

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JULY/AUGUST 2011 | VOL. 61 NO. 11 | \$1.95



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ON THE TABLE Recession?

by Keith Bassham | Editor

Financial conditions may be tight, but I have observed nothing resembling a slowdown going on among the churches fellowshipping through the BBFI this summer. Just after an encouraging meeting in May in Springfield and getting the June *Tribune* off to the printer, my wife and I headed to Boston where I was to be the commencement speaker the next week. Along the way, we spent Sunday morning with Bible Baptist Church in Wilmington, OH, and celebrated with them in a dedication and anniversary service. I was particularly interested in this event because one of my first news stories written for the *Tribune* was about the new church plant in Wilmington and their young pastor Kelly McNerney in 1995 (see the new report in this issue).

It's a great Fellowship story — from the storefront to a beautiful acreage and campus, the church (and the pastor) has grown to become a great church, sending missionaries, planting new churches, and providing an example of what can be done with work and dedication.

And then we were off to Boston, where I was greeted by another Fellowship success story, Boston Baptist College, a fount of missionaries, pastors, church planters, and dozens of church workers serving around the world. The college's enthusiasm for the Lord and His work is contagious, and President David Melton and his staff are building a great institution for our Fellowship's future.

The bottom line is this. While I know both Kelly and David are more than aware of today's financial challenges, they, and hundreds like them, are refusing to acknowledge a recession in God's work, and there are bright spots for our Fellowship all over this country, indeed, and around the world. Look to these bright spots and encourage yourselves, as I do, and remember the words of *Tribune* founder Noel Smith, who said, "My brethren, these facts ought to elevate our thought about the cheap and degrading plain of petty emotional strife and sectarian outlook and motivation. They ought to water and refresh our spirits. They ought to kindle a glow in our hearts. They ought to infuse legitimate pride and dignity into our individual and corporate characters. They ought to lead us to a new dedication, as individuals and churches, to the universal work of our universal Savior. Let men do as they will. The world is big enough for all kinds of men and all kinds of movements. But let us as Baptists retain our corporate character and keep in the mainstream of the deep waters of our long continuity. If 'independents' want to keep their canoes and paddle around in the ponds, let them do it. But let it be said of us that we go down to the sea in ships and do business in great waters."

Oops. We aim for zero defects in the *Tribune*, but we are fallible. Last month we failed to note that Jerry and Nancy Novak, missionaries to Kenya, received their BBFI 30-year pins in our report on the May Graduation Fellowship meeting.

Keith Bassham

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JULY/AUGUST 2011

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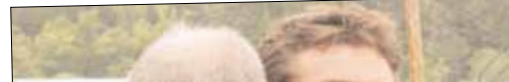


OVERTURNED INTO FLOODED RIVER

Teen survives 36 hours on river

By DAVID HOLSTED
davidh@harrisondaily.com

BOXLEY — After his inflated kayak overturned on the Buffalo River, Dustin



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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Basics



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

Writers take the letters of the alphabet, combine them into words, and the words into sentences and paragraphs, and produce what we call literature. Painters take dabs of colors from their palettes and put them in the right places on the canvas and we call it art. Composers take the notes of a musical scale and give us music.

The same is true with sports. I remember my high school football coach screaming about the basics of blocking and tackling. Coach John Wooten would take his basketball players to the center of the court on the first day of practice at UCLA and start by teaching them how to tie their shoes. Talk about basics! We want our church members to grow so we start with the basics to give them sure foundation.

The May meeting was wonderful. It was like a good family reunion. An emphasis was placed on being a goal-oriented Fellowship instead of an issue-oriented Fellowship. I believe this should be a basic for us. Through our churches we intend to win souls, baptize believers, make disciples, and reproduce ourselves with new churches here in the U.S. and around the world. When we consider the cities in our nation and of the world, it brings us to the basic of missions! This means building churches here and sending missionaries to do the same around the world.

Yes, we must be goal-oriented. This goal is not man made. It is a biblical goal. We have the mandate from the Lord Jesus and the pattern is in the book of Acts. With this we cannot disagree. Our nation and our world desperately need the soul-saving, life-saving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Vance Havner used to tell about the time General Stonewall Jackson needed to get his army across a river, so he ordered the engineers to build a bridge. He also told his wagon master to get the wagon train across the river as soon as possible once the bridge was completed. The wagon master — a former blacksmith — got a group of men together, and with rocks, logs, fence rails, and other various materials built a bridge and got all the wagons over the river safely. Early the next morning the wagon master reported this to General Jackson, and the amazed general asked, “Where are the engineers?” The wagon master said, “They’re over there in a tent, drawing pictures and planning a bridge.” Vance Havner’s comment was, “We need a few blacksmiths to get across the river.”

I find myself identifying with that wagon master, because I want to be a bridge builder. I want to focus on getting the job done. Our goal should be to work together to reach the world with the gospel. Imagine what we could do together with no personal agendas and no one caring who gets the credit. Let’s bring our combined strength to the work and do something great for God. This is basic. This is our goal.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

New information to consider



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

Online donations are one of the most-requested services by churches of the BBFI. Therefore, we developed a website, <http://donate.bbfimissions.com>, that allows us to securely accept donations. Churches can utilize the Multiple Gift Entry section to give to several missionaries at one time. The two online giving methods are credit/debit card or a bank account (ACH/eCheck). With both, the Mission Office is assessed a handling fee by the merchant services company. The Mission Office will cover any fees associated with using a bank account. However, if a donor gives using a credit card, a charge will be added to cover the online giving fees. Regardless of the payment method, BBFI missionaries will continue to receive 100 percent of their donations. The Mission Office does not benefit anything from these fees. These are banking fees. This service was approved in the September 2010 Fellowship Meeting. Since then we have been completing and testing the process.

Following is the disclaimer that appears on the new giving website for individuals giving to missions through their local church:

The Baptist Bible Fellowship International’s theology and philosophy is strongly rooted in the autonomy and authority of the local church. We believe that the local church is the center for world evangelism and has the God-given responsibility and authority to send out missionaries to the regions beyond. The Mission Office of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International is a missions service center to assist local Baptist churches and their missionaries in their effort to fulfill the Great Commission. As such we strongly recommend members of local Baptist churches to be faithful in their giving to and through their church. As an individual, if your church has a missions program that supports BBFI approved missionaries, we recommend that your donations to the ministry of BBFI approved missionaries be given to/through your local Baptist church. We do, however, offer this option for those who want to make an online gift now.

The 2012 Summer Olympic games will be held in and around London, England. We along with some of our missionaries are exploring the possibility of taking church groups to minister during this occasion. Because we anticipate a very limited number of spaces available for lodging, if you are interested in taking a group or sending people with another group, please contact Associate Director Jim Smith at (417) 862-5011 or JSmith@bbfmissions.com as soon as possible.

The following numbers reflect lives impacted directly through the ministries of BBFI missionaries in 2010. These do not reflect those people reached and churches started by the nationals associated with our missionaries and the BBFI.

Professions of faith (131,246), baptisms (24, 853), leaders in training (11,785), new missions/Bible studies (2,775), new churches (850)



Introducing a new tool for churches



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

The summer has been a busy one for the NCPO. We have been working the states of Georgia and Florida introducing a new ministry tool. We have partnered with E-Min Resources in the development of a touchscreen kiosk. The kiosk contains four basic applications: missions, online giving, promoting upcoming events, and ministry opportunities to assimilate people into your church ministries. This new tool has been designed to be cost effective and affordable for every church. This technology is cutting edge and designed to present your church as a 21st century ministry.

For additional information contact us at office@bbfincpo.com or (419) 961-7500.

BBF Builders Update

The BBF Builders are construction missionaries and work with the NCPO to service the churches of the BBFI. We have recently completed a new building for NorthPointe Baptist Church in Sandusky, OH, pastored by Wally Gilbert. This is a project we worked from start to finish. Jason Heath was our project manager. The savings to the church was approximately \$400,000 because of the work of the BBF Builders and several volunteer groups from around the country. We presently are involved in projects in Montana, Missouri, Indiana, and Nebraska. If you have a need, please contact us at office@bbfincpo.com or call us at (419) 961-7500. We look forward to serving you. If you are interested in serving with the BBF Builders contact us at same e-mail and phone numbers as above.



NorthPointe Baptist Church building

**2012-13
BBFI
Contact
Directory**
Pre-order now at
bbfmissions.com

The new BBFI Contact Directory will be available in September 2011. We are in the process of compiling up-to-date information and each church who sends contributions through the Mission Office should have received a letter concerning this.

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For the first time in fifteen years, our Fellowship is coming back to Boston! All of us in the Boston Baptist College family can't wait to share our campus, our students, and our city with you! The morning meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday (September 27 and 28) will be held on our campus on the south side of the city — just five or six miles from the hotels we have recommended.

The three evening services will be held at three extraordinary venues downtown. Because of our location and relationships in Boston, we have been able to arrange our BBF evening services in three incomparable historic halls, easily accessible via public transportation from the hotels. Our hosting students will show you all the ropes getting into the city ... ready to accompany guests via public transportation for three unforgettable services on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings (September 26-28).

(Meeting information continued on page 8)





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

Parents-children technology gap not large

In a new report, Barna Group released findings that show parents are as dependent on technology as are their children.

According to the group's website, "Most people assume that teenagers are driving the technology gap in families. Yet the research points out that the gap is much smaller than most imagine. In reality, parents are using technology and media to nearly the same degree as their 11- to 17-year-olds."

- Parents are more likely than their tween and teen offspring to report regular use of cell phones and desktop computers. They are just likely as their teens and tweens to use laptop computers and tablet-like devices.
- Parents watch just as much television and movies, use the Internet for as many minutes per day, and spend more time on the telephone and emailing than do their tween- and teen-aged children.
- The technology and media-related tasks that young people do more often than their parents are listening to music, texting, and playing video games. Even in these categories, most parents are surprisingly active.

The report also showed that while few families say they have not received teaching about how families can best use media and technology, many are open. According to the report, "When asked if they would be open to one version of such training — "a Christian or faith-based perspective about how to be a good user of entertainment and technology without letting things negatively impact your family relationships" — about two-fifths of parents (42%) and one-third of tweens and teens (33%) expressed interest. The implication is that faith communities could take a leadership role in teaching about the proper use of technology in healthy families."

David Kinnaman, president of Barna Group, concludes "Perhaps technology should be added to discussions about stewardship ... because they have come to significantly define the use of time, the development of talent, and the allocation of money."

Source: www.barna.org

Small majority of Americans support same-sex marriage

A recent Religion and Politics Tracking Survey, conducted by Public Religion Research Institute, is the third national poll in as many months to find majority support for same-sex marriage: a slim majority (51%) of Americans now favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to legally marry, compared to 43% percent who are opposed. There is significant difference in support for same-sex marriage across religious and political affiliation groups.

A solid majority of Catholics and white mainline Protestants (56% and 55% respectively) favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to legally marry, compared to only 23% of white evangelical Protestants. Nearly 8 in 10 (77%) Americans who are not affiliated with any religion support same-sex marriage.

Source: www.publicreligion.org

Schuller's Crystal Cathedral bankrupt, property to be sold

The Crystal Cathedral of Garden Grove, founded by Robert H. Schuller in 1955 at a drive-in theater, will be sold as a method of exiting Chapter 11 bankruptcy and reconciling millions in debt, church officials have confirmed.

The Garden Grove megachurch, a landmark attraction in southern California, was also the birthplace of the weekly television program "Hour of Power." But faced with decreasing revenues over the last few years, the church filed for bankruptcy protection in October, saying it owed more than \$50 million to creditors.

Sheila Shuller Coleman, the elder Robert Schuller's daughter, serves the church as senior pastor. Schuller's son, Robert A. Schuller, pastored the church for two years, but was forced out in 2008, after which he became chairman of a media company that includes AmericanLifeTV.

Source: www.publicreligion.org



B.A.

In the NEWS of the WEEK

BY R. O. WOODWORTH

Climaxing a tent meeting held by Velbert Hayes in Taylorville, Ill., the Calvary Baptist church was organized with 10 members Sept. 15, 1946. Jan. 2, 1947, the first unit of the present plant, located on a choice site, was dedicated. July 12, the second unit was dedicated. The present quarters comprise an auditorium with a seating capacity of 200, a rock baptistry with running water, 11 classrooms, full basement, air conditioned, radiation heat, and tile floors. Practically paid out, it is reputed to be the most comfortable auditorium in the country. Over 100 have knelt at the altar in humble acceptance of Christ as Saviour and the Sunday evening crowds have attracted state wide attention.

* * *

The past three weeks have been a time of spiritual refreshment and revival for the Calvary Baptist church, Snyder, Texas, where T. Gerald Cafes is pastor. Thirteen souls united with the church and the Sunday school attendance made seteady gains.

* * *

The entire membership of the Tabernacle Baptist church, Roswell, N. M., is giving united support to the leadership of their pastor, Howard Ingram. Bro. Ingram rejoices in the mighty moving of the Holy Spirit in the church as a result. July 8, fourteen came into the membership of the church and five of the members rededicated their lives to God. The Sunday school attendance in spite of the heat, reached a new high of 228. This church now has two students in the Baptist Bible College.

* * *

The Tabernacle Baptist church, Altus, Okla., Wayne Imboden, pastor, had three additions, Sunday, July 15. Sunday school teachers: Mrs. John Coontz (five year old boys); Mrs. Jess Hukill (11 year old girls); and Mrs. Clyde Molton, (14 year old boys) were congratulated on having one hundred per cent classes.

* * *

A two-weeks tent revival was conducted by W. E. Dowell in Springfield, Mo. As usual, Dowell's messages were heartsearching and resulted in many souls coming to Christ. The largest crowds ever attracted by this annual venture gathered every night in the week under the three-pole tent. Earl Smith's musical program added much interest to the service.

* * *

An average of 510 attended the Sunday school of the Kansas City Baptist Temple, Kansas City, Mo., during the month of July. In the absence of the pastor, Wendell Zimmerman, Noel Smith filled the pulpit July 15.

* * *

Jimmy Combs, the new pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist church, Joplin, Mo., announces gains in every phase of the work. In the month of June, the Sunday school attendance increased 50 per cent, and the offerings reached a new high. A revival recently closed resulted in the salvation of several souls and a number of additions to the church.

* * *

A two-weeks revival was led by Cecil Daniels, in Union Hill Baptist church of Bruner, Missouri. Bert Harrison, the pastor, reports that the church was greatly revived,

* * *

with two souls saved and six uniting with the church. This was the first revival in the new church, which was founded by Bro. Harrison recently while he was attending the Baptist Bible College in Springfield.

* * *

Haskel B. Bolton, who was a student at the Baptist Bible College for one semester, is now pastor of the Central Baptist church, McKinney, Texas. July 2, four were baptized, and three were saved. Bro. Bolton will continue his education with a school in Dallas.

* * *

Paul Donnelson opened a two-weeks revival in the Beaver St. Baptist church, Jacksonville, Fla., July 8. With Bro. Donnelson as the evangelist, the church is praying and working for, and expecting a great outpouring of God's power upon them. The pastor, George Hodges, was the guest speaker at the Temple Baptist church, Detroit, Mich., June 24. The Sunday school is reputed to be the largest in Florida. The attendance ranges from 1400 to 1700. Sterling Ackerman is the superintendent.

* * *

J. C. Brown, pastor of the Grace Baptist church, Oklahoma City, Okla., began a two-weeks revival in the Harrison Bible Baptist church, July 15. This church was organized by Bro. Brown as a mission and is supported by the Grace church. The pastor is C. J. McQuillen.

* * *

John Rawlings who recently accepted a call from the Lockland Baptist church, Lockland, Ohio, reports a fine response to his leadership. In the work of reorganizing the Sunday school, he has received full cooperation of all the workers. A visitation program already well under way is bearing precious fruit. Eleven united with the church Sunday, July 15 and 1157 registered for Sunday school.

* * *

Castleberry Baptist church, Ft. Worth, Texas, David Cavin, pastor, had a good day Sunday. There were 377 in Sunday school and 14 responses to the pastor's invitations.

The Lord did not return May 21

However, Harold Camping, the man who made that failed prediction (and not for the first time) has redone his math and is now saying the new date for the Lord's return is October 21. Ironically, the *Tribune* directs you to the past to

learn about predicting the future. Here is Charles Spurgeon on the subject (*Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, Vol. 39, 1893, pages 494-496 - thanks Doug Kutilek for the reference).



"First, it is not for us to know the times and the seasons, and to be able to make a map of the future. There are some great events of the future very clearly revealed.

The prophecy is not at all indistinct about the facts that will occur; but as to when they will occur, we have no data. Some think that they have; but our Lord here [Acts 1:7] seems to say that we do not know the times and the seasons, and that it is not for us to know. I pass no censure upon brethren who think that, by elaborate calculations, they find out what is to be in the future; I say that I pass no censure, but time has passed censure of the strongest kind upon all their predecessors. I forget how many miles of books interpreting prophecy there are in the British Museum; but I believe it amounts to miles, all of which have been disproved by the lapse of time. Some of the writers were wonderfully definite; they knew within half-an-hour when the Lord would come. Some of them were very distinct about all the events; they had mapped them all within a few years. The men who wrote the books, happily for themselves, had mostly died before the time appointed came. It is always wise to pitch on a long period of prophecy, that you may be out of the way if the thing does not come off; and they mostly did so. There were very few of them who lived to suffer the disappointment which would certainly have come to them through fixing the wrong date. I let time censure their mistake. ...The bulk of them were most sincere students of the Word, and herein are a lesson to us. ... But there is something better than knowing the times or the seasons; it is good for us to know that they are in the Father's power ... The time of birth, the time of the new birth, the time of a sore trial, the time of the death of your beloved one, the time of your sickness, and how long it shall last, all these things must come, and last, and end, as shall please your Father. It is for you to know that your Father is at the helm of the ship, and therefore it cannot be wrecked."



Monday night • *Faneuil Hall*

(www.thefreedomtrail.org/visitor/faneuil-hall.html)



The very hall where John Hancock and Samuel Adams birthed the spirit of the American Revolution — “the cradle of liberty.” Almost every great orator in American history, from John Adams, Daniel Webster, and Frederick Douglas to contemporary leaders, have sounded forth in this historic chamber — on this night, the “Greatest Liberator” will be the topic in the Great Hall.

SPEAKER



Paige Patterson
President of Southwestern
Baptist Theological Seminary
Fort Worth, Texas

Tuesday night • *The Old South Meeting House*

(www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org)



George Whitfield preached in this great old Puritan House of Worship during the First Great Awakening — but most remember Old South as the place from which Boston citizens began The Boston Tea Party, signaling that oppression was doomed and a new day was dawning. On this night we will celebrate our future and the new horizons God has for us.

SPEAKER



Bruce Garner
Pastor, Crosspoint Baptist
Church, Huntington Beach,
California
Chairman of the Board of
Boston Baptist College

Wednesday night • *The Old North Church*

(www.oldnorth.com)



Paul Revere watched for the signal lights in the steeple of Boston's oldest divinity hall. Longfellow immortalized the lights lit in 1775, and history has made Old North a symbol of action that changes history! Across the city, the nation, and the world, we are praying that again — from Boston — the Light will shine. In the Old North we will honor the servants who are taking the Light to the ends of the earth, and the God who is still making history!

SPEAKER



Linzy Slayden
Pastor, Friendship Baptist
Church, Owasso, Oklahoma
President of the BBFI

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Must confirm by Aug. 25

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Group Booking Code: Boston Baptist
College

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Website Code: BBC in the Convention/
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Bible Baptist in Wilmington, OH dedicates worship auditorium on church's anniversary

Bible Baptist Church and Pastor Kelly McNerney celebrated the church's anniversary May 22 with a dedication service to officially begin using their new worship auditorium. Construction began on the nearly \$4 million project in June 2010, and the first services were held in the new church on Palm Sunday of this year.

The 35,000-square-foot facility features a 1,200-seat worship auditorium, 10 new classrooms, a fellowship kitchen, new restrooms, and almost 5,000 square feet of gathering/foyer space. The project was the third and final phase of the church's master plan, which began with a multi-purpose building in 2001. Now completed, Bible Baptist Church has over 70,000 square feet under roof on their 32-acre campus, and Pastor McNerney reports new visitors and prospect families have come every Sunday since they opened.

On dedication day, the church invited the major contractors to the service to receive awards from the church for their participation. Dugan and Myers of Cincinnati and Sunrush Builders of Chillicothe were the general contractors. Also that day, gospel artists, The Hoppers, were special musical guests. Attendance for the day was well over 1,000, with more than 900 back for the evening concert.

The new auditorium is allowing the church to conduct one morning service now, after more than 13 years of multiple services. When necessary, plans are in place to utilize the gym for overflow/satellite services,



Above: The new worship auditorium complex for Bible Baptist Church is in the upper right of the photo. **Right:** Pastor Kelly McNerney

and McNerney says the church may return to multiple services when growth warrants it.

The outlook was not always so rosy. Wilmington and Clinton County, where the church is located, were hit hard in 2008 with the loss of almost 8,000 jobs, giving the region the highest unemployment numbers in the state, 19 percent, for a time. The church building was put on hold for over a year while the economic factors were carefully studied. However, in March 2010, the congregation voted to go forward by faith to meet the needs of the growing church and to show the community that God's work never lacks God's supply. Bible Baptist Church became the largest construction project underway in a multi-county area, bringing jobs, a boost to the local businesses, and a testimony that God is able,

even in difficult times, McNerney says.

McNerney started Bible Baptist Church in January 1995



with six other people as a mission of Hillsboro Bible Baptist Church where Dan Lamb is the pastor. Today, Bible Baptist is one of the largest independent Baptist churches in southern Ohio, a great missionary-supporting church, and a training ground for church planters.

In the meantime, Bible Baptist has also started four other churches in Ohio since 2000 in Springfield (2000), Chillicothe (2003), Marysville (2007), and Greenville (2010). Gospel Baptist Church of Greenville held their charter service Sunday, June 26. Bible Baptist's website is www.bbcwilmington.org.

From the Tribune March 15, 1996

Bible Baptist Church, Wilmington, Kelly McNerney

This work was also started by the Hillsboro Bible Baptist Church. Their first service was February 3, 1995. Their attendance is currently in the nineties, and they are looking for another building, having outgrown their present location.

Joplin tornado seventh-deadliest in U.S.

By Keith Bassham

My wife and I were having a meal in a burrito shop in western Pennsylvania Sunday evening, May 22, when we were jolted by news of the Joplin tornado on the television just minutes after it happened. Shari's brother lives in west Joplin, and she was relieved to hear his voice when she phoned moments later. His house had a small amount of damage, he said, but he knew there was devastation more toward the center of town.

Later, in our hotel room, we sat numb as the images and eyewitness reports poured from our television and computer screens. The next few days, wherever we drove and stopped, people noticed our Missouri license plates and asked us about the tornado. It would be at least a couple of weeks before we returned home to see the tragedy for ourselves, but we had felt acutely the storm's sting.

The damage was staggering, as anything caused by something called an EF5 multiple-vortex tornado should be, but the first reports of death, injuries, and missing persons were even more so. The death toll continued to climb into June as some of those who were severely injured succumbed to those wounds and infection. As the "missing" checked in (first reports indicated more than 1,000 unaccounted for), and as rescue workers did their work, we began to get an accurate picture of the situation. The Joplin tornado is considered the seventh-deadliest in U.S. history (at 157), and the deadliest since 1947.

Hundreds of homes and businesses, community structures, and even parts of the city infrastructure were simply gone. The buildings of two independent Baptist churches, Faith Baptist Church, Bruce Allen, pastor, and Southside Baptist Church, Phil Owens, pastor, were destroyed. Help and relief for these and others came from across the country. A number of BBFI churches from the area, led by the Missouri Baptist Bible Fellowship, were joined by others to do what they could to give some initial relief and comfort. The Missouri BBF continues to receive aid for the Joplin effort, and can be contacted through the Fellowship's website, www.mobbf.org. Faith Baptist Church and Southside Baptist Church may be contacted directly through their respective websites, www.southsideofjoplin.com and www.faithbaptistjoplin.com.

Most of the photos in this report were provided by Stan Sherwood of Springfield, MO. Others had been published on websites such as those for the two churches.

Southside Baptist Church building before...



A work group from East Side Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas.





...and after the tornado



Below: Twenty-one people from Unity Baptist of Flemingsburg, KY, Cynthiana Baptist Church of Cynthiana, KY, and Liberty Baptist Church of Georgetown, KY, travelled to Joplin June 6-9 to deliver aid and perform cleanup jobs. The communities raised just over \$8,200 in relief aid and filled a 16-foot trailer with supplies for the relief. The group worked two days to help clean up yards. The churches also gave Faith Baptist and Southside Baptist churches over \$2,500 each in checks and gift cards.



Left: Groups from Seminole Baptist Temple, Springfield, MO travelled to the site of Faith Baptist in Joplin May 25-27 to give away food and help with cleanup efforts in the surrounding community.

Grandfather and grandson survive river incident

Sustained by faith and care for one another

By Donna Braymer

By Easter Sunday morning it had been raining for days in the Ozarks. For river enthusiasts Olen Marshall, 62, and his grandson Dustin Campbell, 17, both members of Open Door Baptist Church in Harrison, AR, the adrenalin rush of the Buffalo River was calling.

They went to the river after church to launch their Funyaks, a type of inflatable canoe. Olen wanted to make some good memories. He later said, "I sure didn't expect the day to be as memorable as it was." The memorable day, it turned out, would not end until Tuesday morning.

The river at flood stage is different. This is what draws the canoers. Olen says, "Most of the river path averages the width of a couple of double glass doors, but that day it was 50-75 feet wide at the narrowest point, and up to a quarter-to-half mile wide at the widest."

And there are covered dangers. Hidden brush yanked the 10-foot paddle from Dustin's hands. Olen was able to recover Dustin's paddle, but lost his in the process. He continued down river with the help of a spare small single backup paddle he had in the canoe. But when the pair hit rougher water, their canoes bumped and overturned.

They both grabbed for rocks. Olen was trying to help Dustin and they both began bobbing down the river without a canoe. Both paddles lost, Dustin saw Olen floating down river with his face in the water. Olen was trapped in an area where the water had him suctioned under a rock. It was churning and he was head first in the water.

Dustin floated within reach of the canoes, and he was able to grab them, but not the paddles.

"We're walking out of here now," Dustin remembers thinking. He floated to a fork in a tree and was able to get out of the water. He stowed the canoe and ran back to Olen. They

were both out of the water, but on opposite sides of the river.

Olen said, "The river had won. That's when it's smart to just get out. We had lost all of our paddles. I knew people would be worried about

us, but getting out safely was our priority. We decided it would take a while, but it would be safer to walk out."

The river was too wide to cross at this point, so they walked up

WEDNESDAY
April 27, 2011

TODAY'S FORECAST

Windy. Showers and thunderstorms likely. Highs in the lower 60s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

REEL REVIEWS

Our cinephiles review "Water for Elephants."

Page 10A



BASEBALL: Pioneers play best of three series this weekend. Sports, Page 1B

HARRISON DAILY TIMES

www.harrisondaily.com



Serving the Heart of the Ozarks since 1876

10 INCHES OF RAIN Flooding worse than '61

By CELIA DEWOODY
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Although the flooding in Harrison on Monday night was possibly the worst since the big flood of 1961, there were no lives lost and no injuries, as far as officials knew at mid-day Tuesday.

"I've seen more water last night in the creek since I've seen since the flood" 50 years ago on May 7, former Harrison mayor Bob Reynolds told the Daily Times Monday morning. "You couldn't even see the weir. And Dry Jordan was as big as I've ever seen it."

Mike Smithyman, director of the Boone County Office of Emergency Management, said Tuesday morning that the worst flooding that he knew about in the county had been in Harrison.

"The judge (county judge James Norton) has declared the county a disaster area," Smithyman said, and explained that this action opens the door for the county to receive state disaster-relief funding. "The state will kick in first, then if the governor agrees, it will bump up to the feds, based on a threshold amount of damage."

Smithyman arranged with the Boone County Airport to allow the local Red Cross to set up a shelter in the main terminal Monday night for the

OVERTURNED INTO FLOODED RIVER

Teen survives 36 hours on river

By DAVID HOLSTED
davidh@harrisondaily.com

BOXLEY — After his inflated kayak overturned on the Buffalo River, Dustin Campbell spent more than 36 hours wandering rough, wooded terrain in the Upper Buffalo Wilderness and spending two cold, wet nights out in the elements. Yet, he insisted that his main concern all along was for the safety of his grandfather.

The 17-year-old boy was found alive and well late Tuesday morning, a little over 24 hours after his grandfather, Olen Marshall, had also been located.

The two, along with other family and friends, had a happy reunion at the Boxley Baptist Church, where a search command post had been set up.

"I was just worried about him," Campbell said, after he had been checked by medical personnel. "I had walked about 18 hours during the whole time. I didn't know if he could do it."

Search and rescue professionals included National Park Service, Newton County Sheriff's Office, United States Forest Service personnel, Arkansas State Police helicopter and numerous volunteers, including the Arkansas Canoe Association and Boy Scouts of America.

Campbell and Marshall, who have been described by friends as adventuresome, put in on the upper Buffalo at Dixon Ridge at about 4 p.m. Sunday, April 24. They intended to use

See RESCUED, Page 12A



DAVID HOLSTED/STAFF PHOTO

Dustin Campbell embraces his grandfather, Olen Marshall, after the two were reunited on Tuesday at the Boxley Church. The two had gone rafting on the Buffalo River on April 24 when their rafts overturned. Marshall was found on Monday, while Campbell was rescued on Tuesday morning. Campbell said his only concern during the ordeal was for his grandfather's safety.



LYNN BLEVINS/STAFF PHOTO

The Alpena Class of 2011 valedictorian and salutatorian will be honored at Alpena High School.

river hoping to find a place to cross. At about 5 p.m., they lost sight of one another.

Olen continued upstream for about three hours until he found a place where it was only 20-30 feet wide and he used the natural spinning of the water to propel his canoe to the other side. After going back over a mile and not spotting Dustin, he thought the young man must be ahead of him.

When it was time to bed down for the night, they were still separated. Olen found a place under a bluff and used his canoe for a blanket.

Dustin had also found a place under a bluff, shed his wet shoes and socks, and wrapped his rubber canoe around him. "I never got cold," he said. Dustin not only had his 48-pound Funyak, but he had been entrusted with the survival bucket that had keys, water, crackers, and matches.

Early the next morning it was still raining. Both men rose and began to walk in the same direction, but Olen was near the river while Dustin was further up the mountain, so they were unaware of one another. The terrain was difficult and hiking was slow.

When the two didn't make it home at the expected time Sunday evening, news began to spread quickly that two men were lost on the Buffalo River. By daylight Monday morning, SAR (Search and Rescue) teams were combing the area looking for the two men with storms continuing to flood the area.

Olen tied his canoe to the top of a sapling as a signal that he was okay. He could then move more freely, but the river bluff was high, and conditions were wet, muddy, and slippery with rain still pouring. He remembers, "I knew if I fell, I wouldn't make it," Olen said. "I had many conversations with God. I told him I was ready if it wasn't His will for me to get out



Geraldine Marshall, Pastor Howard Braymer(back), Dustin Campbell, and Olen Marshall

safely, but then I'd plead, 'Please take care of Dustin.'"

A little later Olen heard the men calling their names. "When I heard the men calling Dustin's name, my heart sank. I realized he wasn't ahead of me."

Olen was spotted by the SAR people almost within sight of the rescue command center at Boxley Baptist Church. He was treated for hypothermia and wanted dry clothes to go back and search for Dustin.

By the end of the day Monday, Dustin was exhausted as he dragged his canoe over rocks and stumps. He had walked 13 hours and crossed 60 streams in the pouring rain.

"Monday night I finally realized I was going to have to sleep outside again. I just kept praying for Grandpa. I didn't pray for myself. I knew I could make it, but I knew this would be difficult on him," Dustin said.

He woke Tuesday morning at 7 a.m. with the sun shining. Happy and encouraged, he left the bucket and canoe, grabbed the keys and the last of the water, and prayed, "Lord please give me a break. Surely I can get out in an hour."

At 10:05 a.m. Dustin heard a helicopter. He ran down the hillside to get to a clearing where he could be spotted. He lost his footing and rolled down the hill, and ended up in some briars and wet moss. He had to wait 45 minutes before the helicopter came back by.

When they did spot him, they dropped a message for him to stay put and left him some food. Meanwhile, the sunshine brought hope to the whole community. While the helicopter was dropping Dustin supplies, his classmates were

preparing to meet at the flagpole to pray for his safe return.

The area he was found in was so isolated and difficult to travel to, it would have taken horses four hours to get him out, so a rescue crew came to him on the river.

Through it all, the Marshalls left a great testimony with the rescue people, family, and friends. They quietly prayed and at times tears would come, but they never questioned God. They just prayed. It was awesome and terrible at the same time as a pastor's wife to watch a family you love in such pain.

The story made a lasting impact in the communities. Dustin later posted on Facebook, "It is amazing to see how God has used my experiences to touch so many. If I had the choice to go back and knew what was going to happen, I would do it all again because God was with me all the time. I thank God for seeing fit to bring me out and thank him for using every individual that looked and prayed for me. God is just so wonderful, and I now know what it means by 'God works in mysterious ways.' LOVE YOU ALL."

On a Saturday, two weeks later, the men returned to the woods under much better conditions, recovered their canoes, and were home by lunchtime.

Olen and Geraldine Marshall have raised their grandson Dustin as active members of Open Door Baptist Church, Harrison, AR, where Howard Braymer is pastor. Olen has been a member since 1973 and taught every age of Sunday school. He currently serves the church as treasurer.



From left: NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Senator Tom Duane, NY Governor Andrew Cuomo, and Food Network host Sandra Lee show support for the decision at a gay pride parade on June 26, 2011.

Photos by lev radin/Shutterstock.com

A response to the New York legalization of same-sex marriage

By Keith Bassham

By the time you are reading this, the state of New York will have become the sixth and largest state in the U.S. to provide for legal same-sex marriages. The legislative decision came June 24 when two Republican lawmakers in the New York senate gave their votes to the cause at the last minutes.

Writing for the ACLU LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Project, James Esseks said, "New York is a huge step forward that accelerates important trends. New York isn't just the sixth marriage state, it more than doubles the number of people living amidst the freedom to marry." (Note, this is not true, of course. When people say things like "Gays do not have the right to marry," what they mean is that men cannot marry men, and women cannot marry women. They could marry, within the bounds of the laws of their respective states, but they could not marry someone of their own sex, nor someone under age, nor more than one person. There are several limitations on marriage, and I'm certain an advocate could be found to eliminate any of them.)

Elsewhere, we learn that because President Obama's view of marriage is "evolving," the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is now being examined by the Federal government complete with Senate hearings helped along by a determination by the Attorney General that at least part of DOMA may be unconstitutional. DOMA, as you may recall, was a measure promoted under then President Bill Clinton by lawmakers anxious to prevent a call for a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a uniquely one-man-one-woman relationship. It was supposed to "protect" traditional marriage. Several states, not content to rely upon acts of Congress, have passed their own protective measures in the form of constitutional amendments, but under the current administration's "evolving" position, those safeguards could soon be under attack.

Roughly one year ago, a federal judge in California overturned a ballot measure from 2008 supporting the traditional marriage definition (the text of the proposition was "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid

or recognized in California"), but the initiative remains in effect pending appeal. So marriage is still marriage in California and in 33 other states.

Where are we then politically? Well, the chief executive is evolving (which means he is waiting until it is safe politically to announce his true position), a safety valve piece of legislation is coming loose, a large state's legislature has redefined marriage and at the same time effectively doubled the number of Americans eligible to take advantage of this new thing they insist is to be called marriage.

And where are we socially and religiously? I have written on this subject in previous issues, and I invite a review of what we know. The rest of this article is largely taken from what I wrote several years ago under the title, "When in Rome."

Though homosexuality apologists deny there is any homosexual agenda, there is one. In their 1989 pro-gay book, *After the Ball*, Marshall K. Kirk and Hunter Madsen wrote, "The agenda of homosexual activists is basically to change



America from what they perceive as looking down on homosexual behavior, to the affirmation of and societal acceptance of homosexual behavior.” These same-sex marriage declarations are important to the homosexual community because what they are after is not merely tolerance but broad acceptance, and as long as this legal marriage barrier stands, homosexuality will not be regarded as normal.

But what if the activists are after more? Suppose they skillfully take the ball down the field, and the states capitulate one by one. And what if a majority eventually takes the view (as some already have) that one-man-one-woman marriage is just an archaic societal and temporal convenience, and that it is time for a redefinition of marriage. Will their goal have been reached? Or do they wish to take us all the way back to something resembling a pre-Christian Rome where vastly outnumbered Christians attempting to live chaste and godly lives were considered strange?

“Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society.”

56% of those from mainline denominational churches agreed with the above statement

34% said homosexuality should be discouraged

26% of evangelicals agreed with the statement

2008 Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

In 1972, at the National Coalition of Gay Organizations Convention held in Chicago, delegates published a “Gay Rights Platform.” Among their goals for transforming society at the federal and state levels, they asked for “the repeal of all laws governing the age of sexual

consent,” as well as the “repeal of all legislative provisions that restrict the sex or number of persons entering into a marriage unit; and the extension of legal benefits to all persons who cohabit regardless of sex or numbers.” Current activists like to brand this document as obscure and meaningless, but the meaning is clear.

Today, we are being asked as Christians to assent to the pagan view of “anything goes,” and much of Christendom has agreed to do just that. In a recently published study, The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life reported in the U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, 56 percent of those from mainline denominational churches agreed with a statement that said, “Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society.”

Only 34 percent said homosexuality should be discouraged. The number of evangelicals agreeing with acceptance was smaller (26 percent), but considerable.

Some in confessing Christendom go quite a bit further. In early July, the Presbyterian

Church (USA) voted to open ordination to partnered homosexuals. And we all know how the traditional barriers with regard to sexuality have come down one after another in several mainline denominations.

But we are Bible-believing Baptists, and we continue to affirm the biblical teaching reflected in our own Articles of Faith:

“Since God created mankind into genders distinctly male and female, we believe that the only legitimate marriage is that between a man and a woman. He has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex.”

Whether it is a matter of gradual accommodation or a lack of will against cultural pressure, those who Jesus calls salt and light appear to be blending in, making life choices similar to those of their fellow citizens. Christianity, to have its effect, must provide a contrast, and that means we should be prepared to be considered just as offensive as were our counterparts in ancient Rome. We must get our own house in order, and go against the present immorality.

According to Baylor sociologist Rodney Stark, when Christianity came to Rome, these people devoted to Jesus stood in contrast with their neighbors.

While among the Romans there were few sexual taboos, Christians went against the culture and, Stark says, “condemned divorce, incest, marital infidelity, and polygamy.”

While pagans married their daughters off in their early teens, Christians waited until later. When Roman officials forced their wives to undergo abortions (which often resulted in the wife’s death) and to commit infanticide, the Christians did not. The practice of adultery, homosexuality, and polygamy, common (though not always so public) among the

denizens of Rome, were thoroughly condemned in the Christian community.

The Christians stood out against their pagan environment, and in the fourth century, when Constantine was emperor, he caused Rome to adopt a view of marriage and sexuality that was more in line with the Christian view. That view, known these days as traditional marriage (ideally, one man, one woman, one



lifetime), dominated the culture of the West these past 1,600 years.

In a sermon on Jonah I once said, “We sometimes have to be against the world to be for the world.” What I mean by that is a little like what a surgeon does — attacking the human body with a scalpel or laser, inflicting temporary damage to provide for longer term overall health. Nations who overthrow God and refuse to acknowledge Him as Creator and Sovereign do not last. Marriage — one man, one woman — bound as it is in the teachings of Genesis

and the Creation story, is a keystone of that acknowledgment. When a society abandons that keystone, the road leads only downward. That is history.

What then can we do? Regardless of redefinition, we model marriage as God intended. In fact, we reject not only the free and easy sexuality of our times, but we reject the manipulation, the consumerism, the materialism, the dishonesty, and entertainment values as well. There is more than homosexuality going on in the first chapter to the Romans — I count a couple dozen sinful behaviors as well. We are to reject them all.

Besides modeling, there is also room for political action on the part of individual Christians. When the referendums on marriage come to our localities, stand up for traditional marriage. Pay attention to the courts and judges, and the elected officials who appoint and approve them. States that have legalized same-sex marriage have not done so by the vote of the people, but by mere one-vote majorities in the state courts or through coercive manipulation and pressure as was the case in New York. To date, no popular referendum has approved same-sex marriage, and the activists know it will be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve their goals by a vote of the people. So it is inevitable they will continue to use the courts and smaller legislatures where they can use political force.

More than anything else, remember that change (to borrow a word) is what we are all after. The homosexual activists want change to ensure acceptance. We wish to change prevailing attitudes toward morality. And though the activists have a game plan that includes using courts and legislators (when possible), we know that politics and politicians are not the all-powerful saviors they sometimes seem. Our battles will be won more in the neighborhoods, in the workplace, in the schools, in the media, and in society — the places where we may shine as lights in the world. As Christians live godly lives and give strong witness to the resurrected Lord who empowers them, change comes, one heart at a time.

Blake & Meagan Fortner | **Ethiopia**

One night, while Blake and Addis (our house helper) were in the kitchen, Addis began to ask Blake some questions about our faith. Blake told her we follow the Jesus of the Bible. She, being an Orthodox believer, replied, "Oh, me too! I don't worship Mary or the angels, just Jesus." We thought it was strange she would say that since that is exactly what the Orthodox do. Blake then asked her if she had a Bible. She said no. The day before Addis and Gaytacho (our guard) left for some time off, we gave both of them their own Bibles. Addis responded by kissing Meagan's hand and giving her a hug. Gaytacho graciously took the Bible, but didn't say or do much else. When we returned to class on Monday we told the story to our teacher. She was amazed they even took the Bibles since the priests of the Orthodox Church forbid anyone to own a Bible — it is only for the priests to interpret. Pray for Addis and Gaytacho. They have become family to us and we so want them to know Jesus like we know Him!

Ed & Annita Hoagland | **Mexico**

Back in 2005, after a tsunami hit many countries in Asia, we sent a small relief team from Mexico with funds from the churches in this city to buy medicine and other supplies to minister to the tsunami victims. That trip changed all of our lives, but I believe it may have impacted the life of Ediberto the most. Since then he has been seeking God's will for him and his family and I am excited to inform you that this last week at our national pastor's retreat he was approved as a Mexican missionary to an unreached people group in the Middle East. In the Baptist Bible Fellowship of Mexico we now have our first foreign missionary going to a non-Spanish-speaking country. Please pray that Ediberto and his family will be on the field within the next three months.

George & Luisa Dimakos | **Greece**

Mohamed, a Moroccan young man who found us through an advertisement on an Arabic channel, came and told us his awesome story of how he found refuge in Christianity from a very militant Muslim background. After a few weeks of Bible study, Mohamed realized that he had received Christianity but not Christ, so I led him to the Lord right there and then. He wants to be called John now.

Karen Kolb | **Guatemala**

It was a precious moment, the invitation. Jocelyn was crying, her head was on my shoulder. Her whole body was shaking. They were tears of joy, tears of "I can't believe how good God is." You see, her unsaved boyfriend was in the back praying the sinner's prayer. Now, Jorge has his name forever written in the Book of Life. My part was small, very small, but it was an experience I won't soon forget. With Jocelyn rejoicing as she did, I can't even begin to imagine how the angels must have been shouting and praising the Lord!

Keith & Debbie Gandy | **Germany**

I recently began a mentoring relationship with Marco. I accompanied Marco to Manila. The weather was warm and humid, the days were long, and we took in many sites and conversations. The highlight of the stay was watching as 50 young people who had accepted Christ, followed in believer's baptism. Marco is a self-proclaimed "tough guy," but he readily admits that he sat at the edge of the pool and cried tears of joy. He, too, longs to see many here in Europe follow Jesus. As a result of the trip, Marco has quit his engineering studies to serve Jesus full time. When it comes to Christ, Marco states, "No risk, no fun."

Craig & Fran Lingo | **Colombia**

Last night Fran and I attended a small prayer group — we have groups that meet all over the city. It suddenly dawned on me that the two young men with whom I was praying and the young lady with whom Fran was praying were saved in last year's camp ministry. These kids took a bus and came just to get together to pray. How cool is that — young people who want to pray! Once again we were reminded that even though we get tired and it seems that there is never a break, it is worth it. People are being rescued from the kingdom of darkness and are learning to walk in God's glorious light!

Roy & Anna Hendrickson | **England**

While Lewis was playing outdoors, his mother asked if he wanted a coat. Lewis replied, "I don't need a jacket. I have Jesus in my heart and He keeps me warm." Last week, eight-year-old Shamair was standing on tiptoe behind the pulpit. Anna asked him what he was going to preach about. "Jesus!" he emphatically replied. She asked, "What about Jesus?" Shamair promptly said, "He is always kind and He cares for us." These children's "sermons" show how they are growing!

Randy & Sherry Rhoton | **Costa Rica**

Yendry Campos, one of our teenagers, took one of the ministry tools that we used in our VBS this year and has made it her personal soul-winning tool. It is the "wordless book" in the form of a headband. People are always asking, "What's the deal with the headband?" Open door to witness!

Lance & Amy Auterson | **France**

Christianne came into the church looking for answers and wondering what we believe in. Gail is an atheist who believes we should spend our lives doing good even though there is no life after death. Sally is convinced there is a God and that He watches over her. Jenny talks about the Lord but has not yet made a profession of faith, to our knowledge. These are just four hearts where the seed of the gospel has been planted in the last couple of months. We were also able to give Bibles to Christianne and Sally. Please pray that God would allow these seeds to be watered and grow into a relationship with Him.

HISTORY

BAPTIST

SAMUEL HARRISS – The Apostle of Virginia

Not many mighty men are called. Samuel Harriss was one of those mighty men. Born January 12, 1724, in Hanover County, VA, His parents provided him with more than an adequate education. While still a youth, Harriss moved to Pittsylvania County where he became a successful farmer, owning at his death approximately 5,000 acres.

Harriss's business success and honesty won him the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. He was appointed and served as sheriff, justice of the peace, burgess for the county, colonel of the militia, captain of Fort Mayo, and commissary for the Fort and the Army. He was also actively involved in the ministry of the established (Anglican) church, serving as the churchwarden, which required him to oversee the needs of the poor. But all this esteem and honor did not fill the void he felt in his life. His study of the scriptures had convinced him he was a sinner and his sin had separated him from God. He was also convinced the established church did not have the answer to his problem. However, Harriss was determined to find peace with God.

In 1758, while fulfilling his Army responsibilities, he rode by a house where a large crowd had gathered. Upon learning that Baptist preachers Joseph and William Murphy were scheduled to preach, he was determined to hear them. That service transformed Harriss, leading to his conversion. Later that same year, 34-year-old Samuel Harriss was baptized by the renowned Daniel Marshall.

Harriss immediately began to preach. He spent the next year traveling, preaching, and learning from Marshall. He was totally committed to Christ. At the time of his conversion he had just finished building a new house worthy of his status in the community. However, instead of moving into the new house, he turned it into a church, and he and his family continued living in the old house.

Harriss was primarily known as an itinerate evangelist. He traveled and preached for over 30 years. His ministry took him to almost every part of Virginia and parts of North Carolina. No man in the 18th century established or assisted in

establishing more churches than Samuel Harriss. Robert Semple, the Baptist historian, said that as a doctrinal preacher Harriss was not above mediocre, but in his ability to speak to the heart, he was not excelled even by the great George Whitefield.

His status in life did not make him immune to persecution. On more than one occasion mobs broke up his meetings. Once he was pulled from the stage where he was preaching and dragged around by his hair until rescued by friends. He was a man of great faith and prayer, demonstrated in the following anecdote. He approached a neighbor about collecting a debt. The neighbor informed him he did not have the money. Harriss told him, "I see you have a fine crop of wheat. I would prefer to have the payment in wheat."

The man said, "I have other plans for my wheat."

"Then, how do you expect to repay me?"

The neighbor said, "I don't. I will only pay you after you sue me in court."

Perplexed, Harriss rode away. He was so troubled he got off his horse and walked into the woods and knelt to pray. He said, "Lord you know I need that money to feed my family. But if I go to court, I cannot travel and preach, and perhaps 1,000 will perish." As Harriss continued to pray, the Lord gave him absolute assurance God

would meet his family's needs. He returned home and wrote out a receipt dismissing the debt. After sending the receipt to his neighbor, Harriss left on a preaching tour.

Upon his return home after his preaching engagements, his neighbor stopped him and asked, "What does this receipt mean? I told you I would not repay you until you took me to court."

Harriss replied, "I chose to sue you in the court of heaven and Jesus has agreed to pay. Therefore, I sent you a discharge." The neighbor, overwhelmed with guilt and perhaps fear, loaded his wagons with more than enough wheat to repay the debt and sent it to Harriss.

Samuel Harriss entered into the presence of his Lord in 1799 at the age of 75.

Once he was pulled from the stage where he was preaching and dragged around by his hair until rescued by friends.

by Thomas Ray





Don't come to Chicago

Georgia is my Warrior Princess. My high school sweetheart. The love of my life. The mother of my five children. She said, "I do" 38 years ago this summer. She is the good Christian in the family.

In her words...

Don't come to Chicago! There are already too many people. Thousands of cyclists, buses, pedestrians, trucks, construction signs, and potholes are already wrestling to occupy the same space. A one-mile zip to the grocery store becomes a half-hour encounter with three or four one-legged, bearded, homeless beggars standing in the middle of the intersections reaching out to you with a cup and a "God bless you." Getting from point A to point B taxes the mind, heart, and soul. All I wanted was a gallon of milk! Everybody spread out!

So don't come here. There's nowhere to park, anyway. You'll have to drive around and around the block or the parking lot just to get near the cash station. But when you get to the only spot open, you'll have to pay 25 cents for eight minutes of parking. Now you have to guess, how long is the line at the cash station? How many quarters do I have to part with? What are the chances parking enforcement will come by if I gamble and take the risk?

Who needs it? You do not want to come here. If I haven't talked you out of it yet, let me share some of our family's experiences while living here. Computers, purses, wallets, hubcaps, radios, bikes, laundry on the clothesline, rugs on the railing, plants and their planter boxes, jewelry, more jewelry, a new car, a transmission, and I can't even remember what all, stolen.

No. It's not safe. Breaking glass in the middle of the night as someone tries to climb into

our living room. Bullets flying and landing on our front porch. Police checking our bushes for weapons. Blue lights reflecting on our bedroom shades. Sirens screaming. Car alarms blaring. Car speakers blasting.

No. You wouldn't like it here ... unless you need someone to witness to. If your heart aches to tell someone about Jesus, this is the place! I'm on the L (train) headed downtown on a care-free shopping spree with my sister. They look like those gang-banger-type thugs that would grab a girl's purse and run. We hand them a gospel tract. They tell us that they are brothers and that they need God to comfort their mother because their brother had just been murdered. We put our hands on their shoulders and prayed for them. The city's feeling a little different now.

The next night, as I park my car in the garage I notice a man standing in the dark alley watching me. I say, "Hi." He says, "What's the good word?" He knows my schedule. He knows I just came from church. I tell Him, "The good word is that Jesus loves you." He tells me a little of his story. He's one of the Lost Boys of Rwanda. It's the first of several conversations with him about the Lord. The traffic seems a little less irritating lately.

In one afternoon of running errands I speak a word of witness to someone from Palestine, India, Israel, and Poland. I went into all the world without a passport or an airline ticket. I think the city is starting to grow on me.

I see a man standing alone. Armed with my favorite Chick tract, "This Was Your Life," I approach him and say, "Here, you look like you could use something to read." He looks it over and shakes his head. "Polski. No Ingless." Great! He's Polish. Lord, I thought you told me,

URBAN CURRENT

Book of Acts fashion, to go and give that man a tract. "Wait, wait!" There's one more tract in the recesses of my purse. It's Polish! I give it to him, "Polski! Polski!" We're both laughing and smiling. That's the closest I've ever come to speaking in tongues! And isn't Chicago a great city?

I put one tract in my purse. I'm going to the Opera. I don't think they let you pass out tracts at the Opera. But, Lord, surely there's one person I could give a tract to. I sit alone. The man next to me introduces himself. "George Bailey." "You don't look like George Bailey." (He's African American.) We laugh. All through the Opera I'm thinking, "Lord, how do I hand this man a tract? What do I say? It will make things tense for the rest of the Opera if I hand it to him during the intermission. I don't know what to say." It's not until I'm home and in bed that it comes to me. "So, George Bailey, how's your wonderful life?" I cry myself to sleep. I wonder if George Bailey's life needs Jesus. I wonder if George Bailey will have a wonderful eternity. This city needs me. It needs you, too. So, please ... come to Chicago. It's a great place to live!



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

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

BBC will unveil “Blueprint”



by Jim Edge | President | Baptist Bible College

At Baptist Bible College we still believe the local church is the only hope for the world. Our students are challenged both inside and outside the classroom to spend the rest of their lives for the cause of the gospel. Additionally, they are taught that their lives are to be lived out in an authentic way through local Baptist churches, whether in the U.S. or abroad. In recent months, our students have ministered in the Philippines, Japan, Kenya, Colombia, and on the Navajo reservation in Arizona. Many other students are active this summer in churches and camps here in America. Upon returning from one of these trips, Hanna Vessels wrote, “At the beginning of our trip I asked God to change me, and he did. Not in a I-saw-a-lot-of-sad-things-so-I-feel-bad kind of way, but God confirmed what I will spend the rest of my life doing: sharing and showing the love of Jesus Christ to people that the rest of the world tosses aside. I am so thankful to be a part of a school that sees the importance for students to experience ministry on the mission field.”

This global strategy, inaugurated by our Savior and implemented by our Fellowship from the beginning, is the most effective way to change culture for the good. That is why at BBC the world is our classroom. Challenging every student to be globally relevant is a part of his or her education experience. Because we are training pastors, church planters, staff members, missionaries, and leaders in local churches, our curriculum must equip every student to:

1. Apply the knowledge and skills of servant-leadership in a local Baptist church.
2. Engage others in a biblical model of discipleship.
3. Analyze complex societies in order to engage diverse people groups.
4. Design and adapt appropriate strategies to evangelize the lost, equip believers, and build local Baptist churches in various contexts.

For the past two and a half years our faculty and administration have worked tirelessly to develop phase three of our turnaround strategy. It is called our Blueprint for Global Impact. It involves a comprehensive strategy based upon scriptural models and sound education practices that will strengthen our effectiveness and set us apart from other Bible colleges. Our goal is that by August 1 we will begin to meet with pastors in Presidential Forums around the country to share with them our strategy and answer questions.

Your support of Baptist Bible College is a tremendous investment in planting churches in America and around the world. It enables us to train preachers, staff members, and other leaders for those churches. I want to encourage you to attend one of the Forums in your area.

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE

A statement of fact and an invitation



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

I live in a city like no other. Boston is old, by American standards, and to a history guy like me, it is a buffet to relish. I can show you where John Adams roomed during his Harvard years, where Robert Newman ran to avoid British troops once he signaled Paul Revere, where Edward Kimball won Dwight Moody to Christ in the stockroom of a shoe store, where Adoniram Judson and his college friends birthed American missions on their knees on a secluded knoll. Pilgrims, puritans, evangelists, revivalists, abolitionists. That's Boston and that's just a beginning.

Boston was the home of America's first public school, first college, first subway, and first baseball team whose fans became a “nation” of their own. Greater Boston has been the home of more U.S. presidents than any other city in the country. We know where Boston cream pie was invented, where if seafood isn't fresh it isn't “legal,” and there is even a place where everybody knows your name!

No wonder we love this city — and we want to share it with you.

And our Boston is even more than all the famous sights. God has used our churches to raise up a strong Baptist ministry college here in this incomparable cosmopolitan metropolis. Boston Baptist College is God's achievement through us. We see God's hands all over this place. And many of you, by your partnership, have fingerprints on our campus as well. Yet most of you haven't been able to visit us in a long time, some of you never have. So this fall it's time to fix that and make more history in Boston!

For the first time in 15 years our Fellowship is coming to Boston. Three remarkable days this September 26-28 will be our chance to celebrate history — past, present, and future! The Lord has opened up extraordinary opportunities for this Baptist family reunion. In the mornings we will make our home — our campus — your home. At night, we will do Boston like Bostonians with you! We will worship, pray, preach, and celebrate in some of the most historic spots in our city. Do you really dare to miss worshipping Christ in the Old North Church as we celebrate the collective efforts of our missionaries? Don't you think it's time for God to ignite us into a holy tea party for spiritual freedom, and don't you think He could launch it in the old Puritan Hall where the original Boston Tea Party broke out? When is the next time you will get to hear the paramount Baptist of our day, Paige Patterson, exhort us to our calling in Faneuil Hall, the cradle of American liberty?

I haven't even gotten started talking about new missionaries, great preaching, and a college family of students and staff who will give you a Boston experience beyond what you can imagine. Check out our website, www.boston2011.net.

More history will be made in Boston this fall. That's a fact. So this is your personal invitation.

BBC graduates recognized as outstanding teachers in MO

Springfield, MO

The Missouri Association for Colleges of Teacher Education (MACTE) recognized BBC graduates Kendall Shores and Brandi Hallford as two of the state's Outstanding Beginning Teachers. Kendall teaches first grade at Weller Elementary in the Springfield Public School district. Brandi teaches music to K-12 students in the Everton R-III School district.

At the April 27th MACTE spring conference, a total of 45 outstanding teachers were recognized for their excellence in serving children during their first two years of service in school districts across Missouri. Over 31 of

Missouri's private and public institutions of higher education, offering state and nationally recognized programs, honored these professionals who completed education programs at their respective institutions. Award recipients were selected based on evaluations of outstanding graduates completed by their college or university and recommendations from the school district which deemed the teacher as highly effective in their first two years in the classroom.

Each recipient was awarded an engraved plaque to display in his or her classroom.



From left: Steve Mowris, BBC professor of Education, Brandi Hallford, Kendall Shores, and Cheryl Page, BBC Education Unit Chairperson and Dean of Online Education

MACTE recognized the contribution of these fine teachers, as well as all of our excellent, highly qualified teachers throughout Missouri who serve and educate our students.

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Boston Baptist College holds 35th commencement

Boston, MA

Commencement exercises for Boston Baptist College capped three days of graduation week activities on the Boston campus and Faneuil Hall in downtown Boston May 25, 2011. Nineteen graduates received their bachelor degrees in biblical studies. The commencement speaker was Keith Bassham, editor of the *Baptist Bible Tribune*.



The college hosted a banquet, a pastors' breakfast, and other activities for the graduates, family members, and others in the college community May 23 and 24, while the commencement took place at historic Faneuil Hall in Quincy Market May 25. The graduation was the 35th since the college's opening in New York in the mid-1970s. David Melton is the college's president.

In his remarks to the college, Bassham noted the history of the institution and its unique position both in terms of geography and the history of the Baptist Bible Fellowship. He said, "This college is in the center of what was once the original Bible Belt of the country, and it is appropriate that it be here in this place and doing this great work."

Philip Bassham named executive pastor at Fair Oaks Church

Fairfax, VA



Pastor David Stokes of Fair Oaks Church in Fairfax, VA, announced Sunday, May 30, that Philip Bassham was named the church's executive pastor. Phil came to Fair Oaks shortly after his graduation from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, in 2004. He and his wife Amber have two children. Phil is the youngest son of *Tribune* Editor Keith Bassham.

Congo pastors hold strategy conference

Lubumbashi, Congo

By Mike Randall, former Baptist Bible Tribune Editor

Nearly 50 Pastors from four provinces, many traveling by bicycle, boat, truck, bus, or car for up to a week, met together for a strategic conference June 9-11. Hosted by the Kabalo Avenue Baptist Church in Lubumbashi, the conference's goal was to advance gospel work and develop strategies to meet tax requirements on church properties.

Supported by many area churches, attendance at the services averaged 400 per day. BBFI missionary Elmer Deal helped lead the event sponsored by the Congo BBF.

During the daily sessions, Deal and Congo BBF leaders taught classes on Baptist history, doctrine, evangelism, missions, the structure and organization of the Congo BBF, and the relationship of churches to the Congo government. Pastors reported on the progress of their churches, including reports of new churches planted. Funds were raised for missions and the fellowship office.

Since the legal recognition of the Congo fellowship in 1987, the pastors have enjoyed freedom to preach the gospel, evangelize, plant churches, and advance the cause of Christ throughout the country. Currently there are 164 Congo churches associated with the fellowship. The organization supports one Congo missionary, Mack Matembo, son of the conference host pastor Paul Matembo. This national missionary has planted two churches in the Congo capital of Kinshasa.

The Congo government is now enforcing an every 25-year tax on church properties at \$3,000 for city churches and \$2,000 for country churches. Failure to pay the tax results in confiscation and resale of all or part of properties owned by churches. The meeting was vital to address this challenge and potential threat.

Widespread civic recognition of the value and contributions made by Congo BBF churches has influenced government officials to be generally flexible on the tax issue, approving plans to pay the taxes in a timely manner. In one case, the provincial governor himself made contributions so the church ministry and school could advance. A few churches have been able to fund these fees from their offerings. Deal has raised funds to help less advantaged churches protect their properties. To this date, no church properties have been forfeited.

Commenting on the pastors' conference, Deal said, "This was a crucial meeting for the future of gospel work in the Congo. I was encouraged by the attendance and the fact that almost 100 percent of the churches

paid the travel expenses of their pastors. There were excellent reports of progress. I was pleased how our Congo pastors grasped what is necessary for us to continue to operate and spread the gospel without hindrance. I was also pleased with the increased support our national churches are providing our missionary Mack Matembo and our Congo BBF office. This conference tells me there is bright hope for further gospel outreach in our country."



Above: Pastors who attended the conference. **Left:** Elmer Deal with Pastor Paul Matembo, Congo Pastors Conference Host.



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Calvary hosts 8th annual car show outreach

Rittman, OH

Calvary Baptist Church, pastored by Jerry Burton, held their 8th Annual Car Show sponsored by Summit Racing Equipment, Rosenberry's Classic Chevy Parts LLC, and Orlo NAPA on Saturday, June 4.

Over 90 Classic Cars and Hot Rods graced the parking lots surrounding Calvary Baptist Church with well over 100 spectators in attendance. Throughout the day various door prizes were awarded, including a \$50 gas card, two \$25

gas cards, a \$50 gift certificate to Rosenberry's Classic Chevy Parts, and numerous auto care prizes. Over 20 classes of car and truck categories were awarded at the conclusion of the show.

Prior to the awards presentation Burton gave a gospel message and held a time of prayer. Several people raised their hands to acknowledge they had made a decision to invite Christ into their lives.

During this year's car show, Calvary also

collected over 300 pounds of canned goods and nonperishable items to be donated to the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank which distributes food to families in need throughout nine counties in Northeast Ohio. Calvary Baptist is already making plans for next year's car show in which they would like to double their donation to the food bank.



Pastor Jerry Burton (left) and Timothy LaBouf, youth pastor pictured with Food Bank donation

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Lighthouse Baptist celebrates 30th anniv.

Murfreesboro, TN

Lighthouse Baptist Church, pastored by Charles Ray, celebrated their 30th anniversary on June 12. The weekend celebration included a church wide barbeque on Saturday filled with games for all ages. Wings of Morning ministered in music on Saturday as well as in the Sunday morning service in which Pastor Ray shared a brief history of the church.

Lighthouse Baptist Church was founded by Rick Flowers in 1981. He led it for eight years before Ray and his family arrived in 1989. From a handful of people to its current congregation of 500, God has blessed in many ways.

Most of Lighthouse's history is marked by building projects. The first auditorium was built in 1984. In 1992 they constructed a Family Life Center. Next was the construction of a new 500-seat auditorium in 1998. In 2004, the decision was made to relocate the church, and in January of 2006 they dedicated a new campus on 16.4 acres with a 700-expandable to 1,000-seat auditorium. Then, in 2007, the church dedicated a 7,200-square-foot student ministry building called The Shed.

Lighthouse supports 55 home and foreign mission projects. Their last faith promise was \$141,000. They are helping to plant a new church in Dickson, TN, and in May the church sent out Scott and Dominique Pethtel as missionaries to Italy.

Two Springfield churches team up to reach at-risk youth

Springfield, MO

Seminole Baptist Temple and High Street Baptist Church partnered to take the light of Jesus Christ to at risk and homeless youth through a camp outreach June 24-26. Having built relationships with the staff at The Rare Breed, a youth outreach center in downtown Springfield, the two churches worked to coordinate Camp Hope, a summer camp specifically designed for these young people. All the funds to sponsor the campers, as well as supplies such as pillows and other toiletries, were donated by the two congregations. Joey Candillo, pastor of Bales Baptist Church in inner-city Kansas City, MO, was the guest speaker.

"Having run camps for the last six years, this was most definitely the scariest camp to plan and be a part of. It was a true test of faith. This ministry has not only changed me but it's changed the heart of the church. One of the highlights of the camp was watching unbelieving youth become believers," said Seminole's Student Pastor Chris Highfill.

Camp Hope was a great success with 13 youth coming to know Christ and many of those making their professions of faith public at church in the weeks following camp. High Street's pastor, Eddie Lyons, said, "I appreciated Don Baier's [pastor of Seminole Baptist] leadership in putting together a camp for needy young people beyond the networks of our church community. Camp Hope allowed us to become aware of the at-risk, homeless, and often hungry young people right here in Springfield. It was good for our church to reach out with love and compassion and move past good intentions to actions. God used Camp Hope to change the lives of young people and He also changed the heart of our church."

The two churches have worked together with follow-up on the decisions that were made and will continue to be involved with the youth at The Rare Breed youth center.



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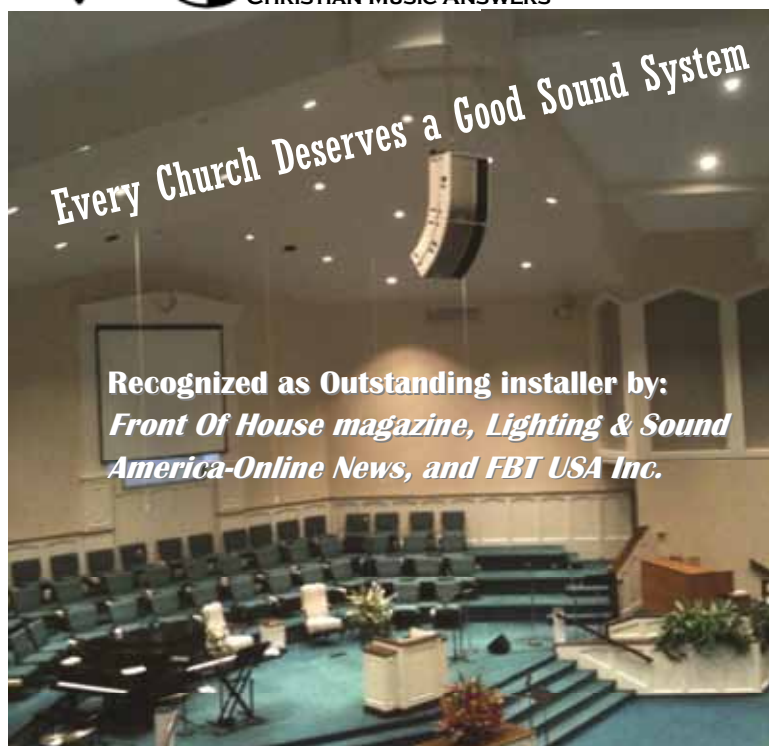
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The walls are finished

By Rick Shuessler
BBFI missionary to the Bahamas

For eight straight days the beautiful tropical sun rose over the Bahamian beaches. As the sun rose, six men gathered for prayer before beginning their day of wall-building for Teleos Christian School in Nassau, Bahamas. What a sight to see these men use their God-given talent to serve on a mission field.

Mark Slagle, from Crossroads Ministries of Pittsburgh, PA, where John Arnold is the pastor, brought a crew of men to finish the walls for our school building. They came knowing they would not have the normal tools at hand for the job. The men found themselves mixing sand, concrete, and water by hand in a primitive mixing box. Block by block, and bucket by bucket of mortar, 1,800 blocks were set in place to form the new school rooms. As the rooms took form, you could see the smiles on the faces of the staff and students of the school. They were so excited about seeing the walls take shape, so much so that students began to help carry the cement mix

too! And though all took place in the hot tropical sun, no one cared because this was all for the cause of Christ.

Pastor Dave Adams, our national pastor, called it a miracle! We envision more students attending the school, and anticipate the lives of students, parents, and families that will be changed with the finish of our school.

As the men laid their well-used trowels in the van, wrapped up the water hoses and extension cords, and enjoyed a 64-ounce chilled soft drink, they knew their service was accomplished. Each man's life was changed and challenged by this project.

I said good-bye at the airport, and words could not express my gratitude for what these men accomplished. Then reality set in.

The blocks are set, but we need to tie the building together with a belt course (belcourse) around the entire building. This needs to be accomplished in July because there is a church sending laborers and purchasing the material for the roof. Before they can set the roof, the belt course needs to be formed and poured. Please pray with us for more workers so the building can be roofed and finished.

Below: Teleos Christian School with construction crew from Crossroads Ministries in Pittsburgh, PA.



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Bill Campbell celebrates 50 years in ministry

Cypress, TX

Cypress Creek Baptist Church celebrated Pastor Bill Campbell's 50th anniversary in ministry May 29. Campbell was honored with a special service, a plaque commemorating the occasion, and a vacation to San Antonio. During the service a special video chronicling his life in the ministry was shown, his biography was read, and he was presented with warm wishes from his ministerial friends around the country.

Bill and Joyce Campbell arrived at the Cypress church in May of 2000. Since that time, the church has seen great growth and a beautiful remodeling of an older facility. Cypress Creek Baptist Church averages near 200 in attendance and hosts three morning services.

Campbell was saved as a teenager in Ohio and surrendered to God's call to the ministry in 1961. He graduated from Baptist Bible College in 1964. He has been an active participant in the BBFI and the Texas Baptist Bible Fellowship throughout his ministry.

Lighthouse Baptist celebrates 7 years

Chillicothe, OH

Lighthouse Baptist Church and Pastor Ryan Bevan celebrated their 7th anniversary on Sunday, May 22. The church surpassed their attendance goal of 1,250 people with an attendance of 1,356, nearly 300 being first-time visitors. Close to 100 professions of faith were made, with more after follow-up visitation. For the occasion, the church rented out 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, an Ipad giveaway to the person who brought the most visitors, other giveaways, and a service to exalt Christ for His works.

Bevan and his family moved to Chillicothe to plant Lighthouse Baptist Church in August 2003. They were sent out of Bible Baptist Church of Wilmington, OH, Pastor Kelly McNerney, and it was a church plant project of

the Ohio Baptist Bible Fellowship. It began as a mission with eight people including Ryan, his wife Sarah, and their two oldest children. They



met in a hotel conference center until they outgrew it. In January 2004 they held their charter service with 45 charter members. They have since met in three other buildings before pur-

chasing their present church facilities with over 21,000 square feet and 15.5 acres for \$850,000. They plan to pay off their facilities this year. Two years ago they sent out Josh and Candace Bevan to Xenia, OH, to plant Lighthouse Baptist Church, which is already running around 250 in attendance.

"What has the LORD done in the last seven years?" asks Bevan. "An average attendance from eight people to roughly 500, over 3,500 saved, more than 7,000 visitors, over 850 baptisms, offerings that have grown from \$700 to around \$10,000 a week, 29 monthly mission projects, lives changed, families restored, marriages saved all to the glory of God! The LORD has made this possible

through the prayers and support of the Baptist Bible Fellowship and the sending and supporting churches within the Fellowship. Praise the Lord that He is still building churches today!"

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The Author
 Ken Board graduated from Baptist Bible College and for the past 42 years has been establishing churches in the northern part of Kyushu, Japan.

Ken Board

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Logan M. Coffey

Branson West, MO

Logan Coffey entered into glory June 24, 2011. Born December 16, 1932, to Logan and Eura (Edwards) Coffey in Detroit, MI, he was 78.



Before moving to Branson West, Logan graduated from Baptist Bible College and worked for a time as an accountant with the Baptist Bible Fellowship Mission Office. In those days, he was a member of High Street Baptist Church. He taught the adult Bethel Bible Class and sang with the Beacon Quartet.

Survivors include his wife, Kathleen, three daughters, 16 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held June 29 at Keystone Baptist Church in Reeds Spring, MO, with Pastor Jim Cantrell officiating.

Ralph Bruce Craft

Cincinnati, OH

Pastor Bruce Craft, age 73, passed from this life June 28, 2011. The son of a salesman and a published poet, Craft grew up near Connersville, IN. He was saved at 27 and attended Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, to prepare for the ministry.



Mr. Craft was pastor or associate pastor at churches in Decatur and Mishawaka, IN, before his call to Immanuel Baptist Church in Cincinnati, OH, where he was known for his support of missionary work around the world. He led Immanuel 35 years, and he also served as chancellor of the Christian school.

He and his wife Sonnie were married 49 years. In addition to his wife, survivors include two sons, both in ministry, a daughter, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Vernon Longstaff

Springfield, MO

Vernon Longstaff, 92, of Springfield, went to live with his Lord on Sunday, July 11, 2011. Vernon was born February 10, 1919, in Topeka, KS. He married Glen Nora Zirkle on March 14, 1942. She preceded him in death in December 1999.



Mr. Longstaff was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1952. He served as pastor to nine churches in four states. He was still active in church attendance and loved to preach and teach.

Vernon is survived by a daughter Glenda, and a son Gary, eight grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held July 13 and he was interred in Berryton, KS.

Mary Schott

Anthony, KS

Mary Ellen Schott, retired BBFI missionary to the Philippines, left this earthly life and entered into heaven with her Lord Sunday, June 5, 2011. At the time of her death, she was surrounded by her children and grandchildren in Anthony, KS.



Mary was born to Eugene and Florence Slaughter on November 2, 1931. She accepted Christ as her savior in 1948 and the following year married Richard Schott on May 29. In 1950, Mary attended Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, to learn how to be an effective pastor's wife. She served by Richard's side as pastor's wife in several churches in the U.S. before they both surrendered to the mission field in 1955. In 1956, Richard and Mary went to the Philippines as BBFI missionaries where they started independent Baptist churches and ministered there for over 50 years.

In 2006, due to declining health, Richard and Mary left the Philippines and moved back to Anthony. Richard preceded her in death in May 2009.

Mary is survived by four children, eight grandchildren, a sister, brothers in law, and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held June 8 at Prairie Rose Funeral Home in Anthony.

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World's 196th country gives thanks to God for freedom

By Charles Braddix and Zoe Allen • Juba, South Sudan

After enduring two decades of warfare and the deaths of 2 million people, the Republic of South Sudan saw its day of independence on Saturday, July 9. Hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Juba, the new nation's capital, as they heard their president, Salva Kiir, declare the southern region of Sudan free and independent of the north.

South Sudan's official declaration of independence was read out at 1:25 p.m., followed by Kiir being sworn in as the new nation's president. "Never again shall South Sudanese be oppressed for their political beliefs," Kiir said. "Never again shall our people be discriminated [against] on account of race or religion. Never again shall we roam the world as sojourners and refugees."

The division between the north and the south is sharp. The north is arid, Arab and Muslim, while the south has many varieties of vegetation, is black African and is predominantly Christian and animistic. "We have reclaimed our permanent home given to us by God as our birthright," Kiir said. "As we bask in the glory of nationhood, I call upon all South Sudanese to put the long and sad history of war, hardship and loss behind them and open a new chapter of peace and reconciliation in our lives."

With elaborate ceremony, the flag of Sudan was lowered and the new flag of South Sudan was raised. South Sudan is now the world's newest nation, raising the global number to 196, and the African continent's 54th nation-state.

Among the many dignitaries on hand Saturday were former U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, who played a key role in the 2005 peace agreement to end Sudan's civil war, and Susan Rice, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations. "Independence is not a gift that you were given," Rice said. "Independence is a prize that you have won."

The official ceremonies began with the singing of the country's new national anthem. "Oh God, we praise and glorify you for your grace on South Sudan," the opening lines say.

In preparation for South Sudan's independence, government officials urged citizens to attend churches and other houses of worship to pray for peace and thank God for their newfound freedom. Many churches held special services Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Nuru Baptist Church, the only Baptist church in Juba, held community services on Saturday to celebrate independence day, taking opportunity to share the Gospel with visitors. The congregation played drums, sang and danced in traditional African worship. Many waved flags as they danced and sang. A feeling of jubilation filled the air.

One community leader, specially invited to the event, not only thanked God for the country's independence, guaranteeing religious freedom, but also for establishment of the church in the

community. "Your presence here is a benefit and a blessing to our area," he said.

"Let us praise God that He has given us our freedom," said Sworo Elikana, a pastor of the church. "We must rejoice!" The service focused on the theme "Heal the Brokenhearted and Set the Captives Free," from Isaiah 61. "The passage says we must bring good news to the poor," Elikana said. "We have been poor."

The U.N. Security Council continues working to stabilize several areas in Sudan and South Sudan; however, U.N. troops assigned to Sudan since 2005 are being removed by Sudan President Omar Al-Bashir, despite disapproval from the U.S. The troops are expected to remain in the Darfur region and to occupy South Sudan during the early years of independence. Rice said in a speech Thursday the U.S. was "extremely concerned by the government's decision to compel the departure of the U.N. mission in Sudan from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states and elsewhere in the north."

President Bashir, who spoke favorably of the new country's efforts during the ceremonies, must now work with President Kiir to divide oil revenue, set borders, apportion responsibility for Sudan's \$38 billion foreign debt and decide which country the oil-rich border states belong to.

One controversial state is Abyei, located just north of the proposed border. Abyei has long been hotly disputed because of oil in the region, but recent media reports say oil reserves are low and conflicts have become ethnic. In May northern troops violently annexed Abyei in overwhelming numbers, forcing nearly 100,000 southern Sudanese to flee; however, a recent deal was made to pull out northern troops and allow Ethiopian soldiers to serve as U.N. peacekeepers for six months in the region.

During the Saturday gathering, Simon Gatluaklim, another pastor at Nuru Baptist Church, asked for special prayers for Abyei, for believers there and for the state to be joined with the south.

Fighting also broke out in Kadugli, the capital of Southern Kordofan, a key oil state bordering South Sudan and Abyei that has a large population of southern sympathizers. Thousands have fled the state to escape killings and air strikes by the northern army. Despite ongoing reports of conflict initiated from the north, President Bashir may soon realize the secession's benefits for Sudan. U.S. President Barack Obama has offered to remove Sudan's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism, enabling it to use the World Bank and restore diplomatic ties.

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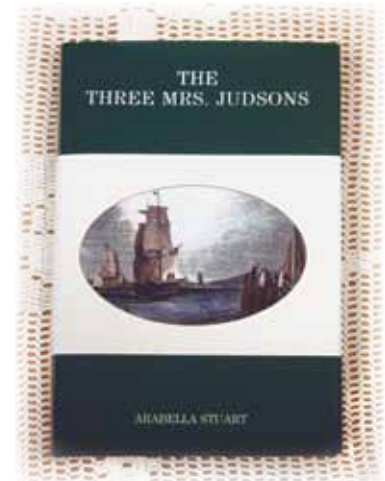
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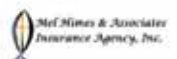
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