

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JULY/AUGUST 2010 | VOL. 60 NO. 11 | \$1.95

SUMMER READING

INSIDE

60 YEARS AGO IN THE TRIBUNE p. 6

BBFI ENTERS AUSTRIAN HISTORY p. 14

KOREAN MISSIONARY WORKING IN GHANA p. 15



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ON THE TABLE

Elections

by Keith Bassham | Editor

Last year, Fellowship pastors made a constitutional change that made our summer more interesting. The change moved the national officers' election from September to early summer and eliminated the mailed-out ballots. Ballots were distributed in the May Fellowship meeting and were made available only upon request to those qualified to vote. The deadline for the election was moved to July 1. The election has given us these officers who will serve through 2012:

President – Linzy Slayden
1st Vice President (Missions) – Mike Frazier
2nd Vice President (Education) – Keith Gillming
3rd Vice President (Church Planting) – Dan Lamb
Secretary – Jim Goodman
Treasurer – Howard Braymer

These men will assume office in September, but an early election and announcement helps with continuity. All men are pastors with considerable experience. Mike Frazier was raised on the mission field. Keith Gillming is a Missouri church planter and the son of well-known Fellowship leaders Ken and Norma Gillming. Jim Goodman and Howard Braymer are from Arkansas; Mike Frazier and Dan Lamb are from Ohio; Linzy Slayden is from Oklahoma. All are highly committed to missions, church planting, and evangelism, and all that is necessary for these to be accomplished in a Fellowship – cooperation, participation, spirituality, respect for one another's calling and ministry, and rigorous training.

As current president Mark Hodges makes plain in his column this month, these are challenging times for our Fellowship. My opinion is that the election of any combination of officers represented on the ballot would serve us well, but having known men on this slate in a variety of ways for more than 30 years, knowing their gifts and temperaments, and having covered their ministries in the *Tribune* these past 15 years, I could not be more pleased or more optimistic about the leadership team God has placed among us.

Let us give them our wholehearted support and prayers now and in the days ahead.

As we move toward fall, our local, state, and national governments are having their own elections. What President Hodges says in his column applies here as well. In the apologetics article this month, I talk about worldview and make the case that nothing in this world lies outside the sphere of God's interests. While this world is temporal, it is still God's, and until His Son comes to reign physically He has placed humans in charge of administration. We are fortunate, unlike the early Christians, to have quite a lot of say in that administration in the form of participation and voting.

Given that opportunity, I believe Christians should participate and vote. For a full exposition of the topic, Noel Smith's sermon on Christian Citizenship will be posted on the *Tribune* website, www.tribune.org.

Keith Bassham

TRIBUNE

JULY/AUGUST 2010

VOL. 60 NO. 11

With Good Reason
Apologetics: What about worldviews?

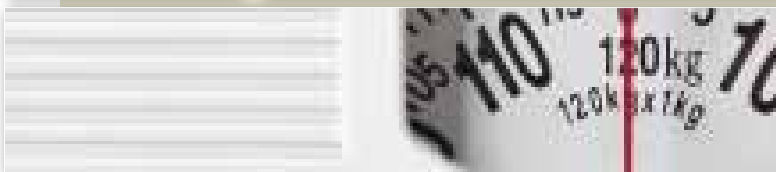
9

Ed Chavis: Augusta's Biggest Loser
Losing 143 lbs. gave this assoc. pastor a unique opportunity

12

BBFI enters Austrian history
The first BBFI church in Austria organized on June 6, 2010

14



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

BBFI Departments	4
FEATURE: 60 years ago in the <i>Tribune</i>	6
BBFI Fall Fellowship Meeting Information	8
Baptist History - Major W. E. Penn (1832-1895)	13
FEATURE: From Korea to Ghana	15
Urban Current - <i>City soul-saving station</i>	16
School News	17
Fellowship News	18
Missionary Letters	23
AfterWords - <i>Learning to let go</i>	30

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

God, bless America



by Mark Hodges | President | BBFI

We have been so blessed by God to live in such a wonderful country. I have already been in eight foreign countries this year representing the Lord and our Fellowship. There is nowhere on this earth that I have found that compares to America. Our founding fathers were led by God Almighty to accomplish the establishment of a nation unlike any nation before or perhaps any nation to come.

Having just celebrated the birth of this great nation this past month, we must admit that America is in crisis and needs our prayers.

We are in a financial crisis. How could we be so foolish to think that we could spend our way out of a financial crisis?

We are facing an environmental crisis. Approximately 80,000 barrels of oil a day are running into our Gulf Stream. Some scientists say that once it enters the oceanic current, within 18 months it will affect the whole earth. No one seems to have the solutions. Four Gulf Coast governors asked for a day of prayer for a solution. Alabama's governor, Bob Riley, said, "Throughout our history, Alabamians have humbly turned to God to ask for His blessings and to hold us steady during times of struggle. This is certainly one of those times." This should be a matter of prayer!

We are also facing a moral crisis; a cultural crisis; a job crisis; a political crisis; an education crisis; a marriage crisis; a health care crisis; and the list goes on and on. The truth is we are facing a global crisis. I think that it won't be long before the trumpet sounds!

But the greatest crisis of all is a spiritual crisis. I could go into detail about the corruption and sin in America, but I honestly believe the greatest sin of our day is indifference. Nothing seems to alarm people anymore — even among Christians. The Bible says, "Fools make a mock at sin" (Proverbs 14:9).

God has blessed America mightily, and whether or not He continues to do so is up to us. I believe God has spared judgment on America because of the remaining Bible-believing, Christ-honoring Christians who still love and serve the Lord. But, oh how we need revival among the people of God. Earlier this year, Pastor Armie Jesalva of Cebu City in the Philippines called on the Filipino people to pray for America to experience revival (a video of this plea can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAb2wKkSzNw).

Despite all our sins, the Psalmist said, "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy" (Ps. 103:8).

If we will but seek Him, God will hear and answer. "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you" (Hosea 10:12). Please pray for revival!

How great a privilege it is to be an American! God bless America!!

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

What's the point?



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director

This is a question often asked by today's Christian young people when brought face to face with the need to carry the gospel to the regions beyond us. If we can answer this question, we've got their attention.

As in all organizations, BBFI missionaries are aging, and the key to future growth is to be found among the youth in our churches. If we are going to effectively answer their question, we must understand them, encourage them, and equip them.

Students today are different. Their world is different. In the past, the mentality was "do one thing and do it well." Today they may have three or more different careers before they retire. One might be an accountant for a few years, and then a missionary possibly for six years, and then end up starting his own business back home. This generation is also very relationship oriented and likes to be a part of a team. They look for advice and seek adult direction for service in the world. They listen to adults whose lives they respect, who admit their failures, who tell the truth, and who treat them with sincerity. They respond better when confronted with truth and challenged radically to make a difference.

Given these characteristics, we must encourage them to integrate missions into the world in which they already live; they don't have to wait until they are approved missionaries. We must encourage our student ministry pastors to mobilize this generation in ministries through their churches today. Today's students appreciate mentors who are veteran missionaries. The older generations have the information as to what problems to watch for and the new generations have the creative ideas to get the job done. The older generations have an abundance of wisdom and experience from which the younger generations need to draw.

Equipping the next generation to carry out the Great Commission is also vital. This equipping extends beyond their formal training; it begins at home and their local church. Practical equipping can be anything from teaching them not to get caught up in materialism and heavy debt (which many times keeps them from ever making it to the mission field) to responsible use of technology.

So how do we answer their question? For starters, we need to live the answer. We need to be convinced that missions and reaching people for Christ is worth our time. We need to go from a "me-centered" mentality to the "we've a story to tell to the nations" mentality.

These younger generations want to be shown how to make a difference, not just that there is a need. They need a sense of direction to channel their strategies and efforts. All this said, we must work together to fulfill the Great Commission, and it can be done through the churches of the BBFI. Are we up to the challenge?

New church plant in Iowa



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

Vernell Lott, sponsored by Pastor Randy Abel and the Iowa BBF, attended the NCPO Church Planting School last fall. Vernell, along with his wife (Latisha), son (Vernell Josiah), and daughter (VerLayna), have started Victory Baptist Church in the heart of Des Moines. They are currently averaging in the mid 20s in attendance with 21 people coming to Christ for salvation and many of those following the Lord in believer's baptism. Vernell plans to seek approval as a church planter at the September National Meeting in Chicago.

Vernell writes, "I have attended and completed the NCPO Church Planting School and am active in the Iowa BBF. I'm very excited about attending the National Meeting in Chicago. I wish to say 'Thank you' to all those men who have become friends and have helped me in this new church plant."

Like most new churches, Victory has met in various locations. The last move put them on a main street and made them much more

visible in the community, but the facility is in need of much repair. The need of a permanent address is critical. The Iowa BBF and Brothers of Cyrene are working with Vernell to raise money to make this dream a reality. Would you help?

Vernell and Victory Baptist are in need of monthly



The Lott family

support or a one-time gift to be able to move this new church plant to a permanent home. Money given is being overseen by the Iowa BBF and can be sent to Randy Abel at Heartland Baptist Church, 3504 N. Grand Ave., Ames, IA 50010.

Thank you in advance for your support of this young church planter and this new church plant.

FALL CHURCH PLANTER'S CANDIDATE SCHOOL October 11-15, 2010

First Baptist Church
Medina, Ohio

Pastor Mark Million

Contact: office@bbfincpo.com
(417) 889-1017

Jesus stands at the door



by Tom Wagoner | Pastor | Central Baptist Church | Dunn, NC

In our spring revival here, we had Junior Hill and Herb Reavis. These men of God were greatly used, and many souls came to faith in Jesus Christ and a large number followed him in baptism. One evening, a scripture was read and a statement was made by Brother Reavis regarding revival. It started something stirring in my heart, and I went back to this familiar scripture I had learned as a little boy at the feet of a woman, Annie Mae Johnson.

She led our junior choir at Faith Baptist Church in Winston Salem when I was a little boy, teaching us the song, "Behold, behold I stand at the door and knock, knock, knock...." It was Revelation 3:20. I had no idea, nor do I think she did, that this verse would one day bring great encouragement and confirmation regarding revival in these days.

In the scripture, I saw an inquiry that was so clear. Jesus was standing outside the door of a church, not just any church; it was a local church that was also representative of a last days' church. He was speaking directly to the messenger/preacher of that church. He makes this inquiry, "If any man hear my voice." The inquiry is there for revival. Jesus is taking the initiative. God always takes the initiative when it comes to revival.

Then the sweet invitation, "If any man hear my voice." He just wants us to hear Him. He is speaking, "If any man hear my voice" and, "If any man will open the door." How in the world do we open the door of our hearts, our churches, and our movement? How do we open the door for revival? It all starts with repentance before God. We must cry out to Jesus, get right with God, and then wait upon Him for the wonderful rain of revival that will follow.

Then, finally, I see revival. It is so clear in the text. We have used this scripture for evangelism, for encouraging and stirring churches, but I saw revival when I saw the intimacy. The revival, "I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." What a wonderful truth. Supping with Jesus, a new level of intimacy with Him, a deeper awareness, a deeper love relationship with Him. This is what I want; this is what you want. This is what many of our churches are crying out for. This is what the Baptist Bible Fellowship is crying out to God for. The only thing that will sustain our schools, our vision, what little passion we have and the only thing that will cause us to make an eternal impact in the way Christ has planned is if we experience a great revival.

God help us to continue to move forward in our faith, believing God "so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (Hebrews 11:3). God give us revival!

See www.revivaljourney.com

60 years ago

in the *Baptist Bible Tribune*

As the summer of 1950 unfolded, the newly formed Baptist Bible Fellowship began moving toward the goal of opening a Bible college to train men and women for ministry. Here are just a few of the announcements that appeared in the *Tribune* during that time.

Baptist Bible College

IN THE OZARK EMPIRE

G. BEAUCHAMP VICK, President

R. O. WOODWORTH, Business Manager

As this edition of THE TRIBUNE goes to press, ground is being broken for the first of the dormitories. The College will open in September, as has been announced. Next week's TRIBUNE will carry a story replete with details which will gladden the hearts of the thousands of friends and supporters of the Baptist Bible Fellowship.

BOX 106

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

In the NEWS of the WEEK

BY R. O. WOODWORTH

The Baptist Bible Fellowship Youth conference opened July 3 at its scenic site at Turner Falls, Okla.

Last year, before the Baptist Bible Fellowship was formed, there was an attendance of approximately 200 at the 4-day conference, and a larger registration was not expected this year. The attendance of 500 or more, therefore, was most gratifying.

While this was a youth's conference, Tuesday was primarily a fellowship meeting. At the 4-day conference, 41 preachers from four states took part in the program.

At a business session, we heard testimonies of all the pastors and they pledged to support the Baptist Bible College in Springfield.

Emphasis was on Bible study and inspiration thruout. While no definite theme was held up before the speakers, yet the purpose of Christ was the burden of each message.

I mention one because of the reception this message received and the response of the young people, made it one of the most spiritual services it has ever been my privilege to attend.

At the close of this message delivered by G. Beauchamp Vick, six young people confessed Christ as their personal Savior and over 100 offered their lives for any service into which the Lord might call them. Twenty-five of these were from John Rawling's church in Tyler, Texas, and about 15 from Lester Singleton's church in Paris, Texas. At the close of the invitation, which lasted over an hour and 20 minutes, so great was the impact of the Holy Spirit that many went straight to their cabins and continued upon their knees to pour out their hearts to God in old-fashioned repentance.

This large response resulted despite the fact that Vick had not anticipated giving an altar call. Paul Morgan, leader of this session extended the call.

Among those who surrendered their lives to Christ was David Cavin's son.

The spontaneous response the young people made is considered particularly significant in view of the opening of our new Baptist Bible College in Springfield, this fall, when Vick hopes to welcome 200 students or more.

The effect of this meeting both upon the lives of the young people and upon the preachers can never be estimated. Every pastor was moved by the mighty impact of the Spirit's power upon that meeting. One prominent preacher testified that the manifestation of God's power had convinced him once and for all with whom he should affiliate himself. He was frank to confess that he had come to the meeting with a question in his heart. Only eternity will reveal the result of the decisions that were made by both the young people and their pastors in that meeting.

There were many other important activities and high-lights which contributed to the enjoyment and spiritual growth of the young people. Sight-seeing trips were made. Shuffleboard and horse shoe games provided a means of breaking down barriers and bringing them closer together.

Camp deans were Lester Singleton, representing the Texas fellowship, and Wayne Imboden representing the Oklahoma fellowship. Loys Vess was recently elected chairman of the Texas fellowship. These three men are officials of the Baptist Bible Fellowship and the Baptist Bible College. Other officials of the fellowship present were John Rawlings, Bill Beall, Charles McDowell, Scotty Alexander and J. C. Brown.



Architect's drawing of first of Baptist Bible College dormitories.

FIRST UNIT TO COST ABOUT \$50,000

Ground-Breaking Ceremonies Held for New Bible College

[Springfield News and Leader]

The first spadeful of earth on a five-acre tract which will form the campus of the new Baptist Bible college, sponsored by the recently-formed Baptist Bible fellowship, was turned yesterday in impressive ceremonies at Summit and Kearney.

The spadeful was lifted by the Rev. W. E. Dowell, president of the new fellowship, which was formed to supplant the Norris-dominated Fundamentalist fellowship at Fort Worth, Tex.

Several hundred churches have withdrawn from the Fort Worth fellowship to join the Springfield-centered group.

The groundbreaking was for the first building which will be erected on the college campus—a large dormitory constructed of concrete blocks and stucco which will house some 128 students.

The building will cost about \$50,000, Mr. Dowell estimated, and it is to be two-story, 140 by 33 feet in size. Its construction will precede the building of an administration building, since the housing of students is the first requisite, he said.

"The students will take their training in the education building of High Street Baptist church until they get classrooms," Mr. Dowell said. In addition to being president of the fellowship, he is pastor of High Street church and will be a member of the college faculty.

Mr. Dowell said that the fellowship hoped to purchase three buildings now at O'Reilly hospital and use them for classrooms (two buildings) and a cafeteria.

"We will open for classes on September 5, without delay," he said. "We will build as fast as we can to keep up with our enrollment."

The minister said that the college expects some 200 students when it opens in September. The fellowship expects to have the dormitory built by mid September.

The money for the construction program is raised through the churches which belong to the new fellowship, the minister said, and added that a special fund-raising campaign may be used to raise enough funds.

The ground, at Kearney and Summit, cost the fellowship \$11,000.

"Hundreds of churches throughout the nation are supporting this school, which will send thousands of young persons out into the world to win souls to Christ," he said.

The Rev. Noel Smith, who will serve on the faculty as instructor of theology and Bible analysis, speaking to the crowd, said: "This is the only land where there is truly freedom of speech in our colleges. Let us keep it that way."

The Rev. R. O. Woodworth, who will teach synthesis and personal evangelism, said "We are starting this new college in Springfield because God brought us here."

Mayor Barbarick also took part in the groundbreaking ceremonies, speaking to the assembled watchers before the first shovel of earth was turned.

"This college will be a great benefit to the small churches and

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT YOU

Wouldn't this old world be better
If the folks we meet would say,
"I know something good about you!"
And then treat us just that way?

Wouldn't it be fine and dandy,
If each handclasp warm and true
Carried with it this assurance,
"I know something good about you?"

Wouldn't life be lots more happy,
If the good that's in us all,
Were the only thing about us
That folks bother to recall?

Wouldn't life be lots more happy,
If we praised the good we see?
For there's such a lot of goodness
In the worst of you and me?

Wouldn't it be nice to practice
That fine way of thinking, too?
You know something good about me!
I know something good about you!

—Anon.

One can afford to be in a minority, but he can not afford to be wrong; if he is in a minority and right, he will some day be in the majority. If he is in the majority and wrong, he will some day be in the minority."

—William Jennings Bryan.

Sunday schools in our surrounding rural areas which are now decaying," the Mayor said. "Those churches and Sunday schools should be revived so our boys and girls can learn the great story of Jesus Christ."

"This college will be a great benefit to the small churches and Sunday schools in our surrounding rural areas which are now decaying."

—Otis Barbarick,

Mayor of Springfield



Scenes at groundbreaking ceremonies for Baptist Bible College. Left to right: W. E. Dowell, president Baptist Bible Fellowship, and R. O. Woodworth, business manager of the college; Dowell turning the first spadeful; the crowd; Mayor Otis Barbarick and Dowell; another general view.



SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2010

REKINDLE

SAUK TRAIL BAPTIST TEMPLE | RICHTON PARK, ILLINOIS

BBFI FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

MONDAY



Tom Wagoner



Host Pastor
Bruce Humbert

TUESDAY



Steve Bender



Doug Fisher



Parker Daily



Richie Orrick



David Gibbs, Jr.

WEDNESDAY



Kelly McInerney



Armie Jesalva



Jon Konnerup



Linzy Slayden

SPECIAL EVENTS

- LADIES MEETING — LAURIE HUMBERT
- THURSDAY — TOUR OF CHICAGO

Country Inn and Suites (2.7 Miles)
(Ask for the Sauk Trail Baptist Rate)
950 Lake Superior Dr.
Matteson, IL 60443 | 708.748.4740
\$76.00 Standard / \$86.00 Suite

Country Inn and Suites (14.1 Miles)
18315 S. Lagrange Rd.
Tinley Park, IL 60487 | 708.560.9300
\$119.00 Standard / \$139.00 Suite

Hampton Inn & Suites (2.52 Miles)
(Ask for the Sauk Trail Baptist Rate)
20920 Matteson Hwy
Matteson, IL 60443 | 708.748.4102
\$99.00 Standard / \$119.00 Studio

Hampton Inn & Suites (6.79 Miles)
18501 N. Creek Dr.
Tinley Park, IL 60477 | 708.633.0602
\$119.00

Holiday Inn (2.50 Miles)
(Ask for the Sauk Trail Baptist Rate)
500 Holiday Plaza Dr.
Matteson, IL 60443 | 708.747.3500
\$99.00

Holiday Inn Express (5.33 Miles)
25640 S Friendship Dr.
Monee, IL 60449 | 708.534.0022
\$94.99

Holiday Inn (8.78 Miles)
18501 S. Harlem Ave.
Tinley Park, IL 60477 | 708.444.1100
\$140.00 Standard

LaQuinta Inn (2.19 Miles)
5210 W Southwick Dr.
Matteson, IL 60443 | 708.503.0999
RATES MAY VARY

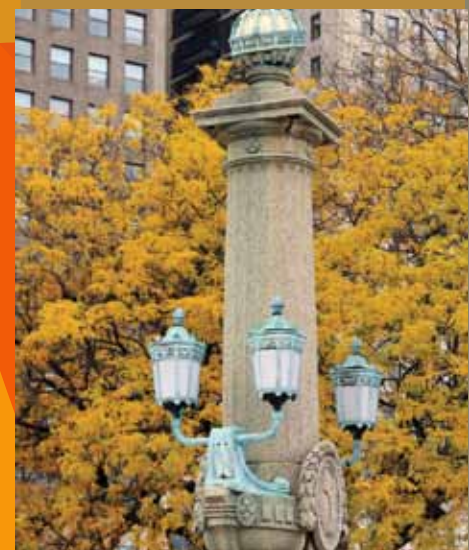
LaQuinta Inn (6.92 Miles)
7255 W. 183rd St.
Tinley Park, IL 60477 | 708.633.1200
RATES MAY VARY

Super 8 (5.4 Miles)
5825 W Monee-Manhattan Rd.
Monee, IL 60449 | 708.534.1900
RATES MAY VARY

Best Western (4.79 Miles)
5815 W Monee-Manhattan Rd.
Monee, IL 60449 | 708.534.3500

Best Western (7.31 Miles)
4375 Frontage Rd.
Oak Forest, IL 60452 | 708.687.4800

WWW.STBT.ORG/BBF2010





WHAT ABOUT WORLDVIEWS?

Seventh article in the series

With Good Reason

by Keith Bassham

We seem to be always pounding the desk about apologetics and evangelism in this series, and, to borrow from the series' name, we do it with good reason. Though apologetics can make you more certain and thus allow you to feel better about your own beliefs, the main point is to take those beliefs about God, His Son, and His purpose to others. After all, the touchstone Bible passage has been:

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:
and be ready always to give an answer to
every man that asketh you a reason of the
hope that is in you with meekness and fear:
(1 Peter 3:15).*

The point being that while learning about apologetics is good for a lot of things, we do it so we Christians can give a good reason to others for our hope.

We have therefore written about the basics: how we know and reason, who is God,

how trustworthy is the Bible, and in our last article, Jesus as the only way to God. Some may have thought I should include some articles about what others believe and how to defeat arguments for other faiths and non-faiths.

To do that, at least to do it with any detail, would require many more pages than I have available, and I'm not certain how valuable it would be in the long run. John Frame, in one of his very good works on apologetics, makes this intriguing claim:

One does not need to study every world religion and philosophy thoroughly. Only two are of any importance. As Scripture puts it, we are faced with a choice between the wisdom of God and the wisdom of the world (1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16).

In Haddon Robinson's text on preaching, he writes of a boy in China who wanted to learn all about the precious gemstone, jade. And so he went to study with an old man

reputed to know all there was to know about jade. The first thing the old man did was to place a piece of jade into the boy's hand and tell him to hold it tight. Then the old man proceeded to talk about everything under the sun; everything except jade. After an hour of this, he took the gem back and told the boy to go home. This routine went on for weeks — the boy holding the piece of jade in his hand, the old man talking about everything but jade. Understandably, the boy became frustrated. "When is my teacher going to start talking about jade?" he thought. Then one day, when the old man put an ordinary stone into his hand, the boy cried out instinctively, "That's not jade!"

Suppose you learned all you could about Buddhism — history, structure, weaknesses, and strengths of Buddhist thought — only to find that your conversation partner has embraced not only some Buddhism, but has added aspects of Native American mythology. Or say you have struck up a friendship

with a Jewish person — ethnically Jewish but spiritually atheist, or perhaps an adherent of kabbalism (no, they don't eat people, but they have special mystical interpretations of Old Testament scriptures based on symbolism).

Consider what competes with Christianity today: ancient philosophies (revived) like Platonism, Aristotelianism, and Gnosticism; modern Western spiritualist forms such as New Age, neopaganism, cosmic humanism, witchcraft; Eastern mysticism comes in the form of yoga, tantra, falun gong, and numberless others; secular thinking in the form of empiricism, rationalism, skepticism, materialism, pluralism, Marxism, and any number of political philosophies; and then you have the so-called Great Religions: Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and the many sects in Christendom. Keep in mind as well that these different thought forms do not confine themselves to the metaphysical world or in churches and temples only, but they have a presence in economics, politics, ethics, history, psychology, education, medicine, and the arts. Where does an aspiring apologist begin?

Fortunately, Peter didn't say you had to be a walking encyclopedia of religions and philosophy, but only that you be ready to give a reason for your hope. And for that, you need merely to know the difference between jade and fake jade, or in the world of apologetics, truth and fake truth. That's what Mr. Frame meant when he said, you only need to know two systems thoroughly.

What we are really talking about here is the subject of worldviews. What is a worldview, you may ask? It is a way of looking at the world around you and being in that world. Another way of thinking about worldview is to describe it as a lens or window through which you interpret the world around you.

All the questions of life — who are we; where are we; what is wrong; what is the solution — will have answers determined by your worldview. In most cases, we are oblivious to a conscious worldview because we take certain things for granted, or, as I like to say, we have all had our bags packed for us.

Take the earliest stories from the Bible — the creation of the world and man. We who hold to the traditional Christian worldview take these stories seriously, and any departure from their essential truthfulness will change fundamentally our view of who we are. For

the Bible-believing Christian, the story of the creation of the world is our story, defining our origins, our responsibilities, our natures, and our ultimate destinations.

But our worldview is not just about human origins and destinations. No, worldview has to do with our praxis in the world around us: "He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and

in nature, whatever its kinds, whatsoever its value, and of the seeds of forms, and forms of seeds, and the motions of seeds and forms. He has given to flesh its origin, beauty, health, fertility in propagation, the arrangement of the bodily organs, and the health that comes from their harmony. He has endowed even the soul of irrational creatures with memory, sense, and ap-



ALL THE QUESTIONS OF LIFE WILL HAVE ANSWERS DETERMINED BY YOUR WORLDVIEW — THAT LENS OR WINDOW THROUGH WHICH YOU INTERPRET THE WORLD AROUND YOU.

hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion" (Jeremiah 10:12). In this worldview, God is responsible for the whole scheme, all that we can perceive.

Augustine (*City of God*), wrote:

Thus God is the supreme reality, with his Word and the Holy Spirit — three who are one. He is the God omnipotent, creator and maker of every soul and every body.... From him derives every mode of being, every species, every order, all measure, number, and weight. He is the source of all that exists

petites, but above all this, he has given to the rational soul thought, intelligence, and will. He has not abandoned even the inner parts of the smallest and lowliest creature, or the bird's feather (to say nothing of the heavens and the earth, the angels and mankind) — he has not left them without a harmony of their constituent parts, a kind of peace. It is beyond anything incredible that he should have willed the kingdoms of men, their dominations and their servitudes, to be outside the range of the laws of his providence.

THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW WE PROPOSE IS RATIONAL WITH PURPOSE AND PLAN AND DESIGN...

Therefore, God is interested in and gives direction for such non-religious pursuits as the arts (Exodus 35:30-35), farming (Isaiah 28:23-29), marriage (Matthew 19:1-12), work (Colossians 3:22-4:1), and government (Romans

and the human race tells a completely different story, with a completely different set of packed bags. In this worldview, man is here through a series of accidents or random acts of nature, with no real responsibilities other than those we give ourselves, possessing natures only slightly different from the animals whose ancestry we supposedly share, occupying what John Frame calls “a gray world of matter and motion and chance.” Nevertheless, evolution has become the all-purpose explanation for just about everything observable, and for much of the world we inhabit, it is the conventional way of thinking, even among many who call themselves Christian.

The biblical worldview we propose is rational with purpose and plan and design, based on a Creator-creature relationship, and intended to produce hope that is worth asking a reason for. Further, we maintain that is not merely a better alternative, but truth set against non-truth, one of the two ways of thinking is described in 1 Corinthians 1:18- 2:16,

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. ...For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Corinthians 1:18, 21).

So, how does this apply to apologetics, and specifically, to giving a reason for our hope?

First, when giving the reason for your hope you will have to question the other person’s worldview. The text in 1 Corinthians says that God’s wisdom is set against the world’s foolishness. The unbeliever has a distorted view of God and His world. This is understandable when you remember that the statements in Romans 3 about man and his sin (Romans 3:10, 20-23) are at the end of an argument that begins in Romans 1:18-20:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold (suppress, as in hold down, KWB) the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be

known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.

This universal rebellion and suppression is important to remember. We have shown before that non-belief itself is a faith position, so do not be surprised that your friend will continue to hold onto their non-belief in spite of your best reasons an logic. But the statement in Romans 1 and 3 confirms what we have been saying in this article: this is God’s world and God “speaks” to the unbeliever through that world.

Second, remember that no other worldview offers a solution for the sin problem. Virtually all religions, if they acknowledge sin as a problem, offer perhaps two ways of dealing with it. One way is to try harder to be better (a works-based self-righteousness). The second way is to claim that God will forgive all sin universally without making any type of demand on anyone.

Only biblical Christianity offers a solution to the sin problem:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

The demand God makes for the forgiveness of sin is not harder work, but acceptance of his gift:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

Finally, know that apologetics is evangelism, and evangelism is apologetics. You can always witness your faith with good reason.

13:1-7). In the words of another author, “God’s principles honeycomb creation, and by careful study they can be known and understood... Depending upon the kind of response given to them, the whole of life can either be rightly or wrongly directed, honored or violated, blessed or cursed” (David K. Naugle, *Worldview: the history of a concept*, 265).

Now, take this worldview, largely shared by Bible-believing Christians through many nations and generations and cultures, and compare it with another, one without the Creator. The story of the evolution of the world



HOW ED CHAVIS BECAME AUGUSTA'S BIGGEST LOSER



(Editor's note – Last year, we began following the experiences of Ed Chavis, associate pastor at Lumpkin Road Baptist Church in Augusta, Georgia, as he worked to get his weight down as part of a local version of television's "The Biggest Loser." This is the last part of the story.)

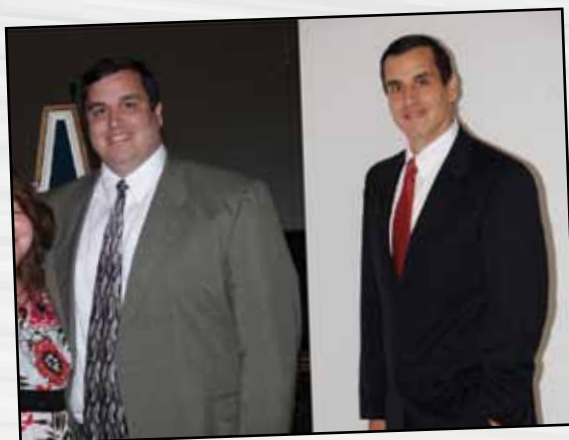
On May 16, my involvement with the Augusta's Biggest Loser competition came to an end. The male and female with the highest percentage of weight loss were declared the winners during our local finale, which our local NBC affiliate videotaped for broadcast in the timeslot immediately preceding "The Biggest Loser" finale. It was revealed at the finale that I had lost over 143 pounds, setting a record for the highest percentage of weight loss by any competitor in the three years of the program. My starting weight was 342.8 pounds; my final weight was 199.4 pounds. My waist measurement went from 59 inches down to 34 inches; my wedding ring now fits on my middle finger, and my shoe size even decreased by a size and a half.

For the next year, I will be in a maintenance plan, designed to help me keep my weight at a level that I can sustain comfortably. It's been a unique experience adding some foods back to my diet that I have not been allowed to eat for the past six months. For me, banning some foods was easier than trying to find that place of moderation.

During the past six months, I have had some opportunities to share the things I have learned with others who have been struggling with their weight. Some of them only need to lose a little; others need to lose in excess of 200 pounds. Regardless of where they are on their journey, I give everyone the same basic tips:

1 While the debate rages on between those who advocate a low-carbohydrate diet and a low-fat diet, *it was my experience that my weight loss was almost entirely dependent on how many servings of carbs I had in a given day.* My diet consisted primarily of lean meats like chicken and turkey (white meat only of both), vegetables, and fruits. We avoided red meat as well as fatty meats like ham and other cuts of pork. A low-carb diet also means eliminating things such as potatoes, pasta, rice, processed foods, sugar, white breads, and all fried foods.

2 *The body needs a certain amount of sodium, but it occurs naturally in so many foods that any salt added to food will push a dieter over the limit.* Excessive sodium causes water retention, decreased kidney function, and all sorts of other unpleasant side effects.



3 *Most overweight people do not drink nearly enough water.* The rule of thumb is to take your current weight, divide by two, and that number is the number of ounces of water one should drink each day. A 250-pound man should be drinking about a gallon of water per day.

4 *Exercise is an important part of the equation.* Three days a week we had a trainer coach us through calisthenics, lightweight training, and other exercises. On the other days, we worked out by ourselves on treadmills, elliptical trainers, and other machines. Although I continue to have access to the gym, I also run in my neighborhood and work out with a fitness video that has a routine similar to what we did during the competition. I continue to work out about an hour a day, five to six days a week. If that sounds too intense, simply walking will go a long way towards getting fit. Our trainer instructed us to get a pedometer and make sure we walked at least 10,000 steps per day (about five miles). After dinner each night, I would see how many steps I had taken that day and make up the balance by walking around a store, mall, or track.

These are just some of the practical aspects of successful weight loss – there are other components, such as recognizing that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and that maintaining a healthy body is an act of obedience. Another important key to success is building a support team for encouragement and accountability — my church family was as important in this area as my teammates in the competition.

I remain committed to a healthy lifestyle, and I am motivated not only by my own goals, but by my desire to help others with their journey. As a lifelong pizza and burger addict, I can honestly say that anyone can have victory in this area if they have the knowledge, the motivation, and the encouragement of others to stick with it.

Ed continues to write about his weight-loss journey at <http://echavis64.blogspot.com>.

HISTORY

BAPTIST

MAJOR W. E. PENN (1832-1895) — The Texas evangelist

W. E. Penn was described as the Texas evangelist but his ministry extended far beyond the Texas border. For over 20 years he conducted revival meetings throughout the South, Midwest, and California. His ministry also included preaching tours in Scotland and England. J. M. Carroll, author of *The Trail of Blood* and *The History of Texas Baptists*, wrote that Major Penn was Texas's greatest evangelist and one of the greatest in the world's history.

W. E. Penn was born August 11, 1832, in Rutherford County, Tennessee. He was converted at the age of 15. A few years after his conversion, he began studying the law, and in 1852, at the age of 20, he opened a law office in Lexington, Tennessee. His youth made his first few years difficult, but his talent and perseverance eventually produced a thriving law practice.

In 1860, the Civil War tore the country apart, and although he had been opposed to secession, he raised a cavalry company and was elected their captain. His exploits as a cavalry officer won him a promotion to major. At the conclusion of hostilities, he returned to Lexington only to find his law office had been vandalized and all his law books destroyed or stolen.

Having friends in Texas, he gathered what few resources he possessed, and he and his wife headed for Jefferson, Texas, a thriving city located on the Texas

and Louisiana border. Penn arrived in Texas without adequate funds, but he was able to rent a house and a law office with a promise to pay. His ability as a lawyer soon solved his financial problems.

The Baptist church in Jefferson had only eleven members and met just once a month for preaching. Penn and his wife became the 12th and 13th members. After a few years, the church began to prosper and they were able to build a large house of worship. In 1872, the church elected Penn as

superintendent of the Sunday school. The school had only 35 members including teachers and officers, but Penn began implementing innovative methods and within a year the Sunday school had a regular attendance of 400.

In 1875, J. H. Stribling, pastor of First Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, hosted a Sunday school convention and invited Major Penn to be one of the speakers. This event would prove to be a turning point in Penn's life. Stribling was so impressed with Penn's ability as a speaker and singer that he asked him to remain in Tyler and conduct a revival meeting.

Penn was honored, but he refused, stating he had legal responsibilities that demanded his attention. However, Stribling would not take no for an answer and eventually Major Penn yielded to the pastor's pleas.

The reluctant lawyer remained in Tyler for five weeks and a genuine spirit of revival spread throughout the church and city. Penn was transformed. Even though he was 42 years old, he believed God was leading him to dedicate the remainder of his life to the work of evangelism. He immediately returned to Jefferson and closed his law office, and for the next 20 plus years he devoted his time and energy to preaching and singing the gospel. Limited space prevents me from revealing the impact of this great but forgotten evangelist, but I believe the following example will enable you

to get a glimpse of the influence and impact Penn had upon the growth of Baptist churches.

In 1894, Penn, in failing health, preached a revival meeting at First Baptist Church in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The meeting lasted three months and 13 days. There were 346 converts and 336 united with First Baptist Church. Although Penn continued to attempt to preach, his health finally forced him to abandon the work he loved. He entered into his rest in April 1895.

In 1880, Penn conducted a camp meeting at the fair grounds at Georgetown, Texas. In two weeks, there were 450 conversions, and on the closing Sunday an estimated 5,000 gathered under the large brush arbor to hear Penn's concluding sermon. Later that afternoon, thousands gathered on the banks of the San Gabriel River to watch what Penn called the "grandest scene I ever witnessed" as 349 new converts were baptized.

by Thomas Ray



BBFI ENTERS AUSTRIAN HISTORY

JUNE 6, 2010

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION OF
INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH/GRAZ

GRAZ
AUSTRIA

BY CURT AND MELINDA BROWN
BBFI MISSIONARIES TO AUSTRIA

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Sigmund Freud, Adolf Hitler, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Red Bull, Glock, *The Sound of Music*, United Nations/Vienna, Baptist Bible Fellowship International. Does this list seem to include something out of the ordinary or perhaps extraordinary? The BBFI became a permanent piece of Austrian history when the International Baptist Church/Graz was officially organized on June 6, 2010.

Pastor Don Baier and his wife, Becky, were in attendance representing Seminole Baptist Temple in Springfield, Missouri. As our sending pastor, he led the service and delivered the dedication challenge. Seminole has been the leading church in this long-term invest-

ment, being involved in "Project Austria" for the majority of the years comprising this endeavor.

ment, being involved in "Project Austria" for the majority of the years comprising this endeavor.

With this organization, the BBFI joined the rich history of a small country which has given much to the world – both positive and negative. This quest began when pioneer missionaries Derryl and Kaye DeShields arrived in Austria in 1986 after being approved by the BBFI in 1984. After six years of service, their family returned to work in the U.S.A. He currently pastors Berryville Baptist Church in Berryville, Arkansas. It was appropriate that pastor DeShields should deliver the keynote challenge to our small congregation to commit to making a difference in Austria as well as reaching out to neighboring countries and the world. His message, "Power in Unity," serves as a mandate for the responsibility of our

new church. The establishment of the Baptist Bible Fellowship in Austria has been a long-term commitment. The efforts have spanned more than 26 years and are now beginning to see positive results. All who have invested in the cause of missions in Austria share in this monumental achievement. The sacrifice of many churches, pastors, and individuals have combined to make this dream a reality.

On April 8, 2008, Austria officially recognized the Baptist Bible Fellowship/Austria and the International Baptist Church/Graz as non-profit organizations in Austria. Those formalities led the way for the June 6, 2010 official organization of the International Baptist Church/Graz.

This new venture in the history of the BBFI is hopefully only the beginning of what God will do in a part of the world which has been largely overlooked as a mission field. Europe was formerly the central supply of the world's

mission forces. However, many of the countries surrounding Austria have no representation by the BBFI.

The investment represented by this one church has been great. Is the invest-

ment of resources worth the establishment of the first church connected with the BBFI in a particular country? In a time when we read of the diminishing presence of the BBFI, we can rejoice in what God is doing! BBF/Austria is in the beginning stages of ministry and it is exciting. May we all be challenged to push the faith envelope a little further than ever before. Together, we can impact the world! May we be challenged as a mission organization to be represented in every country of the world! The major focus of our mission efforts must be on the future history of the BBFI. Our history is important and should serve as a driving force to inspire us to be part of future history in the

making. Together, we have the opportunity to decide the future history of the BBFI. The choice is ours!

Europe has been often reduced as a mission outreach due to the expense of accomplishing such a task. The current religious climate is changing in a major way. The Catholic Church is being rocked by the scandal of abuse which has been covered up for decades. This abuse of power is being viewed as unforgivable by many Europeans. The Catholic Church has been effective in creating a sense of patriotism to one's culture and nation which includes the church. Europeans are now leaving the Church as a result of disenchantment with the power it wields. This exodus will leave a huge void in the religious expectations of these nations. Europeans will either dismiss God and religion completely or search for alternatives. During this critical window of opportunity, we must provide solutions to the felt hopelessness. The Church is losing its grip on the population which is already losing its identity by being infused by the Muslim world. What will become of Europe? No one can know for sure but we can be sure that the spiritual climate is changing and we must be ready for the monumental task at hand. In many European countries, Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses are recognized religious organizations while Baptists are merely a registered cult. This reality forces us to view our commission in a different perspective. How can we effectively project the truth of the gospel in a world where we are considered a cult? We have no choice but to invest our resources in these "Christian" nations. To ignore the opportunities in Europe is a contradiction to the Great Commission.

On behalf of our family, we would like to express our gratitude first to God for allowing us to be part of the experience of what He is accomplishing in Austria and secondly to each church, pastor, and individual who has invested in this worthwhile venture. We would especially like to thank Seminole Baptist for their training and faithful support, both financially and prayerfully, throughout this process.



From left: Don & Becky Baier, Derryl & Kaye DeShields, Curry & Mary Brown, and Curt & Melinda Brown

From: Korea

To: Ghana

1556A003[BA]



By Cherlsoon Yim

I heard the gospel while I attended CEF teacher's seminar in Onyang City which is my home town. After the seminar, when I read John 14:2, I trusted in Jesus who prepares heaven for me to be with Him and I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior in 1974, soon after I graduated high school.

My wife, Hwasook, was invited to Bulkwangdong Bible Baptist Church by her classmate when she was an 11th grader and heard the gospel in 1972. The gospel that Jesus, the Son of God, died for her sins on the cross, she repented and received Jesus.

We met each other at our home church (Bulkwangdong Bible Baptist Church) while we were serving the Lord through children's ministry in 1987. At that time I was a Bible college student and she was a writer for vacation Bible school lessons for BBF Korean churches. I was in a team to proofread for her writing, and we started to know each other through it.

Our home church is a mission-oriented church and Daniel Wooseang Kim is a mission-minded pastor. God really touched our hearts to surrender our lives to be missionaries through the Word of God. Hwasook got a calling from God through Romans 10:14 and 15, and she dedicated herself to be a missionary in 1975 when she was a Bible college student. I got my calling for missions from Matthew 28:19 and 20 in 1987 and also I was a Bible college student.

I graduated from Korea Baptist Bible College in 1991, I also graduated from Baptist Bible Graduate School of Theology in Springfield, Missouri, with a MA in Missions in 1994 and I transferred to Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary for M.Div. and graduated in 1996. I continually did D.Min at Liberty and finished D.Min course work in 1997 and left the U.S. I

finished my dissertation for D.Min. and graduated in 2003 while I was in Ghana.

My wife, Hwasook, also graduated from Korea Baptist Bible College in 1978, and she graduated CEF Leadership Training Institute in 1978. She also graduated from Missionary Orientation Centre in 1985 in England and graduated from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in 1997. Now she is a doctoral candidate at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for Doctor of Educational Ministry and she is writing her dissertation and hoping to graduate next year.

I served the Lord for children's ministry and a full-time staff in our home church and some other Korean churches in the State while I was studying in the States.

While I was studying at Baptist Bible Graduate School of Theology I had to make a mission project and I chose the country of Ghana. While I was doing my project, my interest and passion for Ghana grew more. In 1996, before I finished my study in Liberty Seminary, I decided to make a survey trip to Ghana myself and wanted to be sure that God really called me to Ghana or not. I traveled alone for a month in Ghana. While I was there, I lost my passion for Ghana because of their poverty and living conditions. I was still in Ghana and I prayed to God to send me to a better-conditioned country, not Ghana. While I was praying hard about it, God really touched my heart and showed Jesus came down to the earth and left His heavenly throne to die on the cross for my sins. At that moment I rededicated my life to serve the Lord in Ghana and my family and I arrived in Ghana January 1999.

While we were doing church planting and Bible training for national pastors through our small Bible school, people got saved and trained

to plant churches in the villages. But many are illiterate in the villages and their lives did not change and didn't grow in their spiritual life. We prayed to God for the new vision in how we could serve the Lord better in Ghana and we were considering what will be the effective ministry to help people to be well trained through the Bible.

At that time God gave us a vision to start a Christian college. Until now we haven't found any Christ-centered Christian college to train young people in Ghana with the Word of God. God allowed us to obtain land (875 acres) from the Have Chief as a donation in 2008.

As a pilot program we started a Christian high school (GIU International Christian Academy - boarding school) in 2008 to prepare the students to be core spiritual leaders for the college in the future.

We are praying to start a college approximately 2012. But we have to do construction before that.

Please pray for some dedicated workers as missionaries to work together:

1. High school principal
2. On-site teachers for high school (we are using A Beka DVD curriculum) to help students' academic and spiritual aspects.
3. Construction teams: to build school buildings.
4. People to work for the college for administration and academics.

Pray for the financial aspects:

1. For construction. We are praying for \$150,000 to build a building.
2. Support for the high school students. You can support a student monthly for \$10 so they can study in our school.



City soul-saving station

URBAN CURRENT

A gritty Chicago neighborhood ignored the birth of a Sunday school in 1877. Sara Dunn Clarke and her husband, Colonel George Clarke, were determined to reach the rejects of the area and “make crooked men straight.” In 1880, the ministry found vacated space at the notorious Pacific Beer Garden a couple blocks away. Colonel Clarke’s friend, D.L. Moody, suggested the word “Beer” be replaced with the word “Mission.” Who could have known then that Pacific Garden Mission would have a worldwide outreach?

A number of well-known evangelicals of the late 19th century became associated with PGM, including the mission’s future superintendent, Mel Trotter, and evangelist Billy Sunday. Both were saved as a result of PGM’s soul-winning efforts. Trotter, a hopeless alcoholic, was on his way to commit suicide in Lake Michigan but stumbled into PGM and was converted. He was instrumental in founding 66 other rescue missions from Boston to San Francisco.

In January 1923, a large cash gift from Billy Sunday helped the mission relocate to a strip known as Murderers Row. For the next 84 years its red neon “Jesus Saves” cross declared its core belief. The work expanded beyond homeless men to reach women, children, and service men, and perhaps PGM’s most famous ministry, the radio drama program *Unshackled*.

Beginning in 1950, this radio outreach is the longest running radio drama in history. It is heard across the globe 7,000 times a week in eight different languages. Each week the story of a sinner set free is presented in the old radio-drama style so popular in the first half of the 1900s. The international response around the world indicates the genre, the medium, and the message is still effective today.

Every night an evangelistic service is preceded by a prayer meeting. I was there on numerous occasions with Harry Saulnier, superintendent for 46 years (1940-1986). In the prayer room, Saulnier insisted everyone kneel on the concrete floor, at chairs looking like they had been inherited from the original beer hall. There was pleading with God for lost souls.

The jam-packed chapel was quiet but for shuffling feet, constant hacking coughs, and snores from dozers. The air is ripe with a garbage-dump variety of odors. The gospel is sung, testified to, and preached. Souls are snatched from the devil’s grip. Converts have dispersed to serve Christ all over the world.

As the area around PGM gentrified, neighbors and city hall pushed, pulled, cajoled, and finally demanded that PGM move. Now the derelicts, the drunks, the criminals, and the mentally ill will not be dirtying up the yuppies’ neighborhood. The city facilitated relocation in 2007 to an industrial area along the river about two and a half miles away. This state-of-the-art “green” facility is heated by solar power, has greenhouses, holds up to 1,000 residents, housing all PGM’s ministries under one roof.

In addition to having adequate space for the largely male population that arrives on a given night, there is also room for over 100 overnight female residents as well as long-term spaces available for mothers with children.

Everyone who arrives at the mission receives a shower, a hot healthy meal, clothing, and accommodations for the night. Upon request they receive individual counseling to assess specific needs.

PGM offers a free, professionally staffed dental and medical clinic. PGM also has a unique prison ministry that not only ministers

to the prisoners, but also to their families. There is an outreach to their many Polish, Roman Catholic neighbors using English taught as a second language as an evangelistic tool.

For those professing faith in Christ, the mission offers a discipleship program to help the new believer grow, address educational deficiencies, provide job training and job placement, and a path to a stable, orderly life.

First, they offer a 120-day Bible Program. Upon completion of this commitment, there is an opportunity for an eight-month program known as the Old Lighthouse Bible Academy. The academy offers courses in the Bible, evangelism, and preaching. Then the students enter the Career Development Program where they learn resumé and interview preparation, computer skills, and job searching skills. Throughout this process, there are daily meetings with PGM staff or teachers for active discipleship with the goal of the student becoming an effective witness for Christ.

While academics, nitpickers, and Pharisees debated the pure gospel, the full gospel, and the social gospel, PGM has been on the front lines with the old-time gospel.

For 133 years PGM has served up old-fashioned truth, never afraid of newfangled methods. They have given wholehearted effort to bring the whole gospel to the whole man, reaching across the nation out to the whole world — from a beer hall on a skid row street.

by Charles Lyons, Pastor
Armitage Baptist Church,
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BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Priority: to model the Savior's heart



by Jim Edge | President | Baptist Bible College

I believe every individual who chooses more education will be better prepared to serve the Lord. While some may say that through education we can improve the world, I understand that believers can do even more: in today's complex world, a conservative Christian education opens many opportunities to proclaim the Good News of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Graduates of other institutions may enhance their abilities to make a large income, and while the impact our students make may never be felt on Wall Street, these young men and women will leave their greatest impact on heaven's streets.

This summer, students at BBC are doing what they do best — leading others to follow Christ. Today's technology makes it possible for me to hear from our traveling teams daily and to mentor our young students, to let them see my love for them and for Christian service. I love to listen to their goals and dreams. It is not unusual during the day to receive a text message from one of our students telling me of something funny that happened or to relate an opportunity. I have been deeply moved to hear their accounts of leading others to Christ. One of our Rec Teams recently reported 19 saved in a camp in Ohio, and our band recently reported eight saved in Tennessee. At BBC, we want to give our students the highest in academic standards, but the message doesn't stop there: the knowledge and maturity must lead to a passion in every student's heart to live and proclaim the gospel in their place of influence.

We have seen many improvements at our college over the past three years. Our buildings and grounds are taking on a refreshing look. Because of the disciplined work of Greg Christopher and our fine faculty, we are seeing a strong improvement in our academics. And through the work of our campus pastor and deans, student enthusiasm for the things of the Lord and for the college continues to show dramatic improvement. There are many things for which we could glory on our campus, but one takes precedence: when one of our students, faculty, or staff has the opportunity to lead another to faith in Christ it brings great joy to the heart of the Savior.

Luke 15 relates the parable of the lost coin that Jesus told to emphasize the importance of reaching one lost person. At the end of the parable He said, "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10). As president of Baptist Bible College, I will always be an advocate for a strong academic program and facilities for which we can be proud. But my priority will always be training and modeling our Savior's heart for the lost to our students. I hope you will join me in praying for our students this summer as they witness for Christ.

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE

First thoughts on graduation



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

Graduation has come and gone. It is the strangest thing. For years you see students day after day, and then on one day it's pretty much done. Graduation day is literally the last time I see some graduates for years at a time.

But I hate to think about the last time. Commencement means "beginning," so I much prefer the firsts that come with graduations in Boston.

My favorite part of our commencement ceremonies is when I get to award the valedictorian. Our valedictorian is a closely guarded secret until about halfway through the ceremony when I get to spill the beans. I call to the platform the student who has earned the right to be known as "first" in the class. I always have the jitters and fight my emotions as I introduce the valedictorian. It is always a student I know well, one whom I have come to respect for his or her extraordinary academic efforts. You don't graduate first in your class in Boston by accident. You earn it.

This year Kristin earned it. I remember when she came to Boston as a high school senior from Mesquite, Texas, out of Berean Baptist Church where David Mills is the pastor. Kristin had lots of good options but came to Boston — and she has knocked it out of the park on all fronts... as a student, a faithful worker at church (she has helped plant two new churches in her four years!), and as a person. Kristin is the real deal. It was absolutely great to hang the cord and sash around Kristin's neck signifying her achievements... knowing that mom and dad were out there, hearts gushing with pride. Being first is pretty sweet.

But there are other firsts on graduation day. I had a dad shake my hand after our commencement and tell me his son was the first in their family to ever graduate from college. I celebrated with him. While some families have long college traditions, others are getting to celebrate the monumental achievement for the first time! I loved it.

For this year's students, all our graduates were first. They are the first out the door. First into the fields. First onto the front lines for the Kingdom. The Class of 2010 has already headed out in all directions. Some have gone north, some south, some to church jobs, some to graduate schools, and some to the way-over-rated life in the grown-up world where you work a lot and live for God in the pretty routine responsibilities of life. I could say that their Boston days are over. Finished. I could say that. But that sounds a little too brusque for me just yet.

I like first better. And I think, pray, and honestly believe we have sent out another group of graduates who are first-class. I believe they will live for Jesus first. And I pray and work with our Boston team to make sure that they are only the latest firsts in a long line. We plan to help the next become more firsts.

LBU honors BBF Founders, Neal Weaver

Shreveport, LA

The founders of the Baptist Bible Fellowship were honored in a special portion of the 2010 LBU Graduation service May 7. Al Janney, James Combs, Wally Williams, and Galen Bare, four of the ten remaining founders, were presented with a special certificate from the university. These four were at the historic meeting that



From left: Al Janney, Neal Weaver, James Combs, Wally Williams, and Galen Bare

took place at the Texas hotel in 1950.

Portions of the Fellowship's history were presented in the graduation workshop and at the alumni breakfast. Billy Hamm did a special three-hour workshop featuring photos and videos covering the fellowship's 60-year history.

Louisiana Baptist University and Seminary graduated 167 through its Shreveport location. Additional INSTEP graduates brought the total number to just less than 200.

Weaver honored

On May 6, Neal Weaver was presented a special Lifetime Achievement award for his nearly 20 years of service to Louisiana Baptist University. Executive Vice President Sandra Cory presented the award on behalf of the university.

Weaver began his ministry in Kentucky pastoring churches in London and Corbin. In 1967, he accepted the pastorate of Gospel Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, and remained there for 18 years. In 1982, he founded the Gospel Music network. The network grew to 120 stations in 20 states. Weaver arrived at LBU in the fall of 1990 as vice president. In October 1992, he was appointed president of the university. The university has seen tremendous growth since that time.



Sandra Cory presents the Lifetime Achievement award to Neal Weaver

Indianapolis Baptist Temple celebrates 60th anniversary

Indianapolis, IN

The congregation of Indianapolis Baptist Temple celebrated 60 years of ministry Sunday, June 27. Pastor Greg A. Dixon and his wife, Kathy, invited 13 former pastors and their wives to participate in the week of events and services. Former Pastor Greg Dixon and his wife, Wanda, also participated, and he was the main speaker at the Sunday morning worship service celebration.

Total attendance for the week was nearly 1,000 members and guests. The anniversary week included a Vacation Bible School, a golf outing, communion, concert with Kenn Johnson (chaplain of the Indianapolis Colts), and four receptions and banquets. Everyone in attendance received an Indianapolis Baptist Temple historical timeline in DVD format that chronicled the church's progress from 1950 to the present.

The congregation of Indianapolis Baptist Temple worship in the Life Center at Southport, 4002 E. Southport Road. The church's website is indybaptisttemple.com.



Greg A. Dixon

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GuideStone can help with retirement rollover

By Dixie Beard

Most of us would agree we have enough to keep track of: bills, kids' schedules, responsibilities at church and home.

Fortunately, there is a way for participants in retirement plans through GuideStone to simplify part of their financial life. If you have money invested in a non-GuideStone IRA, 403(b), or 401(k) plan, consider consolidating them into your retirement account through GuideStone.

With a rollover, participants can easily manage their retirement assets. No more managing several accounts through multiple websites or endless paperwork across multiple providers.

If you are participating in a retirement plan through GuideStone — or if you are eligible to participate — a rollover to GuideStone can offer two distinct advantages.

As already mentioned, having all your retirement assets at GuideStone makes management simpler. Participants will receive one statement, rather than one from each of their

providers. It provides a clearer snapshot of how your retirement investments are preparing you for retirement, and it allows you the simple management of your investments through one website. With one statement, your asset allocation is clearer, so you can more easily determine where you stand and what changes — if any — are necessary.

The second advantage may be its strongest, and that's the tax advantages it could make available to ministers in retirement. Ministers are eligible to receive part of their compensation as a tax-free housing allowance. Ministers who roll other ministry-funded accounts to GuideStone may have that tax advantage in retirement, too. That is because retirement benefits paid to eligible ministers in a GuideStone benefit may be designated as a housing allowance, further reducing retirement tax liabilities.

Additionally, your rollover funds will be invested in the same Christian-based, socially screened investments your current retirement plan holds.

For participants in the BBFI retirement plan, GuideStone makes the rollover process simple. Whether you are in the plan,

or getting ready to enroll in the plan, GuideStone has a team that specializes in helping participants roll over their assets to their GuideStone retirement account. As a not-for-profit organization we are here for our participants' benefits. GuideStone employees do not receive a commission from participants desiring to roll money to GuideStone.

Our team will help review any other retirement accounts that participants have elsewhere, walk them through the paperwork for a rollover, and help until the process is completed. It couldn't be easier. GuideStone's representatives can even fill out the rollover paperwork and send it to participants for their signature.

Most direct rollovers have no tax consequences, and GuideStone does not charge any fees for a rollover. (Some former providers may charge fees, and a GuideStone representative can help you determine those fees if you request their help.)

If your church isn't currently participating in the BBFI retirement plan, it can still get involved; we welcome the opportunity to assist you.

If you'd like more information, contact GuideStone — via email at Dixie.Bear@GuideStone.org, toll-free at 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433), or by calling directly at (214) 720-4661.



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Worship Pastor of Antioch Bible Baptist Church, Kansas City, MO

Dan Brown - Youth Ministries
Executive Director and Founder of LIFT Student Ministries


Kevin Kolb - Counseling Ministries
Sr. Pastor of Grace Baptist Church, St. Charles, MO

Cindy Amelung - Ladies Ministries
Ladies Bible Study Minstry Coordinator at Hazelwood Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO

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More than 100,000 attend Highlands Philippines camp

By the Tribune

Early in the year, Greg Lyons and his camp team in the Philippines prayed for 100,000 campers this year. The camps, which began in February, have to date recorded 109,507 campers with 52,651 accepting Christ, and a little over 2,000 student applications have come in for Baptist Bible College Asia according to Impact Youth Worldwide.

The Highlands Camp ministry in the Philippines is just one of several sponsored by the Rawlings Foundation in partnership with local missionaries in Belgium, Botswana, China,

Cambodia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, England, Mexico, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania.

In Colombia, Craig Lingo reported 538 campers with 243 professions of faith. The new facilities and 163 camp counselors were pushed to the limit in this young ministry.

Camps in Tanzania are still five months away for Dave and Bonnie Jones, but in a recent four-day training camp, 111 youth and youth leaders gathered at Highlands Tanzania for evangelistic training.

In the Dominican Republic, the Highlands Complex in Boca Chica is not yet fully operational, but in June it hosted the Timothy/Barnabas Pastors School for Haitian and Dominican Republic pastors. The school was conducted by Pastor Johnny Hunt of Woodstock Baptist Church in Woodstock, Georgia, and Jonathan Falwell was a featured speaker.

Highlands in Mexico has hosted 9,819 campers with 2,794 professions of faith at press time. Directed by Allen Owens, the camp has a unique ministry among gang members and even

residents of a community living in a trash landfill. Owens says, "In every battlefield there has to be a M.A.S.H. unit. It is the basics, it is raw, it is urgent care. It is not pretty, it doesn't take long and it does not include rehabilitation or rest and recreation. ...as for myself, my family and our staff, we are honored to be near the front lines offering this spiritual M.A.S.H. unit for those lives the enemy is seeking to destroy."

For more photos and camp reports, see www.impactyouthww.com.



Study: Adult stem cells successful in restoring sight

By Tom Strobe

WASHINGTON (BP)--Adult stem cells have restored sight to more than three-fourths of patients blinded by chemical burns to their eyes, according to a new research study.

The results, reported at the International Society for Stem Cell Research meeting in San Francisco, showed success in 77 percent of people in the study after one or two procedures, according to Bloomberg News. It showed partial success in 13 percent of the cases and failure in 10

percent.

Italian researchers tracked participants in the study for an average of three years, some for as many as 10 years.

The procedure involved taking healthy stem cells from a patient's eye and, after growing them, layering the tissue onto the injured eyes, Bloomberg reported. The stem cells were taken from the limbus, which is at the intersection of the cornea and the sclera, the white portion of

the eye. The cells produced a healthy cornea in the successful cases, resulting in an eye that is normal in color and appearance.

"The patients, they are happy, even the partial successes," said lead researcher Graziella Pellegrini of the University of Modena's Center for Regenerative Medicine, according to Bloomberg. "We have a couple of patients who were blind in both eyes. Can you imagine for these patients the change in their quality of life?"

The study involved treatment of 112 people. The method may assist in other therapies, a researcher said.

"This is bigger than just the surface of the eye," said Ivan Schwab, a stem cell researcher at the University of California-Davis, according to Bloomberg. Schwab said it may work on regenerating "livers or other organs."

The study is another success for adult, or non-embryonic, stem cells, which have produced therapies in trials for at least 73 ailments in human beings, according to Do No Harm, a coalition promoting ethics in research. Embryonic stem cell research, which results from the destruction of human embryos, has yet to generate successful treatments in human beings.

Tom Strobe is Washington bureau chief of Baptist Press. © Copyright 2010 Baptist Press

Liles celebrate 70th wedding anniv.

Springfield, MO



Ralph and Ruth Liles celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary July 5, 2010, with a gathering of their children and grandchildren in Springfield, Missouri, to mark the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Liles have been in ministry more than 50 years, with many called from that ministry into Christian service, including several of their family.

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FUEL: Theme of MANMAKERS conference to be hosted at Canyon Creek

Richardson, TX

Pastor Rick Carter and Canyon Creek Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas, will host MANMAKERS 2010 July 30-31. MANMAKERS is a motivational and educational conference for men and teens of Baptist churches.

Guest speakers for MANMAKERS 2010 are Dan Brown of LIFT Student Ministries and author/speaker Tony Nolan. More details are available at www.manmakers2010.com.

Cost for attending the conference is \$35 for adults and \$30 for students. The church is located at 2800 Custer Parkway, Richardson, Texas. For more information, phone the church at (972) 231-4753 or email mike.stancil@canyoncreekbc.org.



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Jordan & Nikki Nisly | **Philippines** Drew & BethAnne Paul | **Australia**

Clarilyn Mallares first went to church with her aunt at the age of seven. She attended Sunday school regularly and soon accepted Christ. In high school, she developed a rebellious streak, drinking and smoking to fit in with her friends. One of her teachers who was a believer helped her realize her need for Jesus to guide her as Lord. Clarilyn rededicated her life to Him and entered BBC Asia after graduation. She has learned a great deal that has helped her in her spiritual growth and now she teaches children in Sunday school.

Recently, a first-time visitor rode into our parking lot on a Harley Davidson motorcycle. Of course, we all heard him arrive before we actually saw him. Dave Dwyer is an Australian man in his 40s who recently moved into our area from New South Wales. Dave's arrival has once again taught our church people the valuable lesson to not judge a book by its cover. Although Dave is a bit of a rough looker, we have found him to be a real gem and full of surprises. He has a kind and gentle demeanor and is a former professional musician. He plays about 10 instruments

including piano and guitar and has a very nice singing voice. Although Dave comes from a charismatic church, he has virtually no Bible teaching. He told us he is hungry for the Word of God and sound doctrine. He would like me to train him to serve the Lord. He is also concerned for the salvation of his wife, Louisa. Please pray for Louisa's salvation and David's spiritual growth.

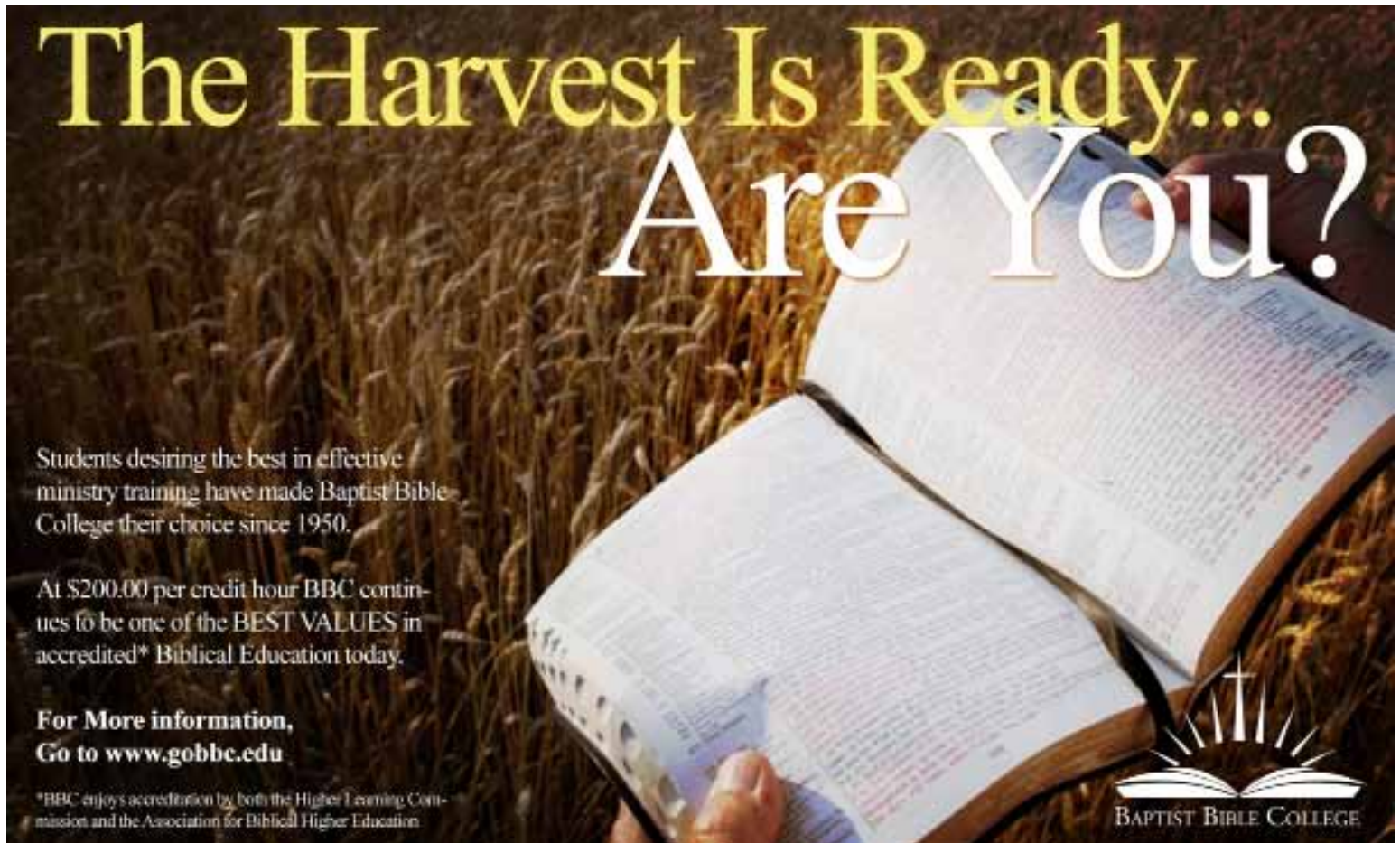
Jim & Becky Lee | **Mexico**

On Sunday morning, Dora was on her way to the grocery store. As she walked along, she decided to vary from her normal route. Her alternate route took her along the street in front of Bible Baptist Church del Rio. As she passed in front of the building she looked up and saw the church name and heard the voice of the preacher. She had arrived after the preaching had started. The message she

heard was about the second coming of Christ. As I gave the invitation for those who wanted to receive Christ as their Savior, she immediately raised her hand. Becky took her to a quiet area and Dora trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation. She said, "That is what I needed! Now I know that God led me to come this way today."

Richie & Missy Orrick | **Wales**

One morning, Richie had just taken Isabella to the doctor and they stopped by Walgreen's on the way home to get her medicine. As Richie got out of the van, a man approached him asking, "Do you have any change?" Richie handed the man change that would only last temporarily, and began to talk to him about change that would last for eternity. Shane was eager to hear the good news and right there, in front of the main entrance of a very busy Walgreen's, he bowed and prayed to receive the change that only Jesus could afford.



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BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Bible Baptist celebrates 15th anniversary; breaks ground

Wilmington, OH

Bible Baptist Church and Pastor Kelly McInerney celebrated their 15th anniversary May 21-23 with a homecoming weekend. More than 4,000 people gathered over the three-day event which featured national gospel groups Triumphant Quartet, The Hoppers, and Greater Vision, a church picnic, and a groundbreaking service for the church's new \$3.5 million worship facility. The new building will seat more than 1,200, and includes 10 classrooms, a 4,500-square-foot lobby/gathering area, and new rest-

rooms. The church's nursery and toddler departments will also be renovated during this phase.

Bible Baptist Church was founded by McInerney in 1995 with eight people. In addition to its main ministry, the church has also started Bible Baptist Church, Springfield, Ohio; Lighthouse Baptist Church, Chillicothe, Ohio; Bible Baptist Church, Marysville, Ohio; and this spring Gospel Baptist Church, Greenville, Ohio.



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More than 1,200 attend 6th anniv. at Lighthouse Baptist

Chillicothe, OH

Lighthouse Baptist Church and Pastor Ryan Bevan celebrated their sixth anniversary on May 23 with 1,216 people in attendance, surpassing their goal of 1,100. For the occasion, the church rented the local college gymnasium, Ohio University, Chillicothe branch, Shoemaker Center.

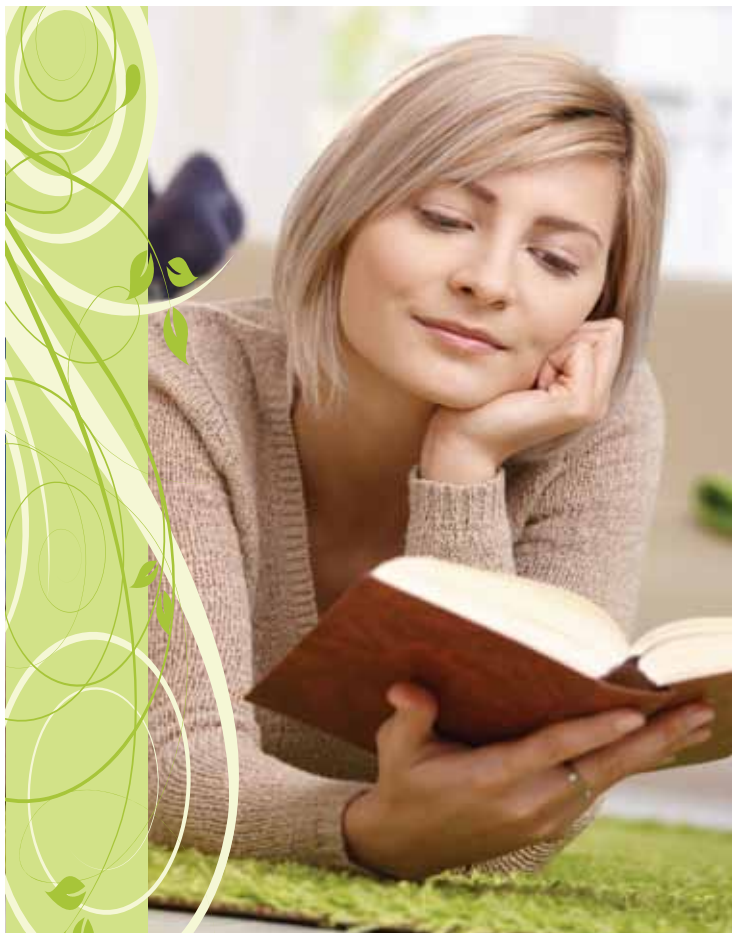
The day consisted of a concert with the Soul'd Out Quartet, a steak and baked potato dinner, inflatable games for the kids, a flat screen television give-away to the person bringing the most visitors (four families brought more than 30 visitors each), and a service praising God for His mighty works. Over 400 visitors were a part of the celebration with 96 salvations —

not including the many salvations as a result of follow-up visitation.

Bevan and his wife, Sarah, along with their children, arrived in Chillicothe to plant a new work in August 2003. They were sent out by Bible Baptist Church of Wilmington, Ohio, and

Pastor Kelly McNerney.

Lighthouse was a church plant project of the Ohio Baptist Bible Fellowship. The mission began with eight people including the Bevan family. They met in a hotel conference center and quickly outgrew it. They became a church in January 2004 with 45 charter members. They have since met in three different buildings before purchasing their present church facilities with over 21,000 square feet and 15.5 acres for \$850,000 — which they plan to pay off in 2011. Last summer, Lighthouse sent out Josh and Candace Bevan to Xenia, Ohio, to plant a new Baptist church. Currently, that church has nearly 200 in attendance.



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Ike Foster

Seoul, South Korea



Ike Foster, pioneer BBFI missionary to Korea, passed from this life June 4, 2010, at the age of 86. Ike and Jane Foster were missionaries to Japan in 1948, and in 1950 they chose to become part of the newly formed Baptist Bible Fellowship. In Japan, Ike was instrumental in the founding of the Japan Baptist Bible Fellowship.

In cooperation with the U.S. Army, Foster worked as a chaplain to American servicemen in Korea in the early 1950s. When the conflict ended, and cognizant of the spiritual need there, the Fosters became missionaries to Korea.

As one of the first Fellowship missionary families in Korea, Ike Foster left his stamp on many churches there, having been instrumental in planting 50 congregations. The Fosters were also responsible for a printing ministry, translation work, a Bible college, and camps.

Jane Foster died in 2006. Surviving Foster are his daughter, Kay McEntire, a son, Paul, and 13 grandchildren.

A memorial service was held in Seoul June 11 with about 400 attending. Family and friends gathered in Springfield, Missouri, July 9 for an additional memorial held in the Boonstra Chapel at the BBFI Mission Office.

Stan Kruse

Westland, MI



Stanley B. Kruse, former associate pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Detroit, was taken by the Lord June 10, 2010, at the age of 85. Kruse had served on the staff of the church as a teacher, minister, and soul-winner for several decades.

Stan was married to his wife, Doris, 66 years, and also leaves behind two sons, his sister, Jean Kruse, and brother, Stanford Kruse.

Funeral services were held June 14, 2010, at Fair Haven Baptist Church, Westland, Michigan.

Hollis Cook

Jasper, AL



Hollis Edison Cook, 80, was taken to heaven June 18 after a brief illness. Cook was a former professor at Baptist Bible College and a full-time minister of the gospel 44 years until his retirement in 1999.

Born August 22, 1929, in north Alabama, he met the Lord at Temple Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, in 1952 and prepared himself for a life of education to fulfill the call to reach the lost and to serve the saved.

He and his wife, Dorothy Lucille (who also served as a secretary to BBFI Mission Directors Carl Boonstra and Bob Baird), returned to Alabama in 2004. In 2009, Cook was diagnosed with an incurable blood disease and in June he succumbed to the disease.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, a son, a grandson, two great-granddaughters, and other family members and friends. A memorial service was held at Arley First Baptist Church, Arley, Alabama, with Roger Houston officiating.



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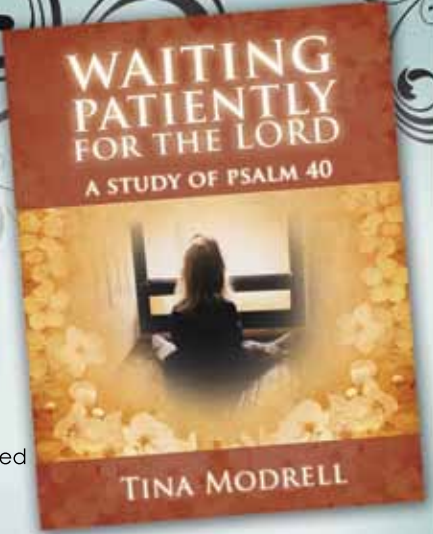
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Harlan Cooke

Madison Heights, VA

Harlan Walter Cooke, BBFI pastor, passed from this life May 20, 2010, at the age of 73. Born August 19, 1936, in Elkhart, Kansas, Cooke pastored until his retirement in January 2008. His churches included Bible Baptist Church in Tahlequah, Oklahoma; First Baptist Church in Walsh, Colorado; and Grace Baptist Church in Madison Heights, Virginia. He founded and pastored Fellowship Baptist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Faith Baptist Church in Madison Heights, Virginia.

Cooke was educated at the University of Texas, Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, and Covington Theological Seminary in Rossville, Georgia. He was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree by International Bible Institute and Seminary in Orlando, Florida.

Cooke also served as trustee of Temple Deaf College in Kansas City, Missouri; director of Atlantic Baptist Bible College in Chester, Virginia; Chairman of the Nebraska and Virginia BBF, BBFI Field Representative for Taiwan and Hong Kong, and representative of the Virginia BBF. He was area chairman for the American Coalition for Traditional Values and had a



weekly radio broadcast ministry for 10 years.

He leaves behind his wife, Barbara June Cooke, four children, 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Faith Baptist Church May 22, 2010.

Timothy Chad Fallis

Greenville, OH

Timothy Chad Fallis, 29, was called to be with the Lord just months after planting Gospel Baptist Church in Greenville. Born November 17, 1980, he graduated from Wilmington College in 2003 with a degree in sports medicine. In 2002, Fallis began working part time at Bible Baptist Church in Wilmington, and in 2003 he became the assistant to Pastor Kelly McNerny. Ordained in 2009, he started Gospel Baptist Church in March of this year.

Chad is survived by his wife, Tiffany, and two sons, Jace (two years old) and Cole (four months old).

Gospel Baptist Church's website is www.gbcbgreenville.org.



Roy Thompson

Cleveland, OH

Henry Roy Thompson, founding pastor of Cleveland Baptist Church, entered his eternal rest June 14, 2010, at the age of 77. Thompson, born in 1933 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and raised in Dayton, experienced his conversion after a run-in with the law and the US Army through the ministry of his sister, Akron Baptist Temple, and Evangelist B. R. Lakin. The Army later drafted him, and after his return from deployment he attended a Bible institute in Akron where he met his future wife, Faith Sherban. Later, he and his young family attended Baptist Bible College. He graduated from BBC in 1958 at the top of his class and moved to Cleveland to begin the church. One of his earliest visits brought him to the door of the grandfather of Kevin Folger, the current pastor of the church.

The church grew to a membership of more than 6,000 and Thompson became known as an evangelist and crusader. He helped found Christian Schools of Ohio, the Christian Law Association, and Baptist Evangelistic Missionary Association. He retired as pastor of Cleveland Baptist Church in 1995 after 37 years, and preached his last sermon in that pulpit June 9. After his retirement, Pastor Thompson spent much time in the Philippines working both with American missionaries and national pastors and establishing an orphanage.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Faith Diane, three children, 11 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held June 18 at Cleveland Baptist Church. Recordings of the service and sermons by Pastor Thompson are available on the church's website, www.clevelandbaptist.org/thompson.htm.





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Learning to let go

By Marty Hughes

Pastor, Grove Baptist Temple, Grove, Oklahoma

Yesterday was a milestone day in my life as a father. My daughter, Chelsea, was accepted as a participant in the World Race, an 11-month, 11-country missions adventure that ministers to “the least of these” in some of the worst conditions in the world.

Their website says, “Participants live out of a backpack, survive on a limited budget, and find themselves in situations where faith is the only reality to choose from. In partnering with existing missionaries and ministries, World Racers develop relationships with the ‘least of these,’ and through acts of service see communities and nations transformed all over the world.” This has become the driving passion of Chelsea’s life ever since she decided to give the Lord four months of her life after graduating from BBC.

It has been a blessing to me to see God working in my daughter’s heart in such a real and dynamic way, but last night another realization began to hit me. She is offering her very life to the Lord and, in a very real way, putting herself in harm’s way to pull others from the fire. Someone said, “If we are going to send our children into the dark places of the world, then we must have a theology that is deep enough to sustain them as they go and us as we send them.” Chelsea has determined that the God that she serves is sufficient to sustain her wherever He wants to take her. And her mother and I are convinced that His Word will sustain us as she goes.

I am reminded of the story of Adoniram Judson, America’s pioneer missionary who spent 40 years in India and Burma. Upon preparing to leave, he wrote a letter to the father of Ann (Nancy) Hazeltine, the woman he loved, asking for her hand in marriage. Here is what he wrote:

Can you consent to all this, for the sake of Him who left His heavenly throne, and died for her and for you; for the sake of the perishing, immortal souls; for the sake of Zion, and the glory of God? Can you consent to all this, in hope of soon meeting your daughter in the world of glory, with the crown of righteousness, brightened with the acclamations of praise which shall redound to her Savior from the heathens saved, through her means, from eternal woe and despair?

Am I concerned for Chelsea’s safety as she sets off on the pursuit of her life’s calling? Well, yes and no. I know that some of the places that she will be going are fraught with danger, but I also know that the safest place in the world is the center of God’s will for her life. Before she ever applied to be a part of the World Race, Chelsea spent months seeking to know God’s will. He has shown her in several distinct ways that this is it. So she is ready to face whatever she will have to face. And Shelley and I gave her to the Lord a long time ago, so there is nothing more gratifying than to see God choosing to use her in amazing ways.

Oh, by the way, most of the predictions that Judson made in his letter came true. But God used him to leave a legacy of 100 churches and 8,000 believers in a place that was once one of the darkest corners of the world. As Chelsea follows the Lord into the dark, well, I am committed to stay here and hold the rope.

I read recently, “We should not fear failure, we should fear succeeding at something in life that doesn’t really matter.” Chelsea is about to embark on something that matters for eternity, and with God leading and empowering, she can’t help but make a difference.

“I have now to ask, whether you can condescend to part with your daughter early next Spring, to see her no more in this world; whether you can consent to her departure, and her subjection to the hardships and sufferings of a missionary life; whether you can consent to the dangers of the ocean; to the fatal influence of the southern climate of India; to every kind of want and distress; to degradation, insult, persecution, and perhaps even a violent death.”

What a romantic devil! Not exactly the best approach to take when presenting yourself as a potential husband. So what did he say that convinced Mr. Hazeltine to consent to give his daughter to marry a man expecting such dire conditions of life? The letter continues:

If you would like to keep up with Chelsea’s preparations and the things that God is doing in her life, you can follow her blog at chelseahughes.theworldrace.org or chels4china.blogspot.com.

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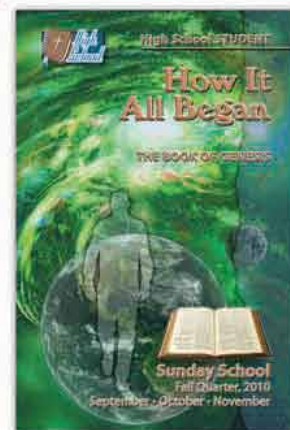


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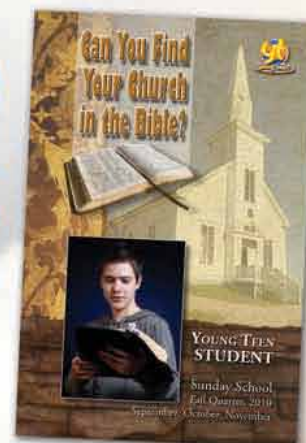
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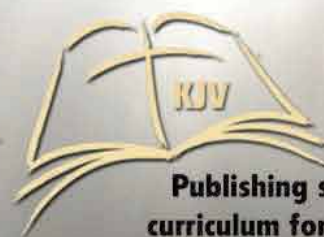
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