

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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...when her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that

SUMMER

is near.
Mark 13:28

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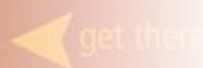
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VOL. 59 NO. 10

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

J U N E 2 0 0 9

8 Camp is key to reaching Colombian youth

The right facilities and a vision for reaching underprivileged young people has helped Craig and Fran Lingo minister in Colombia.



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Catch up on all the photos and news from the week, including Fellowship business, new missionaries, and future meeting plans.



20 The man of God: Classic counsel from a veteran

Licensed to preach in 1946, former *Tribune* editor, Jim Combs, offers some advice on what it means to be a pastor.



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On the Table

By Keith Bassham



Stubborn things

Reporting national Fellowship meetings is a recurring chore, and I call it a chore primarily because I never know where to start. A chronological account makes it seem we are reading from a schedule or a day journal, and a tedious article can make an otherwise perfectly satisfying meeting appear tedious on its own. Not only that, but everyone has a favorite meeting perspective. For some it is Tuesday, the day for missions and missionaries (always a good day). For others, it is graduation day itself (it is hard to beat the view of a long line of caps and gowns marching to *Pomp and Circumstance* played by a live brass ensemble). Still others want to play up the preaching, or the reunions, or the many informal side meetings in the halls, on the sidewalks, on the lawn, at the restaurants. The more business-oriented look for the procedures and policies. Generally, we even include some notes about the weather to give some variety. You will find the report of this last meeting somewhat abbreviated and understated.

Here is why. Readers should understand the *Tribune* is not an objective news magazine per se. I do what the so-called news media do, though they deny it is so, and that is, I admit the *Tribune* has an agenda.

The *Tribune* is the news magazine of the Baptist Bible Fellowship, telling the good news of what God is doing through the preachers and churches of the Fellowship. Through the news stories, the features, the columns, and the editorials, the *Tribune* will promote Fellowship policies and lift up for view those who are doing good work in the

Fellowship. When possible, we will also do what we can to promote those who are working for the kingdom though we may not be in precise ecclesiastical alignment, and this is true especially for those other parts of the Baptist family.

However, the *Tribune* stands with John Adams, who in his defense of British soldiers during the Boston Massacre Trial, said, "Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence." Even a news magazine with a noble agenda cannot pretend facts do not exist, even when those facts take on the flavor of bad news.

If we have a meeting filled with excited crowds, a meeting featuring obvious unity of purpose shown by the participation and offerings, conversations among attendees who say they cannot wait to get home and back to the work with renewed vigor, and others who are telling their friends, "You should have been there," and still others who yell across the lawn, "See you next time!" why then, that report would be no chore at all to write.

But, as the second president said, "Facts are stubborn things" and my wishes cannot alter them. Therefore, in the news section of this magazine, I report one set of facts. Here, in the safer spot of the editorial, where I can also express opinion, I report the other set.

The fact is Baptist Bible College is in serious financial trouble. For that matter, nearly every private educational institution in the country is in trouble. What makes the BBC trouble special though is that problem and solution are to be found in one and the same

thing — the churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. Perhaps at one time, one could make the case that BBC occupied a more "directing" position with regard to the Fellowship, but today BBC is a reflector, and not a director. A person with strong views on the local church should find that more satisfying.

However, the Fellowship as we know it has fewer churches today, and fewer large churches, than it did last decade, and certainly fewer than the decade before. That means fewer students and fewer dollars coming from a dwindling pool of churches.

BBF churches need a continuing supply of trained workers, church planters, pastors, missionaries — much as a church needs vibrant ministries among its youth if it hopes to grow and prosper. And BBC in turn (and Boston Baptist College) needs the churches to send students and support — it is all very symbiotic, and what happens to one will affect the other.

Therefore, if Baptist Bible College is in a strait, the problems and solutions are shared by the churches in the Baptist Bible Fellowship. It is folly for us to cheer or to boo BBC as though the college was a team on the field standing alone. That is us out there — our past, present, and future — the problems at BBC reflect the problems of the Fellowship.

The May meeting attendance was not what we wished. The college offering was not what we wished. The number of students is not what we wished. These are the facts. Fixing blame is attractive, but to fix the problem is right, and to fix the problem we have to take ownership.



Gary Grey

PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Baptist Bible Fellowship International



Mark Hodges

Thanks, and farewell

God has given me a heart for my beloved Baptist Bible Fellowship and Baptist Bible College since my college days in the early 1960s. As a 1963 graduate, fresh out of college, I felt a great sense of thankfulness for all I had learned and for the great door of opportunity my association with this God-ordained movement opened for me.

Throughout these past 46 years, I have felt a sense of loyalty and a loving obligation to help in whatever area was opened to me for service, including giving as faithfully and generously as I could to Baptist Bible College, my beloved alma mater.

These past three years, I have been honored to serve as president of our Baptist Bible Fellowship, and this is my farewell address to all of my fellow pastors and friends on this occasion of my retirement from Park Crest Baptist Church on Sunday, May 17, and from the office of president as of May 14 of this year.

Many of you have asked about my plans for the days ahead. I look forward to spending some leisure time with my precious wife. I also desire to be a helper and encourager in ministry as I have opportunity to preach for my fellow pastors and friends, anything I can do to help improve our churches and our Fellowship.

A certain soapmaker, having run out of superlatives to define the perfection of his product, began to advertise his product by saying this: "As we couldn't improve our product, we have decided to improve the box."

Pastors, we can't improve our product, because our product is the Lord Jesus. However, we can improve the box. That is US!

In this, my final column, I would like to challenge us to rally together to stick together as preachers of this Fellowship. We should acknowledge our problems, but we must be positive about our negatives and under no circumstance be negative about our negatives! Our Lord can and will use each of us effectively as we keep our eyes on the great causes: world evangelism and training our youth, supporting our colleges and planting new churches, serving Him to be super-victors in these trying times!

Thank you for all the opportunities past, and for those yet to come.

Purpose and Principles

What a great honor and privilege it is to serve as president of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. Our world is at a real crossroad and we are seeing some changes we never dreamed we would witness. Although the circumstances of this world are moving us closer to Christ's return, the doors of opportunity are still open for those who have the courage to go through.

Neil Cavuto of Fox News said his father once told him, "Son, whatever you do, stay humble. Good fortune doesn't make you God, so don't act like it." That reminds us that we are not to be people of pride and personalities, but to be people of purpose and principles."

Our purpose as a Fellowship is carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). While others are looking to cut back on missionaries due to economic hard times, our Fellowship needs to be refreshed and renewed in our purpose of doing something great for God.

God has blessed us with colleges to train men and women for the ministry. He has given us our mission program to send witnesses around the world to win people to Christ and start churches. With God's help, we recently added the National Church Planting Office to assist in starting churches in America. We are also blessed with the gospel witness and helpful information found in the *Baptist Bible Tribune*.

Ronald Reagan once said, "America is too great for small dreams." I feel the same way about our Fellowship. God has overwhelmed us with many resources to work together to accomplish something great for the cause of Christ. And we will stand accountable before God for how we use these resources to fulfill our mission.

I also want to challenge our Fellowship to focus on the principles of God's Word as we labor together. Our focus should begin with the Great Commandment: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37).

God has called us to be people of purpose and principles. Let it be our prayer to love God with all of our hearts (our principle) and to work diligently to carry out His mission (our purpose) of reaching this world for Christ, "who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (2 Timothy 1:9).



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

-Laurence Sterne

Missiologist who coined “unreached people group” dead at 84

Missiologist Ralph D. Winter passed away at the age of 84 May 20 in Pasadena, California, succumbing to cancer. Winter is best remembered for a 1974 presentation at the Congress for World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland, in which he introduced the term “unreached people groups.” The presentation had a profound effect on all global missionary strategies.



An unreached people group is a group of people with their own distinct culture or language with no viable indigenous evangelizing church movement.

In 2005, *Time* magazine named Winter one of America’s 25 most influential evangelicals.

Source: www.christianpost.com, 2009

How are people dealing with the economy?

57% Bought less expensive brands or shopped more at discount stores

28% Cut back spending on alcohol or cigarettes

24% Reduced or cancelled cable or satellite TV subscription

22% Changed to a less expensive cell phone plan or cancelled service

21% Made plans to plant a vegetable garden

20% Started doing yard work or home repairs that you used to pay for

16% Held a garage sale or sold items on the Internet

10% Had a friend or relative move in or you moved in with them

2% Rented out a room or space in your home

Source: Pew Research Center



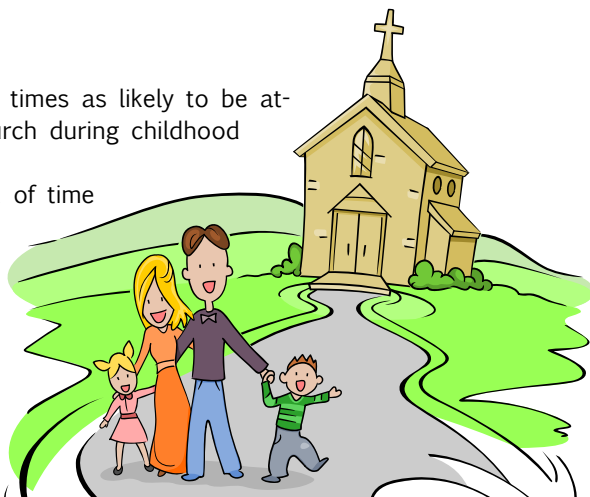
Taking children to church

Adults who attended church regularly as a child are nearly three times as likely to be attending a church today as are their peers who avoided the church during childhood (61% to 22%, respectively).

“Roughly seven out of ten American adults (71%) had a period of time during their childhood when they regularly attended a Christian church.

“Just less than two out of three adults (63%) who were church as children take their own children to a church, which is double the proportion among adults who were not church and who now take their kids to church (33%).

“Adults who attended church as a child are twice as likely as others to read the Bible during a typical week; twice as likely to attend a church worship service in a typical week; and nearly 50% more likely to pray to God during a typical week.”



Source: www.sundaysoftware.com citing www.barna.org, 2001.

Chuck Colson on Jack Kemp's memorial service

I was humbled to give the eulogy at the memorial service for Jack Kemp at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The crowd overflowed that historic sanctuary. Buses brought congressmen and senators. People came from far and wide to pay respects to one of the most energetic and effective political servants of our generation.

It was extraordinary. In my eulogy I made the biblical truth as clear as I was able, talking about what I believed, what Jack believed, what his whole family believed. The pastor, Rob Norris of Fourth Presbyterian Church, gave the main message, from Job 14:14: "Can a dead man live?"

It was one of the clearest expositions of Scripture I've ever heard,

powerfully presenting the Gospel — and all this being listened to by most of the power establishment of the city of Washington. Some of the commentators afterward said that there had never been such an overtly Christian memorial service in the National Cathedral...

Perhaps Jack would have been surprised at what a powerful witness for Christ his life truly was. You see, Jack gave his life to Christ two decades ago. But he didn't feel com-

fortable sharing his faith. He would talk about being a Christian, and he left no doubt about his faith. But he wasn't an evangelist — or so he thought.

But you see, as I've come to understand so powerfully in the past weeks, Jack Kemp's life was his witness.

God used the death of one of the great public servants of our age for perhaps the most powerful witness I have seen in Washington. I sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Cathedral that day. And I know many others did as well — perhaps to their great surprise. No one there, believer or not, could have walked away without understanding why and how Jack Kemp lived the great life he did.



Jack Kemp

Source: ©2009 Chuck Colson of BreakPoint

50 years ago...in the *Baptist Bible Tribune*

The Springfield Revival Crusade

BY NORMA GILLMING

To the arousing strains of the "Awakening Chorus," sung by a choir of 400 voices under the direction of Earl Smith, the Springfield Revival Crusade opened its two-weeks' campaign on Sunday evening. The opening services drew a crowd of 4,000.

The crusade, sponsored by the Baptist Bible Fellowship churches of the Springfield area, is being held under a huge tent on the Greene County fairgrounds.

Dr. F. S. Donnelson, chairman of the Missions Committee of the Baptist Bible Fellowship, offered the opening prayer. In addition to the music of the chorus choir, special numbers were rendered by the Beacon Quartette, Baptist Bible College's girls' octette, the women's trio of High Street Baptist church, and the college choir under the direction of Bruce Melton, with Mrs. Delores Ackerman as soloist.

Dr. W. E. Dowell, pastor of High Street Baptist church and chairman of the crusade, stated that more than 1,000 churches throughout the country were praying for the meetings.



Dr. G. B. Vick

The Tuesday and Wednesday services are being recorded and filmed for broadcasts and telecasts in 105 cities in 40 states.

Dr. Vick's First Sermon

Dr. G. B. Vick, the crusade evangelist, chose "The Devil After a Preacher" for his opening sermon. Dramatically relating the events on the Passover night preceding the trial of Christ, the Temple Baptist pastor warned that "Satan knows that if he can get one of God's chosen servants, he has a powerful instrument for the advancement of the Devil's cause."

"Let's not do business for God on a little peanut-popcorn basis," Dr. Vick continued. "The cause of Christ is brought into disrepute by little sickly preachers with their puny efforts and their lack of faith."

"Any fire the Devil builds looks good to a backslidden Christian. But you need not be afraid to warm yourself at any fire that Jesus kindles."

First Sermon for Telecast

On Tuesday night, Dr. Vick's theme was "But After This . . . ?" It was a stirring message on death and judgment. The entire service, including the sermon in its entirety,

(Continued on editorial page.)

Story appeared in the May 15, 1959 edition of the *Tribune*.

Camp is key

to reaching urban Colombian youth



By the Tribune

Since 1990, BBFI missionaries Craig and Fran Lingo have known that the key to evangelizing Colombia was reaching its young people, and youth camp seemed an obvious solution. So with the help of many churches, they purchased an old chicken farm about two hours from Bogota. Little by little they developed a plan to use the camp not only to reach lost kids but also to train those who were saved. Actually, all of their present national pastoral staff and their wives were evangelized and received their first taste for ministry by assuming various responsibilities at camp. They then responded to God's call and were trained.

But Craig knew it was an incom-

plete solution. "Our pattern was to have church camps where the saved kids invited a few of their unsaved friends.

Those who believed were then 'Christianized' — that is, through modeling a Christian life and peer influence, behavioral change would come," says Lingo. He admits this method worked effectively on a small scale. However, in a city of more than 8,000,000 people with a public school system that has more than 900,000 students, he didn't feel that they were making much headway in reaching their city. He had to find a more direct route into those students' lives.

In 2005,

the Rawlings Foundation offered to help the Lingos develop their camp property. However, after

re-examining their vision and analyzing the location of the camp, all agreed it would be better to relocate. They purchased over 200 acres in Tierralta, Colombia, and began building the camp facilities. Finally, in the fall of 2008, the new camp was finished. "It was far different to think on a scale of 550 campers rather than 120. So we began to pray that God would give us a new vision. We prayed that God would help us understand the dimension of the task He had given us to accomplish," reflects Lingo.

He says the first thing God began to show them was that if they were to reach Bogota with the gospel, their church must look like Bogota — there

It took an army of volunteers to coordinate the Dia Zero outreach





should be people from every walk of life, every social and economic condition, and saved from every sinful lifestyle. Lingo states, "It was not easy for our church to assimilate this concept."

God also showed them that their task was not to "Christianize" people. "It is to take the light to dark places and let it shine," declares Lingo. "It is to expect God to walk into Satan's strongholds and raise up trophies to His powerful grace."

This was the direct route they were seeking. The Lingos and their pastoral team targeted public schools in underprivileged areas. "God led us to believe that He can transform the worst school into the best school by bringing His light into the classroom," says Lingo. Since their youth pastor, Alejandro Torres, came from a large public school called Republica de Colombia, located between their two churches in Bogota, they asked God to open the door to start a pilot program in that school.

Colombian schools are mandated to have at least one moral values outing per year. This provided the opportunity they had asked God for. Last fall, Alejandro approached the priest who was in charge of the program at Republica de Colombia and offered to design and implement the program for the school. The priest was enthusiastic that someone would offer to do the outing. Since the school year was almost over, they agreed to start the program during the first semester of 2009. "That gave us very little time to implement and prepare to reach over 1,200 students," explains Lingo.

On three Saturdays in March, over 180 volunteers from the two churches in Bogota hosted the 11th and 12th grade students, the 7th and 8th grade students, and finally the 9th and 10th grade students at the camp in Tierralta — over 1,200 students total. "During that time we were not allowed to proselytize. However, we could invite them to Dia Zero (Day Zero), a Christian event that would transform their lives!" says Lingo. "Simultaneously we were allowed to meet with the parents, explaining to them what we were doing with their children and requesting that they allow them to come to Dia Zero. Never have we seen people so anxious for help and direction! Over 500 parents filled out surveys requesting

classes on various subjects pertaining to teenagers."

Dia Zero arrived on May 1-3, and 283 students stepped off the buses at Tierralta. "Our churches had been praying for this day for many months. There was excitement and fear everywhere. More than one parent had warned us that they did not want their daughter to come home pregnant! Parents feared that someone might drown and even that we might have a swine flu epidemic," states Lingo. "The logistics to manage an event like this were mind-boggling! But above all else, how do you connect with young people whose notion of right and wrong, good and evil, spiritual and fleshly is so distorted?"

Yet, even with these concerns, Lingo says, "In the four services where the gospel was preached, Jesus showed up! Their attention to the message was incredible. The impact of the testimonies and dramas was so effective that when Alejandro gave the plan of salvation, 154 young people responded and were dealt with by the counselors."

Since Dia Zero took place, the churches are still feeling the impact of the camp. At this writing, they have had 194 people saved total. Those in Lingo's church have been following up with the students. "The amount of counseling that has to be done is incredible. The follow-up is a very heavy load," he says, "but we have had over 120 kids that have attended our first church event in Bogota, and seven parents came along too."

"Instead of bringing them to the light, we took the light to them," says Lingo, "and now there are 194 little lights shining in a very dark place."





WALK IN THE LIGHT

2009 May Graduation
Fellowship Week Highlights

*By the Tribune with additional photographs
provided by Stan Sherwood*



NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

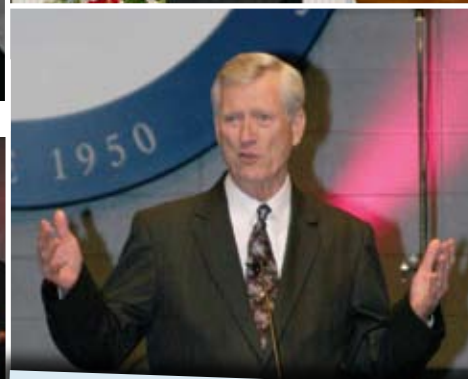
The Fellowship has a new president and first vice president. Mark Hodges, pastor of Winter Haven Baptist Church, Winter Haven, Florida, was appointed by his fellow officers to serve the final year of Gary Grey's presidency due to his retirement. And since that move created a vacancy, the national officers serving as the Executive Committee appointed Oklahoma pastor Linzy Slayden to the position of first vice president. The National Directors without opposition ratified both Hodges and Slayden.



Mark Hodges



Linzy Slayden



THE FELLOWSHIP

Preachers for the meeting were Jeff Love (Bridgepoint Church, Boise, Idaho), Gary Grey (Park Crest Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri), Bill Dowell (Baptist Bible College), and Jack Eggar (AWANA). Breakout session leaders were Greg Christopher, Jon Slayden, and Beth Atchison. BBC also hosted an area youth rally during the Wednesday evening service. Noteworthy was the performance of the BBC choir under the direction of David Giles during the week.

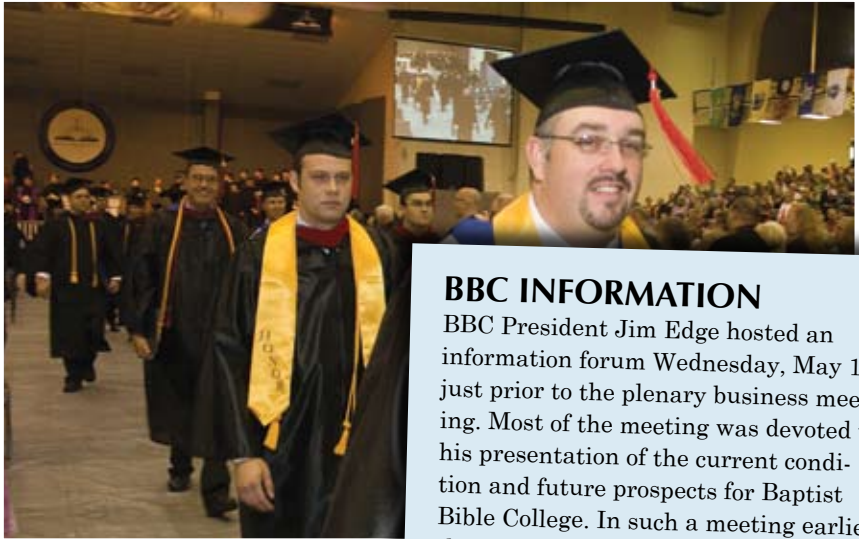




GRADUATION

Baptist Bible College awarded 102 undergraduate degrees, diplomas, and certificates, and the Graduate School awarded 18 Masters Degrees in the commencement service held Thursday, May 14. Jack Eggar, BBC alumnus and CEO of AWANA, was the commencement speaker. Among his notable comments, he said at one point that it is part of our calling to keep Jesus high and lifted up, and that we do not consciously bring Him down, but we make the mistake of raising our mundane stuff to that same lofty space and thus clutter the area around the cross.





BBC INFORMATION

BBC President Jim Edge hosted an information forum Wednesday, May 13, just prior to the plenary business meeting. Most of the meeting was devoted to his presentation of the current condition and future prospects for Baptist Bible College. In such a meeting earlier this year, President Edge reported the college was facing an April cash flow shortfall of about \$50,000. He was able to report that the shortfall did not occur, and in fact they were able to show a positive cash flow of about \$150,000 for that same period instead. His report included news that the college has used over 90 percent of their line of credit, and a major mortgage note was called by the bank holding it. However, he reported that the institutions involved have expressed a willingness to work with the college, and that college trustees were seeking financing alternatives. Edge also laid out plans for an aggressive summer of recruiting. Several pastors said they were raising their monthly support, and others promised to give more to the annual offering. President Edge also noted that the best and surest way to solve the college's financial problems was growing the number of students on campus. At this printing, the May College Offering is \$681,000.



MISSIONS DAY

Though the fall meeting is devoted more to missions than the other national get-togethers, each Fellowship meeting has a day of missions. In May, that day is Tuesday, and it is a time for reunion, recognition, and introductions for newly approved missionaries. Mission Director Jon Konnerup introduced the Fellowship to Daniel Shayesteh, an Iranian immigrant and former Muslim. Actually, Daniel was more than an average Muslim. He was involved in the 1979 Iranian Khomeini revolution and a member of Hezbollah. At one time sentenced to death, he escaped to Turkey and was converted to Jesus Christ. Daniel is now an evangelist, and he spoke to the Fellowship about Islam, Jihad, and the implications of both.



HONORS - Veteran BBFI missionaries Lloyd and Edith Baker, Jim and Marie Strickland, and Larry and Joan (deceased) Rohr received their 50-year globes, and Ole and Renee Konnerup and Larry and Martha Stringfield were honored for their 30-year service.



CAREER MISSIONARIES

Miguel and Christy Lopez — Honduras

Sending Church: Calvary Baptist Church, Odessa, TX
Sending Pastor: James Bishop
Children: Alex, Isaac, and Jacob
Contact Info: 432-362-4181, miguel.lopez@bbfimissions.org

David and Buliammayi Mallipudi — India

Sending Church: Victory Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA
Sending Pastor: Tony Birge
Children: Four adult children
Contact Info: 714-220-1166, david.mallipudi@bbfimissions.org

Andy and Amy Ragsdale — Ecuador

Sending Church: Orlando Baptist Church, Orlando, FL
Sending Pastor: David Janney
Children: Justin, Madison, and Brady
Contact Info: 407-277-8671, andy.ragsdale@bbfimissions.org

NEW MISSIONARIES - Career missionaries approved were Miguel and Christy Lopez (Honduras), David and Buliammayi Mallipudi (India, former TEAM missionaries), and Andy and Amy Ragsdale (Ecuador). TEAM missionaries (formerly known as short-term) approved were Brent and Amanda Longenecker, Luke and Kelly Lyons, Jordan and Nikki Nisly, Jonathan Saliba, Bill and Anna Walton, and one Restricted Access Nation (RAN) family. David W. Malnar (USN) becomes the Fellowship's 17th military chaplain approved.



US MILITARY CHAPLAIN

David and Merry Malnar

Children: Kayleigh, Logan
Sending Church: Trinity Baptist Church, Lufkin, TX
Sending Pastor: Walter Futch
Contact Info: dmmalnar@yahoo.com



TEAM MISSIONARIES

Brent and Amanda Longenecker — Philippines

Assisting: Lance and Melanie Gotcher
Sending Church: High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
Sending Pastor: Eddie Lyons
Contact Info: 417-862-5502, brent.longenecker@bbfimissions.org

Luke and Kelly Lyons — Philippines

Assisting: Greg and LuAnn Lyons
Sending Church: Parkhill Baptist Church, Pueblo, CO
Sending Pastor: Doug Cox
Contact Info: 719-544-6154, luke.lyons@bbfimissions.org

Jordan and Nikki Nisly — Philippines

Assisting: Greg and LuAnn Lyons
Sending Church: Westside Baptist Church, Hutchinson, KS
Sending Pastor: Tim Adrian
Contact Info: 620-662-6262, jordan.nisly@bbfimissions.org

Jonathan Saliba — Colombia

Assisting: Scott and Kristi Hudgins
Sending Church: Graceway Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
Sending Pastor: Robert Stephenson
Contact Info: 417-887-0212, jonathan.saliba@bbfimissions.org

Bill and Anna Walton — Korea

Assisting: Mike and Jill Ivey
Sending Church: Cornerstone Baptist Church, Port St. Lucie, FL
Sending Pastor: Rodger Wright
Contact Info: 772-631-0990, bill.walton@bbfimissions.org

A family — Restricted Access Nation (RAN)
Assisting: Veteran RAN missionary
Contact Info: Mission Office

OTHER BUSINESS - In addition to the usual reports from the Fellowship offices and entities, the Wednesday business meeting included announcing the names of the two new officers and the reading of a proposed constitutional amendment to be considered and acted upon in the September meeting in Canton, Ohio (see the amendment language immediately after this report). National Church Planting Office Director Wayne Guinn also introduced a new church planter, John Peterson.

FUTURE MEETINGS - Scheduled for September 21-23 in Canton, Ohio, February 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia, May 2010 in Springfield, Missouri, and September 2010 in Chicago, Illinois.



Proposed amendment to BBFI Constitution and Bylaws

The BBFI National Directors have recommended that Article VI of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International Constitution and Bylaws shall be amended. The Article's current language is:

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 2a. The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected biennially. These officers constitute the Executive Committee. The National Directors will serve as the nominating committee and will present nominations at the National Fellowship in May. ***Other nominations may be made from the floor and when completed, this ballot becomes official. The election shall be conducted by mail. Ballots shall be mailed to each pastor listed in the BBFI Directory to vote and return by mail to the designated address on the Ballot. National Directors shall tally votes at the annual business meeting in September for ratification.*** If a run-off election is necessary, it shall be held at the National Meeting with qualified voters participating. No officer can succeed himself by election to the same office for more than one term. In the event of a vacancy in the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall appoint a qualified candidate, to be ratified by the National Directors, to fulfill the unexpired term.

If approved by the pastors in the September business meeting, the bold text in the above section of the Constitution and Bylaws shall be replaced with:

The ballot shall be approved in the May business meeting and made available to any pastor in attendance and qualified according to Article III ("Affiliation") of these bylaws. Voting pastors will identify themselves on the ballot and voting will begin immediately upon distribution of the ballots. Qualified pastors not in attendance may obtain a ballot from the BBFI Mission Office. Those ballots must be submitted to the BBFI Mission Office before July 1st of the year of the election. The Executive Committee shall oversee the counting of the ballots and release the results within one week after the votes are tallied.

The proposed amendment was read at the business meeting held in Springfield, Missouri, May 13, and a vote to amend the Constitution and Bylaws will take place in the September meeting at Canton, Ohio, in accordance with ARTICLE VIII – CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, providing the proposed amendment has been read at a previous National Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Goodman, BBFI Secretary

BBFI National Meeting
September 20-23, 2009

Let God
Arise!

Register today @
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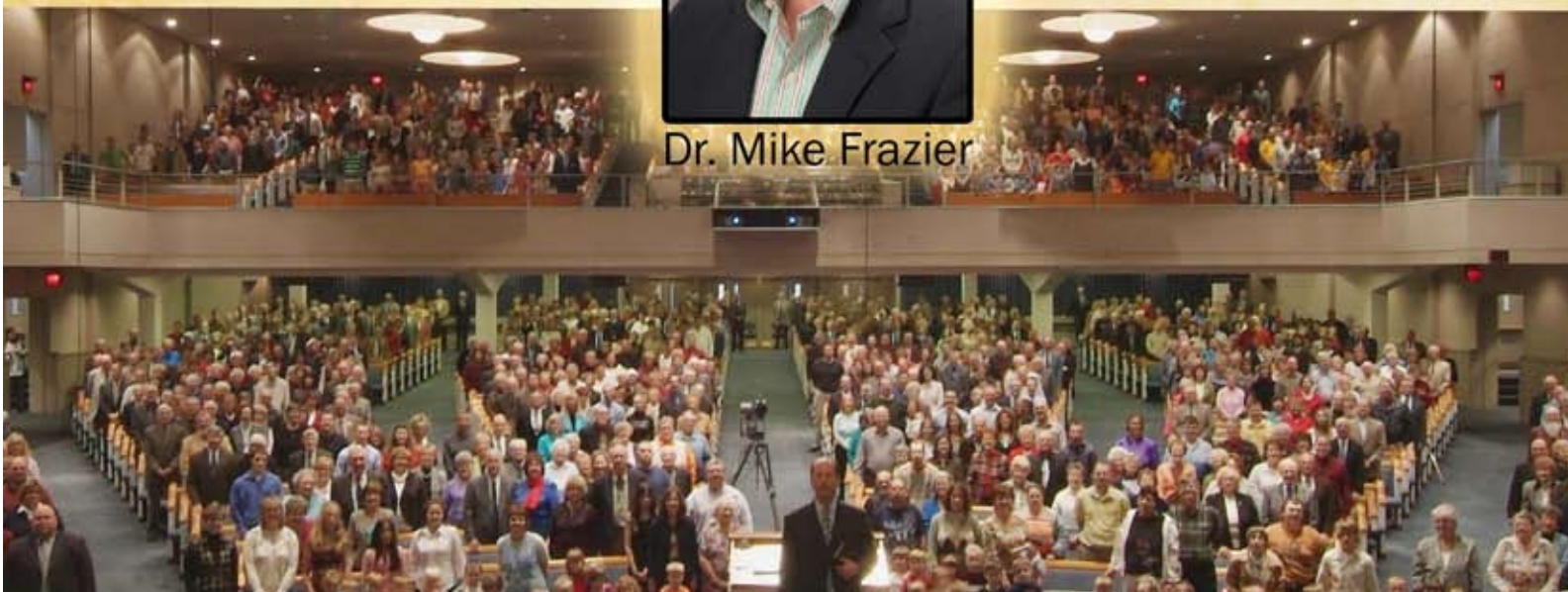
CANTON BAPTIST TEMPLE



CANTON, OHIO



Dr. Mike Frazier



BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Graduate Degrees

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Mark E. Ballmer
Ryan L. Biddinger
Nathan J. Boon
David W. Malnar
William A. Piatt
Christopher Shane Wyrick

MASTER OF ARTS

BIBLICAL COUNSELING

Samuel Dwain Bradley
Matthew Kent Breeden
Thomas L. Dawsey IV
David Allen Egesdal

BIBLICAL STUDIES

Dennis Ben Metzger

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

Torsten Kenneth Rothman

CHURCH MINISTRY

Jamie LaSalle
Michael E. Loomis
Andrew Scott Ragsdale
Mayumi Sekiya
Christopher Michael Stone
Michael Peter Walker II

Undergraduate Degrees

PASTORAL STUDIES & BIBLE

Jason William Brown	BA
Bryan Andrew Franco	BA
Micheal James Howe	BA
Jeffrey Wade Jones	BA
Randy Elton Balcom	BS
Troy S. Bates	BS
Bradford Earl Bethune Jr.	BS
Michael A. Brown	BS
Ronald Wayne Burcham	BS
William Monroe Burke II	BS
Benjamin D. Cerasani	BS
Matthew Nathan Conard	BS
Matthew Alexander Flores	BS
Logan Z. Hackworth	BS
Tyler Lance Kelso	BS
Jason J. Kleckner	BS
Joseph David Matott	BS
Aaron Mitchell	BS
David Matthew Neuschwanger	BS
Kyle Pasewalk	BS
Scott Matthew Pullen	BS
Michael William Riley	BS
Phillip David Russell	BS
Robert D. Smallwood III	BS
Charles Smith	BS
Adam M. Snyder	BS
Donald S. Stout	BS
Sergio Richard Todd	BS
Carl David VanAtter II	BS
Jason David Williams	BS
Caleb J. York	BS

MISSIONS & BIBLE

Jamie Lynn Newell	BA
Jerry Benjamin Abbott	BS

Vanessa Lily Cabrera
Chad Cassady
Josie Francine Cunningham
Caleb John Foster
Jenifer Lynn Foster
Danielle R. Jones
Joshua A. Mendenhall
Kenneth A. Porter
Whitney Evette Woodfin Pyle
Jaron Chad Rogers
Valerie Jean Waugh
Anica Rachelle Zoland

YOUTH MINISTRY & BIBLE

Randy Elton Balcom	BS
Jeremy L. Beach	BS
Steven C. Cain	BS
Adam Robert Minton	BS
Joseph Robert Moore	BS
Randy Rutledge	BS
Joshua Alan Stoddart	BS
Alicia R. Wesley	BS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY & BIBLE

Vanessa Lily Cabrera	BS
Emma Leigh DaShiell	BS

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION & BIBLE

Sarah Elizabeth Durand	BA
Chelsea Renee Hughes	BS
Melinda Joy Kagy	BS

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & BIBLE

Jeremy L. Beach	BS
Joshua R. Burkhart	BS
Mary E. Joyce	BS
Scott Lee Payne	BS
Sarah Elizabeth Van Gorden	BS

OFFICE TECHNOLOGY & BIBLE

Rachel Christine Davis	AA
Kimberly D. Gann	AA
Anica Rachelle Zoland	AA

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

Auston Brents Copeland	BA
David Leo Doyle	BA
Zachary T. Dykes	BA
Joseph Charles Flory	BA
Mark Timothy Frizzell	BA
Crystal Hawkins Groscost	BA
Trandon James Groscost	BA
Nick Grossman	BA
Ethel Annette Hare	BA
Adam David Hinkle	BA
Travis S. Horn	BA
Michael John Keesling	BA
Cecilia M. Mwaya	BA
Jonathan D. Saliba	BA
Joshua Sonnenberg	BA
John Roy Van Gorden II	BA
Stephanie LeAnn Wheeler	BA

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION & BIBLE

Suzanne Marie Smith	BA
Cassandra Dee Conard	BS
Krystal Chere Flores	BS
Heather Nicole Gray	BS
Cortney Lollis	BS
Abby Lynn Meads	BS

BS	Sarah A. Morris	BS
BS	Erica Oliver	BS
BS	Ashley Nichole Phinney	BS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

BS	Deborah S. Clark	AA
BS	Kelli Nicole Moore	AA
BS	Kaylee Rashelle O'Grady	AA

MUSIC EDUCATION & BIBLE

BS	Samantha Dobson	BS
BS	Brandi Hallford	BS

CHURCH MUSIC

BS	Kyle A. Hallford	BA
BS	Neil Joseph Conner Mann	AA
BS	Shanae Dawn Mueller	AA
BS	Xolali Togbi-Wonyo	AA

PRACTICAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

CERTIFICATE

Chariss Ellis
Emily J. Minor
Renee Munson

Maria Faith Russell
Blake Wallace
Roderick Williams

CERTIFICATE OF BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Eunice Iwasaki
Mindy K. Kleckner

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE

Associate in Science in Biblical Studies

Timothy M. Godwin
Anna Irene Swasey

Bachelor of Biblical Studies

BIBLICAL COUNSELING

Joy Patricia Allard
Alyssa Liane Bailey
David Phillip Demers
Aimee Elizabeth Hall

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Derick Seth Andrew

PASTORAL MINISTRIES

Nathan Badding
Richard A. Deyo
Brian Alexander O'Hara

EDUCATION

Laurie Rose Barnard
Katrina L. Carr

CHURCH MINISTRIES

James William Davenport
Joel B. Miller
R. Kendon Mulanax
Sammy E. Nkayamba
Eduardo Pazos Palma
Calixto Roman
Gary Joseph Turgeon
Nicholas J. Worden

CROSS CULTURAL MINISTRIES

William Monroe Walton



THE MAN OF GOD

Classic counsel from a veteran



By Jim Combs | Tribune Editor 1983 – 1995

In New Testament times, the first great prophet appeared to prepare the way for Jesus, the Messiah — Christ of Israel and the Savior of the world. “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John” (John 1:6). He came, as all true men of God must, “for a witness, to bear testimony of the Light, that all men through him might believe” (John. 1:7). That man, of course, was John the Baptist.

If we are to be men of God in our times, in this third millennium, we must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, never letting arrogant pride tarnish our testimony for Christ and ruin our ministries. There is a certain greatness in humility, a lofty and essential quality without which we cannot be all that God desires.

“For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself” (Galatians 6:3).

Some preachers appear to have the

“gift of arrogance,” and an overinflated ego, a rude air of superiority, forgetting that “pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18). Be not like one of those!

On the other hand, some ministers tend to have an excessive sense of self-deprecation, or self-deprecation, constantly with low self-esteem, saying “I am not worthy.” While true, we are not to get hung up on unworthiness, but rather to remember that “our sufficiency is of God.” As those who have a “high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14), we should “walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called” (Ephesians 4:1).

As a man of God, your concepts, your concerns, your convictions, based on the plain sense of Scriptures, are to be rooted in God and in His Word. You are a teacher of the Ultimate, an ambassador of the Heavenly Kingdom, a servant of the Most High God.

How then do you perceive yourself?
What are you to be and to do?

A Man of God Is A Man Of The Word – That Is Our Authority

As we quote and interpret Scripture, we can speak with authority. If we excessively clutter our minds with worldly wisdom and carnal thoughts, we will fail to declare the whole counsel of God. If we preach our opinions as though they were as infallible as the very words of God, then we lessen our authority, perhaps trusting in the wisdom of man, even good men, who are strong on their own pet preferences, but weak on the great doctrines of the Bible.

Our authority is wrapped up in one great premise: “It is written!”

We are not creators of truth, but speakers of truth . . . the truth of the Word of God. Therefore:

1. Master its contents

Read through the Word every year. There are 1,189 chapters and 31,107 verses in our Bibles. Know what each chapter is about from memory.

Saturate your mind and heart with its truths. Search the Scriptures (John 5:39). “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Examine every chapter, every verse over your lifetime, especially if you are young.

Exemplify its teachings, walking the walk, not just talking the talk.

Expound its doctrines, for its teachings on great themes are clear.

Explain in simplicity what each passage means to your listeners, as you preach the Word.

2. Meditate in its concepts

Some preachers have foolishly denounced “meditation” (because cults use the term) and have forgotten that we are “to meditate in His law day and night” (Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8).

Get into the Word until the Word does something for you.

Many years ago, a great pastor and evangelist named Joe Henry Hankins went through a deep period of depression and discouragement. He took a leave from his pastorate for three weeks and retreated to a tiny cabin to be alone with God. There he prayed passionately for power and read through the entire Bible, Genesis to Revelation, pleading with God for His wisdom and His anointing.

When he returned to his pulpit, His preaching was transformed. Thereafter, in his pastorates in Arkansas and his nationwide evangelistic ministry, he saw thousands and thousands saved. He had experienced the transforming power of the Word of God and the fresh filling of the Holy Spirit.

3. Memorize its chapters

If you cannot quote a thousand verses, which you can sprinkle through your messages, why not start now to learn by heart great passages and special verses? The psalmist said, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11). There are wonderful booklets to help

you memorize Scripture. You are not too old!

4. Manifest its principles in your life every day

Let the Word of God “effectually work . . . also in you . . .” (See 1 Thessalonians 2:13). We are personally to be living “epistles (letters) written in our hearts . . . to be read and known of all men” (See 2 Corinthians 3:2,3). Take up your cross daily and follow Jesus.

5. Make it central in your preaching

“Preach the Word” (2 Timothy 4:2) does not mean to tell a series of stories . . . it does not mean to wander around and give just your own opinions on a subject . . . it does not mean giving sweet talks on semi-religious subjects. No, not at all! It means to root every paragraph you utter in the very words of sacred Scripture. Saturate your message with the Bible. Preach on subjects, but use lots of Scripture. Preach on issues, but use lots of Scripture. Preach on Christian living, but use lots of Scripture. Preach evangelistically, expositively, topically, and from specific texts, but as Nehemiah 8:8 teaches . . . Read in the book in the law of God “distinctly and give the sense and cause the people to understand the meaning.”

Make much of the Word of God in your preaching. Never just read one verse in a service. You can get more Scripture publicly read, usually 15 to 20 verses, in a Sunday morning Lutheran service, or even in a Catholic service than in lots of Baptist churches in America. God help us!

A man of God reads the Bible, preaches the Bible, teaches the Bible. That is our authority.

A Man Of God Is A Man Of The Spirit – That Is Our Anointing

Ponder these promises from Jesus, the Head of the church, our High Priest and the sender of the Holy Spirit:

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter (Paraclete

— one alongside to help) will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you . . . Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of (from) himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you” (John 16:7-14).

“And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power (dunamis — dynamic spiritual energy) from on high” (Luke 24:49).

“But ye shall receive power (dunamis), after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Not only on the day of Pentecost, but on other occasions, Peter and the first church in Jerusalem were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:8,31).

When Ananias was sent to Saul of Tarsus, who after seeing Jesus on the Damascus Road was struck blind, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared to thee on the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost” (Acts 9:17).

To the Ephesians Paul wrote: “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).

When Jesus breathed on the apostles in John 20:22, saying, “Receive ye the Holy Ghost,” the Spirit became in them a constant indwelling presence. This was different from the Old Testament work of the Spirit who came upon His servants temporarily for special ministries (see Ezekiel 2:2, etc.) but did not abide as a constant reality.

There is a difference between the Holy Spirit being “in us,” which is true of all believers (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20) and the Holy Spirit being “upon” us in dynamic and empowering

strength, which is not necessarily a constant. As we walk close to the Lord, however, as did the seven in Acts 6, we are said to be “full of the Holy Ghost.”

While extremism and bizarre behavior attributed to the Holy Spirit is regrettable, ignoring the Holy Spirit and trying to do God’s work with mere human energy limits our ministries.

A Man Of God Must Be A Man Of The People – It’s Our Assignment

We must take care lest we become so involved in necessary building programs, organization, and campaigns that we lose sight of our real task, ministering to people.

Here are seven areas of our lives, seven circles of relationships that the servant of God should always consider.

1. Relationship to Your Family

Your prime obligation, transcending everything else, is your personal relationship to God. But, of equal importance is your relationship to your wife and children. Paul declares, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it” (Ephesians 5:25).

Unless you practice your responsibility to love her as God’s Word demands, you cannot expect her to submit, (Ephesians 5:21,22). Unfortunately, some preachers actually suppress their wives, and do not love them with the same deep devotion that Christ manifested in dying for us. You ought to be willing to live or die for her. That is spirituality. A hardheaded, stubborn preacher who makes excessive demands on his wife and fails in love needs to get back into the Bible and consider “the whole counsel of God” on this subject. Remember, you both come under the command, “Submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of

God” (Ephesians 5:20).

Some preachers neglect their wives and their children, not spending proper time or interest in their activities, being too busy in “the Lord’s work.” An interesting verse in the Song of Solomon (1:6) says, “They made me keeper of the vineyards, but mine own vineyard have I not kept.” Think about it!

Build a good marriage, patterned after Jesus and the church, showing all the compassion Jesus manifested toward His people and toward you.

2. Relationship to Other Preachers

It is futile to demand that all other preachers be in perfect agreement with everything you do or say. Agree to disagree on some things, not vital to the fundamentals of the faith. Love other preachers. Help other preachers, especially if you are older in the faith or older in years. Encourage other preachers. Pray for them, especially those in your Fellowship.

3. Relationship to Your Faithful Co-Laborers

You have a staff and a board. Build camaraderie with them, but lovingly affirm your leadership. Listen as well as talk. Build a “master leadership alliance,” with each staff member or board

member performing specific tasks to further the numerical and spiritual growth of the church.

4. Relationship to Your Nucleus of Workers

As a pastor you are pastor of the Sunday school and every facet, committee and activity of the church. Train them in teamwork and cooperation, and help them keep a positive spiritual attitude. These laypeople in your church constitute the core of your growth potential. Love them and lead them.

5. Relationship to your Congregation and Constituents

In my pastoral ministry, I visited or spent time with every family in the church over a year or two’s time. Gene Milioni of Findley, Ohio (a founder of the BBF), a pastor there for 50 years, called every member of his large Sunday school class every week, making as many as 200 short phone calls, rarely less than 100. Shepherd your people: “Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks and look well to thy herds” (Proverbs 27:23).

Walk slowly through the crowds. Some will want to be at the church early and greet those who come in or shake hands with people waiting for Sunday school or church to start. Oth-



**“Be thou diligent
thy flocks and lo**

ers may stand at the door (or doors, taking a different door each Sunday), shaking hands and speaking to people as they leave. Pray brief prayers with anyone who asks for prayer, right there on the spot. When you talk to a person in a crowd, look straight into their eyes as though no one else was around. Be at the hospital for emergencies and to visit the sick. Make at least one soul-winning visit (10 would be better) every week. Saturday is probably the best time to go soul winning.

Really love your people and show it and they will love you.

The late pastor/evangelist Howard Ingram, a founder of the BBF, summarized the work of pastoring in seven “w’s”: woo them. win them. wet them. warm them. warn them. work them. “worm” them (as may be necessary for their health).

6. Relationship to Your Community

You will have to be the judge of how much you are involved in civic affairs, service clubs, local events, public schools, college, or other activities. Some preachers engage in sports, such as golf or racquetball, and meet people outside their immediate circle of friends. Always be a living witness and do not hesitate to tell people about

to know the state of
look well to thy herds”

Proverbs 27:23

Jesus. You are part of your community, your neighborhood, your town, your city, your county. We are not to compromise, nor need we to “go out of the world” (1 Corinthians 5:10). Be separated, but do not be isolated.

7. Relationship to the Lost.

Our main job is to carry out the Great

Commission, making disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to observe all things Jesus taught us (See Matthew 28:19,20). Put soul winning on your weekly schedule. Allot several hours a week just to give out the gospel. Use tracts or the “Jesus Saves Booklet,” designed by Lee Fredrickson, to spread the gospel to people you meet. Do not imagine that you can just sit in the study and send out your people to be witnesses. Jesus did not do that. He led the way and trained the disciples. Paul did not sit back and just send his converts out to win others. He pioneered and led the way. He was a dynamic apostle, missionary, pastor, evangelist, and soul-winner.

Follow the example of Paul, who said, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Jesus urged, “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest (the Holy Spirit is Lord of the Harvest in this age) that he will send forth laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:38).

If you are not seeing very many people saved under your ministry, it may be that you and your people are not sowing the seed of the Gospel and leading others to do likewise. “He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully” (2 Corinthians 9:6).

“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalm 126:6).

Make soul winning and training soul winners a priority in your ministry. You will have results. You will be carrying out the Great Commission.

O man of God, win people! Love people! Teach people! Shepherd them!

That is your assignment!

James O. Combs is one of the founders of the BBF and BBC. He has been preaching since he was licensed by Huisache Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas, on October 6, 1943.

“Paul did not sit back and just send his converts out to win others. He pioneered and led the way.”

KENYA

Willy Isalano had been the pastor of Maili Saba Baptist Church for about eight years. To provide for his wife, Ester, and seven children, he worked cutting trees and firewood. One evening, on his way home from work, he was accosted by six thugs who demanded his bicycle and chainsaw. Willy was not willing to give up these possessions that were vital for his family's livelihood, so the thugs began beating him and cut him with machetes. They dragged him into some bushes beside the path leaving him for dead. He laid there all night until a man passing by heard his cries for help. Amazingly, Willy's wife also passed by about that time. The man asked, "Is this your husband?" She took a glance but

Richard & Ann Konnerup



did not recognize him. After a closer look, she realized it was Willy. They took him to a hospital, but he only lived a few days. On his last day, Willy told Ester he wanted to be buried on the church grounds as a testimony and to remind the church of his sermon the previous Sunday about being faithful and diligent to church. He asked about his children, raised his hand as to say goodbye, and then went to be with his Lord. At the funeral, Ester spoke. People went to be an encouragement to her and the children, but she was an encouragement to all that attended. It is a privilege to be associated with God's people like Willy and Ester.

Brian & Mychelle Garrison

PERU



When Nicco was six years old, her mother passed away, leaving her as the main caregiver for her brothers and sisters. Living in a remote village in the Andes Mountains made that task quite large and rather difficult at

times. At the age of 12, she made the long journey to the capitol of Lima to find work and hopefully a better life. After three years of transiency and moving from job to job, Nicco met Vicki, one of our church members. Vicki took her into her home and gave her a job cleaning her house. Soon after,

at the age of 15, Nicco entered the first grade and began to learn to read and write. Upon completing high school, she received God's free gift of salvation, and was shortly thereafter called by God into full-time ministry. We rejoiced with her two weeks ago as she walked across the platform of our Bible college to receive her diploma...the end of a very long journey. But, for her, it's only just begun. Nicco knows God wants her to be a missionary. Whether it is in returning to her mountain town or by travelling to another country, she is ready to go, and we are ready to send her. Please pray for her as she begins her new journey.

GERMANY

Renae Thompson



Annelise grew up in East Germany and in college was expected to sign a resolution condemning Vatican politics. As a good Catholic girl, however, she refused and was consequently thrown out of the university and sent to work in a cotton factory. For a date (in pre-wall Berlin) she hid her diplomas and transcripts in her dress and extra money in the bun of her hair. Once in the Western Sector, she told her date she intended to stay. In the intervening decades, she taught high school Russian and French in the West and retired just a few years ago. Despite an active life, Annelise

seems quite isolated with no relatives or close contacts in the area. As the Catholic church had not reciprocated her loyalty with help years ago, she said she had no use for church when I invited her to our services. After I assured her this would be something entirely different, she consented to come but then cancelled at the last minute. Please pray for her, the inhibition level is still too high.

Vladimir & Debbi Lukyanov

RUSSIA



Egor Ivanovich, a man in his 70s, lost his wife about four months ago. Before her death, she pleaded with him to get right with God and encouraged him to find a house church (as opposed to an institutionalized Russian Orthodox Church). So a few weeks

ago, he just came to visit during our services as I happened to start a series on the Gospel of John. He came again the following week. It was exciting to see that our church members were very friendly to him and even witnessed to him before services. After a couple of Sundays, he too trusted Christ and I had the privilege to lead him to the Lord.



Dennis & Jan Horn

couldn't stand it anymore and went to a gas station to steal

Armando, an unsaved teen here in Tupiza, was very frustrated because his mother was under so much stress trying to figure out how to pay all of the people she owed. One night, Armando

enough money to pay off his mother's debts. He stabbed the attendant six times and stole all of the cash available. The attendant lived and gave Armando's description to the police. He was arrested and put in the city jail. While there, Armando heard our preacher boys preach and was gloriously saved! Armando made the comment that if he hadn't gone to jail, he would probably never have gotten saved.

NICARAGUA

Jason & Nadia Kratochvil

Marcelo and Carol, brother and sister, were saved recently in one of our Sunday youth meetings. They immediately invited their parents, Freddy & Margarita, to come to church with them. Their parents agreed and visited the church the following Wednesday. They expressed that they enjoyed the service and would be back in the future. The following Sunday they returned and were sitting in the front row. Jason was preaching a message on spiritual warfare and during the invitation made a plea to those who had never accepted Christ. He did not even get to finish the sentence

when Freddy said, "We want to receive Christ! We want to receive Christ!" That evening both Margarita and Freddy accepted Christ as Savior! The only one that remains unsaved in the family is their other teenager, Freddy Jr. He has been reading his Bible and asking a lot of questions. We have no doubt that he will receive Christ very soon. We can't wait to see the entire family saved and following Christ!



Jim & Amy Smith

Taketo's mother is a believer who attends Makuhari BBC. Years ago, she purchased a t-shirt for her son with the words "victory in Jesus" in hopes that someday he would claim the victory over sin and everlasting life that God had waiting for him. About two years ago, while cleaning out his closet, Taketo returned the t-shirt to his mother for her to throw away, having no use for it. Yet, a mother's hope for her

son caused her to keep the t-shirt. At Christmastime we spent time with Taketo and gave him a gift — a Japanese copy of a Christian film about facing spiritual giants. The thought that "with God, all things are possible" must have hit a chord, and spiritual changes started happening. On January 25, Taketo believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. Recently, his mother brought the t-shirt to church and shared the testimony about her son. Please join us in praying for Taketo's spiritual growth.

MEXICO

Larry & Tammy Allred

Ruby was recently saved after coming to see her friend get baptized. She has been faithful and is taking a discipleship class now. Her parents at one point told her she couldn't come back to church, but then changed their minds (thanks to prayer!). Recently, her mom began reading her discipleship material and was very interested. One of our teens had a birthday party and asked Larry to speak. Ruby's mom came with her to the birthday party. We had an opportunity to talk with her and thank her for allowing Ruby to come to

church. She thanked us and said she appreciated what we were doing because she had seen some very positive changes in her daughter since she's been coming to our church. She told Ruby when they got home that night that she had prayed to receive Christ when Larry shared the plan of salvation that night at the party. We'll never know just how many lives we might be touching without realizing it!



Baptist History

BY THOMAS RAY



George Whitfield and the Baptists

George Whitfield, the renowned English evangelist, made his first voyage to America in 1738. His preaching ignited a fire known as the Great Awakening, which engulfed the entire nation and helped transform America and save it from atheism and rationalism.

However, strong opposition to his message of free grace from unconverted and carnal ministers forced him to conduct most of his meetings in the more evangelical Presbyterian and Congregational churches. This opposition has led several historians to falsely attribute the lack of participation of Baptists in the Great Awakening to their hostility to Whitfield and his methods. However, their lack of involvement can be easily explained by the fact that in 1740 there were only 65 Baptist churches in America with approximately 3,100 members. Most of their churches were located in rural areas and few Baptist churches had the luxury of a full-time pastor.

In spite of their scanty numbers, Charles Maxson, historian of the Great Awakening, declares that Baptists received the greatest benefit from Whitfield and the Great Awakening. One Baptists who actively supported Whitfield and aggressively participated in the Great Awakening was Jenkin Jones (1686-1760), pastor of the Pennypack and Philadelphia Church.

Jones and Whitfield first met in Philadelphia in 1739. Whitfield described their meeting in his journal: "I went in the afternoon to see the Baptist teacher (Jenkin Jones) who seems to be a spiritual man." The entry from Tuesday, November 6, said, "Was visited in the evening by the Presbyterian and the Baptist preachers who were much rejoiced to hear Jesus Christ preached in the church." The two preachers had attended the Episcopal Christ Church to hear Whitfield. That church would eventually bar Whitfield from their pulpit.

After a lengthy preaching tour, Whitfield returned to Philadelphia April 14, 1740. The following comments reveal

the deep affection and friendship that had developed between Whitfield and Jones:

"It is impossible to express the joy that many felt when they saw my face again. Oh, how they did comfort my heart with the account of what God had done for their own and many other people's souls. The Baptist minister (Jenkin Jones) in particular, who had been instrumental in watering what God had planted, recounted to me many noble instances of God's power of free grace shown in the conviction and conversion of some ministers as well as common people."



Whitfield left Philadelphia on a brief preaching tour of New York returning May 7. On the day of his arrival, he wrote in his journal, "After dispatching some private affairs, I went and heard Mr. Jones, the Baptist minister, who preached the truth as it is in Jesus. He is the only preacher that I know of in Philadelphia who speaks feelingly and with authority. The poor people are much refreshed by him, and I trust the Lord will bless him more and more."

The Baptist historian, David Spencer, states "This evaluation by the renowned George Whitfield to the spirituality and preaching ability of Jenkin Jones is a worthy compliment to one of the ablest and most useful Baptist ministers of the eighteenth century." Jones responded to Whitfield's visit by inviting him to preach at the Pennypack Church. Whitfield accepted the invitation and preached "to about two thousand people."

It is obvious from Whitfield's journal that Jones was more than a supporter; he was a zealous participant in the revival. Baptists like Jenkin Jones, Oliver Hart, Benjamin Miller, John Gano, David Thomas, Shubal Stearns, and Daniel Marshall, who had been influenced by the Great Awakening, helped lay the foundation that produced the phenomenal growth of Baptists in the 18th and 19th centuries.



Charles Lyons, Pastor
Armitage Baptist Church
Chicago, Illinois

A journal entry by Michelle Thompson

Yesterday I was able to make my way up the stairs and into a home that has consistently been hostile to our ministry. I knew, or thought I did, the kind of apartment that I would find. However, after years of entering poverty-stricken homes, I was surprised when I went inside. The walls were caked with dirt and grime, tattered clothes lay in a heap next to a pile of dumped-out oatmeal and overflowing ashtrays. Cockroaches swarmed around oblivious to the fact that I was trying to walk. There was no furniture, just a few overturned box crates that served as chairs next to an enormous-sized television blaring rap and profanity. A smell of staleness, smoke, and sweat was being blown around by a window fan. There were bunk beds with only a pillow and a torn sheet. Teenagers and younger kids ran in and out of the rooms cursing and yelling, and fighting with each other. There were no pictures, no personal touches, nothing to show that a family lived here. The refrigerator plug lay dangling on the floor unplugged. The cabinets were completely bare, save one half-empty carton of oatmeal. Someone had started sweeping but had long since abandoned the project leaving behind a pile of dirt, cigarette butts, and condom wrappers.

I had come to see about a young girl who was having a hard time dealing with the death of her grandfather. I found her crying in a corner room being yelled at by an older sibling. She was, I discovered, supposed to be washing the dishes. I was right in the middle of kids' club with 25 kids and 12 leaders from Ohio across the street and I knew that

in 15 minutes they would be waiting for me to teach the lesson. How easy it would be to simply offer her a hug and quickly exit to the safety of the backyard. But I knew that God wanted me to stay and encourage this young girl by serving her.

So we washed dishes. I soaked my hands in the lukewarm water and with only a teaspoon of soap attacked a pile of dishes with a filthy rag that had just wiped down a counter of dead (and live) roaches. It was a test of humility. There is absolutely nothing pretty about dipping your hands in tepid water and washing other people's dirty dishes with a grimy rag while cockroaches run over your flip-flop-covered feet. But as I immersed my hands in the water I knew that God was pointing out to me an area of pride. Am I too good to stand in a kitchen and serve a child in this way?

God began to remind me that Jesus came and clothed Himself in humanity, was born in a manger, and laid in straw. He bore the indecencies, the pain, and the humiliation of the cross. My attitude, my ministry, and my love must be about serving, and about humbling myself and following the example of Christ. I am grateful that God allowed me the opportunity to love this girl by serving her, and continue to pray that one day I can rejoice in her salvation!

The little girl accepted Christ at the end of 2008 and she and her two brothers attend Armitage - Garfield faithfully.

Michelle, along with her husband, Curtis, directs the children's ministry at Armitage - Garfield. They are part of the ministry team with Pastor Jamie

Thompson at our congregation in West Garfield Park on the west side of Chicago.

The Streets I Feared to See

I said: "Let me walk in the field."
God said: "Nay, walk in the town."
I said: "There are no flowers there."
He said: "No flowers, but a crown."
I said: "But the sky is black,
There is nothing but noise and din."
But He wept as He sent me back,
"There is more," he said, "there is sin."

I said: "But the air is thick,
And fog is veiling the sun."
He answered: "Yet souls are sick,
And souls in the dark undone."
I said: "I shall miss the light,
And friends will miss me, they say."
He answered me: "Choose tonight
If I am to miss you, or they."
I pleaded for time to be given.
He said: "Is it hard to decide?
It will not seem hard in Heaven
To have followed the steps of your Guide."

I cast one look at the fields,
Then set my face to the town.
He said, "My child, do you yield?
Will you leave the flowers for the crown?"
Then into His hand went mine,
And into my heart came He;
And I walk in a light Divine
The streets I had feared to see.

—George MacDonald (1824-1905)



World Scope

Jon Konnerup | BBFI Mission Director



Proud to be a part of the BBFI

As I prepared for the May 2009 Fellowship Meeting, my thoughts went back 22 years when Pam and I were approved as missionaries. We served in Kenya for 11 years. Then God moved me to the Mission Office as an associate mission director for seven years. Now, it will be four years since I was selected to follow Dr. Baird as the mission director. It is amazing how time flies.

The my responsibility as mission director is daunting, my opportunities are great, and my privilege is rewarding. What I do can be categorized in three ways — work with the nearly 900 missionaries of the BBFI in 102 countries, work with a little over 3,000 US pastors of the BBFI, and oversee and direct the World Mission Service Center of the BBFI, serving both pastors and missionaries.

In preparation for the May meeting, we worked for months to be ready for the missionary approvals, committee meetings, and presentation of the Mission Office financial budget. Needless to say, the Lord has given us wonderful, dedicated workers to help us be effective and efficient. Leading the Mission Office is the first aspect of serving as the Mission Director.

During this time, I also flew to Vergennes, Vermont, to participate in the mission conference of Victory Baptist Church, led by Pastor Tim Taylor (another aspect of my position — serving the pastors and churches of our Fellowship). I enjoy preaching about the passion of God for the people of the world while challenging people to pray,

give, and go. My time with Pastor Taylor, his wife, and their church family was tremendous. Beau Moore, BBFI missionary to Portugal, was also a part of the conference, and the church voted to take him and his wife on as part of their missionary force. Mission conferences are always exciting times.

I also have the wonderful opportunity to work with our missionaries all around the world. I get emails and phone calls daily sharing missionar-

1,600 enrolled through the years with 250 men and 125 ladies entering the ministry. These churches have also sent out men to start other churches and missions all across the Philippine Islands.

Pastor Rick Carter and his wife, Shannon, participated in these graduations and celebration. The theme was “Fruits of the Ministry.” It was a blessing to meet the men and women who have been trained as spiritual leaders

in the Philippines today. Attending the celebration were 125 pastors who are fruit of the ministry along with hundreds of church members. Many expressed their gratitude for



Celebrating fruit of the ministry in the Philippines

ies’ needs, problems, prayer requests, and blessings. God is definitely working through our missionaries globally. I thoroughly enjoy visiting our missionaries on their fields. After the mission conference in Vermont, I had one day before going to the Philippines. That day I worked on things in the Mission Office. Then I traveled for 29 hours to Manila to participate in the graduation of two Bible institutes and the 50-year celebration of the Bible Baptist Seminary. This seminary was started by missionaries Fred Null, Frank Hooge, L. D. Woosley, and Bill Anderson, but later completely directed by Fred Null. Since 1981, Dennis Ebert has been leading it. They have seen more than

the missionaries who have brought the wonderful, life-saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Their thanks for the BBFI was very evident and clearly from the heart.

I was blessed both by my visit to the church in Vermont and the services in the Philippines. What I came away with is that we have a world to reach for Christ, both in the USA and abroad. The efforts of our pastors and missionaries are making a strong, life-changing impact of which I am proud to be a part. We can’t let up or get discouraged — we must keep up the fight for the souls deceived by the enemy. We are the ones who get to take them the Light of the world — Jesus Christ.



Two conferences a singular success

The National Church Planting Office has a flexible charter.

As the name implies, we assist churches to plant new churches by providing training, guidance, and consulting services. We also recognize that more mature churches can use some of these services as well, so we do all we can to refuel or restart churches who find themselves on a plateau.

That was the idea behind the S3 Conference held in conjunction with the Winter Haven, Florida, Church Planters' Candidate School, April 27–May 1 this spring. The S3 Conference took place at the same facility, Winter Haven Baptist Church, the first three days of the candidate school.

S3 stands for three “s” words – stretch, surge, and serve. Working with Mark Milioni (First Baptist Church, Medina, Ohio), Terry Kizer (Alliance Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas), Tim Robertson (Central Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Virginia), and NCPO Assistant Director Jason Todd, and in cooperation with the *Tribune* and Editor Keith Bassham, we envisioned a conference that would stretch the participants, help them surge their own ministries, and show some ways to serve in their communities.

We brought in three “big guns” for the three days. Day one we had Elmer Towns lecture and answer questions about his observations of churches in and out of the Baptist Bible Fel-

lowship. His first session was about innovation and the types of churches needed to reach people in a rapidly changing world. Although he advocated changing methods when necessary, he cautioned that changes have to be approached with questions, such as, “Is this change scriptural?” and “Will this method work in my locality?” Towns also spoke about “big faith,” using examples from the life of Jerry Falwell.

The Tuesday guest speaker was Bill Monroe who spoke about personal stretching, telling the preachers attending “If you want things to

Taylor covered some Sunday school growth principles and techniques once well-known in our Fellowship, the 30 pastors who attended, along with the church planters, eagerly bought into Taylor’s aggressive evangelism. One of Taylor’s presentation slides had the phrase, “Ain’t hardly nobody been saved what ain’t been gone after!” His coaching style (he is a former football coach) wedded to tried and proven principles formed a winning combination.

Several times during the day, informal round tables provided time for response and idea exchanges among

the participants. All the positive remarks on the response sheets tells me we need more conferences like this, and our newly appointed president, Mark Hodges, (who was also the host pastor for the event) would like to see some of them incorporated into our national fellowship meetings.

Meanwhile, we also had the candidate school with eight church planters in attendance. Again, the guys were inundated with reams of information

about church planting and leadership in churches. We believe that church planting really is a team project, this time we also had wives attend so they could have a better look at what the task will be for them.

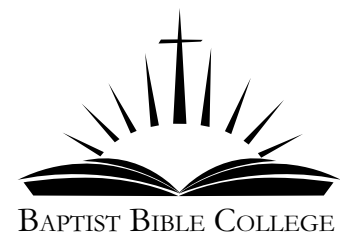
The next NCPO Candidate School will be October 12-16 at Sauk Trail Baptist Church near Chicago, Illinois. For more information on the school or any other NCPO matter, contact us at 417.889.1017 or bbfncpo@aol.com.



Front row (L to R): Brady Brinson, Rachele Hodges, Robert Hodges, Jason Kleckner, Mindi Kleckner. Back row: Jonathan Perry, Don McElvain, Shannon Peterson, Jon Peterson, Jason Todd, Whitney Walters, Joshua Bell, Butch Mace, Wayne Guinn.

change, you must change.” The day was spent looking at ways to form a moral and spiritual compass and developing core values in order to set and reach goals. Monroe’s lectures focused primarily on the spiritual element of success and creating balance in a pastor/leader’s life.

Wednesday was spent with Allan Taylor, minister of education for First Baptist Church and Pastor Johnny Hunt of Woodstock, Georgia. Though



It's all about future investment!

A number of years ago, Merlin Olsen, ex-football player and member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, was playing with his children in his beautifully manicured front yard. The grass was green and lush, and it made a perfect carpet to play touch football. Merlin Olsen's wife yelled out the door, "Hey, you guys, the grass can't grow if you are playing on it." Merlin's immediate response was, "We aren't trying to grow grass; we are trying to grow kids!"

As I reflect back on a very satisfying year at Baptist Bible College, I am struck with the awesome responsibility God has given us to develop these young lives into future Christian leaders. These students have come to us with enthusiasm, curiosity, uncertainty, and potential. Oh, what potential!

As I interact with the student body, I am often sobered by the reality

ask God to give me the words to lift them up and edify them. Almost without exception, I was the one who came away encouraged. God often works like that, doesn't He? At Baptist Bible College, I often ask the Lord to let me say words of edification, wisdom, and instruction to the young people I encounter. Invariably, I am the one who is blessed. To hear the heart that many of our students have for service; to listen to their intercession prayers on behalf of lost loved ones and co-workers; to see the joy they have as they share testimonies of people they have led to Christ; that is the reward of being the president of BBC.

We are growing a generation of students who have a passion for Jesus Christ! Do they have all the wisdom that age and experience will provide for them? No, not yet! But neither did we when we left these hallowed halls and

of us found mentors, professors, and friends at Baptist Bible College that have eternally impacted our lives.

This new generation of students deserves the same opportunity. As pastors, youth pastors, alumni, and friends come to campus and speak to these new recruits for God's army, they are investing in the future. We have some wonderful, eager, hungry students just waiting for tutoring and encouraging. I hope that as you encounter our students, you will plan to be a blessing in their lives. My guess is that they will make an impact on your life as well! Watch God make such blessings a reality in all parties involved. Please do your part to be an instrument of encouragement to our college family!

The world system is attacking Christianity full force. As I was driving in Kentucky recently, a member of the clergy passed my car. On his car was a bumper sticker I had never seen before. I paused as I read it, realizing what it meant. It said: "BORN OK; THE FIRST TIME!" Oh, that so encapsulates our post-Christian world. They think they don't need our Christ! They think they don't need His salvation! They think they don't need the new birth!

But they do need a witness! They do need an army of trained soldiers ready to engage their agnosticism! They do need the Truth; and they need truth-tellers. That is why Baptist Bible College must be strong and prepared. We must all be in the business of growing a new generation of leaders, world-shapers, and champions! The cause of Christ is depending upon it! Please be a part of BBC's ongoing mission of training effective Christian leaders for America and the world.

...these students must be challenged to attempt great things for God.

that I am looking at the future world-shapers for the cause of Christ. Are we doing our best to get them ready for a world that is so different from the past? In this post-Christian world, these students must be challenged to attempt great things for God. How exciting it is to anticipate their impact! Baptist Bible College must be strong and prepared in order to train these future recruits for the work of the ministry.

As a pastor, I often went to the hospital or nursing home intending to be an encouragement to a dear saint of God facing health challenges. I would

ventured into the world of ministry. Do we remember those days of youth and inexperience in our own lives? Oh, God was so gracious!

People sometimes talk about BBC students like they are "flawed" and even "messed up." I remember my years at Baptist Bible College and recall some students who were not very serious about serving God, and potentially were even "flawed" and "messed up." There has always been a part of BBC's nurturing responsibility aimed at helping people in the growing process. In God's mercy and grace, many



An ode to the class of 2009

It is May. That means graduation. I had graduation practice yesterday with the Boston Baptist College Class of 2009. By the time you read this, they will be Boston alumni.

One day later, I said something to them off the cuff, in a context I cannot even remember. But I do remember what I said! I told them that “after graduation day there will probably be classmates you will never see again.” Never...this side of heaven.

For most, basking in the warm sunshine of a baccalaureate degree, my passing remark just passed. I did see a couple of students grimace quickly — feeling a tinge of pain. For me, I am still pondering my own words.

The truth of the matter is that God has not put us here to stay in one place. There is something unmistakably holy about believers scattered to the four winds, taking the words of Jesus literally, living our lives in the uttermost corners of the globe. That is real, and that is reality. I sit in Boston today, and like you, I think of people I love — my family in the gospel, who are scattered here, there, and everywhere. Some of them I envy. (Wouldn't it be nice to live where the cost of living is lower?) Others I admire with trepidation. (Just saying “sub-Sahara” can send an ironic chill down my spine.) Funny, some think of us in Boston as a suffering lot. I love it here. We have so many pagans at an arm's reach that we have amazing “job security!”

Where do the Boston graduates go? A few typically (and statistically) stay in New England. They sometimes go back to the churches they came from, ready and equipped to lead where once they could only follow. Every year we

have others who are really flying the coup! Bill, Anna, and Brian are all headed for Asia. Missions is not a theory for us...it is an itinerary. I hope our graduates in foreign lands read this... “We think of you, we pray for you, we miss you.”

Okay, so you know it is true. It is true for every college, every church, every endeavor. Some people just go away. And they never look back. Most

to their “assignments,” back out into the Lord's harvest fields.

We are the antithesis of a monastery. We are theological expellants. We disband every year. Boston students do not come here to stay. They come here to be sent away.

There is something so comforting and biblical about that. It is, of course, as it should be, and why places like Boston Baptist College must be.

Boston students do not come here to stay. They come here to be sent away.

of the time I can never figure out why.

But that is not the norm in Boston. After a dozen years here, I have a lot more friends than I used to have. Our whole Boston team works hard to “keep the light on for them.” I speak with alums every week in a variety of contexts. I am always saying, “Come back and visit,” and “Help us with the next generation.” The exhilarating element at colleges like ours is that we have continuity.

Oh sure, some things change. I had an alum come to campus a few weeks ago and crack about my office that is now across the hall from “where it is supposed to be.” Another one came for college days and teased me about the days when denim dress shirts were controversial! Still another one told me that I had apparently gained weight (I politely failed to mention that he was twice the person I had once known.)

But once I take my friendly abuse, it comes back around to why we exist. I watch our alumni drive off the lot, back

But I can't help grimace with a couple of the Class of '09 who were with me in Henderson Hall yesterday. James makes me laugh, even if he describes himself as a “nerd that sits in his room all day pretending to do homework.” I'll never forget how kind he was to my little boy as we traipsed around Jerusalem's Old City together. I'll never forget Rich, and playing “Ghost” with him and Tamika while we drove across Greece late at night. I will always laugh when I hear someone call Derick “Mr. Mishayla.” When will we see anybody on this campus again who has the style of Sammy Nkayamba? And Aimee, oh don't get me started!

Yeah, I am “happy” to see them go — go to the ends of the earth.

Tear it up, Class of 2009. Make Kingdom choices. Wherever you go, don't leave it the way you find it. Come back and visit when you can.

Those graduates, I won't forget them. I can't forget them. I will miss them.

BBC students mentor to impact their community

Springfield, MO

Every Wednesday from mid-February through late March a group of 50-60 Baptist Bible College students mentored students at Robberson Elementary School for an hour. Robberson is a school in Springfield that serves mostly poverty-stricken families. This mentoring opportunity had two purposes: to make connections with and provide positive role models to children in the community and to help Robberson students prepare for standardized testing required by the state of Missouri. To accomplish this, mentors spent time at recess getting to know their mentees and having fun with them. Then, in the attempt to raise the school's overall test scores, BBC mentors reviewed practice test items with their mentees. The Robberson mentoring opportunity culminated with BBC hosting all of Robberson's students on the college

campus for lunch and games.

The mentoring generated excitement for both mentors and mentees. Jacqui Yaun, coordinator of the mentoring opportunity, testifies to this saying, "The BBC mentors strongly anticipated going to see their mentees. Students sent text messages to one another expressing ex-

I had become an older brother to my kid. We see each other not just once a week but a few times a week. This program helped me realize how much younger kids need someone in their lives." Teachers and administrators at Robberson also attest to the children's eagerness to spend time with their mentors. "The

kids were absolutely thrilled to see the college kids each week," said Kevin Huffman, principal of the school.

Although the goal of raising test scores cannot be assessed until later in the school year, the impact of the opportunity has exceeded expectations. Following the final mentoring period Huffman remarked, "This program was a complete success. We loved having the mentors come each week."

This is an example of how BBC students are ministering to their community. "Although there was a lot of uncertainty and fear, this group chose to move outside of their comfort zones in order to learn, grow, and have an eternal impact," says Yaun.



BBC students with Robberson students involved in mentoring program

citement about seeing the children, and also talked in the hallways about their personal experiences and growth." Rod Williams, a BBC mentor remarks, "By the end of the program I wasn't just a mentor who came only once a week, but

BBC concert choir holds spring series

Springfield, MO

Three Springfield-area churches hosted the Baptist Bible College Concert Choir in concerts during the spring season. The choir, under the direction of David Giles, completed concerts at Seminole Baptist Church, Park Crest Baptist Church, and Broadway Baptist Church. This same choir impressed attendees at the May Graduation Fellowship Meeting May 11-14.

Pastor Don Baier of Seminole Baptist said of the concert series, "Our church was blessed by the choir's performance. The music was well prepared and presented in a God-honoring manner. We would highly recommend them to any church." Pastor Eddie Bumpers of Broadway Baptist agreed with the recommendation saying "The choir is made up of a great group of students who truly brought us before the Throne of Grace as they led in worship. It was a great experience."

The choir is currently working on the performance schedule for the next school year. Those interested in hosting them should e-mail choir@gobbcc.edu or call 417-268-6044.



Boston Baptist students study Life of Paul-On Site

Boston, MA

By Ken Gillming,
Vice President for Academic Affairs

During our Life of Paul-ON SITE trip, nearly 80 students and faculty from Boston Baptist College studied Paul's journey in Greece (Athens and Corinth mostly) and Turkey from March 5-12. We visited the ancient city of Ephesus and validated the impact the gospel had in the first century. As students saw the challenges Paul had with the idolatry of Corinth and the gods of the Acropolis, as they walked the hills on the Isle of Patmos, and when they saw the stones advertising the prostitution of Ephesus, their view of Paul's impact on his generation was radically changed.

A highlight of the trip was when a group of about 25 of us gravitated to Mars Hill from the Agora below and saw the Acropolis on the next hill with a full moon in the background. It was breathtaking. There I challenged

the students to speak up for Christ as Paul had done. As the guys jumped at the opportunity, the crowd grew from the hundreds who were already on the hill. Listen in on one of the many talks. This one is from Alex Andrews, a freshman from Seymour, Tennessee:

"Twenty-one centuries later, Athens is much the same city as it was, if not worse. Paul looked out and saw a city full of idols and we see a city even more wholly given to idolatry...not just in Athens, Greece, but in Boston and the world at large. Instead of asking what is required

of me, we should be asking, 'God, give me a double portion of responsibility to serve You.' We don't need more ability or experience, but more determination to do God's calling on our lives.

Mars Hill isn't a place of debating high ideals or talking about 'a new thing' like it was 2000 years ago. It's a place where people come to party and write graffiti. It represents the god of this age. Its ragged top brings glory to God because the message of the gospel will not go away. Just as in Paul's day, Jesus is still the answer...the only answer."



Boston students listening to preaching on the Isle of Patmos (L) and ascending Mars Hill (R)

Dove earns PhD LBU graduates 172

Springfield, MO

Baptist Bible College music professor Michael Dove recently received his PhD in Music Education from the University of Kansas. Dove has taught on the music faculty at BBC 20 years, and he has been heavily involved in music ministry in local churches in Carthage and Springfield. Dove has been instrumental in BBC hosting professional seminars for music educators across the state as well as greatly helping the music education department (along with the elementary education department) receive DESE (state) certification.



BBC President Jim Edge honors Michael Dove for his accomplishment during BBC's commencement exercises

Shreveport, LA

Louisiana Baptist University held its 35th graduation on May 8 with 172 graduates receiving their degrees. The graduation was held in the auditorium of Summer Grove Baptist Church with David Wood presenting the commencement address. Twenty-four graduates completed their studies in the Korean language and six received degrees through the ongoing Spanish language program of the university. A milestone was reached with the conferring of the first PhD degree earned with all studies done in the Spanish language.

David Melton, president of Boston Baptist College, along with Lyle

Smith were presented with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree at the ceremony. The Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary also presented

honorary doctorates to Dennis Jennings (Doctor of Humanities) and Brian Hughes (Doctor of Letters).

In addition to those receiving degrees in Shreveport, 47 students will receive degrees in various foreign countries through

the INSTEP program. Of particular note are seven in the country of Russia, the first who have completed a degree through the partnership with missionaries in that area.



David Melton (L) with LBU President Neal Weaver

Gary Grey retires from Park Crest pulpit

Springfield, MO

May 17, Park Crest Baptist Church honored retiring Pastor Gary Grey and his wife, Carla, with a retirement service and dinner at the church. Grey has been the pastor of Park Crest more than 18 years.

The services and dinner featured testimonies from church members and friends, and special presentations were given by the Greys' son, Pastor Brian Grey of Arlington, Texas, and longtime friend and former pastor Bill Butcher of Arkansas.

The church presented the Greys with a check in the amount of \$18,000, and Carla received a remembrance scrapbook.

Affectionately known by the church membership as "Preacher," Grey was called to the church December 10, 1990, when he was Executive Vice President of Baptist Bible College, a post he had held since 1986.

Under his leadership, the church acquired more property and expanded its buildings. A new sanctuary and education facility were dedicated in April 2003. The project, costing \$3.8 million, allowed seating of up to 1,250 people in

the auditorium. Under Grey's leadership, Park Crest has also been one of the largest supporters of BBFI missionaries and colleges.

Gary Grey graduated from Baptist Bible College in 1963, and immediately following, he and Carla were married. He assisted Wendell Zimmerman and Lawrence Oney, and pastored churches in Colorado, Kansas, and Illinois before taking the vice president's post at BBC. As a BBF pastor, Grey has been active in state and national Fellowship life, holding several positions and encouraging preachers worldwide to support and uphold Fellowship ministries. Most recently, Grey served as president of the

Baptist Bible Fellowship since 2006. He resigned that position during the May Fellowship Meeting.

Grey will be succeeded at Park Crest by Philip Housley, who had served the church previously as an assistant pastor.

Gary and Carla Grey are available for preaching and speaking engagements. They can be contacted by email at cj_grey@sbcglobal.net, by phone at 417.889.1555 (home) and 417.849.0697 (cell), or at 2163 E. Richmond, Springfield, MO 65804.



Gary Grey (L) with Tribune Editor Keith Bassham (R)



Gary and Carla Grey at their retirement service

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Father/son steak fry held at Antioch Baptist

Gladstone, MO

The men's ministry of Antioch Bible Baptist Church hosted their first father and son steak fry on Friday night, April 17. The steak fry was open to all men and sons 10 years of age and older. Carey Casey, Chief Executive Officer for the Kansas City-based National Center for Fathering, was guest speaker for the event. There were 230 men and sons in attendance. According to Todd Slagle, family pastor at Antioch, "In all of the years of Antioch Men's Ministry, the men's steak fry was by far the most well-attended men's event we have ever witnessed at our church."

Casey challenged dads on the importance of loving their children, modeling that love, and coaching their chil-

dren throughout life. Casey recently authored his first book, *Championship Fathering*, which includes a foreword by Tony Dungy, Super Bowl-winning coach for the Indianapolis Colts.

The men's steak fry follows on the heels of a year-long study entitled,



"Men's Fraternity: The Quest for Authentic Manhood." Beginning in September 2008, two groups of men participated in a 24-week journey that included one group of men averaging 22 in attendance meeting Tuesday evenings and another group averaging 48 in attendance meeting Wednesday mornings. Slagle stated, "I truly believe that the momentum gained by building godly principles into the lives of men on a weekly basis had much to do with the tremendous success of the men's steak fry. God is honored

when churches make an intentional and systematic effort to spiritually teach men to be the men God intended them to be."



Carey Casey

Boones celebrate 50 years at First Baptist

Wright City, TX

Friends and family from across the country gathered earlier this year in Wright City to honor Richard G. Boone and his wife, Peggy (Hart) Boone, for their 50 years of service to First Baptist Church of Wright City. The event was celebrated with special music, a video of memories, and awards of special recognition from friends around the country. Pastors, evangelists, and church members stood before the crowd and gave tribute to the Boones. After the service, the church provided a catered meal for those in attendance.

Richard was a 1954 graduate of Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, and Peggy began classes at Baptist Bible College in 1951. Hundreds of people, representing half a century of souls saved and lives changed by this steadfast couple, turned out to show their appreciation.



Richard and Peggy Boone

30th reunion for class of '69

Springfield, MO



The Class of 1969 of Baptist Bible College held their 40th class reunion in the Executive Dining Room of the Dr. R.O. Woodworth Dining Hall with more than 70 in attendance. Those able to stay until the end of the reunion gathered on the steps outside for a group photo.

Photo by Tom Dye

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First Coast celebrates 70th anniversary with groundbreaking

Jacksonville, FL

On March 15, Pastor Richard Edwards and First Coast Baptist Church celebrated the 70th anniversary of the church and a groundbreaking for a 44,000-square-foot building. Al Janney, one of First Coast's former pastors, was the special preacher for the day.

Janney challenged the congregation to live up to its history. He said, "We are still God's people...we can rise up and go forward just like we did in the past... our duty for today is whatever is necessary to serve God, not to enjoy ourselves." Following a prayer of dedication, Edwards and church deacon Tom Bundy turned the first shovel-full of dirt for the new building.

First Coast's history is intertwined with the Baptist Bible Fellowship. Starting as Beaver Street Baptist Church, pastors of the church have included G. E. Hodges, W. E. Dowell, Wendell Zimmerman, A. C. Janney, and Bill Dougherty. Richard Edwards became pastor in 2002.

Though he is aware of the historical nature of the church, Edwards is building with an eye to the future. "A vast number of individuals within our reach are lonely and are desperately searching for the answer of how to exist in a threatened, uncertain, and troubled world. We aren't building for us, we are building for them... for future generations," he says.



Top: Congregation in 1945. Bottom: Dedication prayer before groundbreaking

Watsons to celebrate 50th wedding anniv.

Olathe, KS

The children of E. J. and Anita Watson invite friends to celebrate their parents' 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, July 18, at 1:00 p.m., at Faith Baptist Church in Olathe, Kansas. Please RSVP to watsonanniversary@hotmail.com or send cards in care of Eric Watson, 400 S. Moonlight Rd., Olathe, KS 66030.

E. J. graduated from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, in 1966. Upon graduation, he became the youth pastor at Faith Baptist for one year until he was called as pastor of the church in 1967. The Watsons have five children: Bob, Darla, Robyn, Daniel, and Eric.



E.J. and Anita Watson

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E. Denver Bible Baptist reaches out at Easter

Denver, CO

East Denver Bible Baptist Church and Pastor Loren Richmond held a successful weekend of Easter activities on April 11-12. On Saturday, the church hosted games, music, snacks, and an Easter egg hunt for the community. The Abbas Family supplied special music for the event. Along with the people from the East Denver church, there were volunteers from Columbine Baptist Church, Northside Baptist Church, and Child Evangelism Fellowship. Baptist Youth Mission provided their video bus in which 21 decisions for salvation were made after the children were presented with the gospel.

Everyone in attendance was invited back for the Easter service on Sunday.

The next morning, the church served breakfast to those in attendance. Special classes were held for the teens, the children had their service in the

video bus, while the adults listened to a testimony from a former catholic priest, a five-minute sermon by 11-year-old Elijah, and a message by Richmond. There were a total of 175 in attendance on Sunday with an additional 17-19 salvation decisions. "A special blessing was to have a number of refugees from Bhutan, Nepal, present for the first time. We had recently met them and given them food, along with some literature and New Testaments in the Nepali language," said Richmond. After the service, the church distributed more than 100 food boxes to those in the community.



Baptist Temple hosts apologetics conference

Springfield, MO

Baptist Temple and Pastor Mark Rounsaville hosted a "Why I Believe" Apologetics Conference April 19-21. Rounsaville says he wanted to confirm church members' faith in the validity of the Scriptures and to equip them to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you," as the Bible says in 1 Peter 3:15.

Three professors of Baptist Bible College and Graduate School teamed with Rounsaville in presenting Power Point-driven sermons. Ray Adams presented "The Stones Cry Out –

The Evidence of Modern Archaeology." Wayne Slusser presented a message on the evidence of the ancient manuscripts. Rounsaville preached on the prophetic evidence of the modern State of Israel.

Greg Christopher wrapped up the conference with a message titled "A Logical Answer – The Role of Apologetics in a Pluralistic Society."

Each service also featured a 10-minute episode from the six-part educational DVD entitled "Where Does the Evidence Lead?" produced

by Illustra Media. The video highlighted recent discoveries in the field of molecular biology as clear evidence of intelligent design. On Monday night, the first 100 attendees received a copy of Josh McDowell's apologetics paperback *More Than a Carpenter*.

Rounsaville was motivated to do the conference by some statements made by atheist and outspoken critic of religion Richard Dawkins, in his 2006 best seller *The God Delusion*. Dawkins wrote, "Faith is the great cop out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence."

Rounsaville told his church in the conference kickoff sermon, "Despite what Mr. Dawkins says, our faith is not in spite of the evidence; our faith is consistent with the evidence."



Mark Rounsaville

Graceway drama team in top 10 at film contest

Springfield, MO

From April 17-19, Break of Day Drama Ministries of Graceway Baptist Church participated in the Springfield and the Ozarks (SATO) 48-Hour Film Challenge. Out

of 61 films, their entry placed in the top 10, and may be featured in an Ozarks PBS documentary to air later this fall. "Our drama ministry is a wonderful example of what

we strive for at Graceway — taking the ministry outside the four walls of the church and impacting our culture as salt and light," Pastor Bob Stephenson said.

For this production, the Graceway

team produced "CUT," a 5-minute original short film. The story centered on a sound mixer for a low-budget film who questions the existence of God.

Break of Day was the only team sent by a Springfield church.

The top 10 films will be viewed by an international panel of judges who hail from

New York, London, Calcutta, and Los Angeles. SATO is an open-film competition organized by Jeff Clinkenbeard and Kyaw Tha Hla that reaches deep into the veins of the film industry.

Besides performing regular church sketches, Graceway's drama team, led by John and Cheryl Weston, also ministers in the community. "We travel at least once a month to minister through drama at local churches, schools, and organizations. So the SATO challenge is a great way to fulfill this mission,"

Cheryl Weston said. "We are very excited about the prospect of God's message going straight into thousands of homes here in the Ozarks."



On the set of "CUT" in the hallway of New Covenant Academy

Joiner and N.T. Baptist Church celebrate 50 years

Tucson, AZ

In distinguished services, New Testament Baptist Church and Pastor J. C. Joiner celebrated 50 years of gospel ministry on March 18-22. Former NTBC members from 13 states and three foreign countries

joined in the celebration. The one missing person was Nita Joiner, who passed away four months before the anniversary.

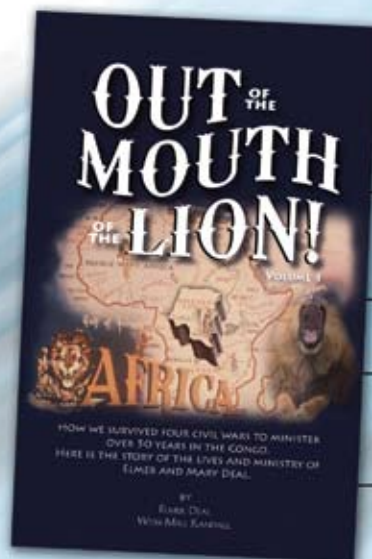


Upon graduation from college, J. C. and Nita Joiner established the church in 1959. The Joiners have served continuously these five decades.

In January, the church completed its 44th annual mission conference. Almost a third of the church's income has gone to missionaries, mission proj-

ects, starting over 100 Baptist churches across America, and supporting Baptist colleges. The church has had over 300

members attend Bible colleges in preparation for full-time service.



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Out of the Mouth of the Lion, volume one (226 pages), is the first-person account of Elmer and Mary Deal's lives and dynamic ministry through 1964. Includes dramatic stories of winning Africans to Christ, survival when their residence was fired upon, escape from Baluba warriors, evacuations, Mary's near-fatal illness and the tragic martyrdom of two key leaders in their ministry.

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Mission conference at Grace Baptist Temple

San Antonio, TX

Grace Baptist Temple, pastored by Dennis Isbell, celebrated its annual mission conference February 25 through March 1. The theme was "To Every Nation," based on I Chronicles 16:24: "Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvelous works among all nations." Guest missionaries were Rick and Susie Bivens (Mexico) and Jonathan and Sarah Robertson (Costa Rica). Lyndel Hix, pastor of Southwest Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was the guest preacher for the conference. "The Lord blessed each night with good attendance, a good

spirit, great messages, and burdened hearts for the need to continue to take the gospel 'To Every Nation,'" said Isbell. The Bivens and Robertsons were added to Grace Baptist Temple's missionary family on faith promise Sunday and the church made a faith promise commitment of \$101,449. "Not bad for a church averaging 120 and getting reestablished in

a new area with a new building," Isbell states. "We praise the Lord for His working in the hearts of our people."



Impact Baptist launches with charter signing

Springfield, MO

Impact Baptist Church celebrated the signing of its charter and receiving its first official members on May 3. The service had a record attendance with 39 present, 23 of which signed the charter with four to sign upon completing the membership class. In lieu of spending funds on a dinner or celebration, the church made an impact

on the community by donating \$1,000 to the Victory Mission of Springfield. Representatives of the Victory Mission attended the service to receive the check.

Impact Baptist Church held its first service on January 6, 2008, in the living room of Lead Pastor Michael Duff's home. The church has been meeting in the Doling Park Family Center since February of the same year. Impact Baptist currently supports four missionaries and projects: Jim Eberhard (Kenya), Jonathan Robertson (Costa Rica), Chris Ballinger (Mongolia), and the Christian Law Association.



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Retirees give themselves to ministry

Pasadena, TX

By Walter Swaim

Pastor of Central Baptist Church

The average retired couple may be in their motor home traveling the country, playing bingo, playing with the grandkids, or just taking care of their garden. But not John and Peggy Rush, members of Central Baptist Church where I am the pastor.

On any Monday and Tuesday night, in John and Peggy's house, there are several men — white, Hispanic, African-American — sitting in their living room, listening to the teaching of God's Word, and enjoying the love and care of this "retired" couple.

What makes such meetings extraordinary is that these men are struggling against alcoholism, drug abuse, divorce, depression, and unemployment. They are from Houston's Open Door Mission directed by Curtis Lovett, and brought in by John every week to his home.

The Open Door Mission has been around for decades. When Curtis, himself a dedicated follower of Christ and former banker and businessman, was asked to be the director, he brought a new vision to the ministry. He saw it as an outreach of the gospel, so he turned what was essentially a soup kitchen into a busy, round-the-clock center for personal development. Mission residents are taken through a nine-month program that includes employment, self-discipline, constant Bible study classes, and taking care of the campus itself.

For John and Peggy, what began as giving periodic financial gifts from a home small group has become an effective mentoring ministry. Taking a more active role, some nights the couple can have 5-10 men at their home or at the church on Sundays. They not only bring them into their home two nights a week, but they also bring any men who will come to our Sunday services and other events we sponsor.

John, a retired mechanical engineer, says, "Our home Bible study is a relaxed atmosphere where all can feel welcome and know that we care about them . . . some of those from the mission have participated



John and Peggy Rush with some of the men they are reaching

as study leaders and all contribute with their testimonies and growth in walking with our Lord. It's been a joy to have these men come into our home and to get to know them personally. We all grow in our sharing of God's love with each other and to understand how

all are special and can serve our risen Lord as He has planned for each of us."

We celebrate and continue supporting the life transformation that God is bringing to these men whom we may not normally reach with the gospel. We also encourage more of our retirees to do a ministry in the years when fewer work and family constraints allow it.

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Arkansas church retires debt five years early

Vilonia, AR

Pastor John Hamby and First Baptist Church celebrated a paid-off mortgage in a mortgage-burning service April 19. The \$1.2 million debt, acquired in 1999 for a new auditorium project, had an amortization schedule of 15 years, but the church retired it in less than 10 years.

Hamby said, "This has not been done without tremendous tenacity on the part of the leadership and tremendous

dedication and even sacrifice on the part of the congregation."

First Baptist Church was founded just after the Civil War. The congregation declared themselves an independent church in the 1970s, and Hamby joined the staff in 1983. He was called to pastor the church in 1986.



Pastor John Hamby on the left looks on as Howard Williams representing the finance team, and on the right, Bobby Markham, youth and family pastor, burn the church's mortgage papers.



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Regular Baptist Press
Building Lives by the Book

Wright retires after 51 years at Southside

Joplin, MO

Pastor Freddie Wright retires as pastor of Southside Baptist Church on June 7, after 51 years of ministry at the church. The church is hosting a reception for Freddie and his wife, Oletta, on Saturday, June 13, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. All the Wright's friends are invited to attend the reception.

The Wrights started their ministry at Southside on March 16, 1958. That day, the church had nine in attendance at the little three-room house converted into a church. For nine and a half years, the Wrights commuted from Monett to Joplin. Then, in August of 1967, having given up a good job and surrendering to work full time at Southside, the Wrights moved to Joplin.

In 1995, much of Southside's building was destroyed by a fire. After working tirelessly, Wright and the congregation dedicated their new facilities in October of the same year. Wright also served as treasurer of Sagmont Baptist Youth Camp for 34 years and supervised the camp maintenance.

"Throughout all the years, through times of sorrow and tribulation, through times of victory and praise, God has used this man to make a difference in people's lives. Thousands have heard the gospel of Jesus Christ and hundreds have accepted Him as their personal Savior," says David Wright, son of Freddie and Oletta. "It is not often that a man serves God with the dedication, loyalty, and steadfastness that Pastor Freddie L. Wright has demonstrated for these past 51 plus years."

K.B. Murray to retire

Winfield, KS

Longtime BBFI Pastor K. B. Murray, now in his 42nd year shepherding Millington St. Baptist Church, is set to retire from the pulpit May 31. The church will honor Murray with a celebration and dinner that day.

Murray was saved at age 29 under the ministry of Ray Kennedy of Central Baptist Church in Lewisville, Texas. Upon graduation from Baptist Bible College in 1961, he became pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Since 1967 he has been pastor of the Millington St. church.

Murray has served the Fellowship at local, state, and national levels, and he is the author of several books, pamphlets, and other materials churches have found useful. His wife of 60 years, Louise, recently passed away. The couple had six children, 21 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren.

Send greetings and well-wishes to: Jeff McCaskill, c/o Millington St. Baptist Church, PO Box 524. Winfield, KS 67156.



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Helen Maxine Cavin

Springfield, MO

Helen Maxine Cavin, age 90, of Springfield, Missouri, passed from this life on April 5, at her home with her family by her side. Helen was born September 25, 1918, in Isabel, Kansas. She graduated from Isabel High School, Isabel, Kansas, and later attended Bethany College, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She was a member of High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri. Helen was the author of many books about the home, wrote Sunday school curriculum, directed vacation Bible schools, and spoke and directed at ladies groups.



Cavin was preceded in death by her husband, David A. Cavin; parents Ed and Arria Miller; and her sister Ruth Weir. She is survived by her son David E. Cavin, and wife Gwen, of Fort Worth, Texas; daughter RoJean Jones, and husband Bill, of Springfield, Missouri; seven grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; nieces and nephews; and numerous family members and close friends.

Funeral services were held at High Street Baptist Church on April 9, with burial at Greenlawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Roy Wallace

Waskom, TX

Alfred Roy Wallace, 71, passed away May 4 in his home in Waskom, Texas. Roy was born May 28, 1937 in Tyler, Texas, to Manzy Arnold and Maggie Aurora Wallace.



He pastored five churches in Texas and Missouri. While pastoring in Missouri he served as an instructor in the graduate school at Baptist Bible College in Springfield. He served on the staff of Louisiana Baptist University since 1993, first as dean of the department of Biblical Studies and then as academic dean. An avid scholar who continued to study all of his life, he was an excellent teacher of the Bible and the Greek and Hebrew languages. He authored nearly 40 books and pamphlets, including a Hebrew textbook.

At the time of his passing, Wallace continued to teach at LBU and was pastor of Baptist Temple in Waskom. He is survived by his wife, Helen Lorain Wallace, and three sisters.

Memorial services were held May 9 at First Baptist Church of Waskom with Neal Weaver officiating.

Thomas Leo Foltz

Springfield, MO

Thomas Leo Foltz, age 56, went to be with his Lord on May 12 in Springfield, Missouri. Tom was born in Lima, Ohio, on October 26, 1952, to Byron Leo and Rowena Styles Foltz. He married Joanne Elaine Votaw from Pioneer, Ohio, on May 24, 1975.



Foltz graduated from Taylor University in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1975, and received his Master's of Divinity in 1981 from Liberty Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia. He was involved in Christian television in Northern Virginia for 16 years. Tom and Joanne have been serving as Baptist Bible Fellowship Missionaries in the East African country of Tanzania since 1997.

Tom was a dedicated husband, father, and servant of Jesus Christ. He had a heart for people and for boldly proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. His faith was steadfast as he encouraged others in their own faith.

Foltz was preceded in death by his sisters, Marlene Sue Thomas and Kayetta Lou Raker. Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Joanne; his children Jonathan and his wife Danielle of Providence, Rhode Island; Byron and his wife Heather of Richmond, Virginia; Nathan of Springfield, Missouri; and Megan of Springfield, Missouri; three grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held May 15 at West Division Street Baptist Church. Karl Skinner, pastor of Battlefield Baptist Church in Gainesville, Virginia, officiated. Graveside services and burial were led by Pastor Gary Hohman of Lima Baptist Temple, Lima, Ohio, on May 18 at Walnut Grove Cemetery in Elida, Ohio.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bible Baptist Academy of Arusha, Tanzania, c/o Baptist Bible Fellowship, P.O. Box 191, Springfield MO 65801.

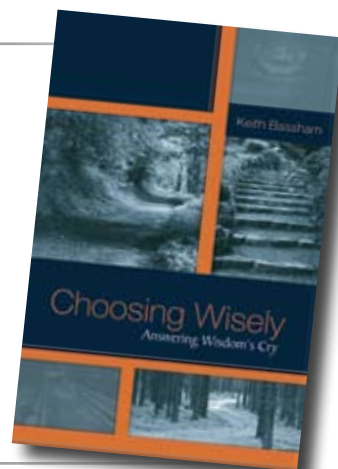
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• **Maranatha Baptist Church**, 2284 Third Ave., Dothan, AL 36301 334-794-2536 *Pastor Bill Schneider*

ALASKA

• **Anchorage Baptist Temple**, 6401 E. Northern Lights, Anchorage, AK 99504, 907/333-6535, www.ancbt.org. *Pastor Jerry Prevo*

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• **Thomas Road Baptist Church**, 5735 W. Thomas Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85031, 623/247-5735. *Pastor Ken Adrian*

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• **Calvary Baptist Church of Oakhurst**, At the corner of Highway 49 and Redbud (location only), 559-641-7984. *Pastor Bob Wilson*

• **The Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle**, 1329 South Hope St., Los Angeles, CA 90015, 213/744-9999. *Pastor Dr. R. L. Hymers, Jr.* sermon manuscripts at www.realconversion.com

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• **New Testament Baptist Church and School**, 111 Ash St., East Hartford, CT 06108. 860/290-6696 *Pastor Michael Stoddard*

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• **Southside Baptist Church**, 4904 S. DuPont Hwy. (US 13 So.), Dover, DE 19901, 302/697-2411 *Pastor Chris Kondracki*

• **First Baptist Church**, 6062 Old Shawnee Rd., Milford, DE 19963, 302/422-9795 *Pastor David Perdue*

FLORIDA

• **Liberty Baptist Church**, 2451 Dora Ave., Tavares, FL 32778, 352/343-0061 *Pastor Timothy J. Green*

• **Palm Springs Drive Baptist Church**, 601 Palm Springs Dr., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701, 407/831-0950 *Pastor Scott Carlson*

• **Eastland Baptist Church**, 9000 Lake Underhill Rd., Orlando, FL 32825, 407/277-5858 *Pastor Daniel Green*

• **Tabernacle Baptist Church**, 6000 West Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 32808, 407/295-3086 *Pastor Steve Ware*

• **Winter Haven Baptist Church**, 1500 Dundee Rd., Winter Haven, FL 33884, 863/294-6478 *Pastor Mark D. Hodges*

• **New Testament Baptist Church**, 2050 South Belcher Rd., Largo, FL 33771, 727/536-0481 *Pastor Matt Trill*

• **Trinity Baptist Church**, 800 Hammond Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32221, 904/786-5320 *Pastor Tom Messer*

• **First Coast Baptist Church**, 7587 Blanding Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32244. 904/777-3040 *Pastor Richard Edwards*

• **Harbor Baptist Church**, 428 Tomoka Ave., Ormond Beach, FL 32173, 386/677-3116 *Pastor Ronald L. Todd*

• **Colonial Baptist Church**, 2616 51st Street West, Bradenton, FL 34209, 941-795-3767 *Pastor R. C. Landsberger*

• **Sonshine Baptist Church**, 23105 Veterans Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33954, 941-625-1273 *Pastor William K. Bales*

• **First Baptist Coconut Creek**, formerly Calvary Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 954/422-9611 *Pastor Jerry Williamson*

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Caring for the flock through Sunday School

By David Francis

Director of Sunday School, Lifeway Christian Resources

I have often quipped that there are only two things wrong with the name “Sunday School.” Last month’s column mentioned this (see “Should we rename Sunday School?”), but I wanted to extend the discussion a bit. First of all, Sunday School is not just a school. In the late 1700s when it was founded, it was a school that used the Bible as a textbook to teach reading and writing to children who worked in British factories the other six days of the week. The children were called, “Sunday School scholars.” The movement, over the years, took on the added responsibilities of evangelistic outreach and caring ministry.

The second deficiency with the name is that Sunday School is not just on Sunday. Rather, it is a 24/7 network of outreach, communication and care. The group meets once a week (often on Sunday mornings) for Bible study and to enjoy the fruits of the week’s reaching and caring ministries. With this month’s column, I wanted to offer some tips for accomplishing that “reaching and caring” part of Sunday School.

1 Assign every child to a Sunday School teacher.

Let’s start with the preschool and children’s departments. Usually those departments each have a director and two, three or — if you’re very fortunate! — more teachers. Form care groups by dividing the names of the enrolled children equally among the workers. Each worker’s assignment is to make regular contact with the child and his/her parents. Early Saturday evening works well for a quick call through the list. Always make sure you speak to a parent first, introduce yourself and gain permission to talk with the child.

2 Enlist students to be care group leaders, too.

Youth classes are typically a little slimmer on adult leadership, so involve the teens themselves as care group leaders. Enlist a few of your more mature students and assign each of them about five other students of the same gender. Ask them to make a contact each week. Don’t be surprised if that contact occurs through a text message or instant message chat! As the teacher, ask the care group leaders to report to you about any issue that requires your prayer or personal attention.

3 Assign every associate member to an adult care group.

Before you even think about enlisting care group leaders for the people enrolled in your classes, enlist one or more to stay in touch with your associate members — those members-in-service who work in preschool, children and student Sunday School departments. Have the care group leader report to the class every Sunday morning any prayer needs or special events in the lives of your associate members. Care for them just like you do for those who attend your class — maybe even a little bit better! Put up their names on the wall or consider displaying photos of them working in their classrooms.

4 Assign every enrolled adult to a care group

Enlist a care group leader for every five to seven adults enrolled in your class. That leader’s basic job description is simple: Contact every member, every week. I recommend that coed classes have men’s and women’s care groups with care group leaders of the same gender. Why? Because if you have a couple care group with a couple as the care group leaders, the women typically call the women and the guys are left out! A bonus to this system is that you have a ready-made communication chain for your men’s and women’s ministries.

5 Understand who is the care group leader for the care group leaders.

The teacher of the adult class usually functions in the role of care group leader to the care group leaders. In larger classes, it could be a different leader. The advantage of the teacher performing this role is at least twofold: 1) The teacher models the role by contacting every care group leader every week and 2) by doing so, there is built-in accountability, and more importantly, an opportunity to learn what is happening in the lives of your class members.

*David Francis is director of Sunday School at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.
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