

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JUNE 2013 | VOL. 63 NO. 10



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MAY FELLOWSHIP MEETING

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ON THE TABLE Fellowship works

by Keith Bassham | Editor

I had intended to use this space to reflect some on the May Graduation Fellowship Week (see pictorial in this issue) when word came about the massive tornado in Moore, OK. We, of course, are gratified at the near-immediate outpouring of support and relief. The winds had not yet died down when my Facebook screen began to fill with offers of help from fellow Christians. And while we are not taken aback at the spontaneous testimonies of God's goodness and mercy some of the victims are voicing on national media, I am curious when I hear media journalists expressing openly their admiration for the faith-based relief systems who seem to have appeared from nowhere.

Moore, OK, is not far from a church I pastored in the 1980s, just east of Oklahoma City. I had many friends and colleagues nearby, and still do, and so I had more than a passing interest in the storm. As I heard and saw reports (much of it live on the Weather Channel as it happened), I could see the places, intersections, and landmarks in the path of the tornado. Naturally, I was concerned about my friends (I have family a little to the north of the tornado's path as well), and about the community. Fortunately, I lost no one dear. Unfortunately, 24 lost their lives and about 30,000 are said to be affected.

We should pray for those affected, and we should do what we can to help. We have churches and people ready to make a difference, and our Fellowship can give anyone the means to help. The BBFI Mission Office has a disaster relief fund in place at all times ready to receive gifts at www.bbfimissions.com. The Oklahoma BBF has had people on the scene since day one, and BBFI President Linzy Slayden of Owasso, OK, is making preparations to duplicate the BBF's response when Joplin was hit two years ago. If your church is interested in sending supplies or personnel to help, please contact Oklahoma BBF Chairman Mike Smith at (405) 670-2900 or BBFI Oklahoma State Director Paul Foster at (918) 693-4605 or paulkfoster@me.com. Financial donations can be sent to BBFI, PO Box 191, Springfield, MO 65801, marked, "Disaster Relief Fund." You can also donate online at the BBFI Mission Office website. For more information, contact Associate Mission Director Jim Smith, (417) 862-5001 or jsmith@bbfimissions.com.

Fellowship is a dear but often unappreciated commodity, but in times like this ... well, knowing others are near and ready to lend a hand, give money, and offer prayer on no other basis than to follow the Lord's commandment to love one another, we can be thankful for the opportunity to show the world that the Father has indeed sent the Son.

Keith Bassham

Please remember that this issue of the Tribune will be our last until July. The Tribune is published 11 times a year, and there is no magazine in June.

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JUNE 2013

VOL. 63 NO. 10

September BBFI Meeting Info
Make plans to attend the upcoming meeting in Ventura, CA

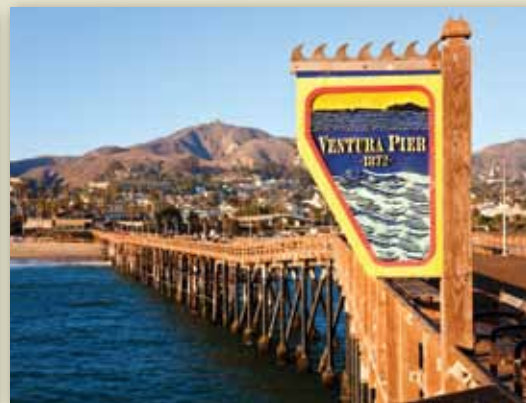
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A report from the May Fellowship meeting in Springfield, MO

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Looking back at the Boston Marathon bombing

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Executive Editor: Keith Bassham

Assistant Editor: Rob Walker

Director of Office Services: Karri Joy Perry

Email address: editors@tribune.org

Web site address: www.tribune.org

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

The good therapy of thanksgiving



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

Outlook has a great deal to do with outcome. If our attitudes are wrong, no doubt everything else will also be wrong! The person who is in the habit of complaining will always find something to complain about, even when things are improving.

Perhaps this is one reason why thanksgiving is given such a prominent place in the Word of God. It seems strange that God should have to remind us — even command us — to be thankful! You would think that spontaneous appreciation and praise would be natural and a normal thing for us to do. But that is not the case!

I would like to suggest that thanksgiving is far more than duty, or even privilege. It is great spiritual therapy. It is like medicine. When we get into the habit of praising God for His goodness, we find ourselves overcoming many issues that plague the Christian.

Praise is a great antidote to pride. We all know the problems that pride creates in our lives. When we are proud, we are always right; and when we are always right, everybody else is always wrong and the result is conflict. Pride makes us defensive and hard to work with, critical and impatient. Pride encourages us to hold grudges and avoid apologies. But thanksgiving can overcome all of that.

Thanksgiving helps us deal with worry. I know, some of you never “worry” you are just “burdened” or “concerned.” Everything in nature trusts God and rejoices, except men and women made in the image of God. It is not likely that the birds will die of ulcers or lose sleep fretting about their next day’s food. Only human beings are foolish enough to do that. It is good to pray about the problems that concern us; but it is also great to give thanks for all the blessings we enjoy. Instead of complaining about what we don’t have, let’s be grateful for what we do have!

Thanksgiving helps us with discouragement. Nothing weakens and defeats the work of the Lord like discouragement. It spreads; it infects people; it gives Satan a foothold. But when we start to praise the Lord, it gives God opportunity to work in our lives. Discouragement paralyzes a person, but praise has a way of setting us free.

I felt the good medicine of thanksgiving at the recent May BBFI meeting. I was encouraged and thankful for what was happening in our Fellowship. Every sermon was powerful, the music was wonderful, the mission emphasis again reminded us of the great need of this world, and we were emphasizing world evangelism, church planting, and missions. I saw lots of smiles and lots of handshaking and many positive elements that reminded us why we were there in the first place.

Complaining people are usually unstable in the storms of life; but thankful people are not only rooted and able to stand, but the trials that defeat others actually build them up.

Let’s be rooted in the medicine of thanksgiving and be reminded of the old medicine ad that declared, “It’s good for what ails you!”

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Missionary care: Part three



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

Missionary Care, when done well, provides a strategic way to fulfill both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission — strengthening missionaries to effectively love people, evangelizing, discipling, and planting churches, as well as to help missionaries endure hardships and grow as individuals.

This year we will be transitioning the annual September offering to be for missionary care. At the same time, we will raise extra funds for the remaining church and home projects in the Missionary Projects Offering. The specific missionary care areas will be the Annual Missionary Family Reunion, crisis training for Mission Office personnel and all missionaries, international missionary retreats in which Field Representatives and Mission Office staff may participate, ministry to missionary kids, and assistance to sending churches. Our goal of \$500,000 will go a long way in implementing these important aspects of missionary care.

What happens when you combine missionary families, informative seminars, fellowship, fun activities, and challenges from God’s Word for a few days in Branson, MO? You have a perfect formula for the annual BBFI Missionary Family Reunion!

Deputation missionaries as well as veterans of 50 plus years spend time renewing friendships, laughing, crying, sharing, and uplifting each other. It is a time to be refreshed by looking into God’s Word for encouragement, guidance, and strength for the task to which we have been called. Burdens are shared and answers are sought for challenges ranging from the weakening dollar, to ministry issues, to foreign government regulations.

The younger children participate in VBS provided by a local church while the teenage MKs spend time bonding with other third-culture kids (TCK - children who grow up with their American parents in another country, blending their parents’ cultural elements with local elements of the country in which they live to form their own third culture.)

The Missionary Family Reunion is just one way the Mission Office is being proactive in providing help to our missionaries. However, the cost places a financial burden on many who want to attend. The Mission Office subsidizes a portion of the fees for each person in order to help keep the cost at a minimum: adults 17 & up (\$235), teens 12-16 (\$200), children 2 – 11 (\$125), children under 2 (free). This cost is for food and accommodations for the entire week.

Your church can help the Mission Office care for their missionaries by participating in the following ways:

- Encouraging your missionaries to attend the Reunion
- Adding the Missionary Care Offering to your mission budget
- Prayerfully considering what part your church will have in the Missionary Care Offering this September.

Good news from a church planter



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

I'm still rejoicing in the afterglow of the January Church Planting School in San Antonio, TX. We had an outstanding group of church planters, and among those was 29-year-old Brent Cunningham, along with his wife Whitney and young son Rhett. Let me share the result of their recent church plant in Amelia, OH, a suburb of Akron. Here is a portion of a letter we received from him:

I can describe the month of March with one word, WOW!! The Lord has been moving in Amelia, OH.

Pre-Launch

March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th we held our pre-launch services to allow the community a chance to come check Bridgeway out. We had a good response with over 50 visitors and an average attendance of 53 from the area.

Launch

The night before our Easter Sunday launch day, I was praying and asked the Lord to fill the auditorium and allow us to see people saved for His glory. God does answer prayer!!! Every seat in the auditorium was filled, we overflowed into the foyer and the fellowship hall. The parking lot was filled and we had to shuttle people from the Wal-



Mart parking lot. When everything was said and done we had 240 in attendance with three precious souls trusting Christ as Savior.

The Lord continues to blow us away by what He is doing. The month of April we averaged 102 with over 40 first-time visitors and two saved!

The next NCPO Church Planting School is scheduled for October 7-11, 2013, in Wilmington, OH. Pastor Kelly McNerney will be our host pastor. For more information check our website at www.bbfincpo.com or call (417) 536-8826.

MISSIONARY CARE OFFERING

Striving to minister to missionaries in ways that prepare, strengthen, and encourage them so they can effectively take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people to whom God has called them.

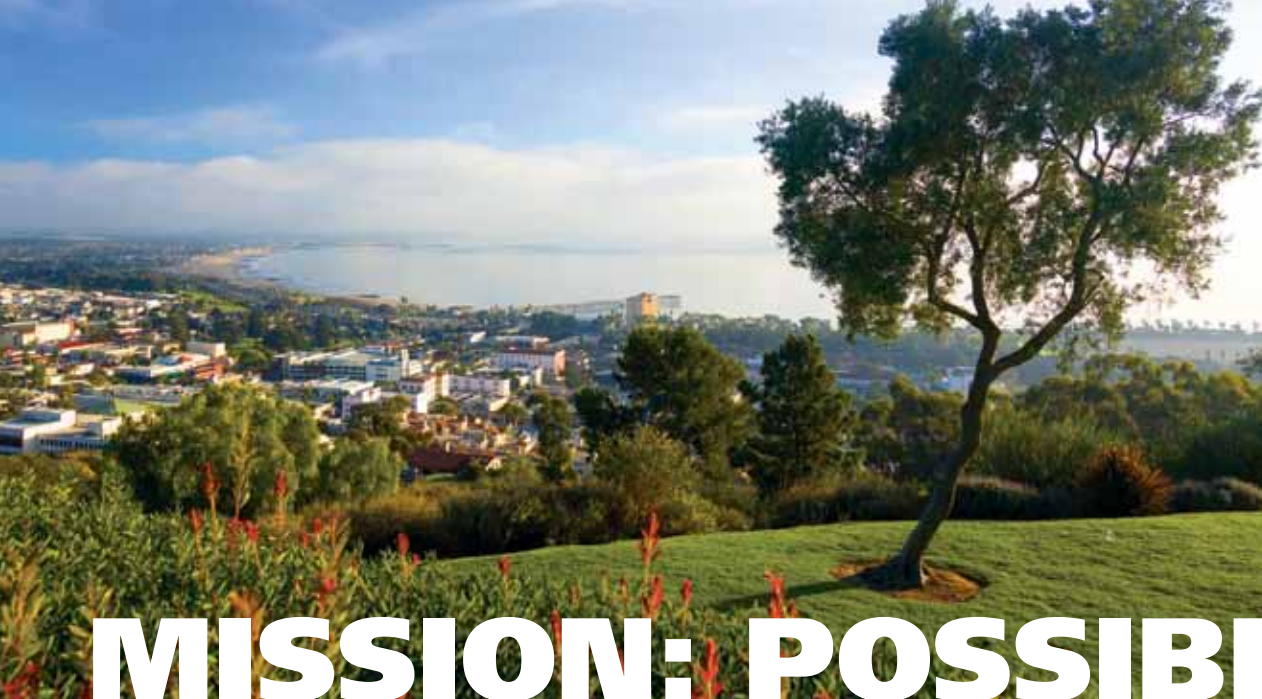
Your participation in the Missionary Care Offering will help provide personal care to the 800 missionaries of the BBFI now serving in 94 countries in several ways.

Personal care in times of:

- Family crisis on the field
- Spiritual and emotional needs
- Reentry of children to the U.S. after graduation
- Annual Missionary Family Reunion
- Death on the field
- Training and personal safety during terrorist activities
- Mission Office care support for missionaries



WWW.BBFIMMISSIONS.COM



MISSION: POSSIBLE

BBFI NATIONAL MEETING **SEPTEMBER 16-18**

VENTURA BAPTIST CHURCH
VENTURA, CALIFORNIA
PASTOR LEWIS MCCLENDON



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

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

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

Lewis McClendon



NEARBY LODGING

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

Crowne Plaza

450 E. Harbor Blvd.
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 648-2100
\$115

Ventura Beach Marriott

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

Residence Inn

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Oxnard, CA 93036
(805) 298-2200
\$109

Country Inns and Suites

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

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

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

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

NORTH OF VENTURA

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

Solvang (2 hours)

www.solvangusa.com

SOUTH OF VENTURA

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

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

Universal Studios (1.25 hours)

www.universalstudioshollywood.com

SPEAKERS

Mike Frazier

George Barna

Linzy Slayden

Kirk Cameron

MUSIC

Terry Blackwood

Sylvia Lange



SUNDAY

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

Morning services

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

MONDAY

6:30 PM

Pastor Mike Frazier, Canton Baptist Temple, Canton, OH

Special music by Terry Blackwood

Desserts after the meeting

TUESDAY

9:00 AM

Workshops

Ladies Tea* – Gail Ledbetter

10:00 AM

BBFI National Business Meeting

11:00 AM

George Barna, author and founder of The Barna Group

6:30 PM

Pastor Linzy Slayden, BBFI President, Friendship Baptist Church, Owasso, OK

Special music by Sylvia Lange

Desserts after the meeting

WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM

Workshops hosted by the BBFI Mission Office

10:00 AM

New missionary approvals

6:30 PM

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

THURSDAY

9:00 AM

Golf Tournament* to benefit BBFI Missionary Care Offering

\$75 per person includes golf, range balls, lunch, and goodie bag

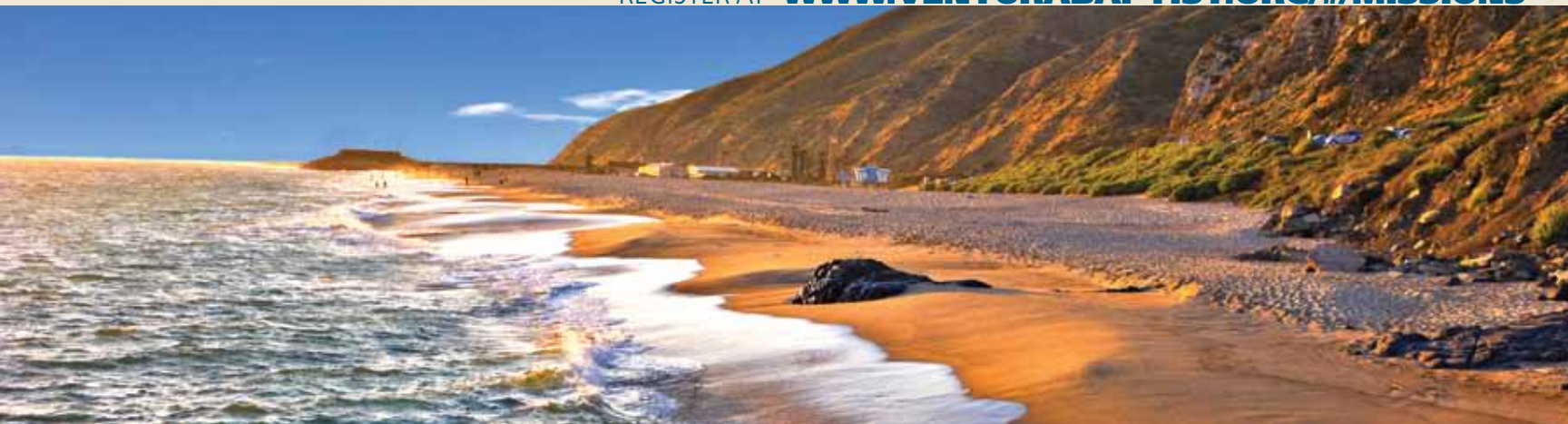
9:00 PM

Overnight Deep Sea Fishing Trip* (space is limited)

Returns Friday at 5:00 PM, \$180 per person

**Advance registration required*

REGISTER AT WWW.VENTURABAPTIST.ORG/#/MISSIONS





DIGRESSIONS

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

-Laurence Sterne

Boy Scouts organization votes to allow openly homosexual members

A majority (61%) of the some 1,400 delegates to the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) approved opening scouting to young men who openly claim they are homosexual. The vote was taken May 23. According to BSA leadership, the change was urged from within, according to their statement that used the phrase, “growing input from within the Scouting family” as justification.

This decision is in spite of a decision by BSA about a year ago to maintain the then current membership standards that did not allow openly homosexual members, and a Supreme Court decision five years ago that upheld those membership standards as legitimate.

There were no changes made with regard to adult leadership policies which forbids homosexual Scout leaders. However, critics of the decision predict those policies will be changed either by natural extension of the membership rules change or by court orders since a core value for membership has been altered. It was that core value the Supreme Court cited as the organization’s defense earlier.

NYC city council passes “Right to Worship Resolution”

Churches threatened with eviction from New York City public schools are celebrating the city council’s passage today of a resolution calling on state lawmakers to protect their right to rent worship space on Sundays.

The resolution notes that current restrictions “have had a more restrictive effect on religious organizations seeking to use school property than would appear to be required by the Establishment Clause,” and calls upon state lawmakers and the governor to “sign legislation amending the New York State Education Law to afford houses of worship equal access to school property.”

“This is one of the first times in recent memory that the city council has responded to faith-based groups and, despite significant opposition, passed a resolution supporting their rights,” said Tony Carnes, editor of

the Journey site, which chronicles religious life in NYC. “That’s a remarkable change, and certainly will catch attention.”

Carnes pointed to a Journey poll indicating that nearly 70% of the neighbors of schools that rent to churches do not see the rentals as a problematic endorsement of religion.

The long-running legal standoff between churches and the city’s education department over whether or not schools can ban worship has been pending since a judge blocked the city’s ban last June and the city appealed. The Supreme Court declined to hear the relevant lawsuit by the Bronx Household of Faith. A previous attempt by lawmakers at the state level to permit church rentals failed.

Source: *Christianity Today*,
www.blog.christianitytoday.com)

Tithers better off financially than non-tithers says study

A new 5-year constituency study released by the State of the Plate gives an inside, in-depth look at the financial, giving, and spiritual practices of 4,413 people who donate 10% or more each year.

Survey participants came from all 50 states, all types of churches, and all income levels. The full report, “20 Truths about Tithers,” provides 27 pages of valuable information on this important group of givers for the media, pastors, church, and non-profit leaders.

While many who donate 10% or more may not consider themselves “tithers” because of its connection to Old Testament teaching, this practice has been observed by many devoted Christians for centuries and is still voluntarily practiced by millions today.

Notable State of the Plate findings:

77% of those who “tithe” give 11%-20% or more, far more than the baseline of 10%

97% make it a priority to give to their local church

70% “tithe” on their gross income, not net

63% started giving 10% or more between childhood and their twenties

80% of “tithers” have no unpaid credit card bills

74% have no car payments

48% own their home

28% are completely debt-free

What keeps non-tithing Christians from giving: **38%** say they can’t afford it; **33%** say they have too much debt; and **18%** said their spouse does not agree about tithing.

Source: www.stateoftheplate.info



BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Missions

By F. S. Donnelson, Director

Missions Committee Approves Three New Missionary Families

At its meeting during the graduation Fellowship, the Missions Committee seriously and carefully considered the applications of three new missionary families. They are: Mr. and Mrs. Dale Barton, who are desirous of giving their lives to the Lord's work in South America; Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Yuchnovicz, who are preparing to be missionaries on Formosa; and Mr. and Mrs. James Powders, desiring to go to Japan. Four of this number—Mr. and Mrs. Barton, Stanley Yuchnovicz, and James Powders—are graduates of the Baptist Bible College. The Bartons and Yuchnoviczes will begin their deputation work very soon. James Powders is to have a year of internship at the West Side Baptist church, Hutchinson, Kansas, where Rev. Lonnie Smith is pastor. Your prayers for these new missionaries will be greatly appreciated. They go forth with hearts tender toward a lost world. We can do nothing less than back them with much prayer and adequate help.

The Nulls Arriving In The Philippines

Fred Null and his family set sail for the Philippines May 27. Their trip across the Pacific by direct route will take about two weeks. Therefore, their arrival date should be June 10 or thereabout. Pray for this fine missionary family that God will mightily use them.

Mexico Bible School Finishes First Term

James Smith, our missionary to Mexico in charge of our Bible school work at Mante, reports that our Bible school has now completed its first term and is on vacation for the summer. The students are small in number. To begin with, 5 young men and one young woman, but God has blessed them already in the infancy of the school. All are convinced of the need of such a school and there will be no lasting work in Mexico for our mission without the training and using of Mexican young people for the Gospel's sake. Brother Smith will be in the States for a number of weeks, visiting the churches in behalf of the Bible school work. The expenses involved amount to over \$100 per month, not including missionaries' support but simply to help in the food and keep of these students. Our churches should respond liberally to this appeal for it is a vital need. Should any of our pastors desire Jim Smith to come to their churches and present the Bible school cause, they may get in touch with him through the missions office.

Formosa Missionaries Welcome New Visitor

Word has come from Bill and Lois Logan that they have a new son, Steven Paul Logan, born June 5 at Taipei; weight 8 lbs. 14 oz., and lots of black hair! This happy news of another little missionary joining our staff will be welcomed by all. Pray much for the Logans and their work.

Mosses Return To Mexico

Tommy and Wanita Moss have been in the States for a number of months on account of Mrs. Moss' health. Now that she has become stronger they are returning to their work down below the border. It appears to be the Lord's will for them to settle near Mexico City and work throughout that section. The friends of Tommy and Wanita who have helped them in the past will want to come to the aid of their missionaries at this time of great need.

Fosters Return To America In August

It will be a great joy to welcome Rev. and Mrs. Ike Foster, our missionaries to Japan, when they return in August after four years serving the Lord in that land. They have built a great church at Chiba, near Tokyo, and hundreds of Japanese in that section look to them for spiritual advice and leadership. Upon their return to the States they will visit their parents and have a brief rest, then will be ready to begin their deputation work. The Hodges will return to Japan after the annual meeting of the Fellowship in September. The Arnolds, who are now in charge of the Hodges' work at Makuhari, will doubtless move to Chiba to substitute for the Fosters there. The Masons, since arriving in Japan, have lived with the Fosters and hope to have a new home and work at Matsudo, north of Tokyo. So God is blessing all of our missionaries in Japan and using them for the Gospel's sake.

The Woosleys Speak At Mission Prayer Band

There has been a few weeks' vacation in the faithful ministry of the Mission Prayer Band which meets every Saturday night at the Baptist Bible College. The faithfulness of the Prayer Band has been a real blessing to our missionaries. Our students, in goodly numbers, have attended this meeting and invariably there has been much prayer for definite needs that have been presented to those in attendance. This is a source of information for missionaries home on furlough have spoken regularly at the Prayer Band and news from the various fields is discussed at every meeting. This week's Prayer Band has heard the testimony of Rev. and Mrs. Loral

D. Woosley and their two children. Brother Woosley and his family are now in the central states, carrying on their deputation work. God has blessed them thus far and with the aid of the faithful pastors and churches of our Fellowship it won't be long before they will be heading toward the Philippines.

Financial Progress of The Fellowship

The Baptist Bible Fellowship has seen constant progress in its financial interests since its beginning three years ago. I am now reporting the finances of the mission work. The first year of our new Fellowship, ending May, 1951, the average monthly income for the missionaries was \$3,490. The following year this average monthly income grew to \$6,309. And this year, ending May 31, 1953, the missionaries' average income through the missions office has been \$9,623 per month! These amounts do not include the annual Thanksgiving missions offering but represent only the regular, faithful monthly income for the missionaries. It is to be observed that the missionaries' income has been at this high level even when the churches were giving their Thanksgiving special offerings (amounting last year to \$56,000) and also during times when special appeals were being made in behalf of the college. This past month, for the first time in the three years of our Fellowship history, the offerings to the missionaries has reached \$10,000. For this we certainly do praise God and take courage. It is an indication of the blessing of God upon our missionary policies, especially with respect to the contact we insist be made between the missionary and the local church.

Harold DeVilbiss Makes Progress In Spite of Difficulties

Our missionary to Mexico, working a large section in and around Tampico, is Harold DeVilbiss. He writes of an attack of malaria that has come back upon him and has made it hard for him to keep at the work. Yet God has given him strength and last week he and his wife and other workers were down in Tuxpan. They took Brother Lucio Ruiz with them and expect to open up a church there. This will be the second mission that they have started during the past year. Brother Ruiz and DeVilbiss hope to go to Poza Rica, a new boom town near Tuxpan, to open a mission there. So God is blessing the work in all that section. It is DeVilbiss' hope and prayer to see at least five thriving Baptist Bible churches in his section by the end of 1954!

Helen Willems Assisting Two Churches In Manila

Since Helen Willems, our missionary to the Philippines, went to Manila six months ago she has been a real blessing in many different ways. She early got into the work of the Hooges, teaching a large girls' Bible Class every Sunday. Recently she has been working in the new church started by the Vellas, leading a young people's group every Sunday night. These activities, together with visitation and nursing service to all of our churches in the Philippines, makes Miss Willems a busy and effective missionary.

Colemans Start Deputation Work

Charles Coleman and his wife,

SUPER-RABBIT WINS

[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.]

It is difficult to imagine the timid rabbit as a national menace. Yet the vast continent of Australia so far has been almost helpless before the animal's aggression. Government, villagers and farmers have been waging the war for years. Victory would mean Australia could double its sheep or cattle population.

What now makes the old conflict news is that the rabbits, not the country, seem to have won again. Until three years ago they had eluded fences, poisons, traps and every weapon an active national ingenuity could devise.

Then science found a virus disease called myxomatosis. Spread into Australia's estimated 750,000,000 rabbit population by means of mosquitoes, the virus proved lethal to rabbits but harmless to other animals. They were dying at the rate of 75,000,000 a year; the problem seemed soon to be ended.

Recently, however, researchers with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organization found myxomatosis is losing its punch. They discovered countless rabbits, only mildly infected, have recovered with an immunity to the disease they can transmit to their young.

The new generation, therefore, will be a super-bunny against which science must find still a newer weapon. Until it is found, Australia can look forward to continuation of up to \$900,000,000 damage to its pasture lands annually.

Elda, were approved by our Missions Committee a year ago at Cincinnati, Ohio. Since then Charles has been in school, completing more than a year's work, and at the same time has finished the required studies that will grant him a diploma from the Kansas State Teachers College. He has recently requested our college faculty to grant him permission to complete his Bible work by correspondence so that he might get into his deputation work at once. The faculty has been very well pleased by the progress made by this fine young preacher of the Gospel and they are very happy to grant his request. These young missionaries to India will be a new departure for our Fellowship. We now have missionaries in Japan, China (now on enforced furlough), Formosa, the Philippines, Old and New Mexico. Our missionaries will be sailing this month for South America, and here in the person of the Colemans, is our Fellowship's determination to give the Gospel to India, the land where William Cary worked 150 years ago, where the outstanding mission revival of all history took place in the Lone Star Telugu Mission, but where today Christian work languishes because of the lack of new blood. This is a challenge to our Fellowship and we bespeak for Charles and Elda a great welcome into our churches and great response as we pray them forth and finance them to the limit!



MAY MEETING WAS "

By Keith Bassham



Two years ago, I reported the May meeting with the aid of a couple of quotations from those who attended. More than once, I encountered the word *momentum*, and I even used that word as a theme for my coverage. Not everyone agreed, and some thought I was being over-enthusiastic (to put it politely). I preferred to think I was being hopeful. This year, those of us at the meeting began to experience the promise of that momentum from 2011.

I observed far more smiles than frowns; far more handshaking rather than headshaking. I believe we could have announced an extra day at the last moment, and a good number would have stayed around. Preaching was good — music, under the direction of Nate Harmon, was very good — but the fellowship itself, filled as it was with positive elements and dubbed a homecoming by Mark Milioni, helped remind us what it is like to share a vision of taking the gospel to the world alongside others in our spiritual family.

As a check on myself, I asked around. Had others sensed the same thing? Here is a representative comment from a pastor who drove a long way to get to the May Graduation Fellowship:

"Though we were road weary and

a little bit punchy, we attended every minute of every meeting. The services were great and the breakout sessions were worth the trip. The energy on campus was infectious and it was a spiritual boost to be reminded of why we got into ministry in the first place ... It was a joy to talk with the students. They are a sharp bunch. I got to know some of them and will be remembering them in my prayers."

And here is another:

"The meetings and breakout sessions have been super. But some of the best times have been spending time with life-long friends, well, fellowshiping."

This was the first major meeting hosted by BBC President Mark Milioni and his staff, and they tweaked the template enough to make it their own. General session preachers Linzy Slayden, Eddie Lyons, Thom Rainer, and Mark Milioni exhibited vision and challenge in the evenings. The breakout presenters and daytime preachers brought information on social media, stewardship, outreach, and church health.

Wednesday was Missions Day, and by



WORTH THE TRIP" MONDAY





GATEWAY PROJECT:
HISPANIC AMERICA



GATEWAY PROJECT:
BLACK AMERICA



BREAKOUT SESSIONS



SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE CHURCH



SEEING MORE IN THE MINISTRY



REFUEL



FRED YOUNG
MORNING SPEAKER



INCREASING OFFERINGS
FOR INCREASING NEEDS



STOPPING THE DECLINE,
STARTING THE INCLINE



THOM S. RAINER
EVENING SPEAKER



BEAUTIFUL LADIES MEETING



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noon, the Fellowship missionary family had expanded, adding Joshua and Ashley Bell to England, Corey and Jessica Kershner to Taiwan, Jeremiah and Tanya Rue to Chile, Luke and Kelly Lyons to the Philippines, and Jeremy and Karissa Lynn to Ethiopia as career missionaries. Also, TEAM Missionaries Brandon and Rachael Adams to Kenya and Christian and Shawna Hendrick to Congo were approved. Finally, David Sisco and James Updegraff were endorsed as U.S. military chaplains.

Speaking of missionary family, Bill and Barbara Neel of Japan received their 50-year globe recognizing their decades of ministry. Receiving 30-year pins were Don and Delores Swearingen (Mexico), Steve and Marilyn Trask (Brazil), David and Candyce Homer (Taiwan), and Larry and Dixie Quade (Wales).

Wednesday night was also slated as a "Homecoming" celebration featuring a BBC Alumni and Friends choir made up of present and former students, and recognition of Richard and Beverly Boland. The Bolands were selected to receive the Fellowship Faithfulness Award for their 40 years of service to Baptist Bible College in the Music Department.

The Alumni Luncheon, a meeting for Fellowship women hosted by Mrs. Barb Milioni, and Refuel, an annual get-together for youth ministry teams, helped to round out a packed three days of fellowship.

Thursday is graduation day at BBC and the capstone of the meeting. Pastor Phil Housley, BBC graduate and lead pastor of Park Crest Baptist Church in Springfield, was the speaker for the 63rd graduation exercise. The seminary awarded 11 degrees, including two M. Div. degrees, and the college awarded 48 degrees during the commencement.

The business matters were relatively light for the May meeting, consisting mostly of reports from the agencies and entities of the Fellowship. Both the Mission Office and the Tribune reported surpluses in their budgets for the fiscal year, and their 2013-2014 budgets were approved. The Baptist Bible College May Offering total was \$250,000 as the *Tribune* goes to press.

The next meeting of the BBFI will be hosted by Ventura Baptist Church of Ventura, CA, September 16-18 this year. The February meeting is hosted by the Texas BBF and is to be held in Austin, TX, February 17-19, 2014.





ALUMNI & FRIENDS LUNCHEON



JAMES ADAMS
MORNING SPEAKER



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MORNING SPEAKER



50 YEARS OF MISSIONARY SERVICE



MARK MILIONI
EVENING SPEAKER



APPROVED
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CAREER MISSIONARIES



CHAPLAINS



BOLANDS HONORED



ALUMNI & FRIENDS
CHOIR



THURSDAY

TEAM

BRANDON AND RACHEL ADAMS • KENYA

Assisting: Chris and Lisa Moore

Sending Church: Hallmark Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX

Sending Pastor: Mike Haley

Contact Information: (817) 370-0123, badams@tyndale.edu

CHRISTIAN AND SHAWNA HENDRICK • CONGO

Assisting: Elmer Deal

Sending Church: Trinity Baptist Temple, Fort Worth, TX

Sending Pastor: Kyle Densmore

Contact Information: (817) 602-2043, hendrickstocongo@gmail.com

Newly approved

missionaries

CAREER

JOSHUA AND ASHLEY BELL • ENGLAND

Sending Church: First Baptist Church, Vilonia, AR

Sending Pastor: John Hamby

Contact Information: (501) 472-7957, gracelifepastor@yahoo.com

COREY AND JESSICA KERSHNER • TAIWAN

Sending Church: Sonshine Baptist Church, Port Charlotte, FL

Sending Pastor: William K. Bales

Contact Information: (941) 625-1273, corey.kershner@sonshinebaptist.com

JEREMY AND KARISSA LYNN • ETHIOPIA

Sending Church: First Coast Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL

Sending Pastor: Richard Edwards

Contact Information: (904) 272-8037, jeremy@fcbcjax.org

LUKE AND KELLY LYONS • PHILIPPINES

Sending Church: Parkhill Baptist Church, Pueblo, CO

Sending Pastor: Doug Cox

Contact Information: (719) 544-6154, impactingasia@gmail.com

JEREMIAH AND TANYA RUE • CHILE

Sending Church: Granbury Baptist Church in Granbury, TX

Sending Pastor: Lonnie Lehrman

Contact Information: (817) 573-4943, jruefive@gmail.com

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Joshua and Ashley Bell



Corey and Jessica Kershner



Jeremy and Karissa Lynn



Luke and Kelly Lyons



Jeremiah & Tanya Rue



URBAN CURRENT

Serving a traumatized community

Hurricane Sandy. The Newtown school shooting. The West, TX, fertilizer plant explosion. The Boston Marathon bombing.

Whether it's a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or tragedy in a small town, a community can be brought to its knees with varying levels of shock, sorrow, pain, anger, and life upset. The New Testament church ought to be spiritually and physically prepared to serve its community, even if they themselves are victims.

We remember shootings at Wedgewood Baptist, Fort Worth, and New Life Church in Colorado. Think of the churches in the path of hurricanes that have suffered damage to their own properties, in addition to the losses of congregation members. How does a church prepare to not just serve itself, but the community?

When tragedy strikes, there is a spiritual layer for believers. Where is God? What is God doing? Why is God allowing this? How could God allow good people to be killed, or injured, or affected so dramatically?

In addition, what are the spiritually oriented questions that will arise in the community?

Of course, there is also the emotional impact ranging from shock to anger.

There may be congregational connection to an event. I spoke to a couple of pastors in Boston after the bombing. The worship leader of one church was the wife of one of the FBI swat team leaders. For sure there were church members in the area who worked at some of the hospitals where victims were taken. Then there were all of the personal connections with participants or spectators at the marathon. I did not know until that day that one of our members was running. She had quite a testimony of God's protection when she returned home.

These are times of tremendous spiritual opportunity. We pray for such open doors. We do not pray for or hope for horrific events. When they come, we need to seize them for the gospel's

sake and use them for eternal purposes.

Consider a short list of simple ways we can serve Christ and our community in a time of need.

PRESENCE The Word came to dwell among us. Don't underestimate the ministry of presence. Where can you go as a pastor? As a believer, where might your presence be needed or helpful? You can always show up and offer yourself.

RESOURCES Physically, what can we offer? Most of us have property. Many churches have opened their buildings as feeding stations, triage areas, meeting space. This is not the time to hold back. Equipment — tables, chairs, sound systems, vehicles. Remember, a local church is an incredible network. Even a small congregation could gather a pile of baby supplies in short order with a simple request.

PRAYER We are people of faith. Prayer is always appropriate. My comrade in arms and prayer partner, Pastor James Meeks, was teaching on the power of corporate prayer earlier this year. Chicago, having experienced a horrific murder rate the year before, was on track early in 2013 to match or surpass that bloody pace. He challenged the church to pray for a reversal of the murder rate from the month before. The month before had been 41. He led the church to pray God would hold the number of murders to 14 or below. He did this on TV! At month's end, the news media was abuzz with an inexplicable, very welcome record-low murder rate for that month — the lowest in 50 years — 14 people killed. February thru April had the lowest murder rate since 1963.

SCRIPTURE We are people of the Book. Scripture speaks to everything. It is always appropriate to bring God's Word to bear, privately and publicly. I remember President Bush reading

from Isaiah 40 after the space shuttle exploded.

PROCLAMATION Sometimes circumstances demand that we dispense with whatever we had planned to preach and bring an entire message related to the crisis. Maybe more would be needed in the face of something of a larger scale. Even a short statement, bringing God's truth to bear, speaking comfort and strength in the face of a tragedy can be helpful and powerful.

For years we have served violence-wracked neighborhoods. I came to realize no one really knew what to do, not only to prevent the shooting but in its aftermath. When an innocent kid gets killed on your block, you are traumatized. You're grieving. You're angry. You want justice. You experience emotional confusion and frustration.

Alonzo Zuniga, an eighth-grader, was gunned down about a mile from us. We took a couple hundred people to the block. We prayed. We sang. We preached Jesus. We offered a reward of several thousand dollars to help catch the killer. The weather was warm. All the neighbors were out on their front steps. We had teams go from door to door offering to pray with people. We showed up. We acknowledged that the neighborhood had been traumatized. We didn't just sing; we brought money to pursue justice. We didn't just hold a meeting and leave; we offered personal ministry to residents. Our reward was the lead story in the news. To my knowledge, no church had ever done this before. Simple. Personal. Effective.

"I am among you as one who serves."

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



HISTORY

BAPTIST

JOSEPH WILLIS – First to preach the gospel west of the Mississippi

The life of Joseph Willis reads more like fiction than the real-life experiences of a man who was born a slave, served with honor in the American Revolution, and was the first to preach the gospel west of the Mississippi River.

Joseph was born sometime between 1755-58 in Bladen County, NC. His father, Agerton Willis, was a wealthy plantation owner, and his mother was a mixed-blood Cherokee Indian and was also one of Agerton Willis's slaves. This meant that according to North Carolina law, Joseph Willis was also a slave without any legal rights. However, Agerton never treated his son as a slave but provided him with every advantage including the best education available in the 1700s. Agerton attempted to free his son but North Carolina law forbade the freeing of a slave without court approval.

The turmoil caused by the Revolutionary War made the North Carolina judicial system completely collapse. Realizing he could not legally free his son, Agerton Willis decided he would free Joseph in his will upon his death. In 1776, Agerton's health began to rapidly deteriorate, and he drew up his will with Joseph as heir of his extensive estate. Agerton enlisted his brother Daniel's assistance, and since Joseph was a minor, he made his brother not only the executor of his will but Joseph's guardian as well. Daniel promised his dying brother that he would carry out his wishes.

After his father's death, Joseph enlisted in the army led by General Francis Marion, who was known as the "Swamp Fox." During the war Joseph served with distinction and honor. Unknown to Joseph, while he was fighting for his country's freedom, his uncle was petitioning the governor of North Carolina to void Agerton's will due to the fact that Joseph was a slave and could not legally inherit. The governor approved the request.

Upon the successful conclusion of the war, Joseph returned to North Carolina to discover that he was still a slave, and his relatives had stolen his inheritance. In 1787, Joseph's cousin, John Willis, approached Joseph and offered to obtain his freedom if he agreed to relinquish his claim and to never attempt to legally obtain his father's estate. Joseph

agreed to accept these terms, and that same year the governor of North Carolina signed a bill granting Joseph Willis his freedom. In the agreement, the family gave Joseph 324 acres, which he promptly sold and then moved to South Carolina.

While he was in South Carolina he became active in the Baptist church and was licensed to preach the gospel. In 1798, he traveled to Mississippi. Feeling the Lord's leadership, he returned to South Carolina, sold his possessions, and after an arduous journey he and his family crossed the Mississippi River and settled in Louisiana. Joseph was the only Baptist preacher in Louisiana at the time, and sometime around 1800

he preached the first gospel message west of the Mississippi River at Vermillion, LA.

Louisiana, prior to the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, was populated almost exclusively by Roman Catholics. Joseph's preaching enraged his Catholic neighbors and he was forced to flee for his life, settling in Ville Platte. John Shaw, the local schoolteacher, invited Joseph to hold meetings in his schoolhouse. The Roman Catholics, infuriated

by Joseph's preaching, threatened both Shaw and Joseph with death if they did not immediately leave the area. Both men decided to abandon Louisiana and move to Texas. Just before reaching Texas, "Joseph's conscience reminded him that he was a missionary called by God. He told Mr. Shaw that he would have to get off, for God had sent him there to do missionary work, and he would be violating what he knew to be the will of God. He was not going to run anymore."

Joseph Willis experienced and overcame several adversities. In 1810, a Baptist church in Mississippi refused to ordain him because he was of mixed blood. Finally, in 1812, the Mississippi Baptist Association ordained him to the gospel ministry. Initial results were difficult to obtain. John Christian, Baptist historian, says, "The wonder is not that at first the Baptists made slow progress, but that they made any at all." Eventually, Joseph's health began to fail, but he preached almost to the end, sometimes seated in a chair, and on other occasions from his bed. It is stated that in "all the history of Louisiana Baptists, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to find a man who singlehandedly achieved more enduring results than Joseph Willis."

Upon the successful conclusion of the war, Joseph returned to North Carolina to discover that he was still a slave, and his relatives had stolen his inheritance.

by Thomas Ray



Scholarships at BBC!



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

Great news! A very gracious gift from an estate earlier this year has made it possible for us to offer new scholarships and awards to students enrolling at BBC.

Pastoral Leadership Scholarship

The Pastoral Leadership Scholarship is designed to encourage one of your prospective BBC students who is ministry-minded, has demonstrated good leadership, and has served in the local church.

The pastor of a supporting church (one who supports BBC at \$100 a month) will be able to designate one student from his congregation who will receive this \$2,000 scholarship. Learn more at <http://gobbbc.edu/admissions-site/financial-aid>. A pastor may designate one scholarship for every \$1,200 of annual support.

Early Deposit Award

This \$1,000 award is available for every first-time student who completes all enrollment criteria and makes a deposit of \$250 by June 1, 2013.

Ministry Family Scholarship

Because missions, church planting, and church work are at the very core of everything we do here at BBC, we want to help these special families. This scholarship is for up to \$4,000 per year and is available to students whose parents are full-time staff pastors of supporting churches (those who support BBC at \$1,200 a year) or BBFI missionaries.

Learn more about all of these scholarships at www.gobbbc.edu and please contact us with any questions you may have via email at recruiting@gobbbc.edu or by calling our Admissions Department at (417) 268-6300.

The establishment of these scholarships is one of the most exciting things we have been able to announce this year. I am so thankful for the gift that made this possible, and I would like to extend the opportunity for you to help continue to make scholarships like these available to deserving students. Making these scholarships known has already encouraged others to provide a scholarship for future students. We have received calls from others wanting to give to the scholarship fund and to even start a scholarship in memory of a loved one. If you are interested in helping the next generation of ministry leaders through designated giving or estate planning, please feel free to contact me at president@gobbbc.edu.

I would like to thank all of our friends that helped us enjoy a great Fellowship Week. We are already planning for next year and hope we can see even bigger and better things. Thank you to those that have given, we truly need our May offering gifts to help us at this very critical time. The summer months are tough and there is much to do. Any help in this area is so greatly appreciated.

In concluding my first year as president, I can honestly say that I am very excited about the future — I know there is tough work ahead, lots of decisions to be made, but what a great opportunity we have to change our country and our world!



SPRINGFIELD, MO

The BBFI Gateway Project — background and appraisal

By Keith Bassham

A little over a year ago, BBFI leaders introduced the Gateway Project as a way of reaching out to population groups who have been “under-represented” among the churches associated with the Fellowship. Two groups, Hispanic and African-American people, while not unreached or totally absent in the Fellowship, are being singled out for more emphasis.

Fellowship leaders are quick to point out that Gateway is not intended to replace any outreach efforts already in place among churches or local fellowships. Rather, those pastors and churches looking for ways to evangelize and plant churches in hard-to-reach areas will find help and guidance with Gateway.

Missionary Steven Johnson, formerly of Bolivia, has volunteered to aid churches with Hispanics, and Pastor Ira Walton, former moderator of the Brothers of Cyrene, is heading up efforts to reach, in his words, “Black America.” Both men are volunteers seeking support for this pioneer work.

Johnson, who has a presentation available for state fellowships and churches, notes that the rise in Hispanic populations in the U.S. demands another look at how the Fellowship approaches missions. In effect, he says, the

mission field has come to us. Not only that, Johnson stresses that there are cultural differences among Hispanics related to generations and nationalities, and one-size-fits-all approaches will not work well. He and

others can help with information and training for those who want a tailor-made solution for a church’s particular situation. Through Gateway, Johnson and his wife Cynthia provide language training, curricula, and programs, leaving the local church in control of how it wants to reach out to ethnic groups around them.

According to Johnson, one approach some churches are finding valuable is offering English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to their communities. These classes bring unchurched people to the church and help kick start a multi-ethnic ministry. Other churches “hire” a Spanish-speaking associate to start a

Hispanic church within the main church. The approach chosen will depend on the church’s resources and specific situation.

Ira Walton has a different thrust. Having helped begin the Brothers of Cyrene, a group of black pastors in independent Baptist churches, he recognized early on that many of the pastors and churches in the BBF were not familiar with the unique problems associated with African-American communities. In Alabama, he was befriended by Fellowship pastor Chuck Ford several years ago. Finding acceptance among white pastors in Alabama, Ira developed a burden for bringing more black pastors into Fellowship life. He embraced the doctrine and the missionary practices of the Baptist Bible Fellowship, but he was disappointed there were so few black pastors in the Fellowship. With such a small representation, it is difficult, he believes, to convince African-Americans that the Fellowship is genuinely interested in reaching across the racial divide in this country for evangelism.

When he brought this burden to the attention of BBFI President Linzy Slayden and National Church Planting Office Director Wayne Guinn, they suggested he develop a strategy to recruit black church planters and



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Pastor Dennis Jennings

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;"
- 2 Corinthians 5:18

Peter & Zorka Abrman | **Slovakia**

We have been able to continue Sunday school for the children. God uses children — once they fall in love with Jesus they beg their parents to take them to Sunday school and church. This past Sunday, none of the children wanted to go home. One eight-year-old girl told her mother, “Mommy, I want to come here every day.” May such a desire for Christ be planted not only in the hearts of the lost, but also in the hearts of those who have known Christ for years.

Jonathan & Roberta Steffy | **Philippines**

Recently, as I stepped into a taxi, the driver asked me if I was a missionary-priest. I told him I was a missionary with the Bible Baptists. He then asked me, “What is the difference between the Baptists and the Aglipay (a sect in the Philippines that left the Catholic Church)?” I instantly recognized an opportunity, said a quick prayer, and responded, “Well, I don’t know what the Aglipay believe, but I do know that we believe that salvation is by grace, through faith, in Jesus Christ alone.” He asked, “What happens when I sin after I have accepted Jesus as my Savior?” I told him the blood of Christ was sufficient for all sin — past, present, and future. Then he said, “That means that the death of Christ paid the complete penalty, right?” To which I replied, “Yes.” He shared how he had studied for the priesthood in the Catholic seminary but left dissatisfied because they were not living holy lives. He told me he is being invited to be a Muslim. As we neared my destination, I asked for his phone number and invited him to church. Please pray that Ian will not follow the wrong path but come to church to hear more.

Ricky & Jamie Owens | **Wales**

Anne came to church with her children on “Mothering” Sunday. Through the years of attending our church, many of her children have been saved. They, and many of you, have prayed for Anne to become a Christian. In 2009, when we first shared the gospel with her, she told me salvation by grace through faith in Christ seemed too good to be true. This time, when we talked with Anne, she admitted that her way wasn’t working out very well, and we had the honor of leading her to the Lord. How exciting to report that Anne is now a born-again believer, almost four years after those initial prayers. Never give up on people because God works in incredible ways!

Benjamin & Raelene Walker | **TEAM New Zealand**

The dust has barely settled from the \$400,000 complete remodel of our church. The mind-blowing part is that it was all donated! Labor and materials were donated by local businessmen, community workers with skills, or by families. We invited the community workers to a special “thank you” service to show our appreciation for their help. Each person who attended the service was given a Bible, a customary candy lei, and a message from God’s Word followed by lunch. Two families came forward desiring to become a part of the church and a young man came the next day placing his trust in Jesus Christ. We are gaining spiritual ground in our community!

Jeff & Judy Blanton | **South Africa**

Neal, a 23-year-old drug addict that we met on the street, accepted a tract and stayed to talk. He listened as I went through the plan of salvation and then he bowed his head to pray. I suggested we find a private place to pray, as several other people were sitting on the street corner, but Neal didn’t care if the whole world heard as he asked the Lord to save him from the drugs. I would have liked it better if he’d admitted he was a sinner and thanked the Lord for dying to pay for his sins, but not everybody says long prayers. Neal attended church Sundays and Wednesdays for three weeks and then disappeared. We’ve visited him several times, but it doesn’t look as though Neal really understood repentance. Please pray for him.

help the churches of the Fellowship fulfill their missionary mandate to reach all people. This would necessitate a recalibration among white pastors and churches on racial issues — we all knew that going in. And we all knew change comes hard and slow among some, but the work is beginning to show signs of real life. In a recent meeting, Ira made some contacts for prospective church planters, and the Brothers of Cyrene plan to have their first major meeting a few days after this issue of the *Tribune* goes to press. We are hopeful that this early work will give us a great harvest among those populations who need the gospel.

In some ways, the Gateway Project is difficult to wrap a mind around. Steve Johnson talks about integration and multi-ethnic congregations. Ira Walton recruits black men to start churches in mostly black areas. Steve is not opposed to Hispanic churches, nor is Ira opposed to integrated congregations. And perhaps there are more Gateway options to come that will expand these emphases and generate even more options — there are Asian communities, and Native American groups, and Arabic-speakers, and what of the spiritual needs of the newly developed oil fields, and the large factories? Gateway is far from a finished project — certainly not an end in itself — but a means to the end of reaching the world, and all the worlds within that world, with the gospel.

To become part of the conversation, contact Gateway Project pioneers Steve Johnson and/or Ira Walton. Their information is below.

Steven and Cynthia Johnson
www.gatewaybbf.org
steve@gatewaybbf.org
(832) 589-2040

Ira and Angela Walton
gunnywalton@gmail.com
1729 Rutledge Loop Road
Luverne, AL 36049
(334) 335-5811 (334) 296-2835 (cell)

TULSA, OK

Southeast Baptist reaching out to Tulsa for 50 years

Southeast Baptist Church in Tulsa, OK, held a weekend celebration marking the church's 50th anniversary April 20-21, 2013. Guests present for the Sunday services were BBFI missionaries Bob and Sue Phillips, who were sent out of the Southeast church, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Gary Berry and Mr. and Mrs. Rick Stout, both of whom were former staff members and are now pastors.

Southeast began its services on November 4, 1962, in the home of Pastor Richard Collins with ten people. The church was organized on April 19, 1963. The church is now located at 1402 S. Memorial Drive, Tulsa, OK. Previous pastors including the founding pastor were: Richard Collins, Don Pottorf, Felton Mosley, and present pastor Ival Robinson who has been pastor there 18 years. The church supports 80 missionaries, colleges, and ministries. Southeast is also the sending church for four missionary families.



Pictured: (top row) Bill Bender, Bob Phillips, Linda Robinson, Victoria Harris, Wade Harris (bottom) Lynette Bender, Sue Phillips, Charlotte Berry, Gary Berry, Valinda Stout, Rick Stout, Ival Robinson



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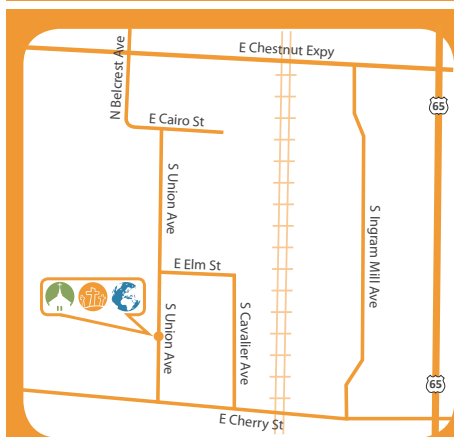
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SHREVEPORT, LA

Louisiana Baptist University graduation and fellowship

Louisiana Baptist Graduation and Fellowship week was held April 30 through May 3. The week featured 16 three-hour workshops with 18 different speakers including BBC President Mark Million, BBC Asia President Greg Lyons, BBFI Third Vice-President Dan Lamb, and Harold Rawlings of the Rawlings Foundation.

Former BBF President Bill Monroe delivered the graduation address to almost 1,000 graduates and their guests. At the close of the service, LBU presented Monroe with a lifetime

achievement plaque in recognition of his lifetime of Christian service.

On Thursday morning, LBU President Neal Weaver presided over a dedication service for the university's new conference center, pointing out that the building was equipped with the latest audio/video equipment provided by Troubadour Solutions and also complimenting Sandra Cory on the decoration of the building. The building was filled to capacity for the dedication and Million delivered the dedication prayer.



SPRINGFIELD, MO

Christian Schools of Springfield reaches 50-year milestone

Christian Schools of Springfield celebrated their 50th anniversary on April 27-28 with a banquet attended by over 200 current and former students, teachers, and administrators. The banquet program was emceed by former high school Bible teacher Sandy Huntsman, and included testimonials from three former principals: Gerald Wass, Terry Allcorn, and Nick McClure, as well as current administrator Mary Lou VonderStrasse.

Special recognition was given to the late Harry Vickery who founded the school in 1963 as a ministry of Baptist Temple. Music was provided by the Vickery sisters (Connie Stidham, former CSOS teacher, and Karen Roark, 1972 graduate), Mark Sewell (1987 graduate), Amber Keeny (2007 graduate), and the current CSOS Middle School and High School Choir. Dignitaries attending were Lisa Rose, news anchor of Springfield's KY3 News, State Senator Bob Dixon, and Administrator Matt Searson of New Covenant Academy (another local Christian school), all of whom are CSOS graduates.

Sunday, April 28, Jeff Walton, Executive Director of the American Association of Christian Schools, preached in the morning service at Baptist Temple, the operating church of CSOS. Sandy Huntsman, former Baptist Temple and CSOS staffer, preached in the evening service.

Mark Rounsaville, Baptist Temple's current pastor, commented, "This event is not only a celebration of the last 50 years, but also a bridge to the next 50 as we're currently in the process of developing long-range plans for the church and school. We're excited about future possibilities."



From left: Jeff Walton, Executive Director of the American Association of Christian Schools; Mark Rounsaville, pastor of Baptist Temple in Springfield, MO; and Sandy Huntsman, Senior Adults Minister, Boca Glade Baptist Church, Boca Raton, FL.

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GLADSTONE, MO

Antioch Bible Baptist Church observes 50th anniversary

Antioch Bible Baptist Church celebrated 50 years of ministry on April 21 with services honoring charter members and highlighting the church's history. Pastor Bob Baier, only the second pastor in the church's history, recapped the 50 years and stressed the importance of looking at the milestone as a launching pad for ministry in the area and around the world. Guest speaker Jerry Thorpe challenged the congregation to be excellent in all that they do and Mayor Jean Moore presented a proclamation commemorating the church's history and involvement in the Gladstone community. A special video featured interviews with charter members sharing stories of the sacrifices made in the early days, the excitement of the church's growth, as well as the transition from the founding pastor, Joe Kreeger, to Pastor Baier. The video also featured more

recent members sharing stories about how Antioch ministered to them.

The church began in January 1961 when 17 people met in the home of Joe and JoAnn Kreeger. Within two years, the church had grown enough to purchase property at 800 NE 72nd Street, which is where the church stands today. Pastor Kreeger led the church for 30

years before he retired. "Brother Joe invested his life and his ministry with me, he taught me how to love people, study the Bible and stay faithful," said Pastor Baier, who was on staff at the church for 13 years under Joe Kreeger's leadership. "Brother Joe would always say to me, 'Bob, we will be unique in the future by faithfully teaching the Word.'"



Bob and Judy Baier (center) with a group of charter members

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DES MOINES, IA

James Holmes, New Testament Baptist to celebrate 50 years

Pastor James Holmes and New Testament Baptist Church in Des Moines, IA, will celebrate the church's 50th anniversary August 11, 2013. Holmes and his wife Marjorie invite former workers and members to attend and help celebrate the day with a morning worship service and afternoon potluck dinner.

New Testament Baptist Church was organized in 1963 shortly after Mr. Holmes graduated from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, in May that year. He recalls leaving his home state of Kansas, knowing that as he passed over a bridge in Fort Scott, he would not return to live there again.

The church's first meeting was attended by 13 people, six of them the pastor's family. The church grew, and that necessitated moving several times and building three auditoriums.

Mr. Holmes's wife Doris passed away in 1989, and he married Marjorie in 1990, and together they have thrived. The church supports 40 missionary families, and a number of associates have gone on to pastor and work in other ministries.

The congregation, located at 3020 E. 38th Street, is hopeful that people associated with the church's long ministry will make plans to attend their special day.



CHIHUAHUA CITY, MEXICO

Chihuahua church celebrates missions with Faith Promise offering

BBFI missionaries Les and Donna Garner recently celebrated with one of their churches in a mission conference. After the conference, the church received a Faith Promise offering of more than one million pesos (\$85,000), and they expect more to come.

Guest preachers for the conference were Gary Queen, former missionary to Peru and Venezuela now serving in Mexico, and Hector Xochihua, sent to Bolivia by the churches in Mexico.

Garner says, "The Lord blessed the conference which began with an international supper followed by a strong mission challenge by Gary Queen. The services were well attended, and hearts were blessed by the preaching and missions presentations."



From left: Les and Donna Garner, Gary and Judy Queen, and Hector Xochihua

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SAN ANTONIO, TX

Grace Baptist Temple “Making a Difference” in 2013

Grace Baptist Temple in San Antonio, TX, held the church’s annual mission conference February 27 through March 3. The theme for the conference was “Shine Our Light,” and the main preacher for the week was BBFI Mission Director Jon Konnerup. Guest missionaries were Kevin and Sarah Pine (Great Britain) and James and Christina Sinde (Greece). Dennis L. Isbell is the church’s pastor.

The conference presented aspects of the two countries, Great Britain and Greece, and the BBFI Mission Office each night. During the day, Grace Baptist Temple treated their guests to activities in San Antonio. Pastor Isbell says, “During the services Bro. Konnerup challenged the folks to do more for the cause of Christ through their missionaries. The Lord blessed, and we voted Thursday

evening to add the two missionary families to our own church mission family.”

Grace Baptist Temple adopted the theme “Making A Difference” for 2013. Each month the focus is on a different area of ministry, and February was missions month. Isbell reports

that the Faith Promise giving commitment for March 2013 to March 2014 came in at a little over \$92,000. The giving for last year’s Faith Promise was over \$99,000, which was \$20,000 over the commitment of the previous year.

Grace Baptist Temple supports 98 missionaries and three home mission works in 54 countries.

Pastor Isbell also encourages any church and pastor to have the Pines and Sindes visit. He says, “They are worthy of support. Also, our mission director, Bro. Konnerup, would be a tremendous blessing to any congregation.”



The Pines and the Sindes were guests, along with BBFI Mission Director Jon Konnerup, at Grace Baptist Temple’s mission conference in February and March.

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JEROME, ID

BETTY SIMS



Betty Jo Sims, 79, passed from this life February 9, 2013. Born June 29, 1933, in Estelline, TX, her family moved to Idaho in the 1940s. There she united with Jerome Bible Baptist Church.

She met and married Arthur (Art) Sims, and the couple attended Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, to prepare for missionary service.

They served 25 years in the Philippines, and Betty returned to Jerome to care for her parents.

Betty is survived by her three children, nine grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Jerome Bible Baptist Church February 14.

SPRINGFIELD, MO

LOIS DONNELSON LOGAN



Lois Donnelson Logan left this life April 22, 2013. She was born October 19, 1926, to Fred and Effie Donnelson. At the age of six, she went with her parents and older brother, Paul, to Hang-

zhou, China, as a missionary. She married Bill Logan in 1945 and they joined the Donnelsons in ministry in Shanghai in 1946. In 1951, Lois and Bill moved to Taipei, Taiwan, and ministered there until they moved to Hong Kong in 1968. Bill and Lois returned to Taiwan in 1979. She faithfully served in the Lord's service for more than 70 years.

Lois is preceded in death by her parents, her brother, and her husband. She is survived by her four children and their spouses. She has 11 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Greenlawn East on April 25.

PAOLA, KS

LYLE YARNELL



David Lyle Yarnell was received into glory April 24, 2013, at the age of 79 in an auto accident. Lyle was born on August 6, 1933, in Vinita, OK. He grew up in the Oklahoma area before travelling

to Kansas, where he worked as a bricklayer. On September 28, 1957, he was united in marriage to Rose Lee Thuro in Clinton, MO.

The Yarnells became BBFI missionaries in 1963, serving in Ethiopia (1965-1975) and Zambia (1992-2006).

Lyle was also a journeyman bricklayer for over 50 years. He belonged to the Shawnee Mission Baptist Temple and spent much of his life working with his hands, helping family and friends whenever needed and sharing the gospel with everyone he met.

Lyle is survived by his wife Rose, two daughters, five grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Victory Baptist Church in Osawatomie, KS.

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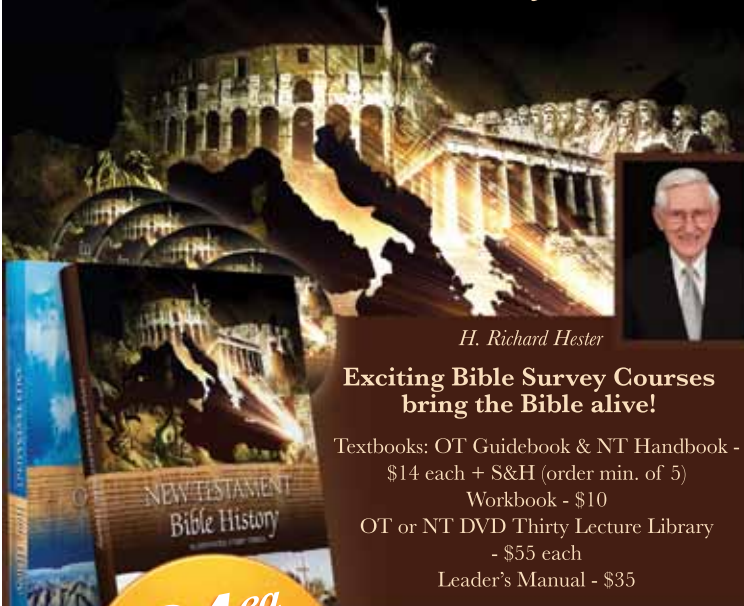
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(Sources: Constitution and Bylaws of the BBFI and The BBFI Contact Directory)

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Boston Strong...Boston Baptist Strong

By David Melton
President of Boston Baptist College

It's a holiday here, Patriots' Day — the state holiday that commemorates the Battles of Lexington and Concord and the inauguration of the American Revolution, the shot heard 'round the world. For us locals, it is also "Marathon Monday." Our church is in Wellesley right at mile 15 on the course route. For runners, it is the beginning of the second half of the marathon, just minutes from famous/infamous "Heartbreak Hill" where so many runners' dreams to "run Boston" have run out of gas.

When bombs went off near the finish line of the marathon, when three young people were lost and hundreds more were injured, the shock waves were more than just repercussions from the IED made by the murderous radicals. Obviously there were fewer killed here than in the horrific explosion in West, TX, and far less than the catastrophic building collapse in Bangladesh. But this bombing in our city has been so much more than math. To understand why, you have to understand our marathon.

I have told people for years that there is nothing like the Boston Marathon. Our family typically spends part of Marathon Monday somewhere on the route watching and cheering the runners. Thousands and thousands run Boston, and the crowds that line the roads for 26.2 miles cheer for every runner, every single runner! Sure there are elite professional runners, and they are impressive if you look fast as they zoom by, but Boston is mostly about everyday people who are tackling one of the chosen challenges of their lives. They run to see if they can discipline themselves to do it. They train (since our church is on the route I see runners out on "the course" almost every day all year long getting ready), they run, they compete mostly with themselves. Some run for charities as fundraisers. There are very, very few celebrities in the marathon. So you cheer for them all. If somebody runs by wearing an identifiable shirt, maybe from their home state or nation, we call out "Go Montana" or "Go Norway." Lots of runners will give you

a quick glance to thank you for the encouragement but they never lose stride. Marathoners are on a mission — to finish. And crowds are on a mission — to encourage. Bombing the marathon makes about as much sense to us as bombing a birthday party.

Last week, I went for a long, slow walk along the finish line on Boylston Street. The investigators are gone, the mess has been cleaned up, and only one storefront seemed to still be boarded up. Boston was back out on the streets. "Boston Strong" as everybody around here keeps saying.



We are Boston strong, in a way. New Englanders are stereotyped as hardy and tough, sometimes even brusque (though I prefer candid). My son, Matt, and I were at the Boston Bruins game two days after the bombings and we were part of that marvelous statement of resolve when the capacity crowd sang the National Anthem as an act of response to terrorists. You can YouTube that if you want to. Bostonians don't intend to be pushed around. Boston strong.

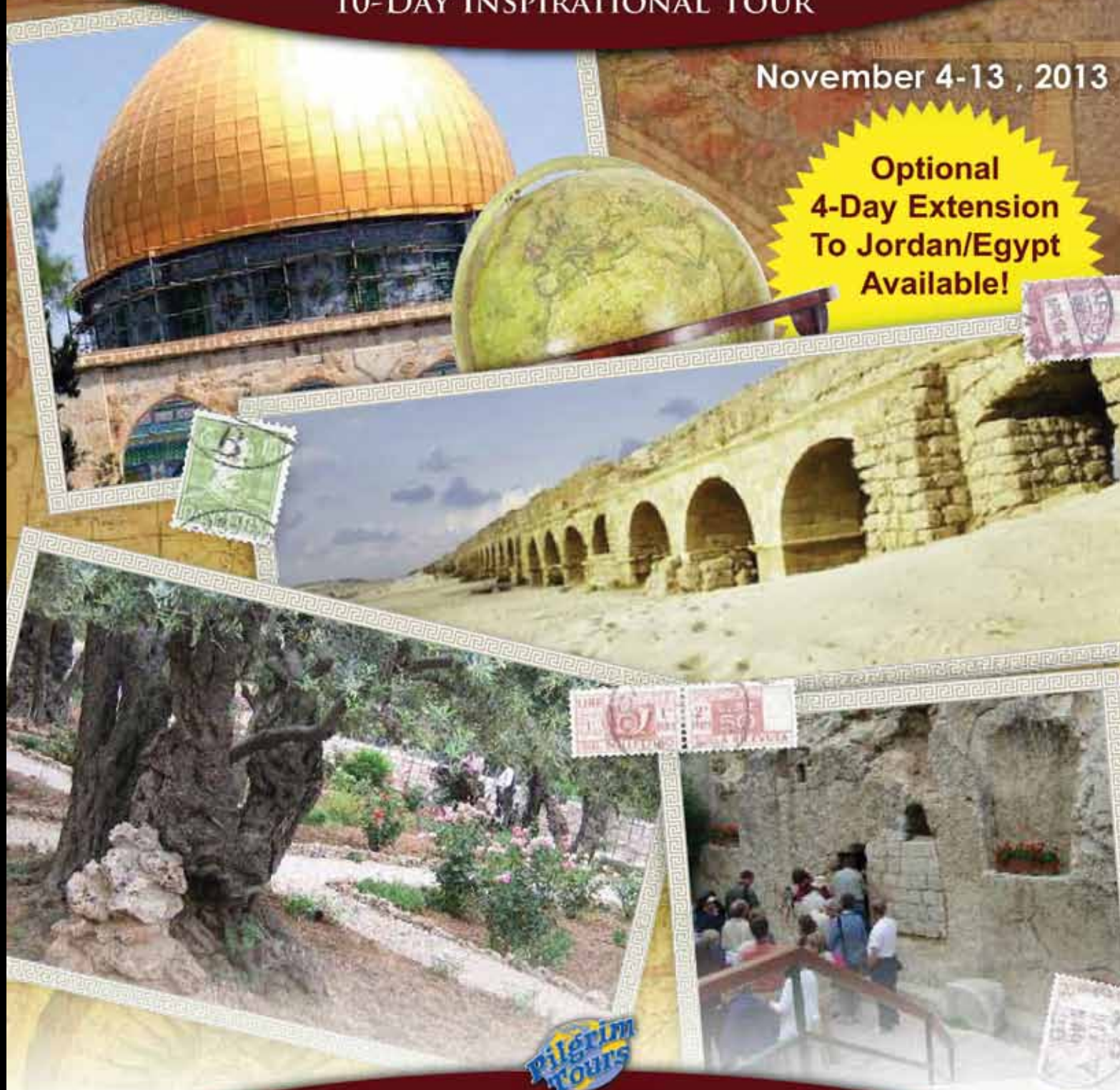
But when I walked down Boylston Street a couple of days back, past the media satellite trucks that were still there after two weeks, I looked for other signs of strength. I looked at the churches. You can literally almost throw a rock from the finish line to three churches: the Old South Church, Community Church of Boston, and Trinity Church. Google those if you want to and gauge our city's spiritual strength.

Back on the campus here at Boston Baptist College I gave my sort of state-of-the-college remarks to our students. I talked about how incredibly important they are to the eternal wellbeing of the people of our area. Whether a student works at a store, or a restaurant, or if they land one of those highly-prized jobs as a nanny/nanny driving the kids of wealthy families to school and back — wherever we go in greater Boston almost everybody we meet is without the Lord Jesus. If that doesn't change, the finish line of life will hold no joy, no victory.

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