During the 50s and 60s, men with vision had a tremendous passion for planting missionary-minded churches. John Rawlings, who pastored Central Baptist Church in Tyler, is considered the father of church planting in Texas. He was instrumental in planting Central Baptist of Center, TX, where Bob Hughes (missionary to the Philippines) surrendered to preach. John Rawlings had a team that would go to a particular county and hold a tent revival for two to three weeks. From the results of the revival, the team would plant a new church in that county. Bill Aven was part of Rawlings' ministry for many years, challenging and supporting young preachers. The tent revival approach was also used in Houston where Freeway Baptist Church was established. Jack Bridges pastored there for over ten years and later became the mission director for the Baptist Bible Fellowship International.

Curtis Thorpe planted and Jerry Thorpe, together with his father, pastored Temple Baptist Church in Odessa for over 60 years. Others who pastored and planted powerful churches were: Mo Garner in Amarillo, Burt Homer in Lubbock, and Frank Johnson in Midland. Other pastors of note were:

A. V. Henderson, Lloyd Taylor, John Williams, Jamie Stark, Alvis Edmondson, Howard Sears, and Ted Hicks. Both Don Ledbetter and R. D. Wade were involved in planting and challenging churches in the Austin area. There were countless numbers of churches scattered throughout North and Central Texas.

In East Texas there were men like Lloyd Ledbetter, Lester Singleton, Ralph Liles, and Wayne Imboden. These men had tremendous influence on many men and women entering the ministry.

Others who represented pioneer work in the East Texas/Gulf Coast area were pastors such as Dewayne Pringle, Bill Luster, and Richard Boone who has been pastor/co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Troup (Tyler) for over 60 years. There were several families that went to the Houston area in the late 60s and early 70s to plant churches. Jess Hill planted Braeburn Baptist, I planted North Park Baptist, Bill Campbell planted South Shaver Baptist, Dan Greer planted Committee Baptist, Bill Liles planted First Baptist of Webster, (Houston), Dennis Carlson planted Central Baptist Springbranch, and Rick Blue planted Bay City Baptist. These men, along with many others, were influential pioneers for the BBF Texas Fellowship. There were many others who had a part in these pioneer days.

10 OF THE 30 FASTEST GROWING CITIES IN THE U.S. ARE IN TEXAS

“The launch team of the early church-planting pioneers was the pastor and his family; their pre-planning strategies were prayer, obedience to a call, and believing God would honor them with His promise of Matthew 28:18-20. They began their works by faith, believing God would honor their hard work, and He did.”

- John Gross

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Today’s Texas Fellowship *By Mike Marcellus*

The Texas Baptist Bible Fellowship started focusing on church planting over 50 years ago. Thirty years ago, Texas pastors refined the efforts of raising funds. As churches were planted throughout the state, they divided the TX BBF into regions.

Today, our strategy is based on the regional fellowships established years ago. With four regional fellowships, North Texas, South Texas, Central West Texas, and East Texas, plus our Hispanic Fellowship, the strategy is twofold. First, those who desire to plant a church in Texas and need personal support present their need and vision to each regional mission board for consideration of regional support. Once approved, the planter presents his ministry to that regional fellowship at its monthly business meeting.

Second, we raise funds for those planting a church in Texas who are affiliated with and recommended by one of the regional fellowships. For years, we presented two to four projects at the Texas BBF state business meeting, raising an average of \$3,000 or as much as \$10,000 depending on how many projects were being considered. On the state level, we raise money to help purchase land and/or facilities for the new church.

In recent years, we started putting greater effort on certain projects while still helping with lesser needs. For instance, Dan Greer was the first major project and we raised \$120,000 for Community Baptist in The Woodlands, TX. We later raised over \$60,000 for Darin Felty at Horizon Baptist in Leander and around \$60,000 for Brian Miller at Bible Baptist in Pflugerville. In January 2015, we raised \$50,000 for Troy Wolfe at Movement Church in Ft. Worth and, in January 2016, we gave \$50,000 to Chris Kitts in Glen Rose.

Currently, between our four regional fellowships and the Hispanic fellowship led by Charles Bell, we have 27 new church plants underway affiliated with the Texas BBF. As they mature and need help, we want to address the financial, training, accountability, and other needs these pastors and their congregations face.

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Bryan (0 BBFI churches)

Population

82,000

★ 10th fastest growing city in U.S. (October 2016)

THE RIGHT ANGLE

BIBLICAL WISDOM FOR A CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Q.

Do you need to know about love languages to love someone well?

By Kevin Carson

A. Valentine's Day often brings our focus to love and relationships. The wording of this month's question varies from person to person, but the heart of it remains, "Do I need to know the love languages in order to love this other person well?" The love languages vocabulary stems initially from Gary Chapman's seminal work *The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate* (Chicago: Northfield Publishing, 1992, 2015). Since then, Chapman has written books specifically addressing the love languages to husbands, wives, parents, and teenagers.

So do you need to know the love languages to love well? Short answer, no. However, it is not that simple. There are underlying strengths and weaknesses to the concept of love languages to consider if you hope to love another person well.

Chapman suggests each person is hardwired to receive love from another person through one of five love languages (5LL): 1) affirming words, 2) quality time, 3) gift-giving, 4) acts of service, and 5) physical affection. He depended upon his own personal observations and available research to create these categories. The 5LL are not explicitly drawn from the Scriptures. They instead are his observational assessment of how people function as it relates to love.

Although it is true you can love well without knowing the 5LL, as people have for centuries prior to 1992, there is wisdom in what Chapman suggests.

Initially, the 5LL reminds us we are all different; therefore, we express and receive love in potentially different ways. Taking time to reflect on the one you love, while seeking to discern how he or she is best loved well, benefits you and possibly your relationship.

Furthermore, how you express your love is worth contemplating at length. It is easy to fall into the trap of assuming the way you feel loved is the exact way someone else does too. Your best efforts at sharing your love potentially fall short of communicating the real extent of your love because it is not received in the same way it is given. Many of us can use the ideas and suggestions contained in the 5LL to help our initiative, creativity, and perseverance in loving well.

Potentially the greatest strength may be that individuals love more thoughtfully. How often do we actually ask good questions like: What will bring the greatest amount of blessing to this other person? What interests this person? What does he enjoy most? What seems to make her happiest?

There are a few weaknesses in considering the love languages, but let's look at what I consider the top three. First, many people have looked at the 5LL as a silver bullet for relational bliss. The thinking goes something like this: "If I speak her love language and she is fulfilled, then I'll get what I want." This is a version of "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." The problem in this scenario is the self-seeking heart of the individual, not inherently a problem with misunderstanding

the various ways to express love to another person.

The second weakness is when a person "discovers" the love language of another and assumes the work is done. "Now that I know his love language, this is the way I'll express my love." It is impossible to conflate the idea of sharing love with another person down to just one language. Author David Powlison challenges us to remember love speaks many languages fluently.

Third, Chapman suggests the basic problem in relationships is foundationally an empty emotional love tank (chapter 2). No doubt there are many great blessings and benefits from emotional fulfillment. For example, emotional fulfillment often encourages more patience, kindness, and perseverance. However, impatience and harsh words are not caused by or are not simply the result of an empty love tank. They are expressions of a sinful heart. Jesus taught, "from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34; cf. Luke 6:45).

So do you need to know the love languages to love well?

No. However, we must seek to love with all the wisdom and creativity the Scriptures demonstrate and demand. We must love like Christ (Ephesians 5:1-2). Chapman's 5LL may provide you some valuable insight and help you be more creative in the process.

Have a question?

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

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

Son of a sharecropper

URBAN CURRENT

Years into white people rallying, conferencing, and writing books promoting racial reconciliation, I was invited to be part of a discussion group sponsored by the world's leading Christian journal. The conversation was recorded and photographed for the magazine cover feature. The subject was racial reconciliation among evangelicals. Present, but not in the discussion, was the publication's editor. During a break, I asked if he had ever visited Pastor Clay Evans and Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.

"I don't believe I know who that is," he said. I felt like Ezra. "He tore his clothes, pulled his hair out and was appalled." I could not believe the editor of the primary evangelical journal on the planet lived and worked in Chicago and did not know the "godfather of the Black Church."

I confess, my respect for the man plummeted on the spot.

Evans stepped off the bus that carried him from Brownsville, TN, to Chicago in June 1945. Germany had surrendered. Japan's surrender seemed imminent. The 20-year-old was carried north by a burgeoning flow of black migration. He had a plan: go to a school of mortuary science, open a business, and live a life that never would have been possible for his sharecropper parents.

Vocally gifted, after not speaking a word for the first two years of his life, he turned down an opportunity to audition for Lionel Hampton. "This is not my plan for you, Clay. This is not what I want you to do," a quiet voice steered him away from a step toward a larger dream. Days, weeks, months of interaction with God led him to a conviction that God was calling him to pastor. He enrolled in Chicago Baptist Institute attending night classes for four years.

When Evans started the church, many of his peers were incredulous. "What are you doing?" they queried. "Why do you want to start a baby church? Just wait until one of these old guys die and take over an existing church."

In a south side funeral home with his sister, two brothers, and two friends, on September 10, 1950, Clay Evans founded Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. One year later, he began the Fellowship Hour Broadcast. For 50 years they broadcasted live, opening with a paint-peeling rendition of "What a Fellowship ... Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." In 1959, with 2,000 members, the church bought a broken-down church building.

A dynamic leader with a burgeoning congregation, Evans was soon on the radar of the powerful white democratic political machine. Mayor Richard Daley extended gestures of friendship.

On Sunday, September 23, 1964, in the presence of 2,500 people, groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted for a block-long, million-dollar complex including a new auditorium annexed to the existing church structure. A huge loan from white financiers was promised.

In 1965, Pastor Evans met Jesse Jackson, a young civil rights activist, who introduced him to Martin Luther King, Jr. Evans was one of the first pastors in Chicago to endorse a King visit to Chicago.

Evans participated in one of King's first marches in the streets of Chicago. Evans was summoned to a meeting with the bankers who had promised the building loan to Fellowship. "Withdraw your support and involvement with King or your building loan will be stopped. We'll see to it that you'll never finish building the church." At that point, Evans had already spent \$150,000. Many of his peers counseled Evans to abandon his relationship with King. Evans prayed for direction.

He concluded that the conviction which led him to share in King's crusade was not changed by circumstances. To Evans, King represented an effort to open up jobs and options making it possible to live anywhere and to have access to better education.

By the end of 1965, construction on the new sanctuary structure ground to a halt.

For the next eight years the concrete foundation and a steel-skeleton super structure stood in mockery of Evans' convictions and the congregation's initial investments.

Years later, he talked with me of his conviction (he uses the word often) that he was doing the right thing, causing him to stay the course and go wherever the fight took him. He claims City Hall told the bank to cut the loan. Anybody who knows how Chicago works doesn't doubt that for a minute.

In 1971, with new winds blowing and political tides changing, the building loan for the church building was re-approved.

On April 15, 1973, Pastor Evans and the congregation marched into their new building. The people were proud of their pastor who stood up to the Irish Democratic machine, waited on God, and finally saw victory.

The congregation exploded to 5,000 members. The 200-voice Fellowship Choir became nationally renowned. Evans came into his own as a recording artist.

The bus ministry, youth ministry, Clay Evans Scholarship Fund, prison ministry, telephone counseling ministry, pantry, and television ministry all spoke to Evans' creative leadership, passion for evangelism, and persistent determination to make a difference in his city.

Evans retired at 75 years of age counting over 100 men called into the ministry under his watch.

The innovative son of a sharecropper cut a swath for God in a tough field.

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



TULSA, OK

IVAL ROBINSON HONORED AT RETIREMENT

Southeast Baptist Church honored Pastor Ival Robinson at a retirement service November 6, 2016. Many friends, pastors, and missionaries were present for the event, which included a lunch after the morning service and Bill Bender assuming the pastorate of Southeast Baptist.

Robinson pastored Southeast Baptist Church 21 years. He and his wife, Linda, served the Lord together for over 50 years before she went home to be with the Lord.



Bill Bender (third from right) assumed the pastorate of Southeast Baptist when Ival Robinson (third from left) retired.

SOMERSET, KY

KENTUCKY BBF MEETS IN SOMERSET

Oak Hill Baptist Church of Somerset, KY, and pastor Gary Phelps hosted the Kentucky BBF Tuesday, January 10. Preachers for the day were Pat Finley, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, and Randy Harp, BBFI communication director. The meeting was held in the newly opened youth and children's ministry building.

SPRINGFIELD, MO

PARK CREST HOSTS MO BBF

Pastor Phil Housley and Park Crest Baptist Church hosted the Missouri BBF meeting Monday, January 16. The theme of the meeting was health with an emphasis on financial health, physical health, and spiritual health.

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PANAMA

NATIONAL PASTOR INSTALLED IN PANAMA CHURCH

Bible Baptist Church and BBFI missionary Jim Childress installed Angel Nuñez as pastor of the church January 1. Childress has served as interim pastor of Bible Baptist six years. Of the changing-of-the-guard ceremony Childress reports, "This day was special for our church and we planned just one service. Interjected with the normal things we do there were special moments that had to do with Angel being stalled as pastor — the pastoral commitment promises he pledged to uphold and the prayer time dedicating Angel to the position of pastor." After Nuñez preached to the congregation, Childress read his resignation letter. The service was finalized with one member declaring the first Sunday of January as pastor recognition day.

Childress says Nuñez has demonstrated a thirst for the Word of God and characteristics of a leader. "In the secular World he has 78 employees under his supervision and leadership," said Childress. "During short furloughs he became the man in charge and proved his capabilities as a leader." Nuñez received a 94 percent approval to become pastor of Bible Baptist Church.

"The ordination/installation service was the greatest experience in our lives," said Nuñez. "For a long time, the Lord has put it in our hearts to serve him and we have done so with heartfelt joy. The ordination service gave us the confirmation of the great responsibility and privilege to serve Him; being fulfilled by guiding, directing, counseling, and overseeing his sheepfold as established by our Lord."



HARTFORD, CT

GREG STOKES ELECTED TO CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Greg Stokes, a 1984 graduate of Baptist Bible College (Springfield, MO), and senior pastor of Cornerstone Church in East Windsor, CT, is now a member of the Connecticut General Assembly representing the state's 58th District. He is the first Republican in history to carry the district. He defeated the Democrat incumbent by garnering 53.9 percent of the vote on November 8, 2016. His committee assignments include Education, Veteran Affairs, and Appropriations Committees.

Stokes began his political career in his hometown of Taylor, MI. While pastoring there, he served that city's public school board in the early 1990s. He has pastored Cornerstone Church for more than 15 years and has also served as president of the school board in Enfield, CT, and several terms on the Town Council.



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SPRINGFIELD, MO

JIM AND SHARON SMITH TRAIN AND ENCOURAGE PASTORS IN COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR

Jim and Sharon Smith, founders of Generations International, recently traveled to Colombia and Ecuador to help strengthen and encourage national pastors and ministry leaders. Gleaning from their 30 years as BBFI missionaries to Ecuador and Jim's eight years as associate mission director for the BBFI Mission Office, Jim and Sharon taught in many venues, training and encouraging men and women in ministry.

The first leg of the seven-week trip was to the Highlands Camp in Colombia where the Smiths taught on the Surrendered Life at the School of Christian Training. The school is an intensive 12-week discipleship course developed by Hugo Mario Rodriguez and BBFI missionaries Craig and Fran Lingo. While in Colombia, the Smiths visited with BBFI missionaries Ali Alexander and Scott and Kristi Hudgins.

After leaving Colombia, the Smiths traveled to Quito, Ecuador. They participated in a Saturday meeting of about 200 ministry leaders hosted at the church the Smiths established. After a time of worship, Sharon taught the ladies on the theme of loving, trusting, and serving God while Jim challenged the men on principles of leadership. Jim finished the meeting by teaching Perseverance in the Ministry to the whole group. The following day, Jim preached in all three Sunday services with a total attendance over 450. There were seven first-time visitors, one baptism, and one decision to trust Christ as Savior. "We are happy to report to those churches who supported our ministry 'way back when' that fruit continues to be added to your account!" said Jim. The pastors presented the Smiths with a special offering for Generations International.

During the trip, Jim and Sharon were involved in a variety of ministries, speaking

a total of 28 times. In one week they attended a Bible study they had been involved with years earlier, a group of pastors and wives hosted a birthday celebration for Jim. He preached at the midweek service in Carapungo, was interviewed by HCJB radio (a Christian radio station celebrating 85 years of proclaiming the Gospel around the world), and Jim and Sharon also attended the commencement of Baptist Bible Institute of Quito. Another weekend was spent in Sangolquí speaking at a conference for pastors and leaders hosted by BBFI missionaries (and brothers) Cliff and Glenn McGhee. While in Sangolquí, the Smiths also spent time with BBFI missionaries Jenny Carpenter and Janice Hickey.

Of the trip and the launch of Generations International, Smith says, "Sharon and I are grateful God allowed us to begin this new ministry in Colombia and Ecuador! We were busy, but to be with people whom we have known and loved and with whom we have served was a great encouragement to us. We are excited to see how the Lord will use Generations International in 2017."

Generations International was launched in 2016 and is overseen by a board of the following pastors: Tim Adrian (Hutchinson, KS), Russell Johnson (Miami, FL), and Jon Slayden (Midland, TX). The ministry's primary focus is to strengthen national pastors and their wives through mentoring and encouragement in an effort to multiply church planting efforts around the world. More information is available at www.generationsinternational.org.



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BOCA CHICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

NEW CAMP DIRECTOR NAMED FOR DOMINICAN HIGHLAND SPORTS CAMP

Michael Salazar was named new camp director for the Highlands Sports Camp in Boca Chica, Dominican Republic, January 6, 2017. Prior to his installation, Salazar pastored Philadelphia Baptist Church in Santa Ana, Costa Rica. This camp, a ministry of the Rawlings Foundation and Impact Youth Worldwide, is structured to reach Dominican youth primarily through baseball. Herb W. Rawlings, CEO of the Rawlings Foundation, reports, "Our goal is to reach 15,000 to 20,000 youth for Christ in 2017 through the Highlands Sports and Events Complex in the Dominican Republic."

The complex includes a legal-sized softball stadium, a Major League Baseball stadium, soccer

fields, two pools, basketball and volleyball courts, and field games. The campus accommodates 900 overnight campers and houses the San Francisco Giants major league training academy, which includes three additional Major League Baseball stadiums.

The camp was made possible through funding by The Rawlings Group and George Rawlings. The foundation broke ground in Boca Chica in May 2006 and opened January 2011. Boca Chica is a short distance from the Dominican capital city, Santo Domingo, which has a metropolitan population of over six million people.



SALEM, NH

MA BBF HOSTS NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

More than 100 pastors, missionaries, and church planters attended the fellowship meeting at Granite United Church in Salem, NH, January 10. It was the first of four New England Regional Meetings the Massachusetts Baptist Bible Fellowship is hosting this year.

Pastor Chris Willis of Discovery Church, Weymouth, MA, challenged those in attendance to answer the question, "What if you could go further faster?" Host Pastor Anthony Milas suggested church leaders consider the answer "What if what you need is already there?" Pastor Chris Goepfner, Riverbank Church in White River Junction, VT, talked about turning the *what if* into *what is*.

For information about the MaBBF and future meetings, visit www.mabbbf.com.



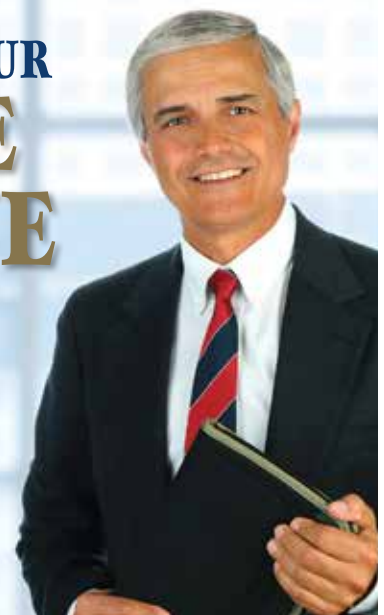
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MCFARLAND, CA

NEW CHURCH LAUNCHED IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

CrossPointe Baptist Church, led by Bobby Sharp, launched December 7, 2016, in McFarland, CA. CrossPointe is a result of the church planting ministry of Sonrise Baptist Church, Clovis, CA, and Pastor J. Otis Ledbetter.

Sharp continues to serve as associate pastor of outreach and evangelism at Sonrise while commuting 85 miles to McFarland each week. For the past year and a half Sharp has served as team pastor and life coach for several McFarland High School sports teams including their historic track and field team. During this time, at least 50 students and adults have accepted Christ as their Savior.

Jim White, former high school national champion cross country coach and the inspiration for the 2015 Disney movie *McFarland, USA*, is also assisting in the new church start-up.

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(515)268-1721 • www.heartlandbaptistames.com
Pastor Randy Abell

Albia Baptist Temple

624 A Avenue W • Albia, Iowa 52531
Pastor Brian Harris

Mark Baptist Church

16011 276th St. • Bloomfield, Iowa 52537
Pastor Gary Axtell

Bible Community Baptist Church

1085 Sawyer Rd • Central City, Iowa 52214
Pastor Robert Pate

Calvary Baptist Church

PO Box 131 - 107 3rd St. • Onslow, Iowa 52321
Pastor Matt Read

Bible Baptist Church

944 W Williams St. • Ottumwa, Iowa 52501
Pastor Ed Matthews

Faith Baptist Church

8280 105th Ave. - 73rd St. Frontage Rd
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501
Pastor Phil Griffith
Westwood Baptist Church
895 S. 60th St. • West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
Pastor Pat Nath

Hillcrest Baptist Church

1613 Didwell Rd. • Muscatine, Iowa 52761
Pastor Dave McIntosh

Bethel Baptist Church

23899 Hwy 30 • Carroll, Iowa 51401
Pastor Mike Salati

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 Ray Melugin

KENTUCKY**Florence Baptist Temple**

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

Oak Hill Baptist Church

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(606)679-8496 • Pastor Gary Phelps

MASSACHUSETTS**Temple Baptist Church**

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

NORTH CAROLINA**Northside Baptist Church**

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(704)596-4856 • Pastor Brian Boyles

Mid-Way Baptist Church

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(919)772-5864 • Pastor James L. Upchurch

Trinity Baptist Church

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(704)254-2187 • www.tbcasheville.org
Pastor Ralph Sexton, Jr.

Central Baptist Church

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(910)892-7914 • www.bbcduunn.com
Pastor Tom Wagoner

Berean Baptist Church & Academy

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Pastor Sean Harris

OHIO**Ashland Ave. Baptist Church**

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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**

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(401)231-1980 • Pastor Archie Emerson

TEXAS**Central Baptist Church**

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First Baptist Church of Meadowview

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(214)391-7176 • Pastor Jack Alumbaugh

First Baptist Church

Hwy 64 • Wright City, TX 75750
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Pastor Rohn M. Boone

North Park Baptist Church

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(281)821-2258

Cypress Creek Baptist Church

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Talley Rd. Baptist Church

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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

Heritage Baptist Church

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Pastor David Barton

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(304)736-8006 • Pastor Jerry Warren

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Pastor Tim J. Downs

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My recommendations to young preachers

By Doug Kutilek

1. Keep a journal to record your thoughts, life events, ideas, notable quotations, plans, and the like. This will serve you well for review and reflection. And go back from time to time and re-read what you have written. It will remind you of things that ever-so-quickly slip from memory.
2. Build a good personal library of reference books. A library need not be large to be adequate, assuming it has been well chosen and well used. A collection of 100 good reference volumes will serve a man for a lifetime.
3. Keep a list of all books you read, including author, title, date, total pages, and an evaluation of the book, noting good and bad points. For every book I read, I make my own index of whatever was particularly noteworthy. Tell me what books a man has read, and which ones he values most, and I will tell you what he is.
4. Compile a list of books you need or want to read, and then actually set about to read them. Set an annual goal of reading you are capable of, and then set it a bit higher, to challenge yourself (my goals: 50 books a year, or 1,000 pages per month). Of course, it is better to read fewer good books well, than to merely gorge your mind with reading. Get and read the best books on whatever topic, and don't waste time on second-rate works.
Constantly be on the lookout for areas of deficiency in your personal knowledge. Ask yourself, "What is it I ought to know, but do not?" and then seek to repair the defect.
5. Begin a chronological list of every Bible message you teach or preach, noting text (or topic), date, place, occasion, and attendance. This list will, among other things, keep you from giving the same message to the same audience and, negatively, it will show you what subjects you have neglected in your preaching. Experience has taught me the necessity of typing every outline on computer.
6. Read well-selected periodicals. I receive about six to eight periodicals, both print and electronic. Some I read all the way through, others just what interests me. Among those I read are *Acts & Facts* from the Institute of Creation Research and *The Creation Daily* from Creation Ministries International. I also recommend reading the local newspaper.
7. Prepare a plan of what you want to do ministry-wise for the next 5, 10, 20, and 50 years (subject always to mid-course changes). Then write out the means necessary to reach these goals. Having specific aims, goals, or direction always motivates me to try just a bit harder and achieve a bit more.
8. Purpose in your heart to study and learn as opportunity presents itself (or you make your own opportunity) at least a modicum of Greek and Hebrew (sufficient to use grammars, lexicons, and technical commentaries) plus a modern foreign language or two (Spanish is the easiest for Americans). Knowledge of languages, besides facilitating Bible study, will greatly improve your knowledge and mastery of English and enhance your writing and speaking style.
9. Write regularly — topical studies, technical research papers, devotional articles, etc. Then go back and revise, correct, and improve (and keep a list of anything that gets published). The spoken word is ephemeral at best; the written word is more permanent: "The writing that men do lives after them."
10. Keep a daily and an annual list of your Bible reading, recording any chapters completed. At the end of the year, I compile the numbers and examine them. This helps me evaluate my Bible reading. Again, reading intensively (closely and carefully) is better than merely reading extensively. It would also be worthwhile over a period of years to read through several of the better modern English versions — NASB, ESV, HCSB, etc. — regardless of what version you regularly use.
11. Begin a topical filing system for a collection of clippings, articles, etc. on topics likely to come up in your ministry or that interest you.
12. Become an expert through reading and study in one or more areas that interest you, including at least one area of science — I have made special study of Spurgeon, Baptist history, Bible versions, the American Civil War, scientific creationism and apologetics, trees and agriculture, and linguistics.

In all of these suggestions, there is the common thread of progress in usefulness, growth in knowledge, efficiency in ministry, and avoiding that deadly sin of stagnation.

DailyFeed

28 VERSES ABOUT LOVE

Love is a complicated word in the English language. Our world today has skewed the meaning of true love, but God's Word remains a steadfast and true source of instruction on the meaning of love. Take time this month to meditate on the following Scriptures.

1

1 Corinthians 13:4

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up.

2

1 Corinthians 13:5

Love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil.

3

1 Corinthians 13:6

Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth.

4

1 Corinthians 13:7

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

5

1 Corinthians 13:8

Love never fails.

6

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

7

1 Peter 4:8

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

8

1 John 4:7

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

9

1 John 4:19

We love Him because He first loved us.

10

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

11

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.

12

Colossians 3:14

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

13

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

14

1 John 3:16

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us

15

Matthew 22:37

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

16

Matthew 22:39

And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

17

Galatians 2:20

... I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

18

Psalms 37:28

For the Lord loves justice, and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever....

19

Psalms 18:1

I will love You, O Lord, my strength.

20

Leviticus 19:18

... you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

21

Romans 5:8

... demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

22

Romans 13:8

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

23

Galatians 5:13

... only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

24

1 John 3:18

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

25

Psalms 63:3

Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You.

26

1 John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

27

John 13:35

By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

28

Psalms 143:8

Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, for in You do I trust

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

1. **Tim & Kim LaLonde** – *Canada*
2. **Cpt. RT & Karen Stringer** – *Chaplain, U.S. Army National Guard*
3. **Keith & Lisa Sampson** – *Estonia*
4. **Michael Todd** – *Peru (TEAM)*
5. **Kevin & Kristina Brown** – *Croatia*
6. **Linda Fitzgerald** – *Germany*
7. **Brian & Rachael Weed** – *Nicaragua*
8. **Wade & Donna Rasmussen** – *Zambia*
9. **Margie Smith** – *Retired*
10. **Ted & Tonie Farris** – *Navajo Indians*
11. **Lucy Nevels** – *Argentina*
12. **Dean & Deloris McClure** – *Brazil*
13. **Workers in Creative Access Countries**
14. **Luther & Martha Smith** – *Papua New Guinea*
15. **BBFI Mission Office** – *Steve Bender, Assoc. Mission Director*
16. **Jim & Becky Carter** – *Alaska*
17. **Baptist Bible Tribune**
18. **Jeff & Andrea Williams** – *Canada*
19. **Pam Rather** – *Honduras*
20. **Mike & Lenore Mislan** – *Philippines*
21. **David & Crystal Houghton** – *Mexico*
22. **Ben & Rachelle Metzger** – *Argentina*
23. **Boston Baptist College** – *David Melton, President*
24. **Leighton & Regina Spinney** – *Belize*
25. **Arnold & Leslie Belasco** – *Spain*
26. **Rebecca Terrell** – *Brazil*
27. **Robert & Sondra Winters** – *Polynesia*
28. **Ali Alexander** – *Colombia (TEAM)*

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2

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