

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

JANUARY 2017

STEWARDSHIP  
DOES IT MEAN WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS?

???



- p.7 Defining stewardship
- p.10 Gospel logistics
- p.12 Time for a capital campaign?

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ON THE TABLE  
Happy New Year

by Randy Harp | Editor

**H**appy New Year! For many, a new year is a fresh start or reboot. It is a time for resolutions and goals. It is a time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the New Year. I'm encouraged as I see the *Tribune's* growth this past year and the growth in my personal walk with Jesus. But it is now time to prepare ourselves for all God has in store for 2017.

Our goal is to continue growing the Communication Office of the BBFI. Lord willing, we will launch the BBFI Coaching Network during the BBFI National Meeting in Tyler, TX, next month. We are also tweaking the *Tribune* content in an effort to make it more helpful to you and your church. Popular author and BBFI pastor, David Stokes, begins a six-part series called "Originals: The Men Who Made the Baptist Bible Fellowship." He starts with G. B. Vick. You can also listen to some classic G. B. Vick sermons on the BBFI mobile app. (Scan the QR code at right to download the app.) Another new column is "State Fellowship Spotlight". It includes a brief history and current structure, leaders, and vision of that state fellowship, along with a few cities in need of new churches. A final tweak is our prayer calendar. We will continue to provide a BBFI prayer calendar, but will also include additional daily ideas to assist you in your private disciplines. These will also be available on our social media outlets.



Scan here to download the BBFI mobile app

This issue's theme is stewardship. We approach it from three very different aspects. BBC graduate and current senior consultant with INJOY Stewardship Solutions, Steve Chittenden, provides great material for churches considering a capital stewardship campaign. Former BBC president, *Tribune* editor, and BBFI pastor Mike Randall writes on the importance of Fellowship stewardship. I round out the stewardship theme with the principle that stewardship is more than many realize.

I must briefly remind you of the upcoming Annual *Tribune* Offering that takes place in February. There is really no other way to put it — we need a record-setting offering this year or we will have to consider some significant changes to the print magazine. Please pray now about how God would have you respond.

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

STEWARDSHIP



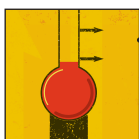
**Stewardship: What it really means** ————— **7**

There's more to stewardship than finances. How we manage four areas in our lives will show if we have the heart of a good steward.



**Gospel logistics** ————— **10**

In essence, the BBFI is a logistical tool for getting the Gospel message out. Without proper support mechanisms, those on the front lines will struggle.



**Is it time?** ————— **12**

When the vision God has for your church has outpaced the resources, it may be time to consider a capital stewardship campaign.



**They called him Mister Vick** ————— **16**

The first in a series of biographical sketches of the early leaders of the BBFI.



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

COLUMNS AND DEPARTMENTS

- 4** BBFI Leadership Perspectives
- 15** State Fellowship Spotlight: Missouri
- 20** The Right Angle: What are your dreams for 2017?
- 21** Urban Current: The Sunday after
- 22** February National Meeting Info
- 23** BBFI Special Meeting Notice
- 24** Fellowship News
- 20** Afterwords: When a plan comes together
- 31** DailyFeed

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT STEWARDSHIP IN THE BBFI

**E**phesians 5:15-16 touches on stewardship when it says, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” “Redeeming the time” suggests making wise and sacred use of every opportunity to do good. Everything we have must be stewarded well.

Among the things we must steward well are the relationships and opportunities the Baptist Bible Fellowship International creates. This network gives expansive opportunities to advance the Gospel together — through the colleges, the *Tribune*, the Mission Office, and church planting. We reach our greatest potential when we work together.

Every time we meet in our state and national meetings we have opportunity to give and receive. These relationships, if stewarded well, allow for much encouragement and learning.

I once received a call from a pastor serving in the Missouri fellowship. He noticed I had not been attending the meetings. He said a lot of pastors in our state serve in churches with limited staff and often feel alone, and he reminded me I should consider attending meetings — not for what I would get, but for what I could give. His words got to me that day. I had not stewarded my opportunity to serve other pastors. I also needed these pastors to serve me. We all need encouragement and can learn from each other. I began attending the meetings more often and rubbed shoulders with some amazing men. When I sit with bi-vocational pastors and listen to them talk about their work schedules and church responsibilities I am humbled by their commitment and passion for their churches. These men inspire me.

A lot has been accomplished through the BBFI. There are greater things to come if we are good stewards of this Fellowship.



**Eddie Lyons**  
BBFI PRESIDENT

## WORLD MISSIONS GO AROUND THE WORLD IN 2017

**W**hen it comes to New Year celebrations, though traditions vary around the world, they are meant to bring happiness, prosperity, and good luck in the coming 12 months. In Belgium, children write letters to their parents or grandparents. In Spain, many celebrate by eating 12 grapes at midnight, one at every toll of the clock for good luck in the new year. In Wales, they open and shut the back door of the house just before midnight symbolizing the release of the old year and locking out bad luck. Then they open it again at midnight to welcome in the new year. Eating a special meal or dessert is also a common practice in many

places. Most will bring the new year in with fireworks.

However, we all seem to have one thing in common as we celebrate the new year — we consider the past year and hope for a better year to come — oftentimes making resolutions to make the new year better or more fruitful.

I encourage all of us to make it a priority this next year to pray — especially for world missions. Pray:

- For our missionaries on a consistent basis
- For more missionaries around the world
- That every church would become a sending church

- That more would give to missions
- For unreached, unengaged people groups
- For the people our missionaries are trying to reach
- For more salvations, baptisms, and churches started
- For more national leaders trained

This new year, as a Fellowship, let's share in the work of our missionaries as we faithfully and consistently pray for them.



**Jon Konnerup**  
BBFI MISSION DIRECTOR

# BBFI LEADERSHIP

## CHURCH PLANTING APEX IS ...

**A**merica is the third largest mission field in the world, with more than 200 million unreached lives. Our country needs planters, churches, and fellowships working to plant more churches.

**(A)pex.** Advancing the church planting movement in America is an incredible experience. Supporting and advancing church planting in America has been and continues to be one of the great challenges of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. That is what APEX is about ... advancing!

**A(P)ex.** Planting a new church is the most effective evangelistic

tool in the world. After all, it is Jesus' plan. He said in Matthew 16:17-18 “... I will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it ...” That's what Apex is about ... planting churches!

**Ap(E)x.** Energizing church planting and the church planter requires cooperation and support of every possible church. I could never begin in this short article to list all of the elements required to energize a church planter and his family as they establish a local church, but a few are: training and mentoring, as well as physical, financial, and spiritual support. That's what APEX is about ... energizing!

**Ape(X).** Multiply churches. Our vision is that every single BBFI church be engaged in planting, funding, and serving a new church. Our mission is partnering with churches to equip leaders to plant and multiply healthy churches. That's what APEX is about ... multiplying churches.

The BBFI continues to advance, plant, energize, and multiply churches throughout America ... We are APEX!



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

## BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE THE STEWARDSHIP OF EDUCATION IN THE BBFI

Stewardship can be defined as “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.”

We take stewardship very seriously at Baptist Bible College/Life Change U.

We are to be stewards of doctrine. It is our responsibility as an institution to oversee the careful and responsible management of doctrine for the BBFI. We work hard to instill in every student the intrinsic doctrines and principles that make us who we are — Bible believers. Being stewards of doctrine is critical because it defines who we will be in the future.

We are to be stewards of

tradition. It is important for our students to be taught where we came from. They need to understand the history of our movement and know the values, commitment, and sacrifice of the great men and women who built this college. Without these faithful servants, we might not be where we are as a Fellowship and some of us might not have even been exposed to the Gospel.

We are to be stewards of hope. This is underestimated but very important — encouraging students that there is hope for life change in the world. Ministry can be discouraging — we compare and we fall short. Why does it matter? Is my ministry even needed? I believe and

challenge our students with this thought — the greatest churches and mission works have yet to be built. That is what they will do. Hope begins with them. They must believe God needs them to go into all the world to share the greatest message ever given. Being a steward of hope drives us to encourage them to study, to finish strong, and to go where God has called them.



**Mark Milioni**  
BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

# PERSPECTIVES

## STEWARDSHIP

## BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE THE SWEET RIDE

When my beautiful wife, Kim, said “yes” I knew two things — she didn’t marry me for my looks or my car! I was driving an old Nissan Stanza with a million miles on it, and even more dings. I get my “car-challengedness” from my dad. He always had clunkers. But one time, exactly once, I had cool wheels. I was a senior in high school, and my incredible youth group leaders, Leon and Kay Munhollan, owned a vintage ’57 Chevy. For some reason, I had to go to senior camp late, and Leon offered to let me drive his Chevy to camp. That memory is still so rich that I haven’t shared it a half dozen times in my life ... until now!

I crawled onto that bench

seat, and took off. Sort of. Driving that three-on-the-tree was a tall order. But, that incredible hour drive was unlike anything else in my life. People honked and waved, turned their heads to see me pass, called out through open windows. I just smiled and nodded.

I learned the joy of stewardship that day. Leon was crazy to trust me with that car, but he did! How amazing to be associated with something so awesome it could never really be “mine,” but somebody who believed in me put me in the driver’s seat! I feel the same way about leading Boston Baptist College. This is Jesus’ college — plain and simple. His pastors and

churches bought it and built it, and his students wander these halls and kick back in the coffee shop. I do get to steer the vehicle a little bit, but I’m just blessed to sit in the front seat. I know I don’t even shift the gears all that well at times, but I am humbled and honored and challenged to drive as well as I can. It’s even more exhilarating than a ’57 Chevy, and that’s saying something!



**David Melton**  
BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE PRESIDENT

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# STEWARDSHIP

DOES IT MEAN WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS?

BY RANDY HARP

**A**s a child, one of my favorite movies was *The Princess Bride*. I watched it with my children recently, and though I could still quote half the movie, for some reason they just could not connect with it. To me, that is inconceivable! In the movie, Inigo Montoya says to Vizzini, “You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means.” That statement applies to the “Christianese” we often hear and use in Christian circles — like the word *stewardship*. Do we fully understand its meaning? If we do, it should change the way we see the world and how we make decisions daily.

Elmer Towns, in his book *Praying the Lord’s Prayer for Spiritual Breakthrough*, illustrates stewardship with a story about a father who bought his son French fries.

When the father reached over to take a fry from his son’s tray, the son slapped his father’s hand and said, “Don’t touch my French fries.” Shocked, he thought, “Why is my son so selfish, I have given him a whole package of French fries and I just wanted one?” The father knew he bought the fries so they really belonged to him. In his frustration, he thought about never buying his son French fries again.

Better yet, he thought about buying ten more packages of French fries and making his son eat every single one. I can relate to the story with both of my sons.

Biblical stewardship is recognizing God owns everything and He has asked us to manage and maximize all He has provided. Psalm 24:1 states, “The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.” First Corinthians 6:19-20 gets even more personal when it says, “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” Oftentimes stewardship is only applied to money. Yes, finances are one aspect of stewardship, but it goes much further.

## FOUR AREAS OF STEWARDSHIP

There are four basic areas of stewardship: time, talents, treasure, and testimony. But there are only two ways to manage them — we either waste them or invest them.

**Time.** In 1930, economist John Keynes wrote the essay “Economic Possibilities for our Grandchildren.” In it, he predicted that, because of coming technology, within 100 years we would be working 15-hour workweeks (or three hours per day). He believed one of mankind’s greatest problems would be what to do with all their free time. However, according to a recent Harvard study, the average professional works at least 50 hours per week (with over half of those interviewed

working 65 hours per week), and the average office worker has 36 hours of work piled up on his or her desk.

According to *US News and World Report*, people today sleep 2.5 fewer hours each night than people 100 years ago.

In 1995, the average person spent 35 minutes per day on the internet. Today, Pew Research Center reports 21 percent of Americans say they go online “almost constantly.” CNN reports teenagers average nine hours a day using some type of digital media. Hours upon hours are wasted playing mobile games or surfing through social media.

In reality, we each get 24 hours a day to manage. We can either invest it or waste it. Ephesians 5:16 calls it “redeeming the time.” Small investments over a period of time will always produce great results. This is true physically, with 30 minutes every day in an aerobic activity. It is true relationally, spending quality time with your spouse, children, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. It is true in every area of your life including professionally, recreationallly, and spiritually.

**Talents.** God has given each of us talents and natural abilities. Tom Rath’s *Strengths Finder 2.0* identifies 34 talents ranging from “Achiever” to “Maximizer” to “Woo.” For a small fee, you can even pay to take the Clifton StrengthsFinder analysis to learn your top five talents. Though I find great value in such research, it is not necessary in order to understand God has uniquely equipped you with many talents. Take time to do a personal inventory.

The phrase, “They are such a wasted talent” refers to an individual who does not live up to his or her potential. However, the true waste happens when we don’t recognize our talents have come from God and we don’t use them to serve Him, rather we serve ourselves. Using your talents to benefit others and to glorify God is the best way to invest your talents — whether as a pastor, a teacher, an engineer, or a factory worker. The Apostle Peter refers to a talent as a gift and states, “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10).

A.C. NIELSON COMPANY REPORTS THE AVERAGE AMERICAN WATCHES MORE THAN FOUR HOURS OF TV EACH DAY. THIS EQUATES TO 28 HOURS PER WEEK, OR A SOLID TWO MONTHS OF NON-STOP TV WATCHING PER YEAR ...

... IN A 65-YEAR LIFE, THAT PERSON WILL HAVE SPENT NINE YEARS OF HIS OR HER LIFE GLUED TO THE TV.



**Treasure.** When we think of stewardship, finances are the first thing that come to mind — and likely it is the area most mismanaged. Many people today have the same problem early 21st-century movie star Errol Flynn had when he said, “I am having a hard time these days reconciling my net income with my gross habits.” One way many people mismanage finances is with credit cards. *TIME* magazine recently reported that, on average, every American between the ages of 18 and 65 has \$4,717 of credit card debt. Assuming an average interest rate of 15 percent and a minimum monthly payment of \$189, it would take ten years to pay off that amount. The total payments would amount to \$22,869 for the privilege of borrowing the original \$4,717. It is estimated the average American pays approximately ten percent of his or her household income toward interest payments. No matter how you crunch the numbers, Solomon’s principle remains, “The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender” (Proverbs 22:7).

Unfortunately, talking about finances in the church tends to make people uncomfortable. In reality, it should be addressed more often. There are over 2,300 verses in the Bible on the topic and approximately 15 percent of what Jesus said had to do with money or possessions. If a pastor followed the same ratio, he would dedicate eight Sundays a year to it. There are countless books and resources about managing money God’s way — from Randy Alcorn’s *The Treasure Principle* to Dave Ramsey’s *Financial Peace University* and his “Seven Baby Steps” — that can help us become better stewards of our finances.

**Testimony.** One’s testimony isn’t often mentioned in stewardship discussions, but it is just as important. Your testimony is your story, and only you have your story. God wants to use your story to help others. Unfortunately, many people mismanage their testimony by not sharing with others all God has done for them.

In Luke 8, after Jesus showed His divine power by calming the storm, he and his disciples sailed to the region of the Gadarenes. Here Jesus was confronted by a demon-

possessed man. After Jesus healed the man, Jesus told him, “return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.” Sharing your testimony isn’t complicated, it is simply telling the story of what God has done in your life. Today, many churches show a video testimony before an individual is baptized. This is a great way to share a personal story and be an encouragement to the church. Let’s be ready to share God’s story with others.

### MAXIMIZING YOUR STEWARDSHIP

God not only wants us to manage our resources, He wants us to maximize them. In Matthew 25, we read the parable of the talents. Jesus, teaching His disciples about the Kingdom of Heaven, tells of a man who is preparing to leave town. The man assigns each of his servants various responsibilities — to one servant he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to another servant a single talent. He gave to each according to his own ability. When the man returned, he settled his accounts with each of the servants. The first two doubled what their master had given them. The servant who received the single talent had dug a hole, buried the talent, and done nothing with it. The first two were rewarded handsomely while the third was punished.

This teaches us at least three lessons about maximizing the resources God asks us to steward. First, we must recognize it all comes from God. In the parable, each servant was given a certain amount of talents. The servants did not earn them. They did not even deserve them. The talents were simply

given to them. We must realize all we have is because of the goodness of God on our lives. We may think we have earned our income, our house, our cars, etc., but a loving God provides all those things. It is dangerous to believe we deserve or have earned anything. As Job learned, the Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Our responsibility is to bless the name of the Lord.

When we understand the origin of our resources, we will seek to improve upon that which God has given us. The two servants who were rewarded increased what was given to them. They did not waste it, nor were they satisfied to simply use it. They worked hard to improve upon what they had been given. Too often we are satisfied with the status quo rather than taking the more difficult road of growth. We live in an age of instant gratification and shortcuts, but Proverbs 21:5 warns, “Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.” If we are going to be good stewards of all God has provided, we must do the hard work to improve.

Maximizing our God-given resources also requires an eternal perspective. The master said to the first two servants, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.” Everything we do as God’s servants should be with an eternal perspective. As Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.” On this earth, we are bound by time, but we must live our lives with eternity as the backdrop. This will affect our priorities and our actions.

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# GOSPEL LOGISTICS

BY MIKE RANDALL



**G**ospel work is spiritual warfare. In the New Testament, the work of spreading the Gospel, winning people to Christ, and planting churches, is often described in military terms. Paul identified Jesus Christ as the one who enlists soldiers into the ministry (2 Timothy 2:4). He described his co-worker Timothy as “a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:3). He referred to Timothy’s work as “good warfare” (1 Timothy 1:8). He also called his own missionary outreach “the good fight”.

Charles Spurgeon eloquently outlined six characteristics of this warfare in a sermon titled, “The War of Truth.” First, he said this warfare is not with men, but with Satan and with error, against things we consider in God’s sight to be wrong. Second, we are fighting for men, rather than against them ... to bring them to Christ that they might be saved and have a home in heaven. Third, it is righteous warfare, for God and what is right, against Satan and what is evil. Fourth, it is a war of greatest importance; for the souls of men and women to deliver them from the wrath to come. Fifth, it is a war against powerful foes; the errors of men ... polite infidelity ... an infidel spirit ... lethargy and coldness among Christians. Sixth, it is a war of perpetual duration. This war will continue until the end of the age and Christ comes again. (Charles Spurgeon, *The New Park Street Pulpit*, Volume 3, London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1964, pp. 41-45.)

In the first century, ministers like Paul, Barnabus, Silas, Timothy, Titus, and others, along with their churches, teamed up as a spiritual army to spread the Gospel. They were so effective that when Paul and Silas were arrested for preaching in Thessalonica, they were accused of turning the world upside down (Acts 17:6). Today, ministers and churches partner through the Baptist Bible Fellowship International to wage spiritual warfare for the spread of the Gospel.

## LOGISTICS ARE ESSENTIAL TO GOSPEL WORK

Military logistics involves procuring, maintaining, and transporting the necessary personnel, supplies, and equipment. So Gospel logistics must recruit pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders, and be involved in their training, their supplies, and their welfare. Gospel logistics begins with the local church, where soldiers sense a call from our supreme commander, the Lord Jesus Christ. It continues with our Bible colleges in Springfield, MO, and Boston, MA, where future pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders are trained. These schools teach basic and advanced Bible courses, sound doctrine, and practical skills such as writing, speaking, organizing, planning, handling money, and use of technology. Students also absorb spiritual influences through participation in chapel services, prayer groups, outreach teams, sports, and student/faculty interaction.

Academic accreditation by national and regional bodies provides graduates with recognition of their credits and credentials throughout the United States and the world. Training soldiers for the battle is essential if we are to win our spiritual warfare. Student tuition and fees, along with institutional enterprise, cover a little more than half the cost of this training. The rest comes from individuals and local churches. Be sure to visit these schools’ websites at [www.gobbc.edu](http://www.gobbc.edu) and [www.boston.edu](http://www.boston.edu) for more information about how you can help.

Gospel logistics involves the BBFI Mission Office in Springfield, MO, too, which offers a plethora of support services to both missionaries and local churches. A vital service is the processing of funds from over 4,000 churches for nearly 800 missionaries in 84 countries of the world each month. More than \$38 million per year is processed by this center with 100 percent of the funds given to support a missionary actually going into that missionary’s account. The office also provides letters of verification and records to foreign governments for missionaries, powers of attorney, loans, package delivery services, retreats, forums, and other gatherings for instruction, encouragement, and inspiration, security education, international medical insurance, specialized care for missionary children and teens, mission trip assistance, and more. The Mission Office mission is to serve missionaries and their churches as they



fulfill the Great Commission. It costs the Mission Office about \$4.50 per missionary per month to provide all these services. The office itself is funded by voluntary gifts from the churches it serves. To learn more, visit [www.bbfimissions.com](http://www.bbfimissions.com).

Procuring, training, equipping, supplying, and sending spiritual soldiers requires another logistic — communication. For the BBFI, this is supplied by the Communication Office. The main vehicle for BBFI communication is the monthly printed publication, the *Baptist Bible Tribune*, and an online edition at [www.tribune.org](http://www.tribune.org). Beyond the *Tribune*, the Communication Office maintains a central hub at [www.bbfi.org](http://www.bbfi.org), social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Vimeo), various podcasts, videos, audio clips, blogs, and the BBFI mobile app. All of these outlets inform churches, individual Christians, missionaries, pastors, and those in training about what is happening in our common battles and struggles. This communication logistic celebrates our victories and consoles our losses. It encourages, teaches, motivates, and inspires us. It is another essential Gospel logistic. It is funded partially through subscriptions and advertising, but like the other BBFI entities, gifts from individuals and churches are the main source of funding.

### **HOW TO KEEP OUR GOSPEL LOGISTICS STRONG**

It is easy for an army to take its supply lines for

granted while their focus is on the battle and attacking the enemy. Those maintaining the supply lines aren't usually considered heroes or promoted to high positions. The logistics jobs are mainly behind the scenes and out of the limelight. The general population is interested in whether the army is gaining ground and winning battles, not logistics. However, when the forces outrun their supply line or it has been cut off, soon the troops suffer, complain, and experience defeat because they are without food, equipment, ammunition, material, and communication. General Douglas MacArthur once said, "Nine times out of ten, an army has been destroyed because its supply lines have been severed."

In the spiritual warfare conducted by our pastors, churches, missionaries, and Christian workers, we cannot forget the essential elements of Gospel logistics. We need to make our Bible colleges, Mission Office, and *Tribune* strong. They need support as much as the soldiers. We do this by consistently praying for those leading and serving in these enterprises. We do this by putting these entities in our church budgets and sending an offering to each of them every month. We do this by providing individual gifts to make sure they succeed. We must support those who support our spiritual soldiers. By doing so, we ensure our troops have all they need to face the conflict, engage the enemy, and win the battle.

***The general population is interested in whether the army is gaining ground and winning battles, not logistics. However, when the forces outrun their supply line or it has been cut off, soon the troops suffer, complain, and experience defeat ...***

# IS IT TIME FOR A CAPITAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN?

By Steve Chittenden



**Y**our church needs money every week, because your church does ministry every week. And while meeting the budget might not feel like a huge accomplishment, it's actually key to a sustainable ministry over the long haul.

But there comes a time when you need to raise money for something special — something big that will help your church make a greater impact on your community. It could be for a much-needed building project that will take your church to the next level. Or, it could be to raise money for renovating or expanding your existing facilities. Maybe it's for retiring debt to reallocate funds to community ministry. And there's a good chance funding for this project will fall outside the operating budget.

What do you do?

That's when you need to think about leading a capital stewardship campaign for your church.

## START WITH VISION

A capital stewardship campaign must be vision based, not project based. Time and again God's people have made deep financial sacrifices, not for bricks and mortar but in support of the vision of changed hearts and lives. They see the project — whether it's new worship space, education space, or even debt retirement — as simply a tool to advance the kingdom of God. And once that truth has been planted in the hearts and minds of people, their perspectives shift and they want to be participants in what God is doing.

As you set out to share the vision God put on your heart, communicate clearly. Unanswered questions are the greatest hindrance to any initiative, particularly a financial one. So before you say anything about a capital stewardship campaign, link it to an understandable vision you can communicate with clarity. Otherwise, it will likely be viewed as a dreaded project rather than an exciting opportunity. Make the vision clear — and then watch God paint that same vision across the hearts of your church!

The vision must also be to the point and easy to repeat. Forbes magazine says 70 percent of employees cannot recite their company's vision. Don't let that be said of



your vision! Having a bunch of words on paper does not make something clear. In fact, too many words may have the opposite effect. You should be able to print your vision on a t-shirt ... or state it on Twitter (you know, 140 letters or less).

Last, the vision must be compelling. Before you talk about *what* or *how*, you've got to define a compelling *why*. A compelling vision answers questions: What will happen if we do this? What's at stake? What will happen if we don't do this? What's on the line if we don't take action? Answering these types of questions will motivate people at a much deeper level than sharing architectural drawings. Most church members don't get fired up to give money to routine building maintenance or operating budgets, but when their giving is connected to individual stories of life change, their souls are stirred.

## PROJECT

Yes, your campaign should be vision-driven and mission-focused, but you also need a project that embodies that vision. For example, a new building or existing renovation will stir the imagination because it is easy to visualize. People get excited when they see progress. However, you still have to keep the project connected to the clear, crisp, and compelling vision of changing lives, not a new space. If the vision is all about the building, there can be a letdown when the building is done — or even critical attitudes as it is going up. With the focus on ministry, and the new building being merely a tool toward that end, people will stay focused on the compelling *why*!

Is your project to climb out from under a burden of debt? This can be one of the hardest projects. There's a compelling need, but Americans have become very comfortable with debt. The congregation may even view it as being asked to pay off someone else's debt.

To further complicate matters, your church members might not get excited about retiring church debt because they are too busy dealing with their own! So, if your big project involves debt retirement, it's crucial to remind people God is calling your church to do something you cannot do because of debt.

## LEADERSHIP

A united leadership team is a pillar of a successful capital campaign. Everyone needs to understand the campaign isn't the idea of the pastor or finance team alone, but a church-wide initiative. It is vital for all ministry leaders, all age groups, and all programs to work together toward this common goal. The reality is, if your leaders aren't on board, your campaign will not have the same success as it would with unified leadership.

There are at least three categories of leaders that must be on the same page for your campaign to be successful:

Positional/ministry leaders. These people likely have titles, whether on staff or volunteers. Regardless of their position or ministry, these leaders must align with and support the vision.

Financial leaders. These people financially support the church's ministry. Typically, 80 percent of your funding comes from 20 percent of your donors. There are key people in your church, some of whom might not serve in a visible or official way, who God has sent to help your project succeed.

Community/influential leaders. These leaders have the ear of the people in your church. They may be politicians, schoolteachers, business owners, or others who are in positions of influence. Here's what's exciting: they may serve somewhere in the community — but perhaps not yet in your church. And, believe it or not, a capital stewardship campaign might be the very thing that helps them step into becoming actively

involved in your church's ministry!

## TRUST

For a capital stewardship campaign to work, the congregation has to trust the leaders. Period.

You have to build trust with your congregation — and that takes time. In other words, people must see church leaders make wise and timely decisions over an extended period of time.

You have to do what you say you will do and have a good decision-making system in place — including healthy checks and balances, filled by trustworthy leaders in key roles. Build trust and learn to celebrate the small wins — they will amount to big victories.

## OKAY ... SO NOW WHAT?

When God called you to lead His church, you probably didn't dream about pouring over spreadsheets and budgets. In fact, you likely get way more excited about preaching from God's Word, or meeting one-on-one with a new Christian, than attending a budget meeting. But think about this: Jesus taught money is not only necessary for food, clothing, and necessities, but also to be used as a tool to grow his church. And, he taught us people's money and hearts are connected.

So, whether you're thinking about a new building where people will worship, a renovated facility where children will learn what it means to follow Jesus, or erasing debt that will free funds to start new ministries, this is a great opportunity to challenge people to follow Jesus in every area of their lives — including their finances. Done right, it can stretch your church, and God's vision for your ministry will become a reality.

*Steve Chittenden is a senior consultant with INJOY Stewardship Solutions and a certified speaker, teacher, and coach with the John Maxwell Team. As a Baptist Bible College alumnus with 20 years of vocational and marketplace ministry, he understands the demands of both worlds. He stands ready to work alongside you and your team to see your vision fully funded. For more information, contact [stevec@injoystewardship.com](mailto:stevec@injoystewardship.com).*

**MAKE THE VISION CLEAR**  
and then watch God paint that same  
vision across the hearts of your church!

# 2017

## 12 MONTHS

## 12 WAYS

THE *TRIBUNE* WILL PUT YOUR MONTHLY SUPPORT TO WORK

### Will you consider adding the *Tribune* to your monthly budget for 2017?

There are approximately 150 churches that support the *Baptist Bible Tribune* on a monthly basis. For the long-term health and sustainability of our ministry, this number must be increased. **Our goal is for 100 new churches to begin financially supporting the *Tribune* on a monthly basis in the coming year.** Will your church be one of them?

#### 1. ENCOURAGE CO-LABORERS

Every Fellowship pastor and missionary receives the *Tribune* monthly.

#### 2. HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Retired pastors and missionaries and their widows receive the *Tribune* without charge.

#### 3. CONNECT WITH THE NEXT GENERATION

Every BBFI college student has access to the *Tribune* and the magazine is mailed to 46 college and university libraries across the country.

#### 4. EQUIP PASTORS AND STAFF

Content ranges from inspirational features, to doctrinal treatise, to strategies for pastoral leadership, to prayer guides, to mission support ideas.

#### 5. ENGAGE MEMBERS AND LAYPEOPLE

The *Tribune's* content can support and enhance the pastor's message and approach to ministry.

#### 6. OFFER A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE

No other publication provides insight into what God is doing among the churches and missionaries of the BBFI.

#### 7. PROVIDE A CENTRAL DIGITAL CONNECTION

*Tribune.org* complements the print magazine. *BBFI.org* is a landing page for all BBFI entities, state Fellowships, specialty networks, corporate information, and practical resources.

#### 8. SPEAK INTO THE WORLD OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The Communication Office manages 5 different social media sites. Facebook alone has over 5,000 "likes" and an average weekly reach over 12,000. We are also on Twitter, Instagram, and Vimeo.

#### 9. INSPIRE LEADERS

The BBFI Leadership Podcasts are monthly conversations posted to encourage and inspire today's leaders. Interviews focus on a wide range of leadership topics from dynamic leaders.

#### 10. STAY CONNECTED ON THE GO

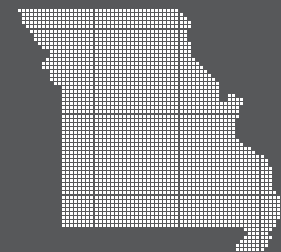
Within the BBFI mobile app, you can connect with any BBFI entity or Fellowship leader, you can listen to the BBFI Leadership Podcast or audio from previous National Fellowship Meetings, watch videos of previous Fellowship Meetings, read various BBFI connected blogs, search job openings, see a calendar of all upcoming national and state-level Fellowship meetings, and even read the entire *Tribune*. It literally puts the entire Fellowship in the palm of your hand

#### 11. STRENGTHEN FOR THE MINISTRY

Lord willing, the new BBFI Coaching Network will launch with the National Fellowship Meeting in February 2017. This will be a great tool for pastoral accountability and to help pastors grow in their leadership and pastoral skills.

#### 12. SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Karri Joy Perry, Director of Office Services, has been with the *Tribune* since 2002. Rob Walker, Assistant Editor, has been with the *Tribune* since 2006. Randy Harp is the new guy on the block. He is just finishing up his first year as the new Executive Editor and Communication Director. Monthly support goes much further than just ink on paper. It also supports these families including the combined eight children, all under the age of fourteen.



**R**ecords show the MOBBF (known originally as the Missouri, North Arkansas Baptist Bible Fellowship) was formed in 1960 before the BBFI went from nine directors to the 45 directors model. The MOBBF was formed as an official entity to purchase Sagmount Youth Camp outside of Joplin, MO.

The first chairman of the MOBBF was Raymond Tracy, pastor of Temple Baptist, Lebanon, MO. It grew at an astounding rate in those early days because of the church planting emphasis at Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO. Foundational churches such as High Street Baptist with Bill Dowell and Southside Baptist with Fred Needy helped get the MOBBF off the ground. Other new churches like Seminole Baptist and Cherry Street Baptist in Springfield, along with Temple Baptist in Marshfield, Bible Baptist in Buffalo, Kansas City Baptist Temple, and Southside Baptist in Joplin played key roles in the MOBBF's early growth. Other chairmen for the state in the early days were Ival Robertson of Temple Baptist (Marshfield), Bob Perryman of Park Crest Baptist Church (Springfield), and Ray Brinson (Carthage).

In the 1970s it was not unusual to have nearly 75 pastors with their staff present at a monthly two-day MOBBF meeting. The fellowship was known for its huge church planting emphasis. Scores of students came out of Baptist Bible College and started churches in any building they could find in small-town Missouri. Today there are BBFI churches in almost every city within 50 miles of Springfield that were started in those early days.

In the last decade, the MOBBF has planted five churches in the largest cities in Missouri — St. Louis and Kansas City. This success can be largely attributed to the determination of the church planting pastors and support from the MOBBF.

Over the last few years, the MOBBF leadership has embraced a new structure and growth emphasis. State meetings are held every four months in Springfield (southwest region), Kansas City (northwest region), or St. Louis (northeast region). In other months, each region holds a luncheon to meet new pastors and develop fellowship within the region. There are no meetings in February, May, or September to allow Missouri pastors to attend the national BBFI meetings held at those times.

## Officers

### Chairman

Phil Housley  
Park Crest Baptist Church  
Springfield

### Vice-Chairman

Nathan Burch  
Aurora Baptist Temple  
Aurora

### Secretary

Steve Parks  
Bible Baptist Church  
St. Charles

### Treasurer

Bob Stephenson  
Graceway Baptist Church  
Springfield

### NE Regional Director

Keith Gillming  
Lighthouse Baptist Church  
St. Ann

### NW Regional Director

Bob Baier  
Antioch Bible Baptist  
Church  
Gladstone

### SW Regional Director

Bob Stephenson  
Graceway Baptist Church  
Springfield

### State Director for Camp Sagmont

Gary Berry  
Southland Baptist Church  
Belton

## Cities in need of new churches

### St. Louis metro

Population

**2.7 million**

Less than 18% affiliated with an evangelical church

54% claim no religious affiliation

### Kansas City metro

Population

**1.9 million**

Roughly 20% affiliated with an evangelical church

47% claim no religious affiliation

### Columbia

Population

**115,000**

Roughly 20% affiliated with an evangelical church

60% claim no religious affiliation

**4 NEWEST  
CHURCH  
PLANTS**

**(2013)** New Life Baptist Church | Wentzville  
Pastor Nate Hessee  
[www.newlifewentz.com](http://www.newlifewentz.com)  
Sponsoring Church: Lighthouse Baptist,  
Pastor Keith Gillming

**(2014)** Grace Church | Independence  
Pastor Joey Candillo  
[www.grace-indep.com](http://www.grace-indep.com)  
Sponsoring Church: Eastside Baptist,  
Pastor Fred Young

**(2013)** Catalyst Church | St. Louis  
Pastor Patrick Shawhan  
[www.stlcatalyst.com](http://www.stlcatalyst.com)  
Sponsoring Church: Lighthouse  
Baptist, Pastor Keith Gillming

**(2015)** Grace River Church | O'Fallon  
Pastor Chris Highfill  
[www.graceriver.cc](http://www.graceriver.cc)  
Sponsoring Church: Seminole Baptist,  
Pastor Don Baier

**"One of the primary goals of the MOBBF is a close relationship between fellow pastors and staff."**

- Phil Housley

## THEY CALLED HIM MISTER VICK

By David R. Stokes



He was never ordained, though he pastored one of the largest churches in the United States. He preached Sunday morning sermons to his congregation a mere ten times a year. His early ministry success came before he was 25 years old, when he built a church youth ministry to more than 1,000 teenagers. He once was responsible for 100 teenagers joining that church on a single Sunday. He never attended college, but he founded one. He was not a musician, but he led the music for two of the most prominent American evangelists of the 21st century. He loved the Detroit Tigers, ping pong, Sunday lunches at The Nau's Sno-White Dining Room, poetry, shuffleboard, and hot-fudge creampuffs from Sanders in Detroit. And he was possibly the last known person to speak to Jimmy Hoffa at Machus Red Fox restaurant before the labor leader vanished on July 30, 1975.

His name was G. Beauchamp Vick. The G was for George. In the 1930s and 1940s, people called him, simply, Mister Vick. The "Doctor" came later, an honorific that was an overdue acknowledgement of his skills, vision, and accomplishments. The "reverend" title never came.

G. B. Vick was born January 5, 1901, in Russellville, KY. When he was very young, his father traded a career as a lawyer-politician for the pulpit at the age of 37. Eben Vick led his sixth child to the Lord and baptized him in 1910. He would often take young George on pastoral visits. But the preacher died suddenly in his prime, suffering a massive heart attack

while preaching a sermon in his pulpit at Judson Memorial Baptist Church in Nashville, TN, in 1912. The family then moved to Louisville, KY, and entered a protracted period of privation.

As the world went to war, Vick was attracted to a military career and joined a preparatory program at Louisville Male High School, where he became the ranking cadet. He set his sights on West Point. But, by the time of his early graduation, The Great War had come to an end, and Vick sought other ways to make his mark on the world. He landed a job in the auditor's office at the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. He went home after work one day and told his mother, "I met the cutest girl at L & N today." Her name was Eloise Baker. Though she was engaged to someone else, it was love at first sight for Vick. He was determined to marry her, which he did May 26, 1919. She was 20 and he was 18.

The next year, Vick wrote to a number of railroad companies based in Fort Worth, TX, about potential employment. Cowtown was in the midst of an oil boom, and the pay was better. The Fort Worth & Denver Railroad hired him, and he and Eloise moved to Texas. They were drawn to Fort Worth's famous First Baptist Church, where the fascinating, though polarizing preacher, J. Frank Norris, was building America's original entrepreneurial megachurch.

Norris was a gifted communicator, brilliant ministry strategist, and ministry populist. But he also had a dark side, including a penchant for ruthlessness toward those who dared to oppose him, whether in local government, business, or even his own church. He used his pulpit and pen (he published a tabloid newspaper for several decades) to denounce all critics. His nickname

seemed appropriate: The Texas Tornado. He was one part Billy Sunday, two parts P. T. Barnum, with an unquantified measure of Al Capone.

Norris saw qualities in young G. B. Vick he knew would serve him and his church well. He pursued the young railroad executive, inviting him to join the church's paid staff. Vick resisted until 1924. Then, at the age of 23, he took the first steps in a ministry journey that would span more than half a century.

Vick would spend the better part of the next 25 years working with Norris. The only gap would be a detour into the world of large-campaign evangelism in the 1930s.

How did G. B. Vick manage to survive so long in Norris's world? One historical parallel may be when Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower — the future hero of D-Day and two-term President of the United States — served as General Douglas MacArthur's Chief of Staff, first in Washington, D.C., then later in the Philippines. MacArthur was aloof, with a massive ego, whereas Eisenhower, though he had an iron will, was approachable and humble. Years later, Ike recalled, "I studied dramatics under him (MacArthur) for five years in Washington and four years in the Philippines."

G. B. Vick certainly studied dramatics under J. Frank Norris, but he learned other things from him as well — things like

DR. G. BEAUCHAMP VICK  
PASTOR



# "When you come to the place of leadership, you get two things you don't deserve: criticism and praise."

- G. B. Vick

organization, motivation, church building, communication, persuasion, and promotion. And, after a few years on Norris's staff, Vick was recruited by nationally known evangelist Wade House to work as an advance man and music director.

In 1934, Norris accepted a call to the pastorate of Temple Baptist Church in Detroit, MI, located at Fourteenth and Marquette streets. He did so with the understanding that he would remain as pastor of his Texas church and commute the 1,300 miles back and forth. He began to look for someone who could be a general superintendent, running day-to-day operations in Detroit.

In the providence of God, Norris invited Mordecai Ham to Detroit. The evangelist dispatched G. B. Vick, now his advance man, to work out the details. When the man Norris would soon brand as "The World's Greatest Layman" walked into his office, he knew his search was over, and he applied all his celebrated powers of persuasion on his former associate. Vick agreed.

Together again.

In the mid-1930s, Detroit was the fourth most populous city in the United States. As G. B. Vick prepared to relocate his family, now including a ten-year-old daughter named Evelyn Rae and a three-year-old son named Jimmy, the city was trying to claw its way back from the worst of The Great Depression.

The mood in town was surprisingly upbeat, as the masses found diversion

in sports. Over a six-month period, from Autumn 1935 through Spring 1936, Detroit teams achieved something no American city ever had (or has ever since) — a championship "hat-trick" during a season/cycle. Beginning with the Detroit Tigers, who beat the Chicago Cubs in the October 1935 World Series — the franchise's first title — the Motor City was on a roll. The Detroit Lions beat the New York Giants that December to win the NFL Championship. The Detroit Red Wings then won their first-ever Stanley Cup hockey championship in April. There was also a local prizefighter by the name of Joe Louis who was well on his way to an extended tenure as the heavyweight boxing champion of the world.

Temple Baptist Church was gearing up for a championship run of its own. As Vick organized and Norris energized the congregation, the church began to experience dramatic growth. The Texas preacher came to Detroit twice a month for several years. He knew how to get the attention of local media and draw curious crowds. But the ultimate reason for Temple's numerical success was the cultivation of a dedicated cadre of volunteer workers. That was Vick's forte.

Vick also learned from Norris the value of house-to-house visitation, which was highly effective at a time when people sat on front porches, kids played ball in the streets, and few felt the need to ever lock the front door. It worked very well in 1930s Detroit. Average attendance at Temple grew from 761 in 1935 to 2,057 in 1937. Ten years later it averaged 2,994.

The trend would continue through the next decade, moving toward the 5,000 mark.

But success would not come without problems.

As numeric success in Detroit began to rival, then surpass, what was happening in the Fort Worth church, Norris grew envious of Vick's success and the clear affection of the people for him. It was like a Saul-David thing. As Norris's physical health declined in the late 1940s, his communication and behavior became increasingly erratic and impulsive. More than ever, he seemed to relish feuds and conflicts.

One area of concern and conflict was his seminary. It had always been a poorly organized operation, at the mercy of Norris's whims, but by 1948, it was threatened with financial collapse. Norris turned to Vick for help.

By this time, Temple Baptist Church, with Norris's blessing, had given Vick the title of co-pastor, an obvious recognition of his role and contributions. But he was reluctant to get involved in the Fort Worth school. He even told Norris it could mean their eventual break with each other. Norris was desperate and waved off such talk. Vick eventually yielded and became president of the seminary. His management skills brought the Fort Worth school back to financial stability in less than two years.

Norris, however, was unraveling. He saw conspiracies everywhere and was losing his grip on his empire. So he schemed to push Vick out and take the seminary back. This did not sit well with many pastors. Things came to a head in May 1950, when a group of preachers met at the famous Hotel Texas in Fort Worth to separate from Norris's orbit and begin a new movement: The Baptist Bible Fellowship. A few weeks later, Temple Baptist Church voted to oust J. Frank Norris and install G. B. Vick as sole pastor by a vote of 3,000 to 7.

Temple Baptist Church

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DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48239

TELEPHONE  
255-3333

That fall, Baptist Bible College opened for business in Springfield, MO, with 107 students and G. B. Vick as its founding president.

Vick did not preach most Sundays at Temple Baptist Church, at the most only ten or so times a year during the main 11:00 a.m. service. The remaining 40-plus Sundays would feature speakers from across America and around the world. For preachers in the 1950s and 1960s an invitation to preach at the Detroit church was akin to “playing the Palace.”

Mr. Vick was also a great communicator in his own right. His Sunday school class, sometimes reaching 900 in attendance, was the largest in the church. He taught through books of the Bible, chapter by chapter, verse by verse. All the Sunday school classes followed his lead. The Wednesday gatherings were largely given to preparation for Sunday, as Vick would teach the teachers and workers the lesson he and the rest of them would share with their classes the next Lord’s day. The pastor also preached on radio, and eventually television each week.

G. B. Vick was strong, but not mercurial. He was frugal, but not stingy. He was self-confident, but not egotistical. He was consistent, but not inflexible. He was private, but not unapproachable. He was reserved, but not aloof. He was decisive, but not impulsive. He was a boss, but not a bully. He was humble, but not servile. He was blameless, but not self-righteous. He was betrayed, but not bitter. He was self-confident, but not arrogant. He was not formally educated, but he was a life-long reader and learner. He became older, but never tired of giving younger men great opportunities. He was the ultimate servant-leader.

His successor at Temple Baptist, Dr. A. V. Henderson, described Vick as “the essence of grace.” Gary Grey remembers flying into Detroit’s Metro Airport from Pueblo, CO, for his first speaking opportunity at Temple. “Dr. Vick met me at the airport and started to pick up my suitcase. I told him, ‘I got my suitcase Dr. Vick.’ He told me he would carry it to his car. I said, ‘I can carry my own suitcase, Dr. Vick.’ And he said, ‘Gary, are you my guest?’ I answered, ‘Yes sir, I am.’ He said,

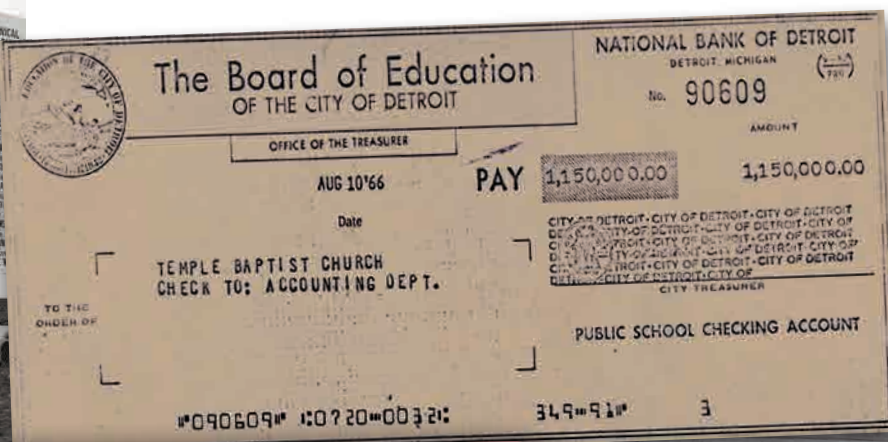
‘Then I will carry your suitcase.’ And I said, ‘Yes sir.’” Similar stories abounded.

In 1954, Temple Baptist Church moved into a brand new \$1.9 million building at 10100 Grand River in Detroit, and the church continued to grow, reporting an attendance of 5,718 one Sunday shortly after the move. The facility was outfitted with fixed theater-type seating for 4,000, with room for more than 1,200 overflow chairs. *LIFE Magazine* featured a two-page photograph of the opening service in its December 26, 1955, issue.

More than a decade later, and at an age when most preachers are thinking of retirement — or are already there — Vick conceived a bold new plan to lead his flock through yet another massive relocation and building program. In August 1966, he personally conducted negotiations with the city of Detroit for the sale of the Grand River property and facility to the Board of Education for \$1,150,000. A 16-acre tract of land in nearby Redford Township was purchased, and a beautiful state-of-the-art facility, featuring a plush 4,500 seat auditorium (with a beautiful wrap-around balcony), was designed and built for \$4.5 million (\$32 million in today’s dollars).

The church moved in October 1968. And under Vick’s wise financial stewardship, they were debt free less than six years later.

In May 1969, G. Beauchamp and Eloise Vick celebrated 50 years of marriage. President and Mrs. Richard Nixon sent a





congratulatory telegram. Sadly, a few months later, on October 1, Mrs. Vick, affectionately known to her grandchildren as “Gamommie,” suffered a heart attack and went home to be with the Lord. Mr. Vick would finish his course in the years ahead without her unwavering love, strength, and wisdom.

J. Frank Norris was 74 years old when he passed away in 1952, after having nearly destroyed everything he had built. The Fort Worth church was a shell of its former self, and his seminary was barely alive.

In contrast, 74-year-old G. B. Vick sat at his desk in his office at Baptist Bible College in Springfield on Monday, September 29, 1975, with plenty to rejoice about. Just three weeks earlier he had marked his 40th anniversary with Temple Baptist Church. More than 300 men had been called to preach out of the church during his tenure. The day before, on just an ordinary Sunday with no special emphasis, Temple recorded 4,224 in attendance. There was a report on his desk about the current enrollment at BBC for that fall semester — 2,371 students studying for the ministry.

As the clock on his office wall crawled to the next groove, indicating the time to be 20 minutes past noon, George Beauchamp Vick was suddenly released from his earthly body and ushered into the presence of the Lord. At some point, I suspect he heard the words: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Or maybe, servant-leader.



*David R. Stokes has served as the senior pastor of the ministry now known as Expectation Church in Fairfax, VA, since 1998. He is the author of 14 books, including: The Shooting Salvationist: J. Frank Norris and the Murder Trial that Captivated America. David's website is [www.davidrstokes.com](http://www.davidrstokes.com). David thanks Billy Vick Bartlett, grandson of Mr. Vick, for being a wonderful “sounding board” as this article was being researched and written.*

Vick preaching at BBC in 1975.



The Vicks were honored at Temple Baptist on their 50th wedding anniversary.



**“Three things I ask all freshman students to do when they introduce themselves on the opening day of school: stand up, speak up, and shut up.”**

*- G. B. Vick*

# THE RIGHT ANGLE

BIBLICAL WISDOM FOR A CONTEMPORARY WORLD

# Q.

What are your  
hopes for 2017?

By Kevin Carson

**A.** • What is your New Year's dream? World peace. Better health. Financial security. Debt management. Consistent budgeting. Save more. Quit bad habits. Begin new disciplines. Get organized. Prioritizing family. Better scheduling. Stop procrastinating. Restored relationships. New job. More happiness. Bigger success. Serve others. Greater giving. Consistent church attendance. Regular Bible reading. Daily prayer.

How would you word it? What would be your answer(s)?

These are significant questions for each of us at this time of year. What do we wish for in a new year? What captivates our dreams? Toward what does your mind typically drift? What enchants your day dreams? For what are you thirsty?

This year there are 31,536,000 seconds, or 525,600 minutes, or 8,760 hours, or 365 days. For each person these millions of seconds represent opportunities filled with hopes and dreams. The year is new. The opportunities again seem rich. The impossibilities feel possible again. A glimmer of light in a relatively dark world is back. What are you going to do with your time this year?

Even more significant than the opportunities before you, your answers above reveal something about you. As you put into words what it is for which you hope, those words open the window of your heart. Your words expose your desires. As fundamental worshippers, whatever we desire often morphs into or becomes what we worship.

## HOW TO TEST YOUR DESIRES

The Bible often discusses the necessity of testing ourselves. We are to test what is good and acceptable (Romans 12:1-2), test the spirits to see if they are from God (1 John 4:1-4), test to determine what is excellent (Philippians 1:9-11), test our motives (Psalm 19:12-14), among so many other various tests we might give to evaluate our hearts and behavior. In numerous times and places the children of Israel were disciplined as they were caught away by their desires (or lusts) and failed to worship God (1 Corinthians 10; cf. Psalm 106, especially 106:14). In fact, when Paul described the depth of mankind's sinfulness, he explained how ultimately mankind exchanges the worship of God for the created thing, something in this world that comes from the lust within us (Romans 1:20-24). A few questions will help test your desires.

### 1. Does what I desire bring God glory?

Would God receive the glory if I were to get this? Would God be honored if this were to come to pass? These questions reflect the idea that whatever we do or want in life is to ultimately bring God glory. Bringing God glory means that whatever we do, say, think, or want reflects praise back to God and is consistent with His character. Paul challenged us, "Whether therefore you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31; cf. Isaiah 42:8). Therefore, whatever we want, desire, long for, or crave should also honor the Lord.

**2. How much do I desire this?** It is not enough to just make sure the object of our desires honors God, we must also question how much we want it. We can actually crave something too much. Although it is fine to desire many things that may bring honor to God, our desire of those things must never be greater than our desire to know and follow God's will. Jesus is our example of how He wanted the Father's will more than His own throughout His life. Early in His ministry when demonstrating for the disciples how to pray, in relationship to God and His will, Jesus prayed, "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Later, near the completion of His earthly ministry in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39). Although Jesus wanted something good (the cup to pass from Him), He chose to want God's glory more (not as I will, but as You will). The good thing He desired was in subjection to the greater thing, the glory of God. He submitted Himself even unto death by the cross (Philippians 2:6-8).

Therefore, as we face a new year full of opportunities and hopes, let us bring glory and honor to God in our desires while seeking His will most of all.

## Have a question?

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

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



## The Sunday after and the days ahead

**O**n January 20, 2017, Donald J. Trump will be inaugurated as the 45th President of the United States.

The Sunday after the election, I made the following statement:

"Like you, I have many thoughts and emotions related to the events of this week. I have opinions and perspectives as you do."

A few things to think about.

Do not assume people who voted for Hillary Clinton ignored her history, her family decisions, her deceptions, her judgment calls, or her support for abortion.

I think it is reasonable to believe many who voted for her voted for her in spite of any or all of those things. Faced with terrible choices, they made a judgment call and cast their ballots. Though they voted for her, they would not want to be characterized as Clinton supporters.

It would likely be a hasty conclusion to believe all those who voted for Donald Trump were ignoring his flaws, immorality, ill-advised statements, poor judgment, relational disarray, as well as statements deemed racist or misogynistic.

Faced with terrible choices, people made a judgment call and cast their ballot. They did not vote for hate any more than many of those who voted for Clinton voted to kill babies.

Americans considered their options and voted. To paint those in either camp with a broad brush would be prejudicial and biased.

Our nation is reeling from a great divide. Politicians and media have nurtured and fanned the flames of our troubles.

Make no mistake, there are conflicting worldviews playing out in our disintegrating culture.

World peace does not start there. It starts in your heart and mine. There is no room in the Christian's life for anything less than loving your neighbor, doing unto others as you would have them do unto you. If your life is not marked by love for your brothers and sisters, you are not a Christ follower.

### HERE ARE SOME PLEASE DON'Ts:

1. Please don't paint everyone not like you with a broad brush.
2. Please don't prejudge people.
3. Please don't hold grudges, be hateful, or throw things.
4. Please don't forget we live in a marvelous country with a system that allows dissent, pendulum swings, and due process.
5. Please don't engage in emotional ranting.
6. Please don't forget God is on the throne.

### HERE ARE SOME PLEASE DOs:

1. Please do be respectful, love your neighbor.
2. Please do unto others as you would have them do unto you, which means listening and speaking respectfully.
3. Please do strive to articulate thoughtful opinion.
4. Please do remember God is on the throne.

Following my statement, we read  
1 Peter 3: 8-12 (NAS):

*To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in Spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. For, "The one who desires life, to love and see good days, must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*

I live in the deep blue sea, that portion of America represented by those smallish, even tiny dots and splotches of blue on the national political map. The popular vote in this election reflects the mindset and dominance of these areas. Cities function as a primary influence

in our country through their institutions and dollars.

I can tell you that in the days leading up to the political conventions, the only signs seen in Chicago were Bernie signs. Not a Hillary sign anywhere and absolutely no Trump signs. After the Democratic Convention, very slowly and almost in a way that reflected the reluctance, Hillary signs began to appear here and there. I never saw a Trump sign.

It seems young, white, urban evangelicals, newcomers to the city scene, were largely, stridently anti-Trump. Giving voice to that sentiment, one professor, author, conference speaker shouted in his post-election tweet: "White evangelicals you could have stood up and said that following Christ and the body of Christ is greater, but you chose to pursue power."

### SOME OBSERVATIONS:

- Our Ruler is our Ruler still
- Our mission and purpose in life has not changed
- Our responsibilities to God, family, country, and community are the same
- The moral quality of our culture is unchanged
- Never has the divide between urban areas and the rest of the country been so dramatically displayed
- We've never had more "Word," what with endless radio preachers, podcasts, study resources, conferences, etc., and seemingly never been so far from the Word in personal holiness, family health, and church effectiveness
- We are in desperate need of revival

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



2017

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FEBRUARY 20-22

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**PHIL HOPPER**

PASTOR OF ABUNDANT LIFE  
LEE'S SUMMIT, MO

SPEAKING MONDAY NIGHT  
FEBRUARY 20



**STEVE STROOPE**

PASTOR OF LAKE POINTE CHURCH  
ROCKWALL, TX

SPEAKING TUESDAY NIGHT  
FEBRUARY 21



**KRISH DHANAM**

SPEAKER, TRAINER & CONSULTANT  
RAVI ZACHARIAS MINISTRIES

SPEAKING WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
FEBRUARY 22

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## NOTICE IS GIVEN FOR A SPECIALLY CALLED BUSINESS MEETING TO BE HELD DURING THE FEBRUARY 2017 MEETING OF THE BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL AT CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN TYLER, TX.

The key agenda item will be the updated Constitution and By-Laws, as presented during the September 2016 meeting, with a recommendation for vote and approval of same to be taken at the meeting.

According to Article IV of the current Constitution and By-Laws, the president of the Fellowship may call a special meeting as the need arises with 30 days advance notification of such business sessions to be published in the Baptist Bible Tribune. Visit [www.bbfi.org/legal](http://www.bbfi.org/legal) to review official documents. For more information contact BBFI Communication Director Randy Harp at [raharp@tribune.org](mailto:raharp@tribune.org).

### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES

#### Article I - Name

No changes made

#### Article II - Purpose

No changes made

#### Article III - Affiliation

No changes made

#### Article IV - Meetings

Clarified the date of annual meeting in September to match current practice. (Changed from 4th Monday in September to allow any week in September).

#### Article V - Voting Rights

Each pastor shall have one vote regarding issues submitted for decision. Guideline indicating that pastors may only hold one national office at a time has been moved to this article.

#### Article VI - Officers

Existing Article VI has been expanded to Article VI, VII and VIII for better clarity regarding: officers, directors, and committees. Separated the Articles, putting like (similar) content together for the sake of clarity.

Clarified that the Board of Directors is in fact the Executive Committee. (This was previously inferred, based on corporate structure and the language of the Articles of Agreement filed with the Secretary of State in Missouri.) Also made clear that the Executive Committee is "the highest executive authority." Previous language was confusing.

Moved former Article VI section 5 to Article V section 2. (re: no multiple offices being held by one person) as the second paragraph defining officers in the fellowship.

#### (New) Article VII - Directors

Clarified the language used and made distinction between directors and state representatives. Previous language was confusing: "national director" was used as a label for state representatives and "director" was used to indicate the leader of a fellowship entity.

Removed references to a national education director. This position was never filled and is not needed.

A director is an appointed position for the purposes of overseeing a Fellowship entity (currently, the Mission, Church Planting and Communication Offices).

A state representative is elected/appointed by a state fellowship to represent that state's interests in national fellowship meetings.

Included language to clarify that directors serve at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

#### (New) Article VIII - Committees

Clarified that State Representatives are responsible for the formulation of the ballot for election of the Executive Committee. Pastors elect the members of the Executive Committee.

Combined other areas of the bylaws into the section about Committees for clarity.

Created a section on elections to indicate that state fellowships will determine who their representative will be. Language was removed that indicated term and election methods, allowing states to determine this for themselves.

Added a section to reflect current practice regarding missing representation in a state; if a state fellowship does not send a representative, the executive committee may appoint a qualified pastor from that state as a temporary representative to develop that states Fellowship of pastors.

#### Mission Committee

Cleaned up language for mission vs. missions (made all statements reflect current practice of "mission" singular).

#### Education Committee

Complete rewrite. All language related to BBFI oversight of colleges has been removed to reflect current legal and practical realities. ALL NEW language in Article VIII, section G. has been included at the request of the current Vice President of Education and both college presidents (BBC Springfield and BBC Boston).

#### Communication Committee

This section is new and was added to reflect the change from BBFI Tribune to a larger scope communication office. It also includes language missing from the previous bylaw iteration defining the Tribune or the communication office of the BBFI.

#### Article IX – Subsidiaries and Properties of the BBFI

Moved the statement about an annual audit to this section.

#### Article X - Constitutional Amendments

Clarified that the constitution may be changed at any annual meeting, as long as proper notice is given.

#### Article XI - Relationship to Churches

No changes made.

#### (New) Article XII - Dissolution

At the recommendation of our attorney, this has been included to clarify the distribution of assets in the event an entity ceases operations.

OWASSO, OK

**OK BBF MEETS IN OWASSO**

Pastor Linzy Slayden and Friendship Baptist Church hosted the December meeting of the Oklahoma Baptist Bible Fellowship December 12-13. The church provided dinner

for 62 pastors, their wives, and staff at a local Japanese steakhouse Monday night. While there they performed the first mannequin challenge in a state fellowship meeting (watch

the video on the BBFI Facebook). Tuesday's speakers Keith Kauffman, pastor of TriPoint Baptist Church, in Tulsa, Lewis McClendon, associate mission director of the BBFI, and Jon Konnerup, BBFI mission director, spoke on "The Nativity." There was also time set aside to discuss the BBFI Constitution and By-Laws revision with BBFI President Eddie Lyons, Second Vice President Doug Cox, BBC President Mark Milioni, and BBFI Communication Director Randy Harp.

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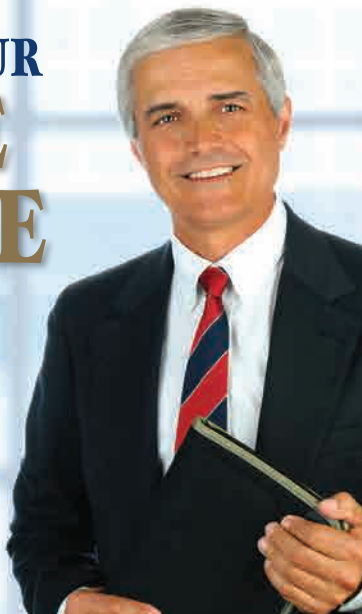
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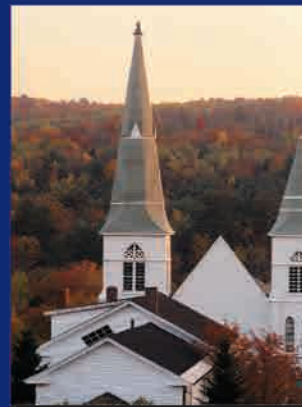
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RUNNING SPRINGS, CA

## MISSIONARY COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

The first week of November, veteran and deputation missionaries, along with future missionaries completing their internships, gathered at Camp Pondo in Southern California for Missionary Communication Workshop 2016. The workshop, offered free of charge to BBFI missionaries by Abound Missionary Services, assists missionaries in giving clear and memorable presentations as they proclaim the Gospel and raise prayer and financial support from churches. "A couple of missionaries who attended the workshop have already reported the tools they learned at the workshop have made a difference in their presentations," says Lewis McClendon, Abound Missionary Services founder. "We want to help BBFI missionaries stand out in the minds of pastors so they can raise the money needed to get to the field, stay on the



field, and grow their ministries on the field." Next year's Missionary Communication Workshop is November 5-10, 2017. For more information visit [www.aboundmissionaryservices.com](http://www.aboundmissionaryservices.com).

ALBIA, IA

## ALBIA BAPTIST CELEBRATES 45TH ANNIVERSARY

Albia Baptist Temple celebrated their 45th anniversary December 4 with 70 in attendance. They held a special afternoon service

celebrating their years of ministry. Pastor Brian Harris says, "The future looks bright for the church as we have gained a number of younger

families and also have the benefit of seasoned saints for wisdom and direction."

Albia Baptist Temple was founded December 5, 1971, by Pastor Dwayne Lippert. At the church's organizational meeting, Pastor A. D. Pringle, from Ottumwa Baptist Temple, spoke about the church's message and mission. Twenty-four charter members joined that evening and Lippert was installed as pastor.

Harris is the church's ninth pastor. Under his leadership the church has expanded their mission outreach, supporting 28 mission-related ministries. The church relocated in 2005 to a facility with room for growth.



SPRINGFIELD, MO

## BASSHAM SPEAKS AT HILLSIDE CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Keith Bassham, former editor of the *Baptist Bible Tribune*, was the guest speaker for the annual Christmas banquet at Hillside Baptist Church in Springfield, MO. The catered event, held December 9 at the church, was attended by members, their guests, and several missionaries. Bassham spoke from a text in the Gospel of John, "The Word Became Flesh." Cecil Tolbert has been pastor of Hillside Baptist Church since 1983.



From left: Keith and Shari Bassham, Cecil and Shirley Tolbert

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AUBREY-PILOT POINT, TX

## MIDWAY CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Midway Baptist Church, pastored by John Henry Theisen, celebrated 40 years of ministry November 6. The church's former pastor, Kim Beckham, who served at Midway from

1976-1989, was the guest speaker. Previous pastors, staff, and missionaries were also present to reminisce about God's hand on the ministry of the church. The Aubrey and Pilot Point mayors were present and a proclamation was made recognizing Midway's ministry in the community and designating November as Midway Baptist Church month. Five families started Midway as a mission of Denton Baptist Temple in November



Kim and Barbara Beckham (center) are pictured with John and Kim Theisen.

1976. The church is the sending church for two missionary families in East Africa. Theisen has pastored Midway for 18 years and the church continues to experience steady growth.

In 2007, they sent their worship leader, Brad Wilkerson, and several families to start Church of Celebration Metro in the middle of rapidly expanding neighborhoods along the Highway 380 corridor between Denton and McKinney. Midway wants to continue multiplying through more church plants and partnerships.

COVINA, CA

## PUENTE HILLS COMMEMORATES 61 YEARS

Puente Hills Baptist Church observed their 61st anniversary this October. During their anniversary month celebration, they honored their pastor, Ted Trisler, for 37 years of service. The festivities culminated October 30 with a special anniversary service followed by a harvest dinner on the grounds.

Jim Hensen established Puente Baptist Temple (later renamed Puente Hills Baptist Church) in 1955. Other pastors include Gordon Parker, Jacob Pieb, and Don Ledbetter.

SPRINGFIELD, MO

## PARK CREST PROVIDES 150 THANKSGIVING MEALS

Park Crest Baptist Church and Pastor Phil Housley hosted an outreach event to supply 150 less fortunate families with a Thanksgiving meal November 22. The church partnered with the Ozark Area Community Action Corporation and a local public school to gather the names of families in need. The church body supplied all the food necessary for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. As each family arrived on campus, they drove through designated stations where they were greeted, offered refreshments, individually prayed with, and at the last stop received their meal. Printed information containing the Gospel message and a way to contact the church was included. "Park Crest's mission is to show the love of Christ, see others come to know Christ, and grow in their relationship with Christ," says Housley. "It was a wonderful expression of God's love to those in need and a true picture of the heart of our local body of believers. As a church, we will continue to look for new ways to impact our community for Christ."

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

In the December issue, the news story "Victory Baptist Hosts Men's Conference" incorrectly stated that "Victory Baptist Church and Pastor Tim Taylor hosted the New Hampshire fourth annual Men's Conference ...." It should have stated that it was the Vermont fourth annual Men's Conference.

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AMES, IA

## HEARTLAND BAPTIST HOLDS MISSION WEEKEND

Heartland Baptist Church and Pastor Randy Abell hosted a couple representing Project 99 for their annual mission weekend November 18-20. Also present were Charlie and Christine Bell who thanked the church for their support of Vida Hispania (a ministry to start Spanish-speaking churches in Texas), and BBF Builders Jack and Sharon Reed, Ron and Barb Trosclair, and Charles and Debbie Rogers who are helping the church with their new building project.

Abell reports mission weekends have been very effective in his church. "When I first arrived in Iowa 13 years ago, I tried the traditional mission conference, but it just didn't appeal to anyone other than those with a Baptist background," states Abell. "So after re-evaluated our goals, we decided to give one missionary family maximum exposure to our congregation and connect them to those who had never met a missionary." Heartland's mission weekend includes a Friday evening service, a missionary and church

staff lunch, and a missionary dinner with the newest church members or regular attendees. Missionaries are introduced Sunday morning and speak in a Sunday school class. They also speak in the evening service. "This method has seen our mission giving increase every year, as new people actually know our missionaries," says Abell.

Randy Abell, who is also chairman of the Iowa Baptist Bible Fellowship, reports many BBF churches in Iowa have increased

mission budgets and stepped out by faith to support more missionaries and ministries. Abell says, "I help missionaries and those representing ministries of the BBF work out schedules so they can come to Iowa and connect with several churches in one trip. And the mission apartment in Ottumwa and the one soon to be available in Ames will only help missionaries stay longer and connect with more pastors and people in Iowa."



*From left: Randy and Deanna Abell, Jack and Sharon Reed (BBF Builders), Ron and Barb Trosclair (BBF Builders), Charles and Debbie Rogers (BBF Builders), Charlie and Christine Bell (Vida Hispania), and a couple representing Project 99.*

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**WITH THE LORD**

LYNCHBURG, VA

**ROBERT SUMNER**

Robert Leslie Sumner, 94, of Lynchburg, VA, went to his heavenly home December 5, 2016. He was born to the late Clarence and Gladys Sumner August 3, 1922, in Norwich, NY. Almost immediately after accepting the Lord as his Savior at age 17, he felt called to preach. He enrolled in Baptist Bible Seminary, Johnson City, NY, where he graduated in 1943. He married the former Orphina Mingori August 16, 1942.

Robert was an ordained Baptist minister and evangelist, pastoring in Illinois, California, Texas, and Ohio. In 1955, John R. Rice, a nationally known evangelist and editor of the *Sword of the Lord*, invited Sumner to become associate editor and a staff evangelist. Later, For years, Dr. Sumner wrote a column for *The Sword* called "Sumner's Incidents and Illustrations" which he later continued in his own paper after Rice's death.

Robert was the founder and editor of *The Biblical Evangelist* newspaper, which began in 1966 as the *Regular Baptist Evangelist*. He was a prolific author of approximately 50 Christian books and booklets. He was inducted into the Fundamental Hall of Fame at the Lucerne Conference Center in Lucerne, CA, in 1976. He was a trustee emeritus for Cedarville University and received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Bob Jones University and a Doctor of Sacred Theology from Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mr. Sumner is survived by his second wife, Dorothy (Tullar Holm), whom he married March 20, 2004, his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

A memorial service was held at Timberlake Baptist Church, Lynchburg, VA, December 17, Paul Dixon, Chancellor of Cedarville University, officiating.

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(904)786-5320 • Pastor Tom Messer

### First Coast Baptist Church

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

### Harbor Baptist Church

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

### First Baptist Church of Coconut Creek

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

### Calvary Baptist Church

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

### New Life Baptist Church

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

### Suncoast Baptist Church

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

### Grace Bible Baptist Church

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

### Orlando Baptist Church

500 S. Semoran Blvd • Orlando, FL 32807  
(407)277-8671 • [www.worldchangingchurch.com](http://www.worldchangingchurch.com)  
Pastor Dustin Janney

### Spring Hill Baptist Church

3140 Mariner Blvd. • Spring Hill, FL 34609  
(352)683-5685 • [www.springhillbc.com](http://www.springhillbc.com)  
Pastor Raymond Rouse

## HAWAII

### Lanakila Baptist Church

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

## ILLINOIS

### Sauk Trail Baptist Temple

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

## IOWA

### Heartland Baptist Church

3504 N. Grand Ave • Ames, IA 50010  
(515)268-1721 • [www.heartlandbaptistames.com](http://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

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

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Temple Baptist Church

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

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Northside Baptist Church

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

### Mid-Way Baptist Church

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

### Trinity Baptist Church

216 Shellburne Rd • Asheville, NC 28806  
(704)254-2187 • [www.tbcasheville.org](http://www.tbcasheville.org)  
Pastor Ralph Sexton, Jr.

### Central Baptist Church

6050 Plain View Hwy • Dunn, NC 28334  
(910)892-7914 • [www.bbcduunn.com](http://www.bbcduunn.com)  
Pastor Tom Wagoner

### Berean Baptist Church & Academy

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

## OHIO

### Ashland Ave. Baptist Church

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

### First Baptist Church

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

## OREGON

### Tri-City Baptist Temple

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

## RHODE ISLAND

### Ocean State Baptist Church

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

## TEXAS

### Central Baptist Church

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

### First Baptist Church of Meadowview

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

### First Baptist Church

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

### North Park Baptist Church

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

### Cypress Creek Baptist Church

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

### Talley Rd. Baptist Church

3120 Talley Rd • San Antonio, TX 78253  
(210)675-3154 • [www.talleyroadbaptistchurch.org](http://www.talleyroadbaptistchurch.org)  
[trbc@satx.rr.com](mailto: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](http://office@cbcwoodbridge.org)  
Pastor Brad Weniger

### Heritage Baptist Church

21700 Shellhorn Rd. • Ashburn, VA 20147  
(703) 729-5436 • [www.myhbc.us](http://www.myhbc.us)  
Pastor David Barton

## WEST VIRGINIA

### Fellowship Baptist Church

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

## INTERNATIONAL

### BELGIUM

### Grace International Baptist Church

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

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309 West 24th Street, Connersville, IN 47331  
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# Don't you love it when a plan comes together?

By Kim Beckham | Pastor | Central Baptist Church | Tyler, TX

**W**hat a thrill to see plans made in 2015 actually come to pass in 2016!

In a staff meeting nearing the end of 2015, our team at Central decided we did not just want to have church; we wanted to be the church. Our goal: to win 100 people to Christ and see them follow their Lord in baptism during 2016.

This increase would not come about just because we wished for it. We had to take steps to make it a reality — making some changes and taking new actions. First, we evaluated our current position — in 2015 we baptized 35 people. Second, we decided to make our commitment public. By doing so, it would make it hard to back away from the goal. So we shared the goal with the Central family in early January. We called it Vision Sunday, and along with other goals for the congregation, we told our church we were committing to 100 baptisms in 2016.

There was no backing out now — it was do it or look foolish. Third, we created plans to increase our baptisms, which included: talking about baptism more, making a real effort to follow up on new converts, and creating a special day to highlight the baptism experience.

We reached our goal! But that's not the most exciting part, rather it's what has been done for the spirit of our church. People have been praying for loved ones and friends. They have invited work associates and friends to church. Neighbors are being saved. Revival in

the truest sense has come to Central Baptist Church.

A highlight of the year was our outdoor baptism, or what we called Washed Sunday. We purchased two large tanks and mounted them on platforms on our church campus. We bought special t-shirts with the word *Washed* on them for everyone to wear. Immediately after church, we gathered outdoors for our baptism service. When the day was done, we had baptized 37 people. This sent our people into overdrive.

The enthusiasm for reaching people has not waned since that Sunday. The last Sunday in November, we baptized another eight people. We have reached people for Christ almost every Sunday.

I am amazed and humbled by what God is doing in addition to the baptisms. Families are joining almost every Sunday. We are even reaching people for Christ in our Membership 101 classes as they inquire about our church. In most cases, these people have attended services without responding to the invitation. But in this small-group setting, they feel freedom to become believers in Christ. I give God all the glory.

I believe God is looking for churches that will take the Great Commission seriously and let Him give the increase. Evangelism has become the focus of our members as they have embraced our mission statement: Central is about others. When it's not about me, others can know him.

Let me encourage you as a church — set a goal for 2017 and become active on purpose. Make a plan to accomplish that purpose and get ready to be amazed at what God can do. I remind our people every week that it's not just about getting people into the baptismal pool — it's about people's lives being transformed by the power of Christ. Baptisms are only important because they are the first step of obedience for the newly saved child of God.

We want to reach more people for Christ and I know you do too. If your goal is to bring more people to Christ, then all of heaven will line up to assist you. When you come to the end of 2017 you'll be saying with me, "Don't you love it when a plan comes together?"

LET ME ENCOURAGE  
YOU AS A CHURCH ...

**... SET A  
GOAL FOR  
2017 AND  
BECOME  
ACTIVE ON  
PURPOSE.**





# DailyFeed

*As you begin the new year, there is no better commitment than to pray on a daily basis. Use the suggested prayer topics below to guide you this month.*

## PRAY...

1. For your spiritual growth in the coming year.
2. You would have the heart of a servant and for God to show you ways to serve others.
3. For your spouse's (or future spouse, if single) relationship with the Lord.
4. Your family would serve the Lord individually and together.
5. For your children's teachers (or pray for the public school closest to your house).
6. For your boss.
7. For help being obedient to God's calling as He leads you.
8. For a heart to reach the lost in your community.
9. For your co-workers.
10. For God's clear direction in your life.
11. For your parents.
12. For the missionaries your church supports on a monthly basis.
13. You would grow in the Fruit of the Spirit.
14. For the neighbors who live near you.
15. You would have a heart for worldwide evangelism through missions.
16. **Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** for racial reconciliation in our country.
17. The prayer of Jabez: that God would bless you, enlarge your ministry influence, keep His hand upon you, and keep you from evil.
18. You would do all as if you were working directly for the Lord.
19. For churches in your community to stay true to the Word of God.
20. **Inauguration Day:** the new President would lead our country in a way that would be pleasing to the Lord.
21. You would worship God in spirit and in truth.
22. The church would be unified and show love toward one another.
23. Your joy will come from the Lord and not from the things of this world.
24. For the leaders in your community.
25. For safety for our active military, police, and firemen.
26. **Spouse's Day:** your spouse (or future spouse, if single) would know he or she is loved.
27. You would be faithful and obedient with the income you earn.
28. God would give you an unquenchable passion to reach the lost.
29. Your pastor would know he is loved and appreciated.
30. God would protect your family from the unholy influence of our world.
31. That this time next year you are walking closer to God than you are today.

## MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

1. **Jonathan & Joanna Liggett** – *Guatemala*
2. **Cpt. James & Jessica Updegraff** – *Chaplain, U.S. Army Reserve*
3. **Lonnie & Martha Smith** – *Mexico*
4. **Ian & Amanda Richards** – *Australia (TEAM)*
5. **Fred & Joyce Davis** – *Canada*
6. **Brenda Hayes** – *Philippines*
7. **Dwayne & Tammy Wright** – *Ethiopia*
8. **Ron & Katherine Reasoner** – *Russia*
9. **Laura Nell Ferrell** – *Retired*
10. **Billy & Cindy Hargis** – *USLG*
11. **Janice Baker** – *Haiti*
12. **George & Ellen King** – *Japan*
13. **Workers in Creative Access Countries**
14. **Dustin & Carla Reinhardt** – *Chile*
15. **BBFI Mission Office** – *Jon Konnerup, Mission Director*
16. **Tony & Joy Anzalone** – *Ecuador*
17. **Josh & Brenda Casey** – *Belgium (TEAM)*
18. **Fernando & Carolyn Torres** – *Spain*
19. **Naomi Musgrave** – *USLG*
20. **Bob & Sue Phillips** – *Philippines*
21. **Bob & Verna Griggs** – *Ute Indians*
22. **Jerry & Mindy Kinman** – *Guatemala*
23. **Baptist Bible College** – *Mark Milioni, President*
24. **Jaron & Nicki Rogers** – *Nicaragua*
25. **Joshua & Amanda Allred** – *Mexico*
26. **Jayme Radak** – *Brazil*
27. **Benjamin & Raelene Walker** – *New Zealand*
28. **BBFI Builders**
29. **Sasha & Marie Silva Rasmussen** – *Argentina*
30. **Robert & Joanna Graham** – *South Africa*
31. **Jim & Becky Lee** – *Mexico*

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

Colossians 4:2



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