

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JUNE 2010 | VOL. 60 NO. 10 | \$1.95

THE TRIBUNE TURNS 60

BBFI Pastors Voting Reminder
Remember to request your ballot for
BBFI officer elections. **You will not**
automatically receive a ballot
as in years past!



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5 mission adventures for kids



Your adults may be in a missions conference in the auditorium, but your kids are going on a missions adventure in the other room! **GO! 5 mission adventures for kids** gathers your students into a "Great Commission Team" that will take five trips into the Bible to learn about missions.

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- Pray around the World
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Watch for more information on *GO! 5 mission adventures for kids*. Available July 1, 2010.

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ON THE TABLE

We're celebrating our birthday June 23

by Keith Bassham | Editor

Sixty years ago about this time, preachers and churches were ratcheting up their efforts to open a new Bible college, to organize some type of rational and systematic approach to missions, and to start a newspaper. The result of all that work six decades ago, you hold, and have been holding for some time now, in your hands. Before the year is out, we hope to feature more glimpses into our history as a movement, but for this issue, once we take care of the May meeting report, I wanted to celebrate the *Tribune* itself.

We don't have much to show in a *Tribune* museum — we do have a full set of bound volumes — a few examples of the lead type used in the early editions, a copy of the *New York Times* stylebook used by Noel Smith (with some of his notes written in the margins... corrections, do you think?), some old photographs, and a note card index that runs up into the 1970s.

The most valuable object in the *Tribune* museum is the idea of the *Tribune* itself. As Tom Harper's essay in this issue reports, Noel Smith spoke in the founding meeting of the Fellowship and said, "Let's have a paper..." Since the days of the New Testament, Christianity has run and prospered on paper and ink, writers and editors. It made a lot of sense for Smith to think what he thought and to say what he did. How could there be a Fellowship without a paper to chronicle their activities and to keep themselves and others informed? An unpublished Baptist movement was unthinkable.

Read Tom's history of the *Tribune*, and look at the first page of the first issue. And if you want more, you can download the entire first issue from our website, www.tribune.org.

The Fellowship's new voting process has been mentioned before, but there is still some confusion so here it is again:

- The changes to the bylaws were publicized in the *Tribune* last summer, passed by the Fellowship in the national meeting held in Canton last September, and publicized again recently in the *Tribune*.
- Pastors who attended the May meeting had opportunity to vote already.
- Pastors will not automatically receive a ballot in the mail. Pastors qualified to vote (see the bylaws for definition) must request a ballot from the Mission Office if they wish to vote in the election for the Executive Officers.
- No one, including state BBF officers, is allowed to request a ballot for anyone else. Each pastor who wants to vote must request a ballot for himself.
- The ballot must be returned to the Mission Office for counting no later than July 1. The election results will be announced prior to the fall meeting.
- New officers will take office at the fall meeting at Sauk Trail Baptist Temple in Richton Park, Illinois September 27-29.

Keith Bassham

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Thank you



by Mark Hodges | President | BBFI

A special thank you to our pastors in the May meeting who focused their sermons on revival. We centered on integrity, unity, and holiness — knowing that revival will not come without these things. Tom Wagoner, our revival preacher for this year, once again called our Fellowship to pray and seek revival!

A special thank you to Filipino Pastor Armie Jesalva for challenging the people in the Philippines to pray every day for the rest of their lives, “revival for America.” That video clip (shown on Monday night) has gone out around the world. One of our BBF missionary couples, Henry and Nancy Mantonya, responded, “This was very stirring! As missionaries, we have seen changes that have broken our hearts. We arrived in Brazil January 1973, and during our first term people would say to us, ‘You are from America, where Jesus walks the streets.’ However, after 15 years they began to ask us, ‘Aren’t there churches or pastors in America anymore?’ They began then to pray for America, that our great country will get back to living for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Yes, it is now time for all mission fields to pray for America.”

A special thank you to past leaders of our Fellowship who we honored (and also to those not living or were unable to attend), who set the standard high and led by their godly examples. They had a burden to train young people for ministry and to send them out to start churches and spread the gospel message throughout the world. Their vision became a reality that we all benefit from today.

A special thank you to our mission speaker, Mike Frazier. He really stirred our hearts and reminded us that our focus should continue to be on missions! I’m so thankful for the new missionaries that were approved and I rejoice in those who were given a 30-year pin for service on the mission field. But the highlight of the entire May week centered around two couples and one single lady. George and Ellen King, Richard and Jeannine (now Ann) Konnerup, and Marjorie Browning are real heroes of our Fellowship. They have served as God’s faithful servants 50 years on foreign soil as BBFI missionaries. I felt overwhelmed to just be in their presence. Our words can’t suffice for what needs to be said about these giants in the faith!

A special thank you to Jim Edge and the BBC staff for their preparations for our May meeting. Now that it is finished, our focus moves toward Richton Park, Illinois, for our September BBFI meeting. George Whitfield said, “Whole days and weeks have I spent prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer.” We are still waiting and looking for God to send revival to our Fellowship. Earnestly pray with me that God will use the BBFI September meeting to move in our midst!

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Adversity in our world



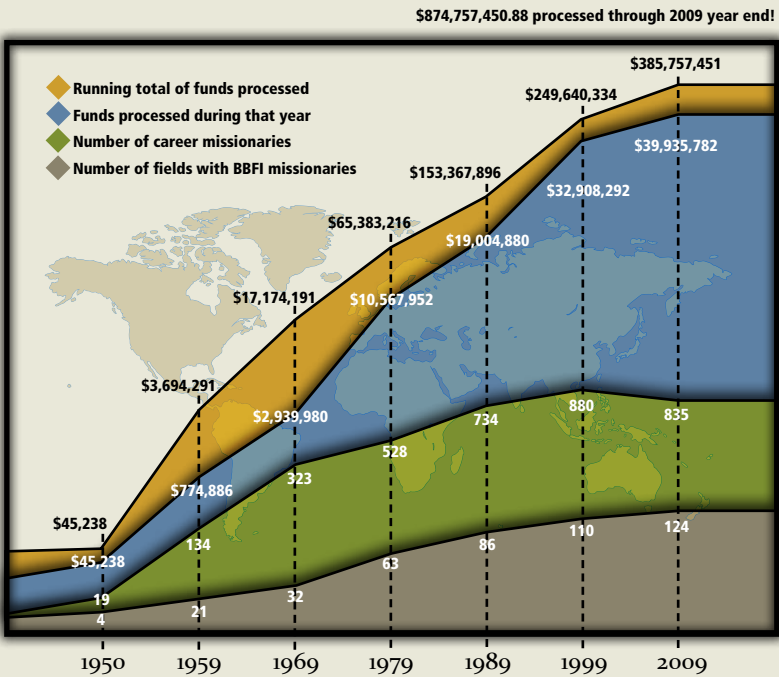
by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director

Not only are there economic issues affecting our missionaries’ outreach, but there are also natural disasters affecting their ministries and the people to whom God has sent them. The flooding in the Philippines and the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile have wreaked havoc. They have been devastating to the believers in those countries as they have lost family members, homes, and churches.

The first missionaries associated with the Baptist Bible Fellowship International were actually missionaries before our Fellowship was organized. Then, in 1950, they joined with our Fellowship understanding that reaching our world for Christ through planting churches was the focus. They wanted to be a part of that.

As churches were established and worked together with other like-minded churches, more missionaries were approved and supported. They were sent out by local churches and used the new Mission Office of the BBFI as their service center. The missionary force began to grow, circling the globe with the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Thousands of churches have been started, with over a million attending, and the Lord knows the number of salvations through the efforts of our churches and missionaries.

As you see the numbers below, I might point out that they include deaths and resignations. While God has blessed our efforts, our numbers are not keeping pace with the population growth of our world. Right now our world has the highest population ever in history. Yet, the number of our missionaries is slowly declining. We must increase our passion for the lost and dedication to the Great Commission. May we turn the tide in 2010.



Church planting projects



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

The Spring Candidate School was filled with a great group of guys excited about serving God. One of the young men involved was Chris Housewright, a student pastor at Eastside Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas. Chris has surrendered to the call of God to plant a church in New Orleans, Louisiana. To my knowledge and visiting with other pastors in Louisiana, there has never been a successful church plant in the greater New Orleans area. What an opportunity we have to join hands with Chris in seeing the very first successful BBFI church plant in this great city.



Chris Housewright and family

Mike Landry of Bethel Baptist Church, Jennings, Louisiana, says "New Orleans is the greatest mission field in the U.S."

Chris will be approved as a BBFI church planter in the September National Meeting at Sauk Trail Baptist Temple in Richton Park, Illinois. He will lay out his strategy and timeline at that time. Please be much in prayer

for Chris Housewright and his family as they step out in faith to follow the leadership of the Lord.

Let me introduce another church planter, Victor Baxter, going to Eastman, Georgia. Victor attended our Spring School and is moving to Eastman in late May or early June. God has already begun to open doors, a place has been secured for them to begin meeting, and some families have already committed to get involved in this new work. Pray for Victor and his family as they move to Eastman. Paul said "A great door and effectual is open unto me and there are many adversaries." There always are many adversaries but prayer can overcome every enemy. Victor will be approved as a BBFI church planter in September as well.

These are just two of the young men starting new churches. What an exciting time to be involved in the work of the NCPO. Pray for us and all the new church plants of our Fellowship.



Victor Baxter and family

Anticipating one more revival to come



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

As we seek the Lord's face for revival, I am so encouraged by the stories of revival and stirrings in our Fellowship. I am most encouraged by the scriptures that seem to be coming regularly in my searching. In particular, James 5:7, seemed to leap from the page the other day as I was praying for revival and asking God to confirm to my own heart and soul that we are on the right path.

But stories and stirrings only go so far. In reading this particular passage, my heart was filled with joy. I know that there are many good men who differ in their interpretation of this particular passage and I just want to share my thoughts that I believe came from the heart of God for me regarding revival. "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord." Before the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that there will be one more great revival. I am not alone in this. A great preacher of the past, Stephen Olford, shared that James 5:7 provides strong hope for those of us who are trusting Him for revival, that we will see one more big move of God before Jesus returns.

The scripture says, "the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth" and I can see our God looking down upon the creation and with great patience, though the time is predetermined in the heart of God, he waits patiently for one more soul, one more community to be changed, for one more harvest, for the precious fruit of the earth. With long patience He waits "until he receive the early and latter rain."

Bible commentators tell us that the rains were essential to the planting and the harvest, the entire process of the fruit being reaped. Opposite from our particular regions, the early rains would come around the fall in October. This would facilitate the planting of the seeds and the germination process. Around April they would expect this awesome latter rain that would come in preparation for a bountiful harvest.

Many Bible scholars believe the early rain represents what occurred and began in the book of Acts, and we have seen evidences of it through the years in the 1700s and 1800s, and in different places we have read and commented on the awesome moves of God in Wales, the islands off of Scotland, in New York City, and in New England. There are wonderful records kept in Heaven of every great move of God that has occurred. I just happen to believe that there will be one more awesome rain of revival before Jesus comes again. Let's keep believing God, and let's keep repenting. God help us to confess our sins and to cry out, "Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach" (Joel 2:17).

Lord, we believe you for a great revival. We cry out to you, we listen for you.

See www.revivaljourney.com

Baptist Bible Tribune

FOR BIBLE BELIEVING BAPTISTS

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1950

NO. 1

VOL. 1

REASONS FOR BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

“That is Final” — It Was

The following statement is self-explanatory—Editor:

It is commonly known among us that there has been for many months a widespread and deep-rooted restlessness among our people, both the ministers and the laity, because of the manner in which the affairs of the World Fundamental Baptist Missionary Fellowship and the Bible Baptist Seminary have been handled.

We have felt that our voice in the conduct of these affairs has not been commensurate with the responsibilities which we have been asked to assume, and for the amount of money which we have contributed to the work of these institutions. We have sensed, and deeply sensed, the absence of the constitutional principles and procedure which should be the basis of representative government, especially the government of Christian institutions into whose treasuries so many people, many of them poor, are constantly asked to put their money.

This accumulated restlessness came to a head at the annual meeting of the World Fundamental Baptist Missionary Fellowship, which was held in the First Baptist Church of Fort Worth the week of May 21.

Tuesday morning, May 23, was Seminary day. Dr. J. Frank Norris was in charge of the Seminary program. Dr. Norris spoke on the history of the Seminary.

In the meantime, as was generally known, Dr. Norris had made revolutionary changes in the management and personnel of the Seminary. Those changes were made without any general notice to the Fellowship, and we believe they were made in violation of every constitutional principle.

Dr. Norris' position was that he had made these changes—including the taking over of the Sem-

\$100 FOR FIRST COPY OF THE TRIBUNE

Mr. Ben S. Peltz of the Ben S. Peltz Shoe and Luggage Co., Paris, Texas, paid what was probably the highest price ever paid for a copy of any newspaper. Mr. Peltz asked Rev. Lester Singleton, pastor of the Ramseur Baptist church, Paris, to telephone THE TRIBUNE and request that the first copy to roll from the press be mailed by air, special delivery, and that Mr. Peltz was mailing THE TRIBUNE a check for \$100 for it.

Mr. Peltz is a converted Jew and a member of Mr. Singleton's church.

Bulletin

One of the most beautiful pieces of property in Springfield has been purchased by the trustees as the site for the BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE.

The campus is ready-made, with handsome trees and a lawn that has been kept clipped and clean for years. The site is approximately 5 acres, which will give ample room for dormitories and educational buildings and still have a large campus.

The grounds are situated on one of Springfield's busiest thoroughfares and on the city bus line. The site was formerly a city park. The mayor of Springfield says that these grounds are most ideal in this area for a school.

Every move made in connection with the BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE has been blessed of the Lord. It is definite that the College will open in the fall. Students who wish to enroll should begin making plans now. Address all correspondence to:

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

“Is There Not A Cause?” [I Sam. 17:29]

SEPARATION FROM WFBMF AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP AND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

THE REAL ISSUES INVOLVED

BY G. BEAUCHAMP VICK

Because so many of our good friends, pastors in our Fellowship, were not present when these matters were discussed by Dr. Norris and myself, from my intimate knowledge of developments, I shall try to calmly and fairly state the issues as I see them, so that each may judge for himself.

A little over two years ago, I was urged by Dr. Norris to consider accepting the presidency of the Bible Baptist Seminary. I had no desire to do so. I never coveted the position but after several months of continued insistence on the part of Dr. Norris and that of many other pastors of the Fellowship, I consented. In fact, after two months of prayer and consideration, on April 9, 1948, I wrote Dr. Norris as follows:

“I have been earnestly seeking to know the will of the Lord about the Seminary Proposition. Certainly, I realize that this could be the most pivotal decision of my life since 1936 when I very definitely felt the leadership of the Lord to come to Temple.

“I believe that all of us can say that time and events have proved that such was His will, and I am anxious to know just as definitely in this present decision as I did then.

“To save my life, I can not see why you or anyone else can ever seriously consider me for such a proposition. I am not a school man. I do not know anything about running a school, and never dreamed of any such remote possibility.

“As I told you the last day you were here, one of the main considerations from a human standpoint would be that I would have unquestioned liberty to run the Seminary in my own way and in accordance with my ideas.

It would be some changes that I would want to make, and if there should be any objections to such changes, I would want to know in advance so I could make my decision accordingly.

“Then you mentioned working through one man as far as the financial end of the school was concerned. I think that would be very necessary. I would want that one man to have entire charge of the finances and be responsible for the Seminary. I think the man you have there, and who is highly qualified and entitled to my regard, Verle Adams, is the man.

“However, I would be entirely responsive to suggestions from the Seminary, reaching Fort Worth, mail, depositing the bank and issuing.

“Then as you mentioned regular daily receipts and disbursements, of course, keeping of the books and the acknowledgment of gifts. I feel it is very vital in the Seminary or so ago you mentioned from the Seminary total amount of money to the Seminary.

year. You will recall that we got three different sets of figures widely divergent and none of them correct. Where one person receives the money and deposits it, another person acknowledges it and another person keeps the records, it is absolutely impossible to hold any one individual responsible for the efficiency and correctness of financial records. Neither by correspondence nor by personal inquiry a few weeks later when I was down there at a Fellowship meeting, could I get heads and tails of their records. I would t

[Continued on page 5, col. 1]

and let's call it **The Baptist Bible Tribune**"

— Noel Smith, 1950, Founding Editor

(Adapted from an article written and published by Tom Harper in the January 2000 issue of the *Tribune*. The title is taken from a statement made by Noel Smith in the founding meeting of the Baptist Bible Fellowship.)

The Baptist Bible Fellowship began with no written plan or formal structure. As evidenced by Noel Smith's quote at the Texas Hotel (see title), this was a spontaneous movement of Baptists ready to get to work now and iron out the details later. But few would have known much about the new Fellowship if not for Noel Smith and the *Baptist Bible Tribune*.

Smith's background was journalism and evangelism. He had worked with J. Frank Norris for several years, editing *The Fundamentalist*. Though he never graduated from high school, he read voraciously and had a tremendous reservoir of general and scriptural knowledge. His understanding of human nature was unsurpassed.

Editor Smith's legendary pen set the tone and the terms of the debate in the early days, and the personality of the BBFI was largely cast in his image. This was possible, almost inevitable, because of the nature of the organiza-

tion. It was small at first, and there was no Sunday School Board, no common literature beyond the Bible, no state or county associations, no one over-seeing anything.

The only entity with a common link to all the churches was the *Baptist Bible Tribune*.

The Fellowship congealed within a swirl of social change. Worldwide, Stalin was murdering millions of his citizens, the World Council of

Churches had long ago exchanged the Savior for socialism, and the seeds of another war were being sown in the minds of North Korean peasants.

In America, the aftermath of WWII was further tempting the country into U.N. internationalism. Ecclesiasticism and liberalism,

once the marks of mainstream denominations, were continuing to seduce Baptists and others. Socialism was in vogue, communists were in government, and Americans were becoming lazy and luxuriant.

Smith believed these issues were of great import to independent Baptists and drove to the core of them in the pages of the *Tribune*, all the while reporting the progress of churches, missionaries, pastors, BBC, and all the activities of the growing movement.

A typical issue, December 14, 1951, began with a missionary report from Japan, which included information about the Japanese government and religion. There was a warning about commercializing Christmas reprinted from the *Religious News Service*. A report on the Denton, Texas, Fellowship meeting (the first national meeting) included a picture of all the missionaries present. F. S. Donnelson had a report, the first Baptist Bible College yearbook was offered for sale (\$2.50), and letters to the editor were all positive.

Beside "News of the Week" and "The Tribune Town Hall," the editor's series called "Nimrod, the Rebellious Panther" ran its second installment, and his editorial warned the "New Dealers" that judgment was coming.

Smith packed a lot of useful news into eight pages. And he was unflinchingly honest. He was also wise and knew that without a common information and news source, the emerging Fellowship would fragment. The *Baptist Bible Tribune* kept the vision clear, reported genuine progress, and let everyone know that the BBFI was a going concern.

When the founding editor died in January 1974, the *Tribune* had been an 8-16 page weekly for all of its 1,130 issues. Assistant editor Dick Barnard ran the paper until November, when Wendell Zimmerman, pastor of Jacksonville Baptist Temple in Jacksonville, Florida, was appointed editor. The operation was moved to Florida and some years later began publishing bi-weekly. Zimmerman edited from 1974 to 1983.



Zimmerman

Then James O. Combs, a California pastor and evangelist, was asked to assume editorship. Mr. Combs focused his energy and creativity into the *Tribune* until 1995. Under his administration the *Tribune* was published every three weeks, then monthly beginning in 1991. In January of 1992 the current magazine format was adopted at that time, and we now publish 11 *Tribunes* a year



Combs

(July-August are combined).

Mr. Combs retired from the *Tribune* in March 1995, after 12 years as editor, and Mike Randall succeeded him. In addition to a long and successful career pastoring in Missouri, Ohio, and Indiana, Randall served as a faculty member at



Randall

Baptist Bible College, and, from 1991-1998, as vice president. When Randall returned to BBC as president in 2002, the Fellowship appointed Assistant Editor Keith Bassham to the post of Executive Editor, where he serves today.

The Fellowship's world is different, and this current issue is very different from the early eight-page weeklies, but the *Tribune* remains today what it has always been, the record of what the BBFI is accomplishing in its service for God. There is no other record of the overall movement, no other way to know of the vast work of starting churches here and abroad. Years from now we will know the work of the BBFI through the pages of the *Baptist Bible Tribune*.

The focus has stayed the same: to report the work of Baptist Bible Fellowship in all its facets, and to encourage independent Baptists in the work of the Lord. We do this so you can know that you are not alone in this Fellowship work. You can pray intelligently for other servants of Christ in their struggles. And we can rejoice together in what God is accomplishing through us.



Bassham



Smith

Baptist Bible Fellowship Graduation Fellowship Meeting

Encouraging preaching filled the pulpit while the national ballot dominated the business of the Fellowship

By the Tribune

During the earliest (and coolest) May Graduation Fellowship Week in memory, people from around the world gathered on the campus of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, for the annual spring fellowship meeting May 10-13. Those who attended were treated with sound, encouraging preaching and joyful music. Despite limited resources, BBC President Jim Edge and his staff received praise for this year's edition of Graduation Week.

Preachers delivered messages on the week's theme, "Real: Integrity, Unity, Holiness, and Mission." The college continued a recent trend in fellowship meetings by calling on lesser-known preachers as well as those older and better-known. Preachers in the sessions were BBFI President Mark Hodges, Randy Harp, Mark Milioni, Tom Wagoner, Fred Young, Mike Frazier, and Jim Baize. Speaking for the Thursday commencement was Boston Baptist College President David Melton. The messages are available for download at the college website, www.gobbc.edu.

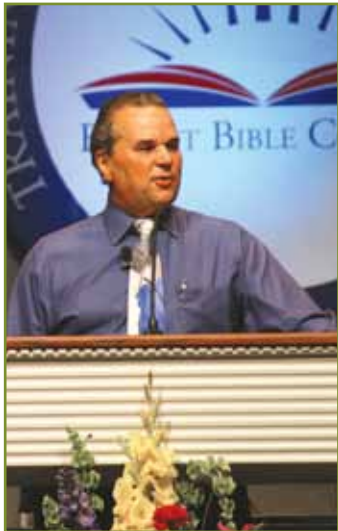
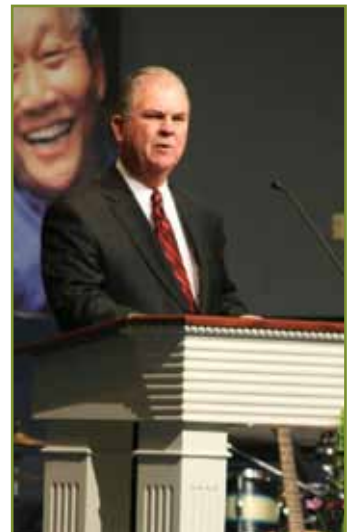
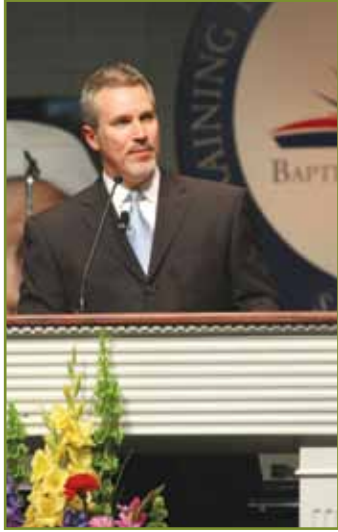
In Fellowship business, annual budgets for the National Church Planting Office, Mission Office, and Baptist Bible Tribune were approved by the national directors. Directors also brought to the floor the national ballot for the Executive Officers of the BBFI. Nominated for president are Mark Hodges (Winter Haven Baptist Church, Winter Haven, Florida) and Linzy Slayden (Friendship Baptist Church, Owasso, Oklahoma). The nominees for first vice president (missions) are Mike Frazier (Canton Baptist Temple, Canton, Ohio) and Herb Hubbard (Bible Baptist Church, Savannah, Georgia). The nominees for second vice president (education) are Keith Gillming (Lighthouse Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri) and Ron Sears (First Baptist Church, New Castle, Delaware). Nominated for third vice president (NCPO) are Fred Young (East Side Baptist Church, Independence, Missouri) and Dan Lamb (Hillsboro Bible Baptist Church, Hillsboro, Ohio). Nominees for secretary are Jim Goodman (Stillwell Bible Baptist Church, Clarksville, Arkansas) and Paul Foster (RiverWest Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma). Nominated for treasurer are Howard Braymer (Open Door Baptist Church, Harrison, Arkansas) and Jim Stady (Bible Baptist Church, Gulfport, Mississippi).

Pastors who attended Tuesday's business session received ballots and voted. Those not attending may obtain a ballot from the BBFI Mission Office. Those ballots must be submitted to the BBFI Mission Office before



(continued on page 10)

REAL.



Voting Reminder BBFI Pastors

If you did not receive a ballot for BBFI officer elections at the May Fellowship Meeting, you will need to contact Diana Blankenship at the Mission Office to receive your ballot. **Due to the ratified change to the election process, you will no longer automatically receive a ballot in the mail.** Ballots must be returned by July 1, 2010.

Contact: Diana Blankenship
(417) 862-5001
diana@bbfimission.com

July 1. Contact the Mission Office by phone ((417)862-5001), mail (PO Box 191, Springfield, Missouri, 65801), or Internet (www.bbfimissions.com).

Pastors approved four new career missionary couples (see page x for details) and new TEAM missionaries Wednesday. One missionary couple and one single missionary were also reinstated as BBFI missionaries. Missionaries Marjorie Browning (Brazil), George and Ellen King (Japan), and Richard and Ann Konnerup (Kenya) received 50-year globes in recognition of their lives of service. Chris Pelletier (Kenya) and Ray and Ginger Crocker (Singapore) also received their 30-year pins.

BBC President Jim Edge presented The State of the College Address Wednesday morning. His presentation emphasized the student body and their sense of service to the Lord and to the Fellowship. He also announced a new program that will enable nursing students to receive an RN degree while working toward a BS in cooperation with a nursing college in Springfield. Wednesday evening he announced that \$517,000 had been pledged for BBC's annual offering.



Top: The BBC class of 1960 reunion. **Above:** Representatives of the BBC graduating classes of 1951, 1954, and 1955 held a reunion during Graduation Fellowship Week in Springfield, Missouri. Attending were Lorraine (Trayford) Hawkes (1951); Logan Coffey, Eli Harju, Waudell Maple (1954); Betty Parks, Mary Lou Harju, Mary (O'Dell) Nevius, Nelda (Wright) Melton, and Bill Hathaway (1955). **Below:** The BBC Alumni Banquet (photos courtesy of Sheryl Rooks).



Newly Approved Career Missionaries

India

Winston and Ruth Kumar

Sending Church: Trinity Baptist
Church, Denver City, TX

Sending Pastor: Steve Pierson

Contact Info: 806-592-3003,
Winston.Kumar@bbfmissions.org



The Netherlands

Corey and Kaylee O'Grady

Sending Church: High Street
Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

Sending Pastor: Eddie Lyons

Contact Info: 417-862-5502,
Corey.OGrady@bbfmissions.org



Australia

Jonathan and Natalie Perry

Sending Church: Winter Haven
Baptist Church, Winter Haven, FL

Sending Pastor: Mark Hodges

Contact Info: 863-294-6478,
Jonathan.Perry@bbfmissions.org



Ethiopia

Dwayne and Tammy Wright

Sending Church: Capitol City
Baptist Church, Des Moines, IA

Sending Pastor: Mark Carter

Contact Info: 515-289-1419,
Dwayne.Wright@bbfmissions.org



To see more photos from the week, go to tribune.org
and follow the link to our Flickr page

TEAM Missionaries

A family will be going to a
Restricted Access Nation (RAN)
field as TEAM missionaries to assist
a veteran RAN missionary. They
may be contacted through the
Mission Office.

Colombia

Anna Fredrickson

Assisting: Scott and Kristi Hudgins
Sending Church: Graceway Baptist
Church, Springfield, MO

Sending Pastor: Bob Stephenson

Contact Info: 417-887-0212,
Jonathan.Saliba@bbfmissions.org



England

T.J. and Kimberly Gritts

Assisting: Tom and Gail Gritts

Sending Church: Seminole Baptist
Temple, Springfield, MO

Sending Pastor: Don Baier

Contact Info: 417-881-4200,
TJ.Gritts@bbfmissions.org



Jesus is the only way



Sixth article in the series

With Good Reason

by Keith Bassham

If you've been following this series of articles, I hope you have picked up on a few basics about apologetics.

First, apologetics is not just for professionals. You really should try this at home. We are all called to evangelism, and a good part of that evangelism in this era includes making a credible defense of a belief in God, in the Bible, and in Jesus as presented in the Bible.

Second, Christian faith is defensible. Even if you were brought up without exposure to competing faiths (or non-faiths), it does not follow that your teachers were covering up, or worse yet, cowering because no defense was possible. Perhaps they thought defending the faith was unnecessary, or perhaps they considered intellectual arguments tended to work against faith rather than for it. Whatever the reason, today's multicultural and skeptical world demands we know what and why we believe.

Third, while I have discussed intellectual and logical reasons to believe, many things I assert in those arguments cannot be demonstrated with 100 percent certainty. Take, for example, in the last article about reasons to believe the Bible. In that article, I refer to history, archeology, and prophecy. I wrote of

ancient manuscripts that were not identical in every detail, and yet were numerous enough and enough alike that we could establish some degree of confidence in their accuracy. In no example, however, could I declare an absolute certainty based on physical and logical evidence. To do so would make faith unnecessary, and belief in the Jesus Christ of the Bible will require a step of faith. However, as we also showed in the last article, there is a difference between a step of faith and a leap of faith.

I believe it's the idea in that last paragraph that creates the most trouble for the Christian who wants to proclaim God as the only true God, the Bible as God's only revealed Word, and Jesus as the only way to God. These are claims to truth. And these are exclusive claims. One God. One Word. One Savior. If these phrases are true, then all competing claims are false. And that is dangerous talk these days.

Franklin Graham, son of well-known evangelist Billy Graham, can tell you first hand how people respond to claims such as this. Earlier this year, he publicly repeated statements he had made in 2003 concerning Islam saying the religion was "wicked" and "evil." Graham, who had been scheduled to lead a National Day of Prayer event at the Pentagon

May 6, found himself "disinvited" at the behest of Mikey Weinstein, who had sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates demanding that the invitation to Graham be rescinded.

Now, one could argue that Graham was cancelled because his statements were "divisive" and "offensive," and that in fact is the official reason given for the cancellation, but there is more to it. Weinstein, president and founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation (who has also been nominated for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize, by the way), reports that along with the letter, MRFF had also "retained aggressive trial lawyers" and was planning to seek a restraining order to stop the entire event if the invitation to Graham was not withdrawn.

As it turns out, Weinstein has been protesting Christian influence within the nation's military several years, believing that the military "has just been completely infused by premillennial, dispensational, reconstructionist, dominionist, evangelical, fundamentalist Christians...." He did not want to stop Graham from speaking as much as he wanted the Pentagon not to hold the prayer event in the first place.

After the Pentagon's announcement, in a follow-up conversation with *Newsweek* editor

Jon Meacham and religion editor Lisa Miller, Franklin Graham was called out, not only for his “divisive” speech, but also for his lack of tolerance. At one point Graham told Meacham, “I am who I am. I don’t believe that you can get to heaven through being a Buddhist or Hindu. I think Muhammad only leads to the grave. Now, that’s what I believe, and I don’t apologize for my faith. And if it’s divisive, I’m sorry.”

A few moments later, Meacham said, “I think we are an incredibly hospitable country to all faiths. I think that’s a good thing. I don’t know that you do.”

Southern Baptist Seminary President Al Mohler said in a subsequent blog, *“As reports make clear, it is not just [Graham’s] statements about Islam being prone to violence that cause offense, it is his statements that Islam is wicked because it does not lead to salvation in Christ that cause the greatest offense.... Faithful witness to Christ requires an honest statement about what any false system of belief represents — a form of idolatry and false teaching that leads to eternal damnation. There may be more and less offensive ways of saying that, but there is no way to remove the basic offense to the current cultural mind. In reality, every evangelical preacher and every individual Christian will face this question — and probably sooner rather than later.”*

Okay, perhaps you and I will not find ourselves at the center of such a public political hurricane, but Mr. Mohler is right about our need to face the question. Today, the most politically incorrect statement you could make first came from the lips of Jesus: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

I probably need to insert some information here about the concept of worldview. Worldview is simply what it sounds like — a view of the real world around us. Think of worldview as a lens, the way we see and make sense of the world.

Philosophically, until about 1700, the dominant worldview in Europe and the West (including those who were colonizing what would become the U.S.) was called premodernism.

This worldview embraced the idea of the supernatural, and in particular, the teachings of Christianity regarding God, the Bible, Jesus, and so on. One of the primary reasons for this was the dominance of the Roman Catholic Church, especially before the Protestant Ref-

ormation, and in fact another marker for the premodern period was a belief in traditional institutions and the authority they held.

There was a strong concept of revelation — that God had revealed truth concerning Himself and the World, reflected, for instance, in the book of Proverbs with the phrase, “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Without faith you simply could not understand the world and the way things were.

Premoderns embraced what is called a metanarrative — the Big Story, a comprehensive explanation of the way things are. God created the world. That was the truth. God created us. That was the truth.

The shift from premodern to modern began during the explosion of knowledge from around 1450-1700. Technology, science, medicine, knowledge about the physical world, exploration, discovery — all these things led to a new metanarrative that cared less about the supernatural. Science and academia became the authority for explaining the world — reason over faith, thinking for yourself, distrust of political and religious institutions. It was the time of the Protestant Reformation.

And with the emphasis on science and observation, apologetics became more important, and in some ways this was both good and bad. As skepticism chipped away at basic tenets regarding the origin and accuracy of scripture, those who held to the traditional metanarrative that included a belief in the supernatural found themselves obligated as well to provide evidences for belief. Others, sadly, caved to skepticism and sought to accommodate the Christian message to a world with little regard for anything that smacked of the supernatural, including revelation, miracles, and even the basic teachings concerning the person of Jesus Christ.

In the meantime, a new worldview began to take hold, first in the arts, and then later in all areas of life. The worldview went through several stages and names, but because of its

placement in time, we generally refer to it as postmodernism.

Among the features of postmodernism was a near total rejection of all metanarrative, along with any notion of universal truth. Truth, if there were such a thing, would be considered only relative or localized. Without any set standard or authority, any version of

Science and academia became the authority for explaining the world — reason over faith, thinking for yourself, distrust of political and religious institutions.



truth (such as it were) was equally valid.

There are all sorts of downsides connected with a world embracing postmodernism, but there are positive facets. For one thing, postmodernism has room for the concept of the supernatural. For centuries, modernism relegated Christianity to a category of unproven, unscientific, and unrealistic worldview incompatible with thought — the idea being

that there is no way thinking people would accept it. But in a postmodern world, there is a measure of skepticism toward the triumph of human reason over all.

Something else is a reality in the postmodern world — something many suspected but few articulated: science is not as objective and certain as presented, and often is biased, agenda driven, and in some cases, faith based. We will talk more about that in another article.

And there is one more thing making postmodernism interesting to the Christian, and that is a renewed emphasis on story and experience.

Finally, with science off the throne, so to speak, and acceptance of notions of the supernatural and spirituality, the gospel, the Christian story, can take its place alongside other worldviews as “a” truth, but there is a danger here.

A biblical Christian believes that the Big Story, God’s story, is not merely “a” truth, not

First of all, though some may try to maintain all religions are basically the same, that notion is a myth. Take just one aspect of religion, say the concept of God, and compare what the various faiths teach, and you can see right away they are not equivalent at all. Christian philosopher Francis Beckwith (who I must point out with sadness recently returned to his Roman Catholic upbringing,) in his study of Bahai, compared the doctrines of God as taught by religions and their founders and reported they were hopelessly contradictory. He wrote, “God cannot be impersonal, personal, transcendent, polytheistic, pantheistic, monotheistic, able to beget, not able to beget, relevant, and irrelevant all at the same time.... Irreconcilable data gives us no knowledge of God whatsoever.”

One of the unique aspects of Christianity is its dependence not on philosophies or mystical teachings, but upon objective truth. Henry Morris, in *Many Infallible Proofs*, wrote, “Christianity (including its Old Testament

is devoted to the last three and one half years of the earthly life of Jesus, and about half that describe the last week of life, His death, burial, and resurrection.

The point is, Christianity is based not on the philosophy of Jesus, but upon who He was and what He did, and this makes Him unique as an object of faith. But it does more. The truthfulness of His teachings, and the validity of his statement that He is the only way to God, stand on these historical records which are subject to objective examination. If Jesus was not who He said He was, and did not do what the Bible declares Him to have done, then Christianity is not only not unique, it is a sham!

I have already shown that Jesus proclaimed Himself as the only way to God, but after the Gospels, the New Testament tells us that the early followers of Jesus Christ understood this uniqueness as well. It was not something added on later as an act of deliberate intolerance and ignorance.

Standing before people who held to the Jewish faith, mere days after the crucifixion and resurrection, Peter makes this statement: “Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead...Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:10-12).

Later in the book, in chapter 17, the Apostle Paul, whose conversion to Christ was recorded in Acts 9, stood before a group of Greek philosophers and told them, contrary to their own native beliefs, there was only one God, and that God commanded them to repent, otherwise they would be judged by “that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:31). The man raised from the dead, the one who would one day be their judge, was of course, Jesus Christ.

The message is clear — whether one claims an ancient monotheistic faith that goes back to the days of Moses, or even if one has an ultimate faith that makes room for hundreds of gods — Jesus, Peter, and Paul, and all those who followed from the earliest days of Christianity say the same thing: Jesus is the only way to God. No amount of religious contortion can make the Bible say anything else, and you can make that claim with good reason.

Christianity is based not on the philosophy of Jesus, but upon who He was and what He did...

just one story among many that may or may not be true, but rather we believe the Bible presents the story of God, and God’s story is *the* story above all others.

And this is the challenge of the postmodern worldview for Christians. If you continue to maintain a view that God is God, and that He has revealed His truth in the Bible in a supernatural way (and sadly many in Christendom gave that up back during the modernist period), then you are faced with a choice: either be one of several truth options, or dogmatically claim the truth that the faith of God, the Bible, and His Son Jesus Christ is unique, and the only supernatural truth.

There are several reasons to make an exclusive claim that Jesus is the only way to God.

foundation) is based upon historical acts and facts. Other religions are centered in the ethical and religious teachings of their founders, but Christianity is built on the great events of creation and redemption.”

To see the importance of this statement, take a look at the content of the Gospels themselves. There you find the story of the historical Jesus, but instead of an emphasis on his life and teachings, you discover something else. We actually know very little about his life as a whole. Only two of the Gospels tell us anything about the ancestry and birth. It appears that he was 30 years old when he began his public ministry, but we know almost nothing about those 30 years. In fact, the Gospels have four chapters covering events of those earlier years, the rest

HISTORY

BAPTIST

ALEXANDER CARSON (1776-1844) – The Baptist scholar

Alexander Carson was born in Northern Ireland in 1776. His early years were influenced by his godly Presbyterian mother and grandmother who instilled in him a love and reverence for God and His Word. This, coupled with his exceptional intellect and unquenchable appetite for knowledge, produced one of Great Britain's greatest scholars. His love of knowledge set him apart from other boys his age. He had little or no interest in sports or games. He was devoted to his books, reading and studying an average of five hours a day, a practice he would continue throughout his life.

Alexander was converted at an early age, and when he was about 18 he entered the University of Glasgow. His intense study habits and disinterest in all secular activities not only amazed but also antagonized many of his classmates who considered him mad. His achievements at the university were astounding. He graduated at the head of his class and everyone expected he would someday return to the university as the head of its Hebrew and Greek departments.

Alexander was ordained to the Presbyterian ministry just short of his 22nd birthday and assigned to the Presbyterian church in Tubbermore, Ireland. It is surprising that one of Great Britain's greatest scholars would be assigned to a village of only 500 inhabitants, most of whom were poorly educated farmers. Although the church was in a declining state, Carson's ability as an expositor of the Word soon filled the chapel to overflowing. Over the next six years, Carson enjoyed a fruitful but uneventful ministry.

But there were storm clouds gathering on the horizon, for that year a Baptist missionary came to Tubbermore. He covered the area with Baptist literature and spoke to anyone who would listen. The Baptist teaching about immersion and infant baptism troubled some of Carson's members. They expressed these concerns to their pastor. Carson assured his parishioners that he would expose the Baptists and their heresy and provide scriptural support for their Presbyterian practices.

He immediately began a detailed and thorough investigation on scriptural baptism. His study lasted several months and produced a large manuscript in support of the Presbyterian system. One evening, as he sat in front of his

fireplace studying his notes supporting infant baptism, he suddenly tossed the manuscript into the fireplace. Alexander Carson had become a Baptist, but this was not a decision without cost. By embracing Baptist views, he was required to surrender his ample salary provided by the church and the state. His future looked bleak. How would he support his wife and small children?

However, this was not his only consideration. His decision would alienate him from family and ministerial friends. But he believed the scriptures supporting the Baptist position were undeniable leaving him no choice but to obey and to place his future in God's hands. On the day of his resignation, he delivered his usual three-hour exposition explaining what the scriptures taught on the subject of baptism. He concluded his message by informing his church that he could no longer with a clear conscience support the Presbyterian system, and therefore he must withdraw from the Presbyterian society and resign as their pastor.

One of the most influential men in the church rose to his feet and walked to the pulpit and took the pulpit Bible and lifted it over his head and proclaimed, "Let all who are for God and the Bible, follow me." Two-thirds of the congregation followed him and cast their lot with the Baptists and their pastor. He had not been forsaken, but his people were poor and for the next ten years they had no regular meeting place. The congregation was forced to meet in barns and, weather permitting, in the open air.

Finally, they were able to construct a chapel that would be enlarged several times until it could accommodate 1,000 worshippers. Carson ministered for over 40 years in Tubbermore and would have been relatively unknown if it had not been for his gifted pen, which brought him worldwide fame. He wrote numerous books but his most famous is

his exceptional work on baptism. Dr. Alexander Carson's earthly ministry ended August 24, 1844.



Editor's note – Dr. Carson's book, Baptism In Its Mode and Subject, continues to be reprinted and is carried by several online booksellers.

by Thomas Ray





A Heart for Haiti

By Jon Konnerup • Additional photos by Dennis Jennings and Phil Housley

After making a trip to Haiti at the beginning of April, my heart aches for the Haitian people who have suffered miserably due to the earthquake in January 2010. The country was already poor and needy, but this devastation has put them in a terrible condition. Over 250,000 have died, an overwhelming number of families are homeless, 250,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed, and 30,000 business buildings were toppled.

Many of the deceased are still buried under building rubble. Some Haitians have been displaced to other areas of the country. The U.N. says there are at least 400 tent cities where people now live because their homes are too dangerous to move back into. Many of those whose homes are structurally sound fear sleeping in them in case another earthquake occurs. Businesses have closed because their facilities were damaged. As a result, there are fewer jobs and less money to spend, which, in turn, causes people to look for sustenance from relief agencies. Consequently, this hurts those businesses that are open since people find things for free rather than paying for them. Seems like a vicious cycle.

In addition, many of the churches associated with independent Baptist missionaries have been damaged or destroyed. Church members have died, resulting in numerous funerals, which have been overwhelming to the pas-

tors. Many members have moved or have been displaced by the government because their homes have been destroyed. Most pastors have seen their own homes damaged with some needing to be completely rebuilt. This burden is overwhelming to a people already with little to live on or live in. They are in desperate need. Already, a little over \$70,000 of what has been sent through the Mission Office has gone toward initial relief efforts to help people with food and necessary essentials right after the earthquake happened.

Upon arrival in Port Au Prince, our assessment team (made up of pastors, missionaries, and businessmen) was met by BBFI missionary Wes Lane. He immediately took us to visit the national pastors, their church buildings, and homes. He identified projects that needed to be assessed to receive help through the Haitian Relief Fund set up in the BBFI Mission Office. We met with over 50 pastors who expressed their needs. We encouraged them and reassured them we would assist them as we could with the resources we have. They understood that there are needs in other places like Chile, with

their earthquake disaster, but that we would do all we could to help them. The interesting thing they shared with us is that most of their churches have grown despite losing members to death and displacement. As one pastor said, "Haitians are looking for answers, and they are finding them in Jesus Christ." Many have been saved!

Our missionaries, the Lanes, who lived in Port-au-Prince for nine years before moving to the Dominican Republic, and Susan Perkins, were with us to help assess the needs. Lenny Funtecha and his wife, who have served in Haiti for 17 years, are also independent Baptist missionaries from the Philippines with the Asia Baptist Clearinghouse. They worked closely with our team providing clear understanding of

Current BBFI projects

1. Eglise Baptiste Solidarite - Pastor Lenny Funtecha

- This is the key center for training national leaders.
- We plan to rebuild the building that houses the Bible institute, children's school, baptistry, and MANNA feeding center. (MANNA has given the funds to tear down the destroyed structures and clean out the debris.)
- The BBFI will initially rebuild the first floor so these ministries can resume their activities.
- The amount to be used to finish the first of two floors has yet to be determined.

2. Eglise Baptiste de La Foi - Pastor Fanel Ducas

- This church has grown in number to an attendance of nearly 200 since the earthquake, thus making it necessary to extend its building.
- We plan to tear down the existing structure damaged by the earthquake, extend the length, and completely rebuild.
- Approximately \$25,000 will be given to complete this project.
- If you are interested, check www.BBFImissions.com for team information for this project.



the needs of the people. Lenny has directed the Bible institute where most of the independent Baptist pastors affected by the earthquake were trained. Tom Franklin, BBFI missionary to the Dominican Republic, is also helping with some projects to help churches and their pastors.

Initially, we have identified four projects that can be accomplished with the funds already received. We pray God will supply more funds to assist others after these are started and completed. The projects with which we will assist are listed below.

This is only the beginning. Additional church buildings and pastors' homes have been identified and will receive assistance as the funds become available. At least 16 projects for pastors' homes and churches are known for immediate assistance. Dozens of others have been presented by other Haitian pastors. It will take years for this country to rebuild and for us to help these leaders and believers. You can help

by continuing to give to the Haitian Relief Fund at the BBFI Mission Office.

The Haitian pastors and their churches continue to meet and worship despite their own personal tragedies, and God is moving in amazing ways. Thousands are coming to Christ. We have the opportunity to move the work of the gospel forward in Haiti by providing resources to these pastors through our missionaries on the ground. More missionaries are also needed. Perhaps someone from your church will surrender to go and help spread the truth of Jesus Christ to these desperate people.

Let's partner together with what God is doing in Haiti. Thank you for your willingness to do what you can. May God be glorified through it all!



3. Home of Pastor Bores Narcisse – Eglise Baptiste Calvaire Gembal

- The pastor started building this home six years ago as he was able, little by little.
- It will need to be demolished and rebuilt.
- Approximately \$25,000 will be given to complete his home.

4. Eglise Baptiste Bon Berger – Pastor Privilon

- Minor structure repairs are needed to the building walls, the outside walls, and the destroyed toilet facilities.
- We plan to tear off the old roof and replace it with a new one.
- Approximately \$5,000 will be needed for this.
- One team from the U.S.A. will do the work to replace the roof.
- If interested, check www.BBFImissions.com for team information.

Here's how you can help right now:

1 Commit today to have a "Heart for Haiti" Sunday at your church on the last Sunday in July.

Two Sundays before, you can show the DVD the Mission Office completed for the May Meeting, and use the bulletin insert available for download on our website under the "Haiti Relief" tab. On Sunday, July 25, 2010, you can receive a special offering. Contact the Mission Office and we will ship a copy of the recently produced DVD to you or you may download it from the website.

2 Go to the Mission Office website at www.BBFImissions.com and look at opportunities for mission trips for your church or skilled individuals.

Right now we have the following dates planned for three teams: June 12-19 (rebuild foundation and walls of project #2), June 26 – July 3 (replace roof and repair walls and toilet facilities of project #4), and July 10-17 (rebuild roof, complete building, and build benches for project #2). Further trips will be set up for the fall of 2010 as the projects and funds are available.

3 Commit to giving special offerings to help reconstruct Haitian church buildings in the future. Remember, 100 percent of what you send to the Haitian Relief Fund will go toward rebuilding the churches, ministries, and pastors' homes.



Abraham the URbanite

URBAN CURRENT

Abraham! Isn't he the guy that lived in a tent, the Bedouin always on the hunt for the best grass or pasture? We generally don't think of Abraham as urban. The fact is, he lived the first third of his life in one of the greatest urban centers of the ancient world. His mind, his world view, his habits were all molded and shaped in the streets and markets of this dynamic, colorful Mesopotamian metropolis. Ur, with a population of approximately 300,000, was a city of considerable sophistication. Amazing archeological discoveries have told just such a story. Ur was a primary city in Mesopotamia, claimed by some to be the capital of the world at least three different times in its history that stretches almost 4,000 years.

Location. Location. Location. Ur, sprawled on the banks of the Euphrates on the coast of the upper end of the Persian Gulf, was the meeting of land and sea routes. A city of industry, trade, and advanced literacy, Ur was not only a center of government and religion but finance and art. Elaborate artifacts rescued from the middle-eastern dust and sand indicate a large community of skilled artisans.

From the hundreds of private graves and tombs excavated, including 16 royal tombs, much can be learned. While nearly all the royal tombs were plundered, the remaining gold and silver vessels, jewelry, and other richly inlaid furniture testify to the skill of the ancient craftsmen and to the wealth and power of the aristocracy.

Archeologists are convinced that one of the buildings they have unearthed was the treasury building. Many private residences have been excavated giving insight into daily life in this huge city. Maybe Abraham lived in

one of these very houses.

In the period 2112-2095 B.C., Ur-Nammu erected the oldest surviving ziggurat. The ziggurat has three levels or stages connected by stairways. The base of the structure is approximately 200 feet long and 170 feet wide. Three massive stairways of 100 steps each lead upward to a tower. Smaller stairways lead from the tower to the second and third levels. A temple to the moon god Nanna was built on top of the third level. Apparently, trees were planted on the terraces of the ziggurat. Surely this structure dominated Ur. Abraham may have worshipped there. It's just wild to think that your eyes can rest on this partially restored structure, which Abraham saw with his own eyes every day.

Luke reminds us with Stephen's words that God appeared to Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia. See God at work in this ancient godless city. See God sovereignly singling out a man. See God calling a moon god worshipper. In the city of several hundred thousand people God foreknew Abraham, predestined Abraham, called Abraham, justified Abraham, and surely, glorified Abraham. God called a man out of the mass to launch a plan having global reach and eternal impact. It reminds me of the Lord talking to Paul about Corinth, "I have many people in this city." God has been at work in cities since there were cities. Surely, God's eyes are on the cities of our contemporary world with populations amassed, thronged, yes, divinely gathered. Surely God is still calling people to Himself out of heathen post-modern cities.

God led Abraham on a journey. Undoubtedly he left Ur following the established trade route that led to Haran. God was taking the

gospel on the road. From this early capital city God worked his plan and spread his news. He moved the gospel to the far corners. This makes me think of the gospel on Roman roads. Highways already there, channels of transportation and communication already formed by people in search of power, money, and discovery became the routes by which God would spread his truth. God has always used established channels, paths, routes, highways. Man creates these with his own plans in mind. We know there is a master planner. Think of all the contemporary means of communication and transportation. Every one of them is opportunity for the gospel to travel to places and people in need.

The songwriter said, "Little is much when God is in it." We ought never despise small beginnings. We ought never demean the role of one disciple. We should never discount the potential of one church member. The power is supernatural. Our God is the God who is able to do abundantly above all that we could ask or think. Think of it! Abram, young heathen urbanite transformed by God's call, later described as father of all the faithful. From that young man in a city of moon worshippers has come the message of Christ, permeating every continent and almost every people group in the world. The impact of the man from Ur is astonishing.

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BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

A compass for reclaiming our effectiveness

by Jim Edge | President | Baptist Bible College



I have heard a lot said about the need to have a moral compass to provide an anchor for the soul. You only have to scan your local paper or listen to five minutes of a news broadcast to understand that American society at large needs this important tool.

If you have ever experienced the backlash of sin in your life, you will have an even more personal understanding of how a moral compass can provide needed guidance when you lose your way. Just a brief glance at a compass will allow any traveler to know where his true north lies. For millions, the magnetic field of the North Pole has provided guidance for proper direction. By finding true north, a traveler can regain his direction and move toward his destination.

This year at Baptist Bible College we have rediscovered and enhanced our Mission and Vision Statement as well as our Core Values and Goals. These reconstituted statements will enable us to move forward with precision based upon God's calling in our lives and the truths in scripture. They are our compass, enabling us to advance toward our goals. We arrived at these statements by examining the historical calling of our founders, our understanding of the scriptural basis for ministry, and the unique ministry Baptist Bible College has historically enjoyed.

In our recent meeting, the college trustees determined our Mission and Vision to be: *Baptist Bible College is an institution of biblical higher education that exists to provide a Christ-centered curriculum that fosters a biblical worldview, empowering students to engage and impact their global society.*

Surely our society needs a new generation of pastors and Christian workers. We are committed to training young people from our churches in the best methods for reaching their contemporaries with the gospel. Their history and background in many cases is far different from those that previous generations experienced. According to a recent article in *USA Today*, a 2007 study by LifeWay Christian Resources found that most young adults, even those who profess Christ, don't pray, don't worship, and don't read their Bibles regularly. According to Thom Rainer, if current trends continue "The Millennial generation will see churches closing as quickly as GM dealerships."

At BBC, we are dedicated to becoming the very best educational institution for training the next generation of BBFI leaders. In today's difficult economic times, and with American culture in freefall, our task is not easy. But we serve a God who deeply loves this generation as much as He has any generation in history. He is able to supply the resources, personnel, and skills to accomplish the impossible. The journey to reclaim our effectiveness is not an easy one, but God's calling is sure. We are thankful for all who will join with us.

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE

Little people

by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College



Like most married couples, Kim and I negotiate about the TV remote. We actually have a lot of fun teasing each other. We even bounced around an idea of co-hosting a call-in radio show where she could take calls about house stuff, shopping, and TLC while I would heckle her callers in the background. Then she would return the favor when somebody called in to talk with me about sports, politics, or history! I still think it would be great fun, so if any of you own a radio station... give us a call!

But back to the TV remote...a current point of uncoordinated interest is a show called *Little People Big World*. I really can't even describe it any more than to say Kim finds it "interesting." It is about an elevationally-challenged family living in the... okay, I'm going to stop because all the words I know to describe their situation are now politically incorrect. And besides, I only watched about two minutes of it with Kim, made a few cracks about what a ridiculous show it was and how we would be much better off watching a PBS documentary, and then I left the room.

But to be honest, I am still thinking about it. Little people, it is a challenge being one. I know. Maybe you are a celebrity, but probably not. I am just a little guy. When I was a lot younger, I think in immaturity I defined spiritual, and good, and desirable as almost synonyms of big, and famous, and widely-noted. I do not confuse those terms so much anymore.

Little moments matter. When one of my Boston students who had been struggling in class gave a great answer to a question in class, I instinctively ran over and gave her a fist pump! No reporters were present, no pictures were taken, not even a tweet. But in my spirit I am not sure that "little" moment was so small after all. Recently another Boston student told me he had given the gospel all by himself for the first time. He was a little ashamed, extremely insecure, feeling spiritually diminutive. I asked him to tell me what he said. I heard an absolutely precious, straight-from-the-heart, unencumbered expression of love for the Savior! A "little" effort? I think not. The only Scorekeeper that matters took note, of that I am certain.

Little people? Are they the ones who do the thankless jobs? You can call them little if you want, but if those "little" folks fail to do those "little" jobs, very little good happens. I have a student at our church that checks the toilet paper in the bathrooms every Sunday morning. I say no more!

Now let me be clear, I am not giving in to my wife's TV preferences. But I must confess that two minutes with her show provoked me to look at big things in new ways. So that is my "little" article for this month. But please, don't tell my wife.

Winter Haven anniversary and new building

Winter Haven, FL

In a two-week span, Winter Haven Baptist Church and Pastor Mark Hodges celebrated the 45th anniversary of the church (April 11) and the dedication of a new building (April 25).



Winter Haven Baptist Temple, as it was known at the time, held its first service on April 18, 1965, in Lake Elbert Elementary School. On June 6 of that same year, the church was organized and elected R. D. Hodges (the current pastor's father) as pastor. R. D. Hodges went home to be with the Lord on October 25, 1981, and Mark D. Hodges became the current pastor.

The church changed its name to Winter Haven Baptist Church in 1991, after completing their third building program.

Mark Hodges (right) prepares to cut the ribbon on the new facility.

The newest part of the WHBC campus is a 21,000-square-foot facility that will house a full-size gymnasium, church offices, and several classrooms and youth rooms. On hand for the dedication were Ron Henkelman, founder and president of Henkelman Construction, and several sub-contractors. Guest speaker for the event was Wayne Guinn, director of the BBFI National Church Planting Office.

Voting Reminder BBFI Pastors

If you did not receive a ballot for BBFI officer elections at the May Fellowship Meeting, you will need to contact Diana Blankenship at the Mission Office to receive your ballot. **Due to the ratified change to the election process, you will no longer automatically receive a ballot in the mail.** Ballots must be returned by July 1, 2010.

**Contact: Diana Blankenship
(417) 862-5001
diana@bbfimission.com**

BBC music faculty presents recital at Cherry Street Baptist Church

Springfield, MO

The Music Department of Baptist Bible College presented a faculty recital on April 15 at Cherry Street Baptist Church. The entire music faculty including Tammy Stubblefield, Carol Akers, Michael Dove, David Giles, Bryan Wise, Robin Dowell, and Beverly Boland performed in their areas of expertise. Piano, vocal, oboe, pipe organ, and saxophone solos were presented, as well as duets and a six-hand piano composition.

Baptist Bible College Music Department offers degrees in Vocal and Instrumental Music Education, Church Music, and an associate degree, which are fully certified from accrediting agencies. The department also encourages students from other majors to enhance their degrees by participating in ensembles, private lessons, and classes. Students interested in a music scholarship should contact department chair, David Giles, for information at dgiles@gobbc.edu or (417) 268-6044.

BBC's college choir has presented concerts in many churches around the United States. If you are interested in having the college choir present a concert in your church, please contact David Giles.



From left: Bryan Wise, Michael Dove, David Giles, Beverly Boland, Robin Dowell, Carol Akers, and Tammy Stubblefield.

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Texas pastor spends Holy Week in Philippines

Bowie, TX

By Ron Abbott

Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church

After serious illness kept me from traveling last year, this past April we were finally on our way to spend Holy Week with Dennis and Gloria Ebert in the Philippines.

After a night at the Martin Burnham Mission Center, and a day of fellowship with Bob and Gaye Woosley and Gary and Jeanie Phillips, Sunday began what was to become a preaching tour from Manila to Iba Zambales.

In the morning, I spoke for Pastor Primo Tabanda at Bible Baptist Temple in Manila, a church impressive in size and warm in hospital-

ity. After lunch we traveled north and stopped at the newly constructed New Testament Scripture Baptist Church in Bataan. Pastor Ric Deliquina asked if I could speak to his people because they had been gathered early and told they would hear from an American preacher. I opened the New Testament, started at the top of a chapter, and preached verse-by-verse for about



Left side front to back: Gloria Ebert, Irene Abbott, Ron Abbott, Dennis Ebert. Right front to back: Gay Woosley, Jeanie Phillips, Gary Phillips, Bob Woosley.

20 minutes. This was a short sermon for Filipinos who are accustomed to sitting for an hour or longer.

Next, we stopped to see the new construction and the congregation pastored by Pastor Sapnu before head-

ing to the evening service at the church pastored by Pastor Eddie Boniog. By this time the 13-hour time difference and the tropical climate was beginning to wear me down. I wasn't sure I could carry on, but I did and the altars were full. What a thrill it is to preach to such responsive people!

We arrived at the Palmera Resort on the China Sea in the early morning darkness where we enjoyed a week with missionaries Dennis and Gloria Ebert. Friday night, they were honored for their vision and labor in making the Highlands Camp all that it now is.

By the end of the week I had delivered 19 sermons including the commencement address for the seminary graduation. Irene had spoken seven times to the ladies. We were thrilled to learn just before leaving for the airport and the trip home that there were over 800 in attendance with 40 salvation decisions, 20 deciding for baptism, and 14 for full-time Christian service.

Indiana BBF hosted by Wabash Valley Bible Baptist

Attica, IN



Pastor Dave Adams and Wabash Valley Bible Baptist Church of Attica, Indiana, hosted the April Indiana BBF meeting April 13. The meeting featured Tribune Editor Keith Bassham speaking on *Preaching in Today's Shifting Culture* and panel discussions on preaching. Pastor Adams presented attending ministers a book of essays on expository preaching, and the church provided breakfast and lunch.

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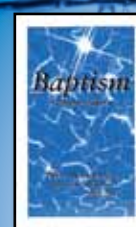
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Current River sets \$100,000 faith promise goal

Doniphan, MO

Pastor Wes Flaugh and Current River Baptist Church enjoyed their world mission conference in March with the theme "Missions Begins At Home." Missionary guests for the month leading up to the conference were Tony Sullivan (Australia), Sean Mulroney (Teens of America), and Jonathan Saliba (Colombia). Conference guests were Mike Redman (missionary to struggling churches), David Velasquez (missionary to Spain), and

Joe Schmidt (children's evangelist). Pastor Linzy Slayden of Friendship Baptist Church, Owasso, Oklahoma, who also serves as First Vice President of Missions for the BBFI, was the keynote speaker.

The church enjoyed a good attendance all week and a missions banquet following the morning service.



Wes and Rebecca Flaugh and family (left) with Linzy and Carla Slayden (right).

Their faith promise goal is to surpass \$100,000. "This goal is certainly within reach," says Flaugh, "and would set a record for missions giving for the church." Flaugh is in his tenth year as pastor of Current River Baptist Church and has led the church to increased growth and missions giving.

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Conferences for Middle East pastors

St. Louis, MO

By Dwight Billingsley

The Rawlings Foundation sponsored three International Baptist Network (IBN) Middle East banquets for pastors and their wives in April with hosts Dwight and Jeanne Billingsley. The banquets were held on three consecutive days in Beirut (Lebanon), Damascus (Syria), and Amman (Jordan). There are now more than 125 Arabic-speaking Baptist pastors in the IBN network.

The Billingsleys have been working in Arabic-speaking Middle East since their approval as BBFI missionaries in 1965, though in recent years their role has changed into that of facilitator, advisor, and coordinator.

Billingsley began organizing Arabic-speaking pastors in 2003 and the first event was a conference at the Rawlings Foundation Conference Facility near Brussels, Belgium, in 2006. The meeting was the first of its kind where pastors were able to meet their counterparts from countries in the Middle East, Europe, and North

America. Another conference was recently held on a floating hotel down the Nile River. Jeanne conducted the seminar for the pastors' wives and Dwight led the sessions for the pastors. According to the Billingsleys, "The churches in all the Arabic countries and Israel are experiencing growth and are winning many to Christ. Every church in America should get behind this effort." The BBFI Mission Office can receive financial gifts for this effort.



Dwight Billingsley (far left) with conference attendees.



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Florence Baptist holds Spring Fling 2010

Burlington, KY

Florence Baptist Temple held a Spring Fling 2010 event for teens in the northern Kentucky area the Sunday evening before Spring Break. The event took place at a local skating rink. With the support of the church, FBT's youth group, LIFE Student Ministries, and Student Pastor David Kennedy got the word out into the community. They passed out over 1,500 flyers advertising unlimited pizza and soda, giveaways (Xbox 360 and an iPod Touch), and a group worship service. During the planning, 150 teens were expected to attend. But when the day arrived, 282 teens filed into the skating rink and were presented with the John 3 message "You must be born again." That evening, 35 teens accepted Christ and six dedicated their lives to Him.

Kennedy says, "I wanted to make this not just a fun event for the teens of Florence Baptist Temple, but I wanted to make this a perfect opportunity to reach lost teens in our community. I wanted the worst of the worst

teens to come because that is exactly who needs the Lord."

Senior Pastor Wayne Cox, who has pastored the church for 36 years, was happy to support the event. "I am always for events that are based on evangelistic outreach because so many times we have forgotten about evangelism and that is what all the ministries at our church revolve around," states Cox.



Not only did the congregation support and give toward the event, but also the night of the Spring Fling FBT they scheduled their Sunday evening services early, were challenged by Cox on prayer, and then spent time praying for the Spring Fling.

On the following Monday, Kennedy received an email from one of his teens that said, "What a great time last night! I believe very strongly that God was there and he did great things! I'm so thankful to know that three of my closest friends are going to be with me in eternity!" "That right there is what it is all about," declares Kennedy.

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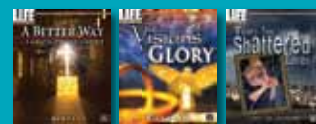
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Calvary exceeds missions commitment by \$40,000

Westerville, OH

Calvary Bible Baptist Church and Pastor Matt Keller recently celebrated surpassing their faith promise commitment for 2009-2010. Their \$60,000 commitment was made last year following the church's annual mission conference. Keller recalls the church being moved by and focused on worldwide missions through Assistant Mission Director Steve Bender's preaching. "Brother Bender came to Calvary and was used powerfully by God to stir the hearts of the people to give sacrificially even in the midst of a recession. His heart and passion for missions was contagious and he affected the church in a dynamic and positive way." Calvary also included a Bible collation effort into the conference putting together over 62,000 copies of John and Romans to be shipped to missionaries in Burkina Faso and Senegal.

The end of April 2010 brought Calvary's missions campaign to a close, and as the church tabulated what was given over the past 12 months, they rejoiced at surpassing their com-

mitment by over \$40,000. Keller said, "I'm unbelievably proud of the people of Calvary Bible Baptist Church. We've had some big challenges

nothing short of a God thing. We are careful to give Him glory for what He has accomplished through the willing hearts of His people."

Calvary's next mission conference is scheduled for October and the prayer of the people is to do even more for missions in the years to come.



Picture taken on the last day of the conference. The boxes are the Bibles that were assembled and were ready to ship.

over the past 18 months but I'm thrilled to see how God's people responded to the urgent need to fulfill our singular mission, to make disciples. Calvary has always been a church that loves and supports missions but for this church to give over \$100,000 to missions in 12 months is

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2,400 attend Edgewood Easter weekend services

Rock Island, IL

Edgewood Baptist Church, pastored by Mel Brown, had record-breaking attendances of 2,400 on Easter weekend with more than 800 visitors attending the Easter services. The services were held at the Quad Cities iWireless Center to accommodate the crowds. FFH provided special music and Dave Dravecky, former Major League pitcher who lost his arm to cancer,

gave his personal testimony about the power of Jesus Christ sustaining him through his darkest

days. Brown preached an Easter message entitled, "The Resurrection Power of Jesus Christ."



Pictured is the Edgewood staff. Rear left: Timothy Green (worship pastor), Ed Kuriscak (pastoral care pastor), Craig Stevenson (youth pastor), Mel Brown (senior pastor) Front left: Dan Cullett (missionary pastor), Sheila Kuriscak (Christian education director), Andy Feliksiak (administrative pastor), and John Markum (singles' pastor).

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Pete Leslie

Hughes Springs, TX

Pastor Pete Leslie passed from this life Easter Sunday, April 4, at his home in Hughes Springs. Born February 1, 1956, in Youngstown, Ohio, he graduated from Baptist Bible College in 1977 and 1978. After ministering in churches in Iowa and Ohio, he became pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Hughes Springs where he served 28 years.

Pete is survived by his wife, Pat, and three sons. A memorial service was held April 8 at Hughes Springs Missionary Baptist Church.



Bert Homer

Haltom City, TX

Long-time BBFI pastor and evangelist Bertram (Bert) J. Homer, 85, met his heavenly Father and his eternal rest Saturday, April 17, 2010. Bert was born to Marion and Mildred Homer January 10, 1925, in Louann, Arkansas. He served the Lord as a pastor and evangelist more than 58 years at churches in Texas, Kansas, and Florida.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred.

A memorial service was held April 21 at Birdville Baptist Church in Haltom City, Texas.



Jess Hill

Sugarland, TX

Jesse (Jess) Earl Hill was received by the Lord May 10, 2010. Born October 22, 1935, in Clarendon, Texas, Jess graduated from Odessa High School in 1954.

During the summer of 1954, Jess attended Temple Baptist Church in Odessa where he was led to Christ by Youth Pastor Pepper Garrett. Baptized by Pastor Curtis Thorpe, he surrendered his life to the Lord and enrolled in Baptist Bible College that fall. During his second year at college, he met and later married Lorna Enns.

After graduating from BBC in 1957, Jess and Lorna moved to Andrews, Texas, where they started Grace Baptist Church. In February 1964, they moved to Houston, Texas, and started Braeburn Baptist Church. The church relocated in the 1990s to Sugarland, Texas, and was renamed Oak Lake Baptist Church. Jess continued to pastor the congregation until his death.

Jess is survived by his loving and faithful wife of 54 years, Lorna, four children, and their families. A memorial service was held at Central Baptist Church in Katy, Texas.



Betty L. Shiver

Callahan, FL

Betty Shiver, wife of BBFI pastor and evangelist Frank Shiver, left this life April 16 due to injuries suffered from an auto accident while in Arkansas. Betty was born in 1938 in La-Grange, Georgia. She and Frank Shiver married in 1952 and moved to Springfield, Missouri, to attend Baptist Bible College where they both graduated in 1961.



After college she and her family were missionaries to Korea for seven years and then returned home to be a pastor's wife for over 22 years at Regency Baptist Temple. After her husband retired and went into full-time evangelism, Mrs. Shiver was a constant companion with her husband as they both traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad.

Betty is survived by her husband of 57 years, five children, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Services were held April 21 at First Baptist Church in Callahan.

Zac Smith

Anderson, SC

Zachary James Smith, son of James and Sharon Smith, was received into glory May 16, 2010. Born September 10, 1976, in Denver, Colorado, he attended Denver Seminary and later graduated from Arizona State University in 1998. At the time of his death, Zac was Central Operations Executive Director of NewSpring Church in Anderson.

His parents were BBFI missionaries to Ecuador before his father became a BBFI associate mission director. Zac's grandparents are Carl and Elsie Boonstra and James and Joy Smith.

Besides his parents and grandparents, Zac leaves behind his wife Mandy, a daughter, and two sons. A memorial service was held May 18 at NewSpring Church. Zac's story of his fight against cancer was recently featured in the May issue of the *Baptist Bible Tribune*.





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• **Grace Bible Baptist Church**, 1703 Lewis Road, Leesburg, FL 34748. 352-326-5738, *Pastor George Mulford III* *www.gbbconline.com*

• **Orlando Baptist Church**, 500 S. Semoran Blvd., Orlando, FL 32807. 407/277-8671, *Pastor David Janney* *www.worldchangingchurch.com*

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• **Camp Creek Baptist Church**, 1761 Camp Creek Rd, Cornelia, GA 30531, 706/778-0622, *www.campcreek.org*

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• **Lanakila Baptist Church**, 94-1250 Waipahu St., Waipahu, HI 96797. 808/677-0731 *Pastor Steven C. Wygle*

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• **Sauk Trail Baptist Temple**, 4411 Sauk Trail, P.O. Box 347, Richton Park, IL 60471. 708/481-1490 *Pastor Bruce Humbert*

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• **Burleson Boulevard Baptist Church**, 315 N. Burleson Blvd., Burleson, TX 76028-3907. 817/295-4342 *Pastor Terry M. Williams*

• **Temple Baptist Church**, 4301 Thomason Dr., Midland, TX 79703. 432/694.3634 *www.tbcmidland.com Pastor Stephen Willis*

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3120 Talley Rd., San Antonio, TX 78253, 210-862-3108, *www.talleyroadbaptistchurch.org trbc@satx.rr.com, Pastor Larry Bruce*

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• **Faith Baptist Church**, 3768 S. Amherst Hwy., Madison Heights, VA 24572, 434/929-1430 *Pastor Brian Hudson*

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A one-verse sermon on prayer

By John Arnold

Pastor, Library Baptist Church, Finleyville, Pennsylvania

The most-frequented place for prayer in America is at the airport luggage carousel. I found myself doing it again in Dallas. It was time to fly to the spring National Church Planting School held in conjunction with the Texas Baptist Bible Fellowship RPM conference (Revival, Prayer, Momentum) at Canyon Creek Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas. While boarding in Pittsburgh, the announcement came over the intercom that there would probably not be enough room for the carry-on luggage in the overhead compartments and would some people like to check their carry-on. My thinking was that it would be better to check it than to wrestle for a space.

As far as I could see, only two of us thought it would be a good idea. When I sat down I began to think of all the things in that carry-on bag. So the question in my mind for the next two and a half hours was, "Why did I do that?" There was room under the seat for the bag. So there I was in Dallas with many others asking God to deliver the bag. He did. What a relief! Prayer is so much a part of our lives, even in trivial things.

I've been thinking about becoming a better prayer now for several years and I've been attracted to Ephesians 6:18. We have been talking about it in the church planter's school. It is one of the most compact and comprehensive verses on prayer in the Bible.

There are at least six things that can give us victory in prayer in what David H. Stern, author of *The Jewish New Testament Commentary*, says is "a one-verse sermon on prayer." Ephesians 6:18 — "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

Frequency of prayer — praying always. This sounds so much like 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "pray without ceasing." And the question most often asked is, "How can I be praying at all times?" Praying always and praying without ceasing means: praying at given times on every occasion and inbetween, audible and inaudible. This communion with God can be a pervasive attitude no matter what we are doing at any given point in time. Herbert Lockyer says, "Acts of prayer may be intermittent; the spiritual attitude should be incessant."

Variety of prayer — with all (kinds of) prayer. Someone once told me, "I find prayer so boring." I think it was because he knew only one kind of prayer...supplication or asking. It is so discouraging when we look at God only in light of what we can get. God designed prayer to be an oasis of variety. Think about praying in all these

modes: adoration, confession, repentance, thanksgiving, and supplication.

Half my daily hour of prayer is praise. I'm so hooked on praise that I've set my cell phone alarm to remind me for praise three times a day. What a joy it is joining the throng around the throne at 7:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. Confession renews our lives daily. Thanksgiving is the antidote for me-ism and unhappiness. When we learn to pray with diversity, God will definitely change the things we request from Him. He conforms us to His image and transforms our desires. I have discovered, most of all, that the work of prayer is to change me.

Dependence of prayer — in the Spirit. We need the Spirit's enabling as we approach the throne of grace. Romans 8:26 "...for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." So many times we are emotionally and physically exhausted, and our emotions are too deep for utterance or for expression in articulate language. The Holy Spirit helps us as we attempt to pray.

Manner of prayer — watchful. To keep awake is always a challenge. The morning should be our strongest prayer time. I like to think of my prayer time as "my watch." It is a frightful thing to miss a watch. Who will watch if I don't? Others can sleep when the watchman is awake. I'm the watchman on the wall.

Persistence of prayer — all perseverance. I was enthralled when reading the book *Lone Survivor* by Navy SEAL Markus Luttrell. His training was built against the backdrop of "defeat is unthinkable...I will never quit. I persevere and thrive on adversity. My nation expects me to be physically harder and mentally stronger than my enemies. If knocked down, I will get back up every time. I will draw on every remaining ounce of strength to protect my teammates and to accomplish our mission. I am never out of fight." What are we going to be doing ten years from now? My goal is to be persistent.

Objects of prayer — all the saints. How can we ask God to give us more members if we are not taking good care of the ones He has already given us? And how can we take care of our flock without making all the saints our objects of prayer?

Greg Laurie, pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, California, said, "In the long run, if we train people to be consumers instead of communers, we'll end up with customers instead of disciples. It might fill up an auditorium, but it'll never turn the world upside down for Christ."

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