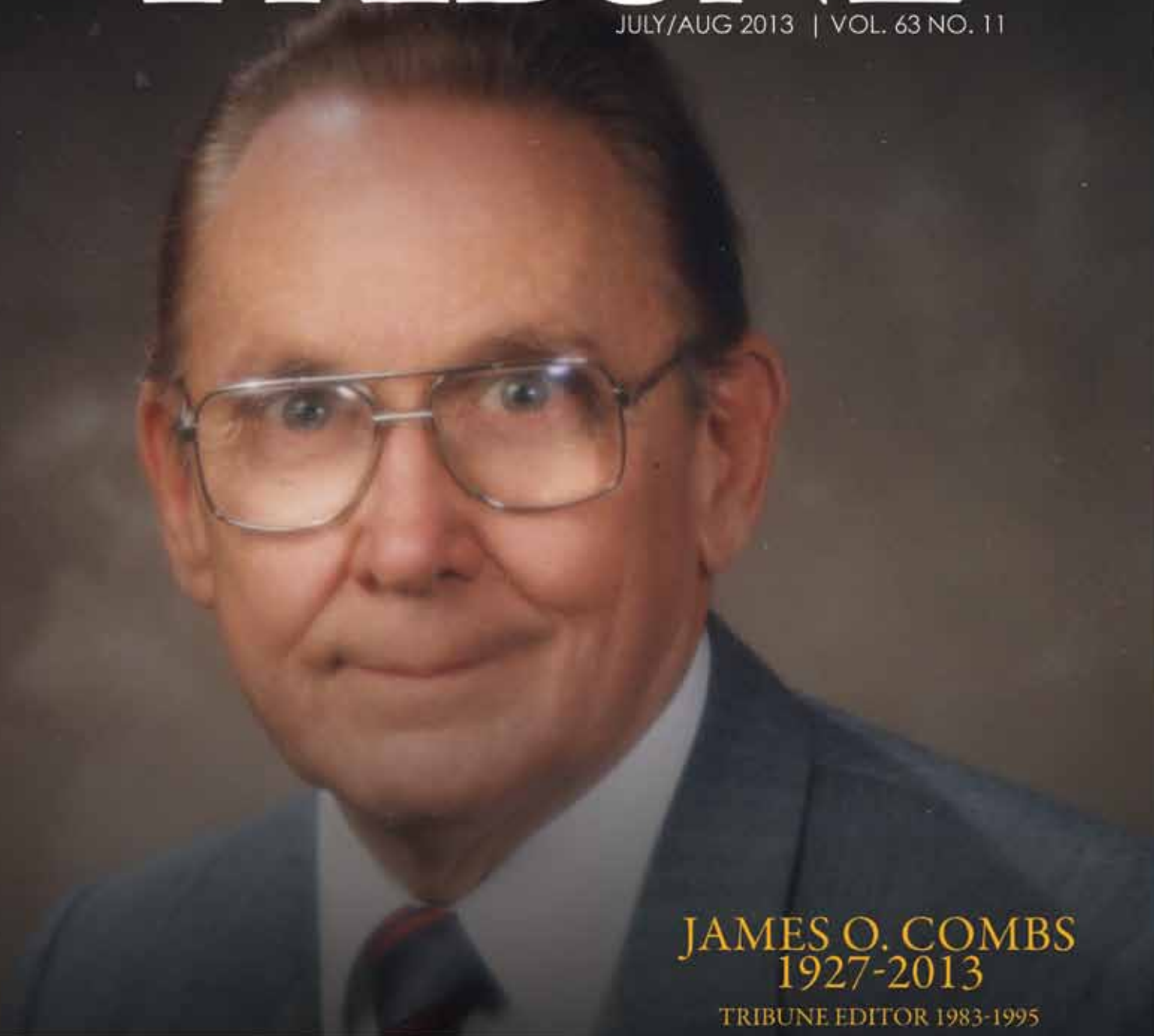


BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JULY/AUG 2013 | VOL. 63 NO. 11



JAMES O. COMBS
1927-2013

TRIBUNE EDITOR 1983-1995

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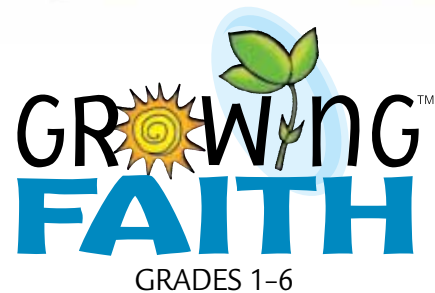
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ON THE TABLE

A tribute for Mr. Combs

by Keith Bassham | Editor

I was enjoying some vacation downtime when word came that former *Tribune* Editor James Combs had been taken by the Lord. As readers will note, Mr. Combs had been with the Fellowship since the beginning as a young pastor, and then later his talents and gifts brought him to the fore many times. His contributions to our Fellowship are incalculable. Much of what we do at the *Tribune* today, including the magazine format itself, rests on his genius, hard work, and sensitivity to God's leading. We felt it appropriate, then, that we say our earthly goodbyes with a worthy tribute in this issue of the *Tribune*.

...

In the meantime, our nation has slouched a bit more in terms of morality. In June, the United States Supreme Court issued its judgment on same-sex marriage, and while the near-term results are somewhat murky, advocates of marriage redefinition appear to be in charge of the end game. Churches and advocates of traditional one man-one woman marriage are being told to "get over it," and indeed, not a few churches have gone further and celebrated the change.

The *Tribune* has covered this territory (articles can be found in the *Tribune* archive at www.tribune.org), and there is no room here for extensive analysis, but this latest decision will have ramifications for churches and pastors going beyond who gets married where. I'm not given to alarmism, but I know some history. When social policy becomes government-enforced dogma (whether religious or secular, it makes no difference), dissenters become de facto criminals. Again, Christians who honor the teaching of the Bible will find themselves in a situation not unlike the earliest Christians in the Roman Empire. I am encouraged by the fact that they did pretty well in those circumstances, and I hope we can be as courageous and adept as they.

...

A few days before press time, two of our BBFI missionaries were battling for their lives. Vicki Weaver, wife of Dan Weaver and missionary in Belize, was evacuated to the U.S. for medical treatment. The couple was in an auto accident that left Vicki in a coma and a life-threatening situation. According to reports, Dan and Vicki narrowly escaped a carjacking, and in his attempt to speed away, Dan ran his vehicle off the road and crashed. This is a reminder that our missionaries are often in need of prayer.

The second missionary is Keith Gandy in Germany. Keith suffered a stroke caused by an arterial blockage. The block was opened and a stent placed, and Keith is hospitalized. He regained consciousness in a day or so, and movement is gradually returning to his left side, the one affected. At press time, he is reported to be awake and conversing, showing improvement each day. He and the medical team are preparing for rehabilitation and training.

Keith Bassham

THE BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JULY/AUG 2013

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A look at this youthful and energetic Fellowship founder

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Who is the real Christ?

A May 1984 Tribune article written by James Combs

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Panama: A land in need of missionaries

From remote villages to bustling cities, Panama needs laborers

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Be a Barnabas



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

Barnabas is one of the great characters of the Bible. Here is one who was such an encourager that the apostles changed his name to reflect this (Acts 4:36)! In every instance where we read of Barnabas, we see him acting as an exhorter of his brethren. What an asset to the first century church! What would the local church look like today if more people would strive to be like Barnabas? It is all too easy to fall into the trap of running down the brethren, of finding fault with others, of magnifying the shortcomings of others so that our own failures appear miniscule in comparison. Think of the souls that could be won to the Lord and built up in the faith if we would give our energy to being encouragers rather than tearing down or belittling our brothers and sisters. What made Barnabas such a great encourager?

Notice what he did that we can do today.

Find those in need and help them. When many of the new converts were suddenly in great need, Barnabas and others of kindred spirit rose to the occasion. He sold some land and gave the proceeds to the apostles to distribute as they saw fit (Acts 4:37). Would the church have grown as rapidly without the giving spirit of ones like Barnabas?

Find those alone and include them. Saul of Tarsus was a great enemy of the Lord and his people, wreaking havoc upon the early church (Acts 8:3). This antagonist was soon converted to Christ and the brethren were initially reluctant to accept Saul for fear that he might be feigning conversion in an attempt to infiltrate the church and worsen the persecution against them (Acts 9:36). Barnabas was convinced of the genuineness of Saul's conversion. He brought this new convert to the apostles so that they, too, would accept him as one of their own (Acts 9:27). What if Barnabas had not been so accepting of Paul? Would the church have missed out on the greatest missionary ever known?

Find those who have fallen and restore them. After embarking on their first missionary journey together, Paul and Barnabas return to report on the work God was doing through them among the Gentiles. As they are preparing to return to the mission field, Barnabas makes known his desire to take John Mark along with them again. Paul disagrees, and the contention became so sharp that Paul and Barnabas part ways (Acts 15:39). Evidently John Mark had started into the mission field with Paul and Barnabas, but had turned back. Barnabas wanted to give this young man another opportunity. While Paul seemed to have lost respect for John Mark, we know that later in his ministry this young man became very valuable to Paul (2 Timothy 4:11). What if Barnabas had written this young man off because of his mistakes?

Every one of us can be a Barnabas!

Can you imagine how strong the BBFI would be? Sounds like a good plan!

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Missionary care. Do we?



by Steve Bender | Associate Mission Director | BBFI

Satan fights against missionaries and their ministries by planting in their minds the question, "Does anyone really care about me?" During these trials it is reassuring to know, "Yes, not only does God care about me, but my sending church, the Mission Office, and thousands of Christians all around the world care about me."

It is not unusual for a missionary to call the Mission Office saying, "We were just involved in a bad accident and they are saying my spouse may not make it. I need help." Or, "We were just beaten and robbed at gunpoint. They took all our money, credit cards, and passports. Can you help us?" Or, "My husband was just taken to the ER; he's having a heart attack. I need help!" Or, "Please pray for my daughter; she's in the hospital. Her neck was broken in an auto accident. Can you help?"

Webster's Dictionary defines care as, "suffering of mind; pains-taking or watchful attention." The BBFI Mission Office does not take caring for missionaries and their families lightly, and thankfully we are not alone in this effort. We come alongside God's chosen means for sending missionaries, the sending church, and pool our resources in caring for their missionaries.

In recent years we have witnessed an increase in assaults, robberies, physical violence, and kidnappings — some in which BBFI missionaries have been the victims. In view of this trend, the Mission Office has taken steps to be as prepared as possible to respond to an emergency involving one of our missionaries.

One of those steps is contracting with an outside professional company to train our office staff to respond in times of crisis and to assist us should the need arise. This involves extensive training for directors and other key personnel to form a Crisis Action Team that will be activated in times of need; capable of operating around the clock. Realizing most sending churches would not be properly trained or equipped to respond most effectively in a serious crisis situation, we endeavor to work in close harmony and unity with them to ensure the safety of their missionaries.

Another step being taken is to provide personal security training for all missionaries. This will increase their awareness and help them know how to respond in an emergency situation.

None of this could be accomplished without the prayer and financial support of the churches of the BBFI. This is why we have instituted the Missionary Care Offering that will enable the Mission Office to continue to care for your missionaries.

Over the next two months you will receive additional information concerning the Missionary Care Offering along with a commitment card. Please pray about having a part in this offering specifically designed to help care for our missionaries. Your participation in the Annual Missionary Care Offering this September is greatly needed.

Church planting and Craigslist



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

Jon Gardner was one of our church planters that attended the NCPO Church Planting School earlier this year. It's a joy to hear about ways God is growing this church re-plant. He writes:

Recently, I've parted with some items from my younger days in youth ministry. Selling those items on Craigslist, however, brought me new opportunities, and I pray new memories.

Chris contacted me about my paintball gear for sale. I told him who I was and invited him to church. Chris told me he's drifted away from the Lord, and wants to get back to church. I hope he does.

Peter bought my "in-new-condition" (I didn't work out much) weight bench. I gave him the same spiel along with some fishing information, and Peter along with his family just might check out our church too. I think I just discovered a new evangelistic tool! Sell your stuff; you don't need it anyway, and you may get a chance to begin a relationship and reconcile a person back to God!

I became the pastor of Lifepoint Baptist Church in November of 2012 with six members on the roster, a debt-free building, and five acres of undeveloped land in East Helena, MT, a town of about 2,200 people. We have an incredible opportunity.

In June we hosted a free Mega Sports Camp for the community. We prayed for 30 and God gave us 67! The Sunday following our Sports Camp we had 47 in attendance. Some were just visiting with family, but it sure was nice to preach to a crowd!

Our next big outreach event is with Jeff Deckard with Cowboy Up for Christ. Jeff presents the message of salvation by using his horse. We have a women's workout group that meets in our back building twice a week with about 25 ladies in our community. This has provided new opportunities to connect with our community. On July 14, Jen is getting baptized. My wife and I got to lead her to the Lord at our dinner table. She is so excited to get baptized and grow in the Lord. Like many of you, we have a strategy and vision for ministry. You can check it out on our website at www.lifepointmt.org, but sometimes all it takes is a weight bench, a paintball gun, and an invitation.

I never know from day to day what God is going to use in our lives to reach people for himself, but if it means selling a few things to make a few bucks (did I mention I'm a church re-planter?) and having the opportunity to reach new people, it's worth it. You can partner with us in this church re-planting endeavor by contacting me any time at jon@lifepointmt.org. We're still in need of a few more financial partners. Who knows, I might have something in my garage you might like to buy! You can also follow our blog at www.gardners4easthelena.wordpress.com

Jon Gardner (Church Re-Planter/Craigslist Evangelist)

Brothers of Cyrene hopeful conference will lead to church plants

ATLANTA, GA

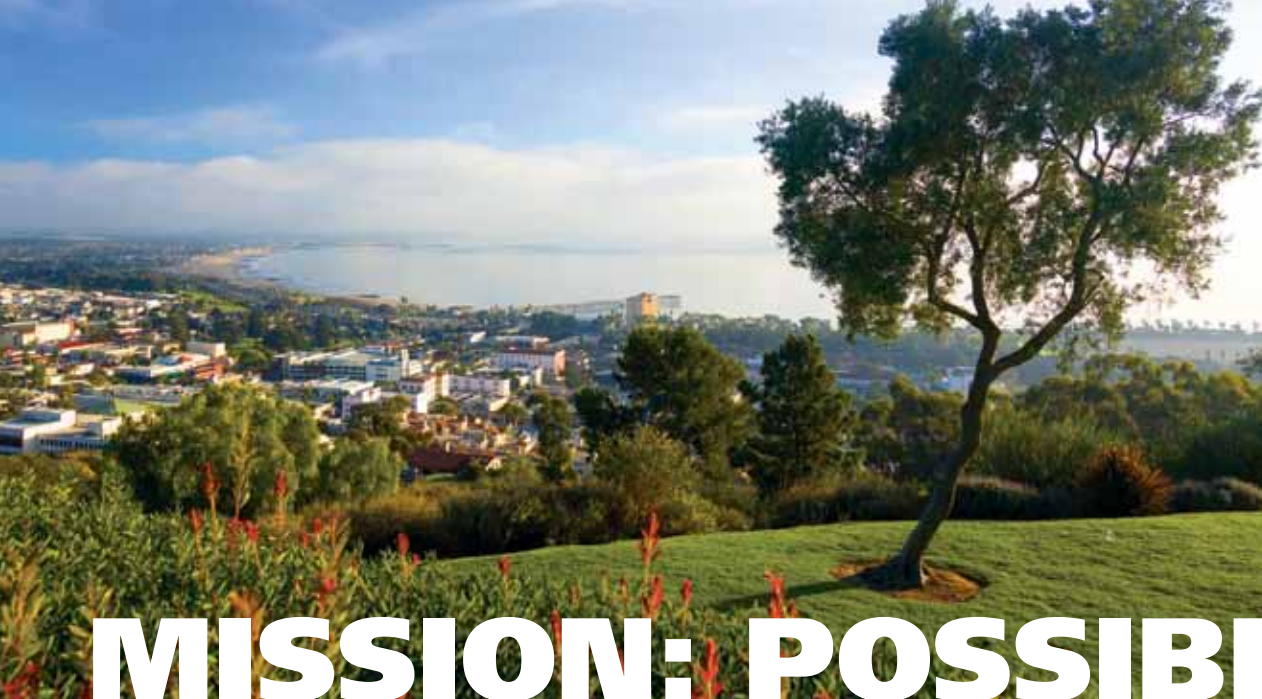
The Brothers of Cyrene held a conference June 7 and 8, 2013, at New Covenant Baptist Church in Forest Park (suburban Atlanta), GA. Preachers and presenters emphasized the conference theme, For Such a Time as This. William Fluker, moderator of Brothers of Cyrene, wanted to make known that the time is right for evangelizing Black America by "planting strong Bible-believing churches in inner-city communities with aggressive emphasis on soul winning, teaching, preaching, discipleship, and education." The June conference helped to make his case.

The host church and Pastor Eddie Goodall provided meals and special music for the conference. The grandchildren of Ira and Angela Walton provided skits consisting of large portions of scripture presented in dramatic form. Preachers Eddie Goodall, Chuck Ford, Tommy Mitchell, and Bill Fluker spoke in the general assembly. Breakout sessions were led by Dwight Scott, Angela Walton, Pararr Jones, and Samuel Mitchell. *Tribune* Editor Keith Bassham presented the ministry of the *Baptist Bible Tribune* and demonstrated the need for cooperation among churches and within multiethnic churches for successful evangelism and church planting. Donald Burrell represented MANNA Worldwide as another BBFI ministry. Area pastors representing mostly white congregations were present to voice their support as well. The Brothers of Cyrene has been working with the BBFI National Church Planting Office and other BBFI entities to recruit and train church planters.

During the Saturday meeting, Bill Fluker presented Chuck Ford and Ira Walton the organization's first John Jasper Awards in recognition of their vision and work to found and build the Brothers of Cyrene. Ford, a longtime BBFI pastor, has been especially effective in Alabama befriending and encouraging black preachers and church planters. Walton hopes this conference was the first of many annual such meetings and is making plans for conferences in other parts of the country.



From left: Pastor and Mrs. Ira Walton, Pastor and Mrs. Bill Fluker, and Pastor and Mrs. Chuck Ford. Walton and Ford received the Brothers of Cyrene John Jasper Award for their organization work.



MISSION: POSSIBLE

BBFI NATIONAL MEETING **SEPTEMBER 16-18**

VENTURA BAPTIST CHURCH
VENTURA, CALIFORNIA
PASTOR LEWIS MCCLENDON



I would like to personally encourage you to attend our September National Meeting. It is our goal that this meeting will be worth your time and financial investment.

All of our sessions will be on point with a tightly run program that provides inspiring speakers, uplifting special music, and time to meet with old friends and make new ones.

The BBFI mission program is the best in the world and you will be encouraged as we approve new missionaries, hear challenging messages on missions, and get new ideas from the Mission Office on mission conferences and how to better care for our missionaries.

Lewis McClendon



NEARBY LODGING

- Limited rooms in each hotel
- Group rate for Ventura Baptist Church
- Rates guaranteed through 8/25/13

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\$115

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2055 E. Harbor Blvd.
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 643-6000
\$115

Residence Inn

2101 W. Vineyard Ave.
Oxnard, CA 93036
(805) 298-2200
\$109

Country Inns and Suites

298 Chestnut St.
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 653-1434
\$69

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

Camarillo Premium Outlet (15 minutes)
www.premiumoutlets.com

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
(30 minutes) www.reaganfoundation.org

NORTH OF VENTURA

Santa Barbara area (45 minutes)
www.santabararaca.com/things-to-do/kid-friendly

Solvang (2 hours)
www.solvangusa.com

SOUTH OF VENTURA

Disneyland (2 hours)
www.disneyland.disney.go.com

Knotts Berry Farm (1.5 hours)
www.knotts.com

Universal Studios (1.25 hours)
www.universalstudioshollywood.com

SPEAKERS

Mike Frazier

George Barna

Linzy Slayden

Kirk Cameron

MUSIC

Terry Blackwood

Sylvia Lange



SUN.

9:00 & 10:30 AM
6:00 PM

Morning services

BBQ Banquet* – Wood Ranch tri-tip steak dinner, comedy by Tim McClendon, and a challenge from BBFI Mission Director Jon Konnerup

MON.

6:30 PM

Pastor Mike Frazier, Canton Baptist Temple, Canton, OH
Special music by Terry Blackwood
Desserts after the meeting

TUES.

9:00 AM

Workshops

How To Reach Men - Jim Baize
Drive Faith Home - Otis Ledbetter & Kurt Bruner
The Pastor And His Income Taxes - Jim Rickard
Logos - Technology Trends In Ministry - Dan Smith
Word Crimes: Writing And The Health Of Your Ministry - Steve Van Winkle
Cutting Edge Youth Ministry - Jon Slayden
Communication Between Sr. Pastor And Music Pastor - Linzy Slayden & Mike Gleason
Leading Your Church Through Transitions - Tim Adrian
The Value Of Values: Living By Core Values - Fred Young

10:00 AM
11:00 AM
6:30 PM

Ladies Tea*

BBFI National Business Meeting

George Barna, author and founder of The Barna Group
Pastor Linzy Slayden, BBFI President, Friendship Baptist Church, Owasso, OK
Special music by Sylvia Lange
Desserts after the meeting

WED.

9:00 AM

Workshops hosted by the BBFI Mission Office

Effective Strategies For The Sending Church - Dennis Jennings
How Does The Mission Office Respond In Moments Of Crises - Jon Konnerup & Steve Bender
How Your Students Can Be World-Changers - Lee Tomlin & Jim Smith
Mom, I Want To Be A Missionary! (for ladies) - Sharon Smith

10:00 AM
6:30 PM

New missionary approvals

Kirk Cameron, actor and director whose passion is to encourage people to live fully devoted to faith in Jesus Christ

THU.

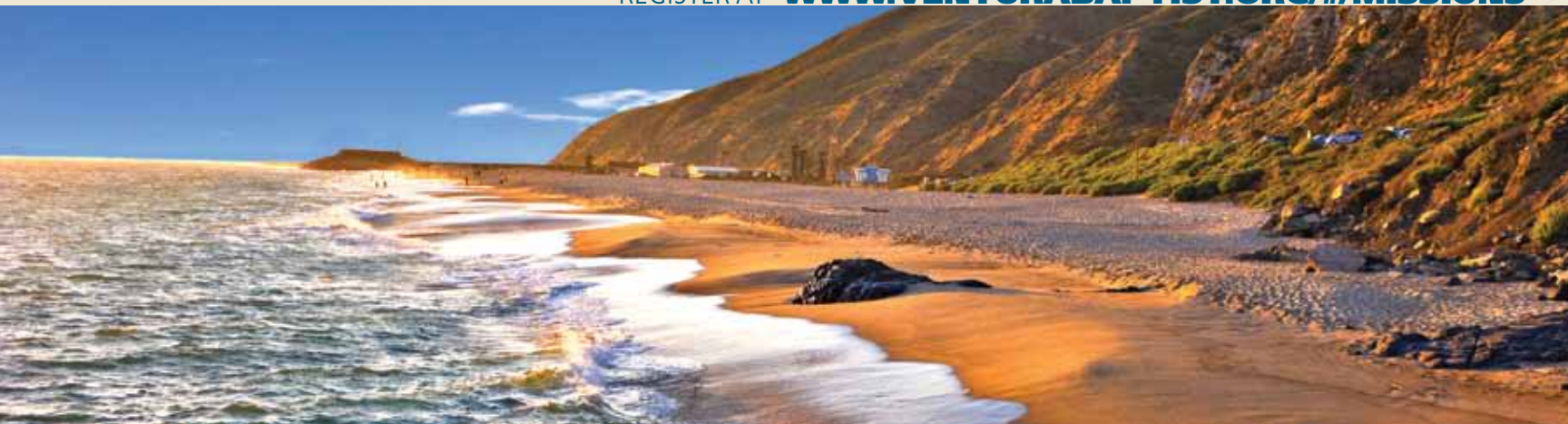
9:00 AM

Golf Tournament* to benefit BBFI Missionary Care Offering
\$75 per person includes golf, range balls, lunch, and goodie bag
Overnight Deep Sea Fishing Trip* (space is limited)
Returns Friday at 5:00 PM, \$180 per person

9:00 PM

*Advance registration required

REGISTER AT WWW.VENTURABAPTIST.ORG/#/MISSIONS



James O. Combs

Always youthful and energetic

By Mike Randall

In 1927, the world smack in between the two wars was restless and frenetic. The first talkie, *The Jazz Singer*, was on the movie screens, *I Found a Million-Dollar Baby in the Five-and-Ten-Cent Store* was a popular song, and Charles Lindbergh flew to Paris from New York in 33-and-a-half hours. The “roaring twenties” seemed like the best of times. Jack Wiley Combs saw the action and wanted a part of it, so soon after a son was born to him and Arah Moore Combs in Lubbock, TX, on October 6, 1927, he hit the road for the adventuring and gambling life. James O’Brien only saw his father once in his life.

Early life

Arah Moore had not planned to have a broken home. No one does. A few years before her marriage, she had been converted in a meeting held at First Baptist Church of Dublin, TX, conducted by Evangelist Lee R. Scarborough, who also was the president of the new Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary of Fort Worth. Scarborough was impressed with this young woman and they maintained some correspondence. He had encouraged her to become a missionary. But years later she wrote Scarborough that she had not become a missionary, her marriage had failed, and she had a little six-year-old boy. Scarborough thanked her for the note and assured her that he had prayed for her through the years. “But,” he wrote, “I will pray for your little boy, that he will be the one who, called of God, will preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Single mothering has never been easy, and Arah worked hard as a waitress to support her and James. In 1940, when the family lived in Waco, TX, her example and influence, and the prayers of the evangelist, were rewarded when James O. Combs responded to the gospel of Jesus Christ while listening to a Charles E. Fuller radio broadcast. After he was saved, he had a great hunger for the Bible. Always a voracious reader, he read through the Bible before he was 14 and soon was reading and studying commentaries. The energy of the roaring twenties had been born into him, and his fast and fertile intellect was soon wedded to an unshakable love of God. Before long, Combs surrendered to preach. He was licensed to preach on his 16th birthday at the Huisache Avenue Baptist Church of San Antonio, TX, Luther B. Osborne, pastor. A year later he was ordained.

Ministry training

After completing high school in January 1946 and at the recommendation of his friend Harold DeVilbiss, Combs moved to Missouri to attend Kansas City Bible College (later called Calvary Bible College) led by Walter Wilson, M.D. DeVilbiss was already attending. Combs joined Kansas City Baptist Temple, pastored by Wendell Zimmerman, and soon began teaching a junior high Sunday school class. In the summer of 1946, Zimmerman asked him to become interim pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church of Joplin, MO, which Zimmerman founded several years earlier. James attended class during the week



and for six months commuted to Joplin each weekend. After that, he became part of the staff of the Kansas City church.

In 1949, Combs moved to Fort Worth, TX, to study at Bible Baptist Seminary. G. Beauchamp Vick was the new president and its future looked promising. Before long, however, conflicts arose between Vick, those loyal to him, and school founder J. Frank Norris, in whose facilities the seminary met. In May of 1950, Norris ousted Vick, causing a split and the founding of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International with its new school, Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, a mission office, and a publication called the *Baptist Bible Tribune*. Present in the Texas Hotel meeting which launched the BBFI, Combs sided with the new movement, then left Texas and returned to Kansas City to work

TRIBUTES

Neal Weaver *President of Louisiana Baptist University*

Many will know him as a pastor and instructor at Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College, while he was in California. Others became acquainted with Jimmy Combs while he was editor of the *Tribune*. I will remember him most for the over 20 years that he served as our provost. While I had known Jimmy Combs for many years, it wasn't until after I came to LBU that we became fast friends.

Until his illness, we spoke almost daily on the phone. **He was always a great help and encourager.** He often addressed me as “partner.” Almost everyone knew Bro. Jimmy and he was able to focus a lot of attention toward LBU. He was certainly one of the smartest men that I ever met.

under Zimmerman at Kansas City Baptist Temple. A year later he received a call to become pastor of Joplin's Tabernacle Baptist Church, where he had preached four years before.



Marriage and family

When Combs had enrolled at Kansas City Bible College in 1946, he met Jeri Marquis, a first-year student who was also a secretary to the school's president. They both had other romantic interests for a time, but when Combs moved back to the area in 1950, they renewed their

friendship and began to date. After a two-year courtship, they were married on May 27, 1952. In 1954, they gave birth to their daughter, Charis.

Pastor and leader

His pastorate in Joplin saw the church grow from an average attendance of 44 to 150, with a high of 245. At the same time, he commuted to the BBFI's new college 70 miles east of Joplin and completed course work at the Kansas City school, driving an east-north-southwest triangle several times a week. He graduated from Baptist Bible College and received his bachelor's degree from Kansas City Bible College in the same year, 1952.

In 1953, Olivet Baptist Church of

Lynwood, CA, called Jim Combs to be their pastor. This began a 17-year ministry of growth and fruitfulness. Averaging 60 when Combs arrived, by 1956 the church averaged over 600 in attendance with a high day of 777. To make room for growth, Combs led the congregation to build a new auditorium and an educational building. Combs was well known in southern California as an evangelist, Bible-conference speaker, and enthusiastic preacher. His leadership ability was obvious, and he was chosen to edit the *Pacific Baptist Bible News* at the age of 25, which he edited for 10 years.

First Baptist Church of Costa Mesa

When P. G. Neumann retired as pastor of First Baptist Church of Costa Mesa, CA, in 1970, the congregation called Jim Combs to be their pastor. He accepted, knowing the demands of this large congregation would require his greatest effort and skill. During six years of busy ministry, the church reached a high attendance of over 1,000 on several occasions. He led a vast ministry including a Christian school (K-8 grades), a large bus ministry, a special ministry to an impaired citizens group, a weekly radio broadcast, and later a weekly television program. While pastoring in Costa Mesa he taught for three years at the nearby Pacific Coast BBC and was elected president of the California BBF.

Evangelism

In 1976, he resigned the church to run for public office. He shocked the local pundits by winning the Republican nomination for Congress in a spirited race. Facing an incumbent in the general election, Combs lost, but polled a surprising 43 percent of the vote ("The name is 'Combs,' like 'He combs his hair,' he would explain as he handed a "Vote Jim Combs" comb to a potential voter). Combs profited immensely from the experience,

rubbing shoulders with leaders from many walks of life and gaining valuable skills, but he considered this loss as God's leadership for him to enter full-time evangelism. He had many friends who welcomed this decision and immediately scheduled him for meetings.

His most popular series was a multimedia prophecy conference in which he taught the entire book of Revelation in one week. Often on the road six months at a time, Combs took his rear projection screens, colorful visuals, and a well-prepared presentation to 50 churches a year. The uniqueness of the series attracted steady crowds, and numbers of lost people accepted Christ at his meetings.

Third editor of the Baptist Bible Tribune

When Wendell Zimmerman resigned as editor of the *Baptist Bible Tribune*, the BBFI called upon Jim Combs to fill his shoes. He assumed his duties in 1983, following in the footsteps of Noel Smith and Zimmerman. He brought creativity, vision, and his characteristic energy to the job. In 1989, he converted the *Tribune* to a 32-page magazine format published every three weeks. In 1992, he published the *Tribune* every month and began a sister publication, *The Baptist Preacher*. In 1994, he reintroduced book publishing by the *Tribune*, including two



Tom Harper *Baptist Bible Tribune*

In 1990, I moved from Florida to Springfield, feeling somewhat defeated. Mr. Combs welcomed us back [to my job at the *Tribune*], gave us hope, encouraged us to move forward in the power of the Spirit, the love of God, and the forgiveness of Jesus, and work together to make something that would last and be important and remembered. I stayed for 15 more years, mostly because of his vision and the confidence he placed in me. For seven years I was

privileged to rub shoulders with a true leader and a unique individual. He made me feel like an equal; he never snubbed anyone; **he lived to encourage young men to greatness; his spirituality was the genuine article**, and his love for God "without dissimulation." We will truly miss him. But his rich and full life, his example of forward movement and thinking, his marvelous prayers — we have these memories, and countless more besides.

books he wrote himself. During his tenure the circulation of the *Tribune* rose to over 24,000 per month. He retired in 1995.

After leaving the *Tribune*, he served as the founding editor-in-chief of Jerry Falwell's *National Liberty Journal*. During his tenure, this publication grew to a circulation of 125,000 per issue. In 1996, he resigned this position to pursue other interests, to write, and to care for his wife, who was recovering from cancer.

Continuing ministry

Combs had a perennial interest in education; especially ministerial education. He personally held Graduate of Theology, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Ministry degrees, and was awarded the Doctor of Divinity and Doctor of Literature degrees. In 1989, he teamed with Jimmy Tharpe of Shreveport, LA, to found the Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary in conjunction with Louisiana

Baptist University. Combs continued as provost of the seminary and executive director of the Institute for Prophetic Studies until shortly before his death.

Combs always managed to do several things at once, and do them well. He was an executive board member of the Pre-Trib Research Center and a partner in 21st Century Press, a small publishing house. While also pastoring or evangelizing or editing, he wrote or edited eight books including *Roots and Origins of Baptist Fundamentalism*, *20 Tremendous Truths*, *Mysteries of the Book of Daniel*, *Rainbows from Revelation*, *The End Times Are Here Now*, *What On Earth Is A Dispensation*, *ABC's of Life Success*, *Mysteries of the Bible Now Revealed*, and a more recent book on Bible study methods. He was the managing editor for the *Tim LaHaye Prophecy Study Bible*, and after that publishing success, he continued an active ministry as a speaker, editor, and author.

A memorial service was held for Mr. Combs June 4, 2013, in Springfield, where the Fellowship leader received tributes from preachers and students from across the nation. Mrs. Combs continues to reside in Springfield, MO.

Note: This article was edited slightly after Mr. Combs's departure to glory with additional tributes added.

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Mike Randall, "Thank you, Mr. Combs," *Baptist Bible Tribune* (Springfield, Missouri), Volume 45, Number 9, April 1995, p. 30.

Tom Harper, "The real scoop on Editor James O. Combs," *The Baptist Preacher*, Volume 4, Number 2, March/April 1995.

Lyle Smith

Pastor emeritus of Pioneer Baptist Church, Norwalk, CA

Dr. Combs was my mentor, my pastor, the one who ordained me to the gospel ministry, and a lifetime family friend. I first heard him preach at Tabernacle Baptist Church of Joplin, MO, a church founded by Wendell Zimmerman, who had sent this 15-year-old preacher-boy down from Kansas City to minister, and believe me, Jimmy was captivating and brilliant, even as a teenage preacher.

In 1953, God would lead Dr. Combs to the pastorate of Olivet Baptist Church in Lynwood, CA, where I was then living, and soon he was my pastor once again. When God called me to preach, it was Pastor Combs who ordained me, recommended me to BBC Springfield, and later sent me out to found Parkside Baptist Church of Anaheim. He could quote the whole Book of the Revelation on demand, consistently memorized the entire chapter of his Sunday morning text and would recite it as an introduction, and was as gifted an orator as I have ever heard. **His intellect and insight made the Scriptures come alive**, and his sermons were brilliant beyond description.

Richard Beck

Pastor of Highland Baptist Church, Paducah, KY

Dr. James O. Combs will always be many things to me. During our travels I came to know the things closest to the heart of this great man. He had an unusual sense of humor, but then those with an I.Q. such as his usually do. He would talk freely of the passions of his life: love for his family, desire to start new churches, encouraging and training pastors.

He always saw more in others than they could see in themselves. As certainly as he could quote large passages of Scripture so too could he name pastors, missionaries, educators, and friends, both past and present.

The one part of his life he reflected on the most was the beginning of the Baptist Bible Fellowship. Those who were part of the founding of the BBFI had a special place in his heart and a bond that was strong, unshakable. I remember the night he called to say he had been offered the position as editor of the *Baptist Bible Tribune*. His goal was to represent all the aspects of the BBFI and to be a blessing to as many as possible, in as many ways as possible, a goal he achieved because of his love for the fellow soldiers of the cross and his part of our great BBFI history.

Keith Bassham,

Editor of Baptist Bible Tribune

James Combs's contributions to our fellowship, and to the Christian world as a whole, are incalculable. As a pastor, he understood the needs of churches. As an evangelist, he understood the needs of men and women. As a student, he understood the need for continuance in the Word of God. As an educator, he understood what was important, and what could be saved for learning later. As an author, he could both analyze and synthesize, and make his knowledge available to all. As an editor, he knew what to publish, and perhaps more importantly, what not to publish. As a Baptist, he was loyal to great Baptist distinctives, the local church, and her ordinances. As a Christian, he lived a life that welcomed examination. **Nearly every encounter I had with Dr. Combs ended with him praying, usually for me specifically.**

And as I continue in the office that he once occupied, I will continue to encounter him. His handprints are on just about everything I do as editor of the paper he loved and nourished with his own blood and sweat. I am honored today to succeed him.

CHRIST Who CHRIST CHRIST CHRIST CHRIST is CHRIST CHRIST the CHRIST CHRIST CHRIST real Christ? CHRIST

By James O. Combs

Published in the Baptist Bible Tribune, March 2, 1984

"He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?" (Matthew 16:15).

*"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever"
(Hebrews 13:8).*

We hear a great deal about Christ in our day. It is doubtful if there has ever been an age in which men talked and wrote so much about Christ as today.

We hear about Christ from fine fundamental Christians, but we also hear about Christ from Mormons.

We hear about Christ from Roman Catholics.

We hear about Christ from Jehovah's Witnesses.

We hear about Christ from Christian Science people.

We hear about Christ from spiritualists.

We hear about Christ from Buddhists and Ba'haists and cultists.

We even hear His name in blasphemy; in that strange and perverted form of divine recognition in which the non-believer acknowledges His person when he uses His name in vain.

But the Christ of whom many speak is not the real Christ. Their "Christ" is not the true Christ Who is the Incarnate Word.

Their "Christ" is not the historical Christ who lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death, and rose in supernatural splendor.

I want you to catch a fresh glimpse of the real Christ who is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Let us behold His portrait in Sacred Scripture, focusing on Christ

in the prophecies, Christ on this planet 19 centuries ago, and Christ in His preeminence, now and forever.

Christ In The Prophecies

Travel with me back through time, back before the first galaxy of a hundred billion stars ever turned like a wheel of glittering crystals through the shades of everlasting night. Come with me in your mind's eye to a silent point in space where the Almighty made the mighty sun to blaze forth as a burning ball to warm a spinning blue orb called Earth.

See this world, this planet, as God skillfully sculpted the everlasting hills and hollowed out the great valleys, forming the dark waters then out of the deep.

"Where wast thou," God asked Job, "when I laid the foundations of the earth? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4,6,7). Look! Listen! The angels of God are heralding the eternal Word of God, the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

"He is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8).

He is the Alpha and Omega!

He is the Beginning and the Ending!

He is the Seed of the Woman who would bruise the head of rebellious Satan, onetime archangel, now Prince of Darkness (Genesis 3:15).

He is the Seed of Abraham, the Seed of Isaac, the Seed of Jacob (Genesis 15:18; Galatians 3:16).

He is the Shiloh, meaning “rest” (Genesis 49:10).

Abraham saw His day and was glad (John 8:56).

Moses saw Him in prophetic anticipation 15 centuries before His birth and said the Lord would “raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren” (Deuteronomy 18:18) — that prophet, like unto Moses (John 1:25).

Balaam, that wavering prophet, saw Him, saying, “There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel” (Numbers 24: 17).

David saw Him and sang, “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way ... Blessed are all they that put their trust in him” (Psalm 2:12).

Again, David gave voice to the message of the Heavenly Father toward the Eternal Son, saying, “Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4).

Job longed to see him and cried in the midst of his own suffering and anguish, “Neither is there any daysman [mediator] betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both” (Job 9:33).

Then in a burst of faith, he cried out, “I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth” (Job 19:25).

Isaiah saw Him and recorded, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel,” — God with us (Isaiah 7:14).

And again, “Unto us a child is born, Unto us a son is given:

And the government shall be upon his shoulder: And his name shall be called,

“Wonderful” — therefore admire Him.

“Counselor” — therefore we must hear Him.

“The Mighty God” — therefore we must worship Him.

“The Everlasting Father” — therefore let us love Him.

“The Prince of Peace” — therefore find rest in Him (Isaiah 9:6).

Amidst all the glowing and glorious prophecies of dominion and power accompanying the Mighty Messiah of Israel, there comes the painful and perplexing prophecy of the suffering, dying Servant of Jehovah.

“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows ... All we like sheep have gone astray ... and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:4-6).

Jeremiah saw Him as the great descendant of David, the righteous Branch, the Lord our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:5,6).

Ezekiel saw him riding into Jerusalem and wrote of the gate, “It is for the prince ... the Lord, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it” (Ezekiel 44:3,2).

Daniel, in prophetic ecstasy, exclaimed, “The Ancient of days did sit ... and behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven ... And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom ... which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:9,13,14). “

Micah saw Him and foretold his birthplace; Bethlehem ... out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel ...” (Micah 5:2).

Zechariah gazed across future centuries to behold him riding into Jerusalem (Zechariah 9:9).

Malachi saw Him with the radiance of the sunrise, and penned, “But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings” (Malachi 4:2).

And what shall I more say, for no less than 333 prophecies were fulfilled in intricate detail at His first coming, all written hundreds, even thousands, of years before He came.

“But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through his name” (John 20:31).

“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever

believeth in him shall receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:43).

Christ On This Planet

O yes, He came on schedule; the fullness of time had come. Daniel had told us that He would come some 483 years after the restoring of Jerusalem, which took place in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, about 450 B.C. (Daniel 9:24-26).

Look at Bethlehem and see there the Holy Child Jesus (Acts 4:27).

Look in Nazareth during the silent years of His gentle childhood and holy adolescence; and know that He grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Look at Jordan’s flowing stream and see Him baptized and hear the testimony of His cousin, John the Baptist, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

“But these are written
that ye might believe
that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God; and that
believing you might have
life through his name”

(John 20:31)

Behold Him wrestling with the archfiend, Satan, in the rugged wilds of the Judean mountains and hear Him say, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10).

Hear His powerful message and know that no man ever spake like this man. See his touch of healing power and know He is the great Physician.

Observe His kindly demeanor and gentle love, and be assured that He is meek and lowly in heart, and that in Him you can find rest for your soul.

Watch Him as in righteous indignation He drives the mercenary moneychangers from the temple, fire in His eyes and a whip in His hand.

Then gaze upon Him hanging on the cross, dying for you. Know that He is the Good Shepherd who giveth his life for the sheep.

Yes, verily, He is "the stone which the builders rejected who has become the Head of the Corner."

He is the King of Israel.

He is the Bread of Life.

He is the Light of the World.

He is the True Vine.

He is the Resurrection and the Life.

He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Draw near to the closely guarded tomb and search in vain for His decaying remains, for He is Lord of Life, the Captain of our Salvation, the Faithful Witness, the First-begotten of the dead, the Prince of the kings of the earth.

You may try to erase Him from history, but He is the supreme Word Who can never be silenced.

You cannot drown Him, for He will walk on the waters.

You cannot stone Him, for He will pass unharmed through His attackers.

You may call Him a liar, but He will always be the Truth.

You may try to force Him to the cross, but He can overpower His enemies with a simple, all-powerful "I Am."

You may try to crush Him as a flower, but He is the Rose of Sharon, and the sweet fragrance of His death will be an aroma of life unto life and salvation.

You may even try to kill Him, but He will rise up from the grave.

He is the Lord of Glory, the King of Saints, the Mediator between God and man, the Mystery of Godliness, the Author and the Finisher of our Faith.

Christ In His Preeminence

He is now at the right hand of the majesty on high, henceforth expecting until His enemies are made His footstool.

"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell" (Colossians 1:17-19).

He is the King of Glory, welcomed into heaven after His great sacrifice for sins (Psalm 24).

He is the Prophet, the Priest, the King. He is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto (1 Timothy 6:15,16).

He is the Lamb slain.

He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah who prevails (Revelation 5:5).

He prevailed over sin on Calvary.

He prevailed over Satan.

He prevailed over death, hell and the grave: "I am Alpha and Omega ... the first and the last: I am he that liveth and was dead, and, behold, I am alive for evermore ... and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:8,17,18).

He is the root and offspring of David and the bright and morning star.

He is the Christ, the anointed one of God, prophesied in the Old Testament, alive on this earth for 33 years to fulfill His destiny, and who is perfect God and perfect man.

He is our Savior, our Lord, our King, our God, our Master, our all.

He is the King of Kings now and forever.

He is the Lord of Lords through all the ages.

He is Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

... for He is Lord of Life, the Captain of our Salvation ...



The need is still great here...

By Jon Konnerup, BBFI Mission Director

Our BBFI missionary families in Panama do good work, but there is so much more to do.

Situated on the thin piece of land bridging North and South America, the Republic of Panama, with an estimated population of 3.5 million, is the southernmost country of Central America. The capital is Panama City.

With the backing of the United States, Panama became independent from Colombia in 1903, allowing the Panama Canal to be built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers between 1904 and 1914. Revenue from canal tolls represents a significant part of Panama's GDP. Panama is a country of demographic and economic contrasts. Although one of the fastest-growing economies in Latin America which dedicates substantial funding to social programs, poverty and inequality remain prevalent.

While the Panamanian government does not collect religious statistics on its citizens, various sources estimate that 80

percent of the population identifies itself as Roman Catholic and 15 percent as evangelical Christian. The Bahá'í Faith community, with one of the world's seven Bahá'í Houses of Worship, represents an estimated two percent of the national population. Mormons, Seventh-day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Episcopalians, Jewish, and Muslim communities make up the rest of the major religions along with indigenous beliefs.

Jim and Phyllis Childress were the first BBFI missionaries to Panama arriving in October 1978.

While stationed there with the U.S. military, God gave Jim a burden to one day return and share the gospel with them. Through the years, the Childresses have had a part in starting and working with several Panamanian churches that are now led by local pastors. The church plant they are currently working with has grasped its responsibility of spreading the gospel worldwide with their Faith Promise giving doubling to more than \$1,100 per month over the past two years.



During their mission conference in March, in which I had the opportunity to participate, they increased the previous year's missions giving by ten percent. Please pray that God will call a man from within the congregation to pastor this church.

The Childresses' ministry is not limited to the cities of Panama, however, as they have expanded their outreach to churches in the countryside and regions neglected by the government and general population. They have adapted the "Star Trek" model by "going where no gospel ministry has gone before," as many of these works are difficult to access. Sometimes they have traveled up to eight hours to preach the gospel in regions that can only be reached by foot, rivers, creeks, and horses.

Several years ago, a particular church was tasked to partner with a medical clinic in reaching the neglected communities in primitive areas. Boats and dugouts were



used to reach the target communities where two clinics were held. During the four-day clinic, they were able to touch the lives of people from 23 different communities. A local pastor now plans to begin a work in that area beginning with the people affected by this outreach.

Jim and Phyllis recently held a Bible conference on the Atlantic coast and offered Bible college classes for eight men. When they first went to the coastal town of Saint Mary of Bethlehem (named by Christopher Columbus in 1502), a person would have been hard-pressed to find a Bible; however, since

the onset of their ministry in this area, God has been at work. During this recent meeting, 237 people came from numerous mountainous and seacoast villages to attend the evening service. What a joy it was to see these people worship the Lord and open their Bibles for spiritual training.

There is a pastor who walks four hours with a machete to get to a village without roads to tell the people about the Lord. There are many villages hidden in the remote jungles. We are basically the only missionaries in the area. The Mormons don't go; Pentecostals don't go; and basically no other group apart from maybe a Catholic priest every once in a while. Soon Jim Childress won't be physically able to keep going to reach these places. Someone has to help.

Efforts have been made to involve more church members in these ministries. In one clinic, the evangelistic team was made up of members from two Panamanian churches started as a result of the medical clinics. They now have medical professionals that have formed their own chapters of Operation Renewed Hope. Their medical staff can host their own smaller clinic efforts several times a year and also come alongside medical mission teams from the United States. Members of the Panamanian team have also traveled to Honduras, Mexico, Indonesia, Uganda, and Cambodia in an effort to assist Operation Renewed Hope by using medical clinics as a drawing card to preach the gospel.

Dan and Cricket Young have served as BBFI missionaries in Panama 27 years. They work with a number of churches in the Panama City area as well as Maranatha Baptist Church in Veracruz reaching the Kuna Indians. It was

a blessing to preach in two of their church works including one of the Kuna Indian churches on the Pacific Coast. I enjoyed hearing them sing and watched as they listened intently as the Word of God was preached.

The Youngs report there are larger towns without an independent Baptist church. There are literally hundreds of towns with 5,000 people who have no Baptist churches. The Mormons send 100 new missionaries every year. At times, our missionaries feel they are falling behind in sharing the truth to the Panamanians while there are so many spreading their false doctrines.

While Arab communities remain unreached, the number of mosques continues to grow throughout the country. Recently, a Peruvian couple arrived with a desire to reach the large Jewish population which, to date, has had no gospel witness directed towards them.

Three major areas with Indian populations have limited outreach, discipleship, and church planting efforts among these indigenous groups.

The Kuna Indians have only had the financial influence from other Baptist groups



since the 1950s. Because of the lack of sound doctrine, these struggling churches are more Pentecostal than Baptist. They have often been led astray by the false doctrines of those who come along and offer help.

Maranatha Baptist Church in Veracruz was the first independent Baptist church to work with the Kunas in Panama. The Youngs could use as many as ten families willing to go into the areas where the Kunas live and help nationals start churches. An influx of younger missionaries to help teach church leaders is needed. The Youngs along with the Childresses and the Corbellos can only do so much.

With the professional medical people in independent Baptist churches, they could provide more medical clinics and help young men who are called to ministry. Through a clinic, they could start with a core group of people who would follow up on those treated in order to start new churches. Most would need a mentor to help them in the beginning. They would also need the financial help that a missionary brings. With everything else they have on their plates, our missionaries in Panama are stretched too thin to be able to effectively help in this effort.

When asked about the need, Dan responds, "To say the least, we could easily have 25 missionaries come to Panama and still have areas where the people have no church. Five would be a great start!"

Thomas and Elvira Corbello, BBFI missionaries since 2006, are working close to the border of Costa Rica in the town of Puerto Armuelles. They have the only Baptist church in the area. Most people do not know what Baptists believe



and the area is saturated with Pentecostal and Adventist churches. They also have the influence of the Catholic Church, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, there is even a place where devil-worshippers meet. Witchcraft is prevalent in their area. Because of the melting pot of religions, there is a lot of confusion about true Bible doctrine.

The Corbellos face daily attacks from the devil, but God always gives the victory. The Lord has blessed their first church, started in May 2009, with a good group of people. They are in the process of starting a Bible study in a small village about 40 minutes away from their town. Being in one of the poorest regions of the country, and what is referred to as "the forgotten city," even the Panamanian Bible institute students seem to have no desire to go into that area.

The Corbellos also do medical clinics around the country, most in difficult access

"To say the least, we could easily have 25 missionaries come to Panama and still have areas where the people have no church. Five would be a great start!"

areas, in an effort to share the gospel message with the people there. They also help further train pastors by holding Bible institutes twice a year in the Atlantic coast ministry.

Stan and Jackie Sherwood were approved as BBFI missionaries to Panama in September 2011. While currently on deputation, they plan to reach the outcasts of society in the same region the Corbellos are working. They understand that our Lord truly cares for these needy souls and they have accepted His call to take the light of Jesus Christ into this very dark area of Panama. Would you consider having them come to your church to present their burden and passion? They need to raise their support quickly.

A number of Costa Rican missionaries, trained under the ministries of BBFI missionaries, have answered the call to Panama. They are doing



a great work shining the light and making a difference in the lives of Panamanian people.

As they are far from finishing the task of taking the gospel to every creature of this small country, each of the missionaries has expressed the need for more help. Many parts of Panama still need a missionary to lay the groundwork for gospel-preaching churches that will make a difference. The northwest corner of Panama is without an independent Baptist witness. Most of central Panama is without a witness. Several on the Panama peninsula are struggling to get a lighthouse raised. One area close to Panama City is growing so fast that there is speculation that the government may declare it an independent province. At present, over 100 new housing projects ranging from \$32,000 to \$150,000 are under construction. They are short of committed workers.

Years ago Jim Childress said, "We could use 100 missionaries to make a solid gospel penetration of this country that was described in books as the cesspool of the world." Today, he says, "I have been here 34 years. I have seen a few more missionaries come (not all have stayed) and the Lord's request in Matthew 9:38 has yet to be answered in a positive manner."

Our missionaries are desperate for more help as the opportunities are endless. Is there anyone else who has heard the call of God to go to these people in Panama who live in spiritual darkness?



HISTORY

BAPTIST

JOHN JASPER – Unmatched orator

John Jasper was born July 4, 1812, the youngest of 24 children. His parents were Tina and Philip Jasper. His mother prayed that her son, “Do nothing but sing de praises of Jesus.” His father was a Baptist slave preacher who died two months before his son’s birth.

John Jasper spent the first 25 years of his life as a slave on the Peachy Plantation near Williamsburg, VA. About 1837 he was sent to Richmond to work in Sam Hargrove’s Tobacco Warehouse. His new master was a committed Christian who not only spoke to Jasper about his soul; he prayed for his conversion.

Jasper was converted July 25, 1839. He often told how he came to faith in Christ. “My sins was piled on me like mountains; my feet was sinking down to the regions of despair, and I felt that of all sinners I was the worst. I thought that I would die right then, and with what I supposed was my last breath, I flung up to heaven a cry for mercy ...” Jasper was so overcome with joy that he could not refrain from shouting praises to the Lord. His owner, Sam Hargrove, came to see what all the commotion was about; Jasper related to him his conversion experience. Hargrove instructed Jasper to, “Tell everyone in the warehouse and then go home and tell your family, friends, and neighbors and anyone who would listen what God has done for you.”

He was baptized in First African Baptist Church in Richmond, and on that same day he preached a funeral sermon. He did so well that no one wanted to send a loved one to glory without a sermon by John Jasper. His fame as a preacher spread far and wide and over the next 25 years this slave would become the most popular black preacher in Virginia. Thousands would attend a funeral when it was announced that John Jasper would be preaching. He often preached as a

supply at various churches and when people heard that Jasper would be speaking even the white ministers saw a significant decrease in their attendance.

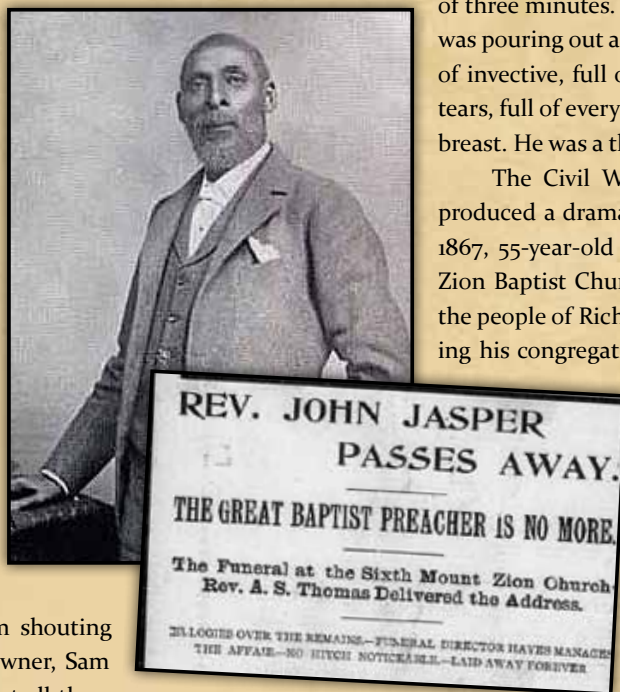
William Hatcher, famous Richmond pastor and Jasper’s biographer, described his unique preaching style, “Shades of our Anglo-Saxon Fathers! Did mortal lips ever gush with such torrents of horrible English! Hardly a word came out clothed and in its right mind. And gestures! He circled around the pulpit with his ankle in his hand; and laughed and sang and shouted and acted about a dozen characters within the space of three minutes. Meanwhile, in spite of these things, he was pouring out a gospel sermon red hot, full of love, full of invective, full of tenderness, full of bitterness, full of tears, full of every passion that ever flamed in the human breast. He was a theater within himself ...”

The Civil War brought John Jasper freedom and produced a dramatic change to his life and ministry. In 1867, 55-year-old John Jasper founded the Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church with nine members. Every Sunday the people of Richmond would observe John Jasper leading his congregation to the James River for a baptismal

service. He once baptized 300 in two hours. At John Jasper’s death in 1901, the church had over 2,000 members. Amazingly, one third of the congregation was white.

However, Jasper’s ministry was not without controversy. His most famous sermon, which he preached over 250 times and always by request, “De Sun Do Move,” produced both praise and ridicule. His hermeneutics might have been faulty but his child-like faith and his confidence in the Word of God usually won over his harshest critics. A Richmond reporter told of his response to Jasper’s famous sermon: “I found myself unable to refrain from laughing and crying, and when he asked all who believed ‘De Sun Do Move,’ I raised my hand, not because I believed the sun moved, but because I believed in John Jasper.”

John Jasper pastored Mount Zion for 34 years. He died March 28, 1901, at the age of 89. The Richmond paper announced the death of John Jasper on its front page. His last words were, “I have finished my work, I am waiting at the River, looking across for further orders.”



by Thomas Ray



50 years

From down and dirty Humboldt Park where our alderman was convicted on federal charges for schemes including arson for profit, to the sedate green streets of Irving Park for a temporary stay, to wild and wooly Logan Square of the 80s, the church has moved three times using 15 different locations for services, classes, and office space. From tiny storefront to towering temple, from gritty side street to grand boulevard, from neighborhood church to congregation with worldwide outreach.

AGAINST THE TIDE

Through arguably 50 of the most tumultuous years of American urban life, Armitage Baptist fought community decay, marched through swamps of political corruption, persisted through tsunamis of street violence with one non-stop mission — serve the city in the name of Jesus. During the years when countless urban churches were dying or moving to the suburbs, the congregation soldiered on. From the revolutionary 60s into the tumultuous 70s, from the crazy 80s into the heady 90s, surging into the dizzying years this side of Y2K, trudging onward from the economic meltdown of 2008.

SURVIVE TO THRIVE

Armitage determined to survive to thrive. Becoming a multifaceted, metropolitan ministry, the cross-cultural congregation of several thousand constituents has aggressively met waves of urban challenges with a message of hope and transformation. We continue today with a reach from ghetto to Gold Coast.

We have never cancelled a service. Heat waves and blizzards, Superbowls and rainstorms, television blockbuster movies and political upheavals, anti-Armitage demonstrations and street festivals, Bulls celebrations and carnivals, holidays and riots, recessions and terrorist attacks ... nothing has ever stopped a crowd from gathering for scheduled services.

On the occasion of the church's 35th anniversary, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley wrote, "... you have turned ABC from a small community of the faithful into one of our city's most influential churches."

This year Armitage celebrates 50 years of serving the city as a local body of Christ. In the face of our humanity, frailty, failures, and mistakes, God has dramatically demonstrated His faithfulness, showing His strength through our weakness. It has been my astonishing privilege to shepherd this flock for 39 of these 50 years.

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

The cavernous ballroom wears its years like a wino wears his face. Yellow plastic folding chairs scrape a badly worn, neglected dance floor in the decrepit Masonic Temple. Gospel proclaimed. Invitation extended. People respond. Minutes later, the invitation respondees stand across the front of the makeshift auditorium as members of the church family come by to greet and encourage them. Suddenly, two gang rivals are face to face. The first is standing in the line of invitation respondees, hard-looking, tattooed, scarred. The second is one of the church family. The welcomer saw the former enemy standing at the front. The respondee is now staring into the face not only of a rival gang member, but someone he has a vivid memory of standing on a street three blocks away, arm extended, shooting at him! Former enemies, now brothers. They embrace in tears. This is how we battle the stronghold of street violence. This is the kind of drama I like in church. Knocks the socks off skits.

On the same stage from which Ghandi spoke, Benny Goodman, Li'l Richard, and Jimmy Hendrix sang and played, now sits a baptistery. Professional lighting dances off the moving water. The renovated ballroom is wall to wall with 40 nationalities. All eyes are riveted on a Panamanian senior couple emerging from the water, followed by their 20-something daughter.

URBAN CURRENT

Within minutes, a Russian, an African-American woman, a young Hispanic transplant from Texas, an Anglo Chicago native, and a young man who arrived at our church high school angry, troubled, and lost all rise from the baptismal waters.

"Walk with me, Lord, walk with me." A melody with a Mississippi dirt-road feel rises and falls between each immersion, gathering momentum and rising to a crescendo as the last person rises from the pool. The congregation is on its feet, praising God.

The exploits of this congregation have been chronicled in secular and religious media — international, national, and local. The BBC, *The Economist*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Chicago Sun Times* have all referenced the work of Armitage. The likes of Charles Osgood, Harry Smith, John Leo, and Neil Cavuto have reported the good works of this urban faith community.

The tall guy overseeing our outside welcome crew on Sunday runs the Chicago 911 Center ... a line forms on the sidewalk waiting for Thursday food pantry ... a loving caretaker rocks the newborn of a 15-year-old mother in the Babies and Ones department ... a young man arrives with his hat cocked sideways, in church for the first time ... media vans park in front of the building ... the man leading in prayer before Jesus had a \$1,000 a week cocaine habit ... guys who statistics say don't have a chance in life, playing basketball, then sitting in a circle for Bible study and prayer ... a group of artists plan a project together ... three award-winning Chicago public school principals, all church members, huddle, planning women's ministry...

God is glorified in His church ... in this great city!

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



Generations



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

Psalm 145:4 *One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.*

I am very excited about the future of Baptist Bible College. I am excited about who we are and where we are going. I am excited about what we do, because what we do is unique from every other college. It is our goal and desire to prepare the next generation of ministry leaders.

The current generation that is here now, and even those that preceded in the 2000s and the 90s and 80s and 70s, were all able to come to Baptist Bible College because of a generation that came before us. That first generation sacrificed, came together, and built something that was incredible in our country and our world. That generation should be honored and remembered.

They prepared something for our generation today; now it is important that our generation not forget to prepare for the next generation. To help with this we are introducing “Generations”. This program is an opportunity for you to partner with Baptist Bible College. It is a simple way for you to give a little back to thank the previous generation and to help make sure BBC is here for future generations.

Baptist Bible College has 12,000 graduates and close to 50,000 alumni around the country and all around the world. In addition are hundreds of thousands that are in local churches every single week that BBC has had a direct influence on. If just a small percentage of those touched by BBC would be willing to help BBC, to give back, it would change our situation and our future so much.

I have attended a couple of other colleges and nearly every week I am contacted about partnering, investing, helping, and giving to them. We need to ask the same of our graduates and friends. Now, our generation needs to make sure there is a Baptist Bible College for the next generation.

I am convinced we are not just in a financial battle; I am convinced we are in a spiritual battle for the very heart and soul of who we are and the direction which we are going. There is nothing Satan would like more than to see us fail to train the next generation to win the souls of men and women.

You can give by going online to gobbc.edu and give a one-time gift or hopefully you will join a large army of others and give a monthly gift. We are praying for 10,000 people to give \$10 a month, something I am confident every single one of us can do.

Please consider being a part of this generation that shares what God has done in your life to help us reach the next generation.

You can find more information at gobbc.edu.

Coffee and college



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

Igrew up in that rare American family where neither my dad nor mom drank coffee. From TV I knew about coffee that was “good to the last drop,” but I never saw it and never tasted it ... until college. One chilly morning in the dorm I stumbled down to the commons area. Some guy had just made a pot of coffee and I could see the steam coming off the top. I said, “Give me a cup of that, would you?” And the rest is history.

Both at home and in my office, I think I’m pretty much “in the now” with my coffee. I’m a Keurig guy. You pick the little K-cup you want, you pick the brew strength, you push a button, and ... voila! You get your coffee — how you like it, when you like. Hard to believe how the coffee experience has changed since my college days.

College has changed just as much. Here in Boston we live that every day. Note, I’m not talking about eternal truth — coffee is still coffee, so to speak — but it’s the way we get the job done that is so incredibly different.

There is no way in these 500 or so words I can adequately show you how hard we work and how we keep “making a better cup of coffee” at Boston Baptist College. But I can give you a taste! Every student has the opportunity to do part of our curriculum on our study trips — on the ground in Europe or the biblical lands. This generation of students wants to experience their learning. I cannot help but think of how our students from last year feel about the Epistle to the Philippians after learning about Roman Philippi on location.

How about figuring out biblical answers for the toughest kinds of questions? You can ask Boston seniors about that. Every graduate does Senior Seminar, which concludes by writing on a topic they draw (they don’t get to choose!). They study all sides of a topic and then analyze from a consistent, biblical position. Every senior has to work one-on-one with a professor to write an extensive position paper. Last spring I worked with Dan and Amber. Time will tell whether or not I get a Christmas card from either of them! But I know I poured myself into them and I believe they poured themselves into this innovative way of learning to think biblically, to convey biblical thought through words, and to articulate those ideas verbally in the exchange with a seminar jury in front of an audience! This just isn’t your grandpa’s coffee pot!

Want some collegiate K-cups? Try our Best of Boston program that gives our students a chance to take specialized courses at scores of colleges in our area. The options, like for a Keurig, are almost endless. This is the way we do coffee and college these days in Boston. And at the end of August let the brewing begin again!

SPRINGFIELD, MO

BBC receives library donation from Mel Brown

BBC president Mark Milioni and librarian Jon Jones of Baptist Bible College in Springfield are pleased to receive a great gift from Mel and Barbara Brown. The Browns recently retired from Edgewood Baptist Church, Rock Island, IL, where Mel served as senior pastor. The college library has been blessed with about 3,000 volumes from Brown's personal library.

President Milioni said, "These books were

attained one at a time to help a busy pastor study and prepare for the pulpit at Edgewood, and now will be utilized by those preparing for future pulpits. Baptist Bible College would like to thank Dr. and Mrs. Brown for this very

valuable and thoughtful gift."

For information about donating your library or helping the BBC library purchase much-needed items, please contact head librarian Jon Jones at jjones@gobbcc.edu.



ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Medical mission brings hope in Ethiopia

BBFI missionaries in Ethiopia, the Wudassie Diagnostic Center, and an international medical team joined forces for a medical mission trip the first week in June. During the eight-day mission, June 1-9, the team held four clinics and saw over 1,000 patients while treating people with a variety of ailments including leprosy, HIV, fistulas, basic stomach issues, and a variety of other physical problems.

This was the first medical mission trip for Team Ethiopia (Craig and Amanda Dyson and Eric and Amanda Shadle), and Dyson was encouraged enough to plan for future similar excursions.

The medical team of five doctors, four nurses, one EMT, and four with no medical experience (but a willingness to help wherever needed) was organized by Kevin and Alicia May, members of Coastal Community Baptist Church in Wilmington, NC, under the leadership of Pastor Greg Hales. The group came from four different states and the nation of Swaziland. Dyson says, "For many

it was their first time on a medical mission trip, and the whole team felt it was not only a life-changing experience but also something they would want to do again."

Others involved included BBFI missionaries Dwayne and Tammy Wright, who helped in the preparation and execution



of the trip. Dawit Hailu, owner and operator of Wudassie Diagnostic Center, had a crucial part in making this trip a reality not only by supplying the location, but also getting permission from the government for the team to visit. Now retired BBFI missionaries Gene and Glenda Worley impacted Dawit and his family several years ago, and Dawit and his

family are members at Bethel Baptist Church, a church plant of Team Ethiopia.

In addition to working at Wudassie Diagnostic Center, the team worked in Korah, one of the poorest areas of the city on the outskirts of Addis. The team also traveled to Fitch, a city about two hours north of Addis, to hold clinics in two schools. Veteran BBFI missionaries Frank and Karen Auterson work in Fitch and have had a large impact on the work there.

U.S. team organizer Kevin May hopes to make the medical mission a regular occurrence if there are doctors and nurses who are willing. One nurse mentioned she is already making funding plans, and nurse Amanda Bloomfield, when asked what she took from this experience said, "I enjoyed getting out there and serving with people who have a desire to show the love of Christ. I feel like even though we can't fix what we perceive as problems ... we were able to meet some physical needs and give a little hope."

Information about Team Ethiopia and future medical trips is available at www.teamethiopia.com and www.impactlife.com

ATLANTA, GA

First Brothers of Cyrene Conference held



MIDDLETOWN, OH

Extreme makeover, local church style

By Clark Helvey, Pastor of Outreach & Missions,
Berachah Baptist Church

Berachah Baptist Church of Middletown, OH, conducted its 7th Annual Hands & Feet "Extreme Home Makeover" May 16-19. The result was a renovated house for a family in need of a special facility.

Typically, the church's annual project involves the renovation of an owner-occupied house that has fallen into disrepair. Over a four-day blitz, the house is made over from top to bottom. A project of this magnitude requires the hands and feet of many volunteers and the expertise of qualified tradesmen.

The 2013 project was no different — in the need of volunteers and tradesmen. However, the project was very different in the house to be renovated and the family to be blessed. In early March, an article was placed in the local newspaper requesting nominations be made to the church for a potential family in need of repairs to their residences. One nomination received was a request for a wheelchair ramp for a five-year-old boy with a rare form of muscular dystrophy. While interviewing the boy's mother, Pastor Lamar Ferrell learned that the house the family lived in was a rented house. The church has a policy not to renovate rented property, and therefore, the family was not eligible for the makeover, even with their legitimate need.

Burdened by this great need, Pastor Ferrell and his staff began to search for a house for the family. Knowing that the City of Middletown was demolishing vacant houses in the city, Pastor Ferrell met with city officials about the possibility of obtaining such a house for this family. A solidly built two-story house was located, which could be donated by the city for renovation, but it was scheduled to be

taken down. Ferrell contacted the demolition company, explaining what he had in mind, and the demolition company relinquished their contract, paving the way for a house to be saved and a family to be blessed.

Construction began in mid-April to



add a ground-floor bedroom and bathroom designed and equipped for a handicapped boy. The Middletown Community Foundation committed over \$12,000 through a grant to pay for new HVAC and a roof, and asbestos removal. Local companies were approached



about assisting the church in the project. Over 30 companies responded with donated plumbing and electrical supplies, building materials, paint, concrete, concrete blocks, labor, and other needs. A rental company donated generators, cement mixers, scaffolding, backhoes, and other equipment at no charge, saving the church over \$10,000. Local restaurants supplied food to the more than 150 volunteers over four days, while three Cincinnati television stations reported the church's work in the community.

On Sunday evening, May 19, the family was driven to their new home in a chauffeured stretch limo. Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Andy Dalton greeted the family with a video message and Bengal linebacker Vinny Rey was part of the crowd to welcome Elizabeth Edwards and her two sons, Logan, age ten, and Leeland, age five, into their new home, with not one, but two wheelchair ramps. In the course of just a few weeks, Ms. Edwards went from tenant to homeowner as Pastor Ferrell and Berachah gave her the keys and deed to a newly renovated home complete with new furniture and furnishings.

The completed project cost over \$33,000 with the church raising over \$15,000 towards the project. Donations and gifts outside the church made up the difference.

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CHILLICOTHE, OH

Lighthouse Baptist celebrates ninth anniversary with over 1,200 in attendance

Lighthouse Baptist Church and Pastor Ryan Bevan celebrated the church's ninth anniversary May 5, 2013, with a record of 1,208 people in attendance! The church also reports 120 salvation decisions, with 64 of them being adults and many more as a result of the follow-up visitation. More than 300 first-time visitors attended the celebration held at a Shoemaker Center on the Chillicothe branch campus of Ohio University.

Pastor Bevan and his family planted the new church in August 2003 — church planters sent out of Bible Baptist Church

of Wilmington, OH, where Kelly McNerney is pastor and aided by the Ohio Baptist Bible Fellowship. The mission began meeting in a hotel conference center organized as a church in January of 2004 with 45 charter members. The congregation eventually purchased their current facilities with over 21,000 square feet and 15.5 acres for \$850,000, paying the 30-year mortgage in five years. Bevan estimates by doing so they saved over \$800,000 in interest.

With continued growth, in March of 2012 the church added a second campus on the north end of Chillicothe. In February this year, the church purchased the North Campus

facilities for \$1.1 million. In the meantime, the church also commissioned Josh and Candace Bevan to Xenia, OH, in 2009, and that church is now enjoying more than 300 in attendance.

Pastor Bevan reports, "What has the LORD done in the last nine years? Average attendance from eight people to over 500, over 5,000 saved, more than 10,000 visitors, over 1,000 baptisms, offerings that have grown from \$700 to over \$10,000 weekly, 34 monthly mission projects supported, lives changed, families restored, marriages saved, all to the glory to God! Praise the Lord that He is still building churches today!"



MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Manila church plant celebrates first anniversary

Lloyd and Edith Baker, missionaries to the Philippines, report that Baptist Bible Church in Sta. Mesa, Manila, celebrated their first anniversary on April 28, 2013, with special services. The speaker for the morning service was missionary Dennis Ebert. "The auditorium was full to the brim," says Baker, with 149 people present for the service.

The church rented a larger facility for the evening service and 187 people were present, including several from the two missions started out of Baptist Bible Church. Ed Laurena, a graduate of the Bible college in Legaspi City, was the speaker. The following Sunday six new believers were baptized into the church.

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GLEN ROSE, TX

Creation Evidence Museum unveils new ark model

Creation Evidence Museum of Glen Rose, TX, dedicated its newest display, a 25-foot scale replica of Noah's Ark, July 6, 2013. Museum Director Carl Baugh says, "This model is the culmination of over 40 years of research and 18 months of craftsmanship by master craftsman Dale Muska and associates, resulting in the finest replication of Noah's Ark ever produced since the original constructed by Noah himself."

Present at the dedication was the Museum's Advance Ararat Expedition Team composed of Don Shockey, Glen Rose, artist Robert Summers, and Director Carl Baugh. The dedicatory prayer was offered by Sir David Otway Wray, Ph.D., who was recently knighted by the Queen of England for his work in physics and astrophysics. From his calculations in quantum algebra he became a Bible believer and a creationist after discovering that the

universe is young and requires a creator.

The Ark replica represents the tangible display of the "gopher technique" used to build the original Noah's Ark. Today this technique would be called structured interlamination, consisting of all components being laminated together with a strong hydrocarbon resin. Gopher, as mentioned in Scripture, was not a species of wood, according to Baugh, but was an engineering technique with the use of wood.

The Museum's Advance Ararat Expeditionary Team made a tentative sighting of what they believe to be some of the broken Ark components when they surveyed Mt. Ararat by helicopter at the 14,000-foot level in 1990.



BRANSON, MO

New location provides backdrop for annual Missionary Reunion

It is reported that this year's Missionary Reunion held at the Grand Plaza Hotel in Branson, MO, was a great success. "The facilities at the new location worked well and the food was delicious. Those who attended left encouraged," said Associate Mission Director Jim Smith.

Attending the Dixie Stampede on Monday evening kicked off the week. Pastor Mel Brown spoke to the men during the morning sessions. The ladies heard from Shana Roby, Sharon Smith, and Jenell Bender. The children and teens had classes and activities geared to their age groups. Cherry Street Baptist Church provided volunteers and staff for the children's ministry and the guest youth

ministers were Craig and Lindsey Stevenson. "As always, the first message of the week was a biblical and effective challenge from Director Jon Konnerup. Pastor Dennis Jennings spoke in one of the sessions. Our main speaker this year was Pastor Tracy Roby, whose challenging and encouraging messages were well received," states Smith.

"Furlough is always an important time for the missionary to receive physical and spiritual strength. The Missionary Reunion this year did just that," said missionaries to Ethiopia

Eric and Amanda Shadle. "The new location was enjoyable and is surrounded by an endless amount of things to do as a family. From go-carts, shows, shopping, or food, Branson's got it! Tracy Roby, pastor of Overland Park Baptist Church, brought encouraging sessions that focused our family on returning to Ethiopia to continue the work for the Lord. It was an uplifting week. The Mission Office staff did a fantastic job of organizing the reunion and making it the best we had attended."



SPRINGFIELD, MO

Bolands respond to Fellowship Week recognition

By Beverly Boland

Richard and I want to thank everyone for the wonderful Fellowship Faithfulness Award we received during the Fellowship Meeting this year. Overwhelmed, blessed, grateful, and humbled are just a few of the words that express our feelings. At the same time, we know so many Christian workers that deserve this as much if not more.

Some Christians like to make disparaging remarks about our Fellowship, but they need to remember we are made up of thousands of “good people” who have not bowed their knees to Baal. We have friends who are missionaries in Africa that leave one dangerous country to go right to another just as bad, and they are excited that



the Lord has provided them housing in a Pod! They are good people. We have another lonely friend who continues to go back to Africa by himself because his faithful wife has gone on to our Heavenly Father. We know two middle-aged missionaries on deputation who gave up a comfortable life and home to live in a small apartment to prepare to go to India. These are good people.

We have students who are going to Kenya to minister to people living in filth and squalor so extreme that they have to wear boots to walk outside in open sewage. For 40 years at Baptist Bible College we have seen students who have made great sacrifices to study God's word. We have been members of only two churches in Springfield — Southside Baptist and Cherry Street Baptist — and we have marveled at the many lay people who faithfully and quietly serve our Lord. They are good people.

At the Fellowship meeting we noticed the sea of grey haired saints who have faithfully served God for many years — probably not because of great incomes, a “cushy” lifestyle, or prestige. We talked to two men whom God recently called to small struggling churches. They chuckled and said, “It is hard work.” They are good people.

It was said of Barnabas that he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord (Acts 11:24). The next time you hear negative remarks about our Fellowship, remember that even though there have sometimes been dissension and digression, we are made up of thousands of good people who have not bowed our knees to Baal.

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CYPRESS, TX

Bill Campbell retires after 52 years in ministry

Bill Campbell, senior pastor of Cypress Creek Baptist Church the past 13 years, recently retired as pastor of the church. Carl Hughes was installed as the pastor during the Campbell's retirement ceremony.

Bill Campbell is a 1964 graduate of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO. Before going to Cypress Creek Baptist in 2000, he served other Texas churches on pastoral staff and as senior pastor. Campbell also served several terms as chairman of the East-Texas Baptist Bible Fellowship, as Baptist Bible Fellowship Missions committeeman, vice president and secretary/treasurer for the Texas State Baptist Bible Fellowship, secretary/treasurer of the East Texas Baptist Bible Fellowship, the

editor of the East Texas Baptist Bible Fellowship's newsletter, and a trustee for Baptist Bible College. He and his wife Joyce have five grown children, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He plans to spend his retirement time traveling, speaking in churches, and taking some mission trips.

The new pastor, Carl Hughes, is a 1997 graduate of Baptist Bible College and served churches in Indiana and New Mexico before going to Cypress Creek five years ago. He currently serves as a director for



From left: Pastor Bill Campbell, Joyce Campbell, Melanie Hughes, Pastor Carl Hughes.

the East Texas Baptist Bible Fellowship and treasurer for the ETBBF Youth Camp. He and his wife Melanie have two children.

SHREVEPORT, LA

LBU INSTEP schools provide ministry training overseas

INSTEP (International Student Training Educational Program), an international outreach of Louisiana Baptist University, has announced recent graduations in four of their partner schools.

Mark Crook, LBU Associate Vice-President of Institutional Advancement, was a guest of the INSTEP school in Merida Yucatan, Mexico. Missionary Larry Allred invited him to teach a class and present the diplomas at the first graduation ceremony of the Seminario Bautista Biblico. Seven INSTEP students received their Bachelor of Arts degree: Ángel Yam May, Cinthia Yam May de Aguilar, José Leobardo Yam Tun, Luz María Martín Barrera, María Fernanda Barroso Vega de Yam, Rufino Armando Yam Ballesteros, and Jesús Mendoza Martin.

Missionary Rick Biven's institute, Ambassador Baptist Bible College, in Monterey, Mexico, had five INSTEP graduates: Leopoldo Moreno Cárdenas, Flavio Ramos Gil, Javier Alejandro Flores Soriano, Oziel Zai Mendoza Lucciottto, and José A. Contreras Gómez.

Missionary Oliver Williams's institute, Bible Baptist Seminary in Peru, had five INSTEP graduates: Santiago Jesús Fernández Meza, Alfredo Franco Mesares, Renzo Giovanni Tavilla Llacchua, Felipe Antonio Quispe Julca, and Héctor Julio Gutiérrez Rodríguez.

Missionary Ole Konnerup's institute, Nairobi Baptist Bible College of Kenya, had two INSTEP graduates: Joshua Mucheke and Mark Rutuna.

According to LBU President Neal Weaver, the university currently has 107 INSTEP students, 36 institutes in 23 countries on five continents. He says, "I and the LBU Board of Trustees are determined to continue this much-needed program tuition free. Tuition, if not provided by the university, for these 107 students would be more than \$350,000."

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SPRINGFIELD, MO

JAMES COMBS

James O'Brien Combs, BBFI pastor and former *Baptist Bible Tribune* editor, entered glory May 27, 2013, after serving as a Baptist minister nearly 70 years. Combs was born in Lubbock, TX, October 6, 1927. Licensed to preach at 15 years old and ordained by Huisache Ave. Baptist Church in San Antonio in 1944, he attended Kansas City Bible College, Bible Baptist Seminary (Fort Worth), and Baptist Bible College (Springfield, MO).

As one of the founders of the Baptist Bible Fellowship, he served as a pastor, educator, editor, and in various leadership positions among the independent Baptists. While serving as pastor for Olivet Baptist Church in Lynwood, CA, he started 17 churches in 17 years. He earned a Master of Arts from California Baptist Theological Seminary. He also ran for the United States Congress in 1976, winning the nomination of a major political party in California's 38th Congressional District.

In 1982, he became editor of the *Baptist Bible Tribune* in Springfield, MO. Retiring from the Tribune in 1995, he became the editor-in-chief of the *National Liberty Journal*, serving 18 months. He was author or editor of several books, including *Rainbows from Revelation* and *Our Biblical Baptist Heritage*.

Combs is survived by his wife Geraldine, a daughter, and two grandchildren. Services were held in Springfield, MO, June 4, 2013, where Mr. Combs was memorialized by many preachers and friends.

FLEETWOOD, PA

RUTH MCCARTNEY

Helen Ruth McCartney, former BBFI missionary, passed from this life June 16, 2013. Born April 22, 1925, she and her husband Byron Dale McCartney began serving as BBFI missionaries in Brazil in September 1952. They were instrumental in starting numerous churches in Brazil. After Byron passed away in January 1983, Mrs. McCartney continued to minister in Brazil until her retirement in February 1994.

She is survived by three children, 18 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren, plus two more on the way. Funeral services were held at Central Baptist Church in Deer Park, TX.

KIRTLAND, NM

ELSIE FISHGRAB

Elsie Mae Fishgrab, retired BBFI missionary to Navajo, was taken by the Lord May 30, 2013. Born August 23, 1930, in the Dust Bowl, she married Clifford Fishgrab in 1948.

In 1958, they moved to Bois D'Arc, MO, so Clifford could attend Baptist Bible College. After graduating from BBC, they moved to Navajo, NM, and applied for permission to build a church in the new town. They were approved as BBFI missionaries in November 1962, beginning with \$75 a month in support.

In July 1963, Navajo Baptist church was organized. The couple worked with other missionaries and started new churches in both Arizona and New Mexico. Elsie remained active in one of their churches, Sunset Hills Baptist Church in Kirtland, NM, after the death of her husband, Clifford, in 2005.

She is survived by all seven of her children, two sisters, 22 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. A son, Don Fishgrab, continues to minister among the people she and her husband loved.

OTTUMWA, IA

DOROTHY MAE WILLCUT

Dorothy Mae Willcut, 87, retired BBFI missionary to Mexico, entered Heaven July 2, 2013. Born on December 13, 1925, in Oklahoma, she married Gene Willcut in 1944. In 1957, Gene and Dorothy entered Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO. After graduation in 1960, they pastored Bible Baptist Church in Bonner Springs, KS, and moved to Mexico City for language school.

After language school, the Willcuts relocated to Linares, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and for the next 31 years they established many churches and missions in Linares and the Sierra Madre mountain villages. Due to health concerns, Gene and Dorothy returned from the mission field to reside in Altus, OK, from the mid 1990s to August 2007 when they relocated to Ottumwa, IA, to be cared for by their daughter.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gene, and survived by two daughters and their families.

TUCSON, AZ

LON STEWART

Lon Gordon Stewart, born January 23, 1927, went to be with the Lord June 2, 2013. Lon married Loretta E. Coffey July 18, 1947. They were married for 66 years. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII.

Lon was a Detroit police officer five years, after which he attended Baptist Bible College, graduating in 1956. He received a Ph.D. from Baptist Christian University in 1975.

Lon spent 59 years ministering in churches in Springfield, MO, Kansas City, MO, Chicago, IL, and Denver, CO. He also founded Temple Baptist Academy and Baptist Bible College West in Denver, CO. While in Denver, he served as chaplain of the Colorado State Senate. The Stewarts also spent a year each in England and Australia as missionaries.

Stewart is survived by his wife, six daughters, 20 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren.

BRADLEY, AR

GERALD CHENEY

William Gerald Cheney, age 77, of Bossier City, LA, passed away June 19, 2013. Born July 2, 1935, in Bradley, AR, he was born again when he was 12 years old. He met his wife, Judy, in Houston, TX, and they were married in 1954. In 1955, he surrendered to preach the gospel and entered Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO.

The couple's ministry took them to churches in Florida and Michigan, and finally home to Bradley, AR.

Cheney is survived by his wife, four children, 12 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Services were held June 22, 2013, at Bradley Baptist Church in Bradley, AR, with Tommy Patton officiating.

INDIA

BONNIE JELLEY

Bonnie Rachel Jelley, BBFI missionary to India, passed from this life June 2, 2013. Born January 21, 1936, she became a Christian at the age of 15. She married Carroll Jelley in February 1954. The couple graduated from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, and were approved by the BBFI to the field of India in 1970.

She is survived by her husband, Carroll, who will continue to minister in India.

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(Sources: Constitution and Bylaws of the BBFI and The BBFI Contact Directory)

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Reaching out *barangay* by *barangay* By Armie F. Jesalva

Pastor of Bible Baptist Church, Cebu City, Philippines, and National Director of International Baptist Network, Philippines

When Bible Baptist Church turned 50 in March 2007, I wanted to build upon what God had wrought in those 50 years, and thus was born IBN (International Baptist Network) Saturation Evangelism in the Philippines. The results are astounding, with 3,674,350 people having received the Lord in more than one fourth of the archipelago as of March 2013.

Bible Baptist Church began in 1957 with the dedicated efforts of the late American missionary Bob Hughes. The first worship service was held on the last Sunday of March 1957 in a small apartment space with 14 people present. Within two years the growing congregation required the renting of larger and larger spaces.

In 1964, the church purchased an 800-square-meter (8,600 square-foot) property in Tres de Abril where a two-story concrete building was constructed. In seven years, attendance steadily increased to 600 every Sunday and every available space in the building was occupied by people.

Fueled by a passion for souls and filled with a vision of hundreds of Filipinos regularly attending Sunday services, Bob Hughes boldly stepped forward in faith purchasing the present property on Katipunan St. with 2,050 square meters (20,500 square feet), and in 1972, a new 3,000-seat auditorium was dedicated.

In 1976, Bob Hughes succumbed to cancer, but death of the beloved missionary did not discourage or deter me or the church from steadily growing. And grow it did. The church now averages over 9,000 in attendance every Sunday. A children's extension ministry provides a way to reach hundreds of children each week. It has a youth ministry ministering to over 450 young people every week. A young adults ministry composed of young professionals regularly organizes free medical/dental clinics and feeding programs all over the city and neighboring provinces.

Bible Baptist Church opened 32 satellite or extension churches around Metro Cebu that reach 1,500 people each Sunday. We have started and organized 392 other daughter churches around the archipelago and even in foreign lands. Indeed there was much to rejoice for in our 50th anniversary. To mark the celebration, we launched an evangelistic program in January 2007 with the goal to see 50,000 souls won to the Lord by Anniversary Sunday on March 25, 2007. Two weeks before the actual Anniversary Sunday, results from all the teams were tabulated and a great victory was announced: 55,555 souls were won in the three-month evangelistic effort!

The great victory made us realize that what could be done in Cebu City could be done in Cebu province and beyond. We were just trying to change the moral atmosphere of Cebu City, but God gave us a vision to change the whole country

instead. Thus IBN Saturation Evangelism was born: to reach the whole archipelago with the gospel using teams that would go to *barangay* by *barangay* (district by district) and colleges and universities, town by town, province by province, island by island till all the Philippines was reached.

Undergirded by the government's Moral Recovery program established by Presidential Proclamation #62 in 1992 and by the Philippine National Police Values Formation & Spiritual Transformation program, teams reached out to schools, *barangay* halls, and other public places where a whole-day Moral Recovery presentation was made. Societal ills like drug addiction, graft and corruption, disrespect for authority, immorality, and others were brought to the fore. But more important, a presentation was made of the only true and lasting answer to life's deepest needs and desires: salvation in Jesus Christ.

In due time Cebu Province with its nine cities and 44 towns were covered by the saturation teams. The total number of people receiving the Lord as their Savior: 716,224. From Cebu province teams moved to Bohol; then Siquijor followed by Negros Island. Panay Island with its four provinces — Iloilo, Capiz, Antique and Aklan — was then reached. Teams were then sent to Leyte Island, Romblon, and Palawan.

Since its launching in 2007, five years on the road, the following results have been recorded:

Cebu Island – 716,224
 Bohol Island – 343,307
 Siquijor Island – 19,110
 Negros Island – 876,274
 Panay Island – 733,166
 Leyte Island – 405,655
 Romblon Island – 88,321
 Mindanao Island – 406,648
 Small Islands Combined – 85,645

There is no turning back and the end is not yet in sight. With more teams and more material resources the reaching of the whole archipelago is doable. But we are racing with time and with the impending return of our Lord. Our earnest prayer, as our Lord did command, is that "the Lord of the harvest will send forth more laborers to the harvest." More laborers would make for more teams. Our earnest expectation is that, with more teams, our God would "supply all our need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

As God leads on, IBN Saturation Evangelism is moving on by faith. Thank you for the prayers and encouragements.

I am glad to be part of a city with civic tenacity. But I am humbled and honored to be part of a college family with eternal tenacity in the race that really matters.

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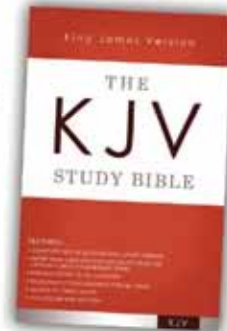
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