

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

JUNE 2016

WHAT IS THE BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL?

BBFI

PART 2: BBFI EDUCATION

p.6 Structure of the BBFI

p.9 Fall National Meeting Info

p.16 May Fellowship Meeting Report

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ON THE TABLE

The importance of education and training

by Randy Harp | Editor

While planning this *Tribune* I realized I have been in some sort of formal education for 26 years of my life. Not including the years before kindergarten, only 12 of my years have not been in an academic setting, and I still have two more years before I am finished (my wife doesn't think it will ever end). In ten of those 12 years, I attended at least one ministry training conference or was involved in a coaching network. So, I will admit my bias for education and training. I hold to a firm conviction that if a pastor/leader is not growing he will gradually lose his influence. Ken Blanchard writes in *Great Leaders Grow*, "The path to increase influence, impact, and leadership effectiveness is paved with personal growth. Our capacity to grow determines our capacity to lead. It's really that simple." I couldn't agree more.

This issue is part two of our three-part series on "What is the BBFI?" As a reminder, we are looking at the three primary areas where we partner together: missions, education, and church planting. We also include short articles about the BBFI. This issue focuses on the importance of education and training and the BBFI's structure and common areas of unity.

I have been encouraged by the kind letters and comments we received about the *May Tribune*. My prayer for this series is three-fold. First, it would help our pastors, missionaries, church staff, etc. to understand the BBFI a little better. Second, it would be a recruiting tool to encourage other pastors to partner with the BBFI. Third, it would be a resource pastors can use to promote the BBFI within their local churches.

Our Fellowship was started because of discord between World Fundamental Baptist Missionary Fellowship leader J. Frank Norris and G. B. Vick, president of Bible Baptist Seminary of Fort Worth. When Norris had Vick ousted as president, 120 men decided to start a new Fellowship that included a training institution for pastors and missionaries. Thus, Baptist Bible College was born. So one could say education and training has been a part of the BBFI from the very beginning and is a part of our DNA. This is evidenced by how many countries around the world have Bible colleges and ministry training institutions started by our BBFI missionaries.

We also take space in this issue to highlight the Graduation Fellowship Week. This meeting was different for me personally experiencing it as an editor rather than a pastor, but I think all who attended would agree it was a great week. One exciting thing we announced was the new BBFI mobile app and the BBFI Missions mobile app. I encourage you to look at and use them. It truly is amazing to have the entire BBFI in the palm of your hand.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve Christ as I serve you. If I can ever be of help to you, please let me know.

THE FELLOWSHIP: PART 2



The Structure of the BBFI 6

The structure of the BBFI may be an organizational consultant's worst nightmare, but it's a great way to get ministry done on a broader platform.



What Unifies Us? 8

It's easy to find things we disagree on, but at the heart of the BBFI are nine basic characteristics that are generally held in common among BBFI pastors.



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A closer look at the education entities and principles within the BBFI.



May Fellowship Meeting Report 16

The theme for the week was All In, and various speakers and events reiterated just how important it is to be All In in the ministry.



Don't miss any of the *Tribune's* digital offerings on our website www.tribune.org. You can find old articles, a digital page-turn version of this month's magazine, and a link to sign up for the *Tribune* Update email.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT THE BBFI

It has been my privilege to serve as president of our Fellowship the past two years. I am still convinced we have great potential and a great future. When I began, there were three things we focused on. These remain critical to our future success.

1. Strengthen the grassroots.

Our Fellowship is strong when the local state fellowships are strong. State fellowships are strong when pastors strengthen each other in the work of ministry. Leadership at the state level is vital to our success. We have worked to strengthen the grassroots by providing communication and organization tools on www.BBFI.org.

2. Protect the unity. We are united in the Gospel and sound doctrine. Our articles of faith clearly define what we believe. We come together with this commonality to train leaders, send missionaries, and plant churches. These endeavors are best done with many churches participating. We have seen in our history that this plan works. At the same time, we cannot allow our personal preferences, programs, and styles to interfere with the unity. When we protect the unity and honor the autonomy of the local church we set the stage for dynamic success in our Fellowship. There is no one right way. There is right doctrine and many different expressions of church. The goal is to reach as many people as we can with the Gospel.

3. Create a culture of inspiration and encouragement.

People coming to Christ, successful efforts to reach the community, young people who feel a call to ministry, missionaries surrendering, or a new church being planted are topics of discussion in our Fellowship. These inspire and encourage us. They have eternal consequences and glorify God. We come together to encourage and inspire each other.



Eddie Lyons
BBFI PRESIDENT

WORLD MISSIONS TRAINING MISSIONARIES

“We can’t imagine going to the mission field without thorough Biblical preparation and practical experience that the BBFI provides.” – BBFI missionary

Studies show while many missionaries plan to go to the mission field long term, they only last about two to five years. One Baptist organization reports their missionaries stay on the field for an average of eight years — including their time spent learning the language and culture, and involvement in ministry. Proper and thorough preparation for missionary service, including quality, pre-field, missionary training can help missionaries stay longer on

the field and bear more fruit.

I believe the biblical and ministry training BBFI missionaries receive is a key factor in their average length of service — 25 years. A proven, well-rounded approach to training and preparation is a requirement. Not only is the focus on biblical training, but we also require an internship either in a BBFI-affiliated church in the U.S. or on the field with a BBFI missionary through the TEAM program. The Mission Office provides further hands-on instruction during our annual Candidate School. These essential steps in equipping our missionaries with practical knowledge, skills, and character

along with ministry training for evangelism, discipleship, and church planting helps them successfully serve.

With as much preparation as possible, our missionaries go with the confidence to follow God’s call upon their lives. Look for more information in the future as the Mission Office enhances new missionary training and expands the resources for those currently on the field. Please pray with us that these efforts will help our missionaries stay longer and bear much fruit.



Jon Konnerup
BBFI MISSION DIRECTOR

BBFI LEADERSHIP

CHURCH PLANTING COMMUNICATION IMPERATIVES FOR CHURCH PLANTERS

Although many aspects of communication confront the church planter on a daily basis, there are three areas of communication that are essential and must remain open.

The first is with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

John 15:5 “... for without me ye you can do nothing ...”

Philippians 4:15 “... but with Him we can do all things ...”

1 Thessalonians 5:17 “... pray without ceasing ...”

I can think of nothing more important than the continual presence, direction, and power of

God in our lives on a daily basis.

The second area is communication among family. The husband has the utmost responsibility to maintain communication with both his wife and children. Balancing family and ministry is a challenge and many ministries have been lost as a result. Make time for your wife, make time for your children, and make time for your people.

Third, a church planter must communicate with his church members. This requires a tremendous amount of balance. The first years of planting a church demand a great deal of time developing outside relationships — and this can

become a major time constraint for the new pastor. The challenge is to maintain the leadership role while trying to develop new friendships. In these early stages, communication, friendship, relationship, and leadership can present some of the greatest challenges facing the church planter. These four stages are all important, but the ability to communicate the differences could possibly be the difference between success and failure.



John Gross
BBFI CHURCH PLANTING (APEX)

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE WHAT BBC TAUGHT ME

I love Baptist Bible College. I am so thankful for the education I received here. I became the senior pastor of my home church, First Baptist Church of Albion, MI, only three months after my BBC graduation. I was only 25, but because of the education I received at BBC, I could stand and defend my faith, feed the sheep, and protect the flock.

Because I had Ecclesiology, I could lead my church in the face of those who did not believe in an independent, autonomous, pastor-led church.

Because I had Soteriology, I was able to withstand those who came to our church with both hyper-Calvinistic and Armenian theology.

Because I had Personal Evangelism, I was able to share the Gospel clearly.

Because I had Homiletics, I was able to clearly expound the Scriptures.

Because I had Pneumatology, I was able to explain the Scriptures to charismatics who came to my church.

Because I had great training from experienced, qualified professors and pastors, I was given an example of hard work and great preaching.

It was at BBC I developed a love for learning. I learned how to study God's Word, how to dig deep, and how to listen to what God was teaching me. This love

for learning has driven me to continue my education and now has afforded me the opportunity to pour back into the lives of young students.

God used all I learned at BBC to equip me for success in ministry and has impacted my life and ministry every day. I am now privileged to serve this great institution as president. It is my greatest prayer that this tradition of excellence will be found in the leaders training to reach the next generation for Christ.



Mark Milioni
BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

PERSPECTIVES: THE FELLOWSHIP

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE A COMMENCEMENT WALK ACROSS THE STAGE

Commencement at Boston Baptist College is impressive. For years we have held graduation events in historic Faneuil Hall in downtown Boston — the same building where the Sons of Liberty called for a new American nation. When our graduates walk across the stage to receive their degrees, they step where patriots, statesmen, presidents, and world-changers have stood. A masterpiece painting twice-the-actual-size of George Washington towers over the entrance to the platform while a striking oil of Abraham Lincoln is staring at you when you get to center stage. It's quite an appropriate place to finish a Boston education.

Our students almost never come from high pedigrees, much like the men whose faces peer at them as they receive their degrees. Sam Adams was a deacon's son who did manual labor just about every day of his life. But he was a meticulous student, and at Boston Baptist College, we welcome the notion men and women of God should be as well read and thoughtful as anybody else on the block. Frederick Douglass was born into slavery and escaped to become one of America's most notable voices for freedom and the dignity of life. He is insightfully quoted as remarking, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." It seems

hardly any other words call more strongly for biblical education. Like so much else, it's not where you start, it's where you finish.

So, it's not just the building, it's not just the history, it's all of that and more that is the framework to celebrate 21st-century men and women — our men and women — informed, thoughtful, hearts warmed for Christ. Unwilling to accept the *status quo*. Impressive historic hall. Impressive men and women. Very impressive.



David Melton
BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE PRESIDENT

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What is the

BBFI?

Understanding the structure

Edited and updated from an article written by
Keith Bassham in the January 2000 Tribune.

by Randy Harp

The concept of “fellowship” comes from the New Testament. *Koinonia* is the word most often translated “fellowship” and has to do with commonality — things held in common such as purpose and goals. The root to *koinonia* is often translated as *partner*. When Paul thanked the Philippians in chapter one for their *koinonia*, he wasn’t thanking them for their good food and conversation, he was thanking them for their partnership in the work of the Gospel. The verb form of the same word is seen in Philippians 4:15 as Paul shared specifically how they partnered with him.

This was the idea behind the formation of the Baptist Bible Fellowship. When Church A supports Missionary X, the church and the missionary are in partnership, or fellowship. When Church A and Church B both support Missionary X, the two churches are now in fellowship. It is proper, in that context, to say the two churches and the missionary comprise a Fellowship. All involved have common goals and purposes with regard to the missionary’s work and support. If you allow that concept to expand so there are thousands of churches contributing to nearly a thousand missionaries, church planters, multiple colleges, and the *Baptist Bible Tribune*, you will have a good idea of how the Fellowship works in principle.

In the first bylaws of the BBFI (1950), the founders said the purpose of the Baptist Bible Fellowship was “To provide fellowship for Bible-believing Baptist churches in doctrine, evangelism, missions, and the training of youth for gospel service.” In other words, they saw organizing as a means to provide fellowship. Churches associating with one another for the common purpose of missions was taken for granted as a New Testament requirement, a means to an end. From there it was a matter of deciding what

organizational nuts and bolts would be necessary to accomplish the job efficiently and yet maintain autonomy of the churches in fellowship with one another.

The present organizational structure differs somewhat from the original, but the goal is still the same: to provide fellowship, or a means of partnership. The executive officers are not the Fellowship. The national directors are not the Fellowship. The institutions — the Fellowship owned colleges, Mission Office, and *Tribune* — are not the Fellowship. These all merely help provide fellowship.

BBFI STRUCTURE PROVIDES FELLOWSHIP

In a corporate organizational chart, a main office or entity occupies the top place, and subsidiaries are placed underneath. When the same model is applied to religious denominational structure, churches are plainly under the control of entities higher up the chart, and the state fellowships are subsidiaries of the main entity at the top of the chart.

In the chart below you can see how the

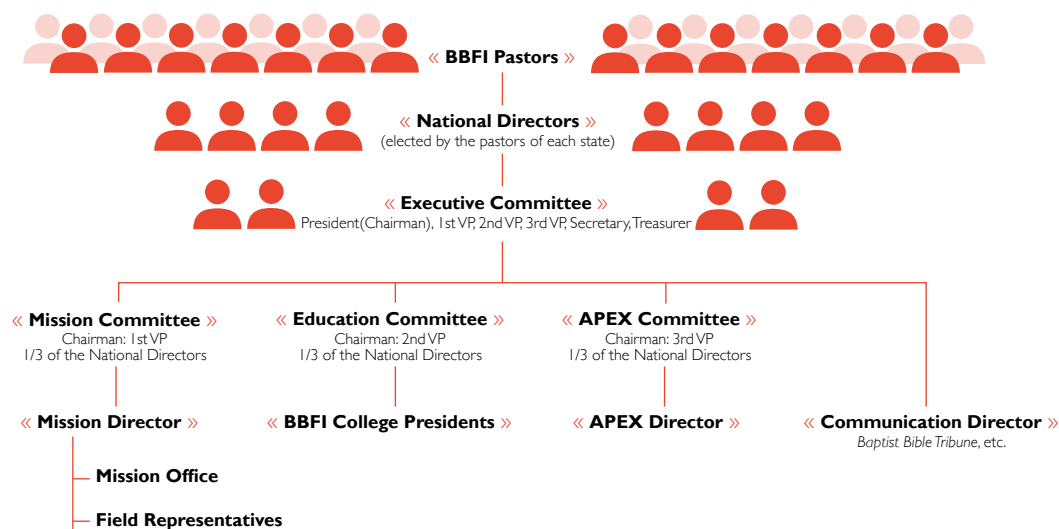
BBFI is structured. Admittedly, this structure is an organizational consultant’s worst nightmare, but it works for these four reasons:

1. Authority rests within the local churches and their pastors.
2. All elected executive officers (president, vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and national directors) are pastors.
3. Every pastor has a representative voice from his state in the form of a national director.
4. The strength lies in the grassroots of the organization, the state fellowships.

HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE

Several safeguards are in place to ensure fairness and openness in business. Generally speaking, before policy changes, officer nominations, and other Fellowship business items are taken to the entire Fellowship at national meetings, the same matters are considered by the national directors. A simple majority decides, except in the case of constitutional amendments, which require a two-third’s majority for passage. Any BBFI pastor is permitted to audit meetings of the national directors and their committees.

State fellowships are entities to themselves and not subsidiary to the BBFI. Historically, the state fellowships have been primarily focused on church planting and providing encouraging fellowship meetings for local pastors. Each state selects their



national director to represent their state to the BBFI. These elected national directors also report back to the pastors in their state key points of information in regard to the state of the Fellowship including its institutions (Mission Office, colleges, and the *Tribune*.)

HOW DOES ONE “JOIN” THE FELLOWSHIP?

Affiliation with the BBFI is open to any Baptist pastor of a supporting Baptist church believing in and adhering to the Word of God, on the basis of the Articles of Faith. A supporting Baptist church is a church that financially supports our missionaries or colleges.

FELLOWSHIP IS A MEANS

The structure of the BBFI is a like something someone said of democracy — it’s the worse system of government in the world ... except for all the rest. It’s a fellowship, or a partnership, a way to get ministry done.

Noel Smith, about 18 months after the founding of the BBFI (December 21, 1951), wrote in the *Tribune*, “The people have faith and confidence in a constitutional Fellowship which they themselves created, which they control, and which is nothing more than a means through which they may work together to save as many souls as possible from being hurled into hell.”

THE ELECTION PROCESS

The following is the section of the BBFI bylaws that governs the election of officers:

Article VI, Section 2a. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected biennially. These officers constitute the Executive Committee. The Directors will serve as the nominating committee and will present nominations at the National Fellowship in May. The ballot shall be approved in the May business meeting and made available to any pastor in attendance and qualified according to Article III (“Affiliation”) of these bylaws. Voting pastors will identify themselves on the ballot and voting will begin immediately upon distribution of the ballots. Qualified pastors not in attendance may obtain a ballot from the BBFI Mission Office. Those ballots must be submitted to the BBFI Mission Office before July 1st of the year of the election. The Executive Committee shall oversee the counting of the ballots and release the results within one week after the votes are tallied.

Nominations are received at the meeting of the National Directors Monday during the May Fellowship Meeting. A ballot is approved by the National Directors, and is made available to eligible pastors in the plenary business session later during the May Fellowship Meeting.

Pastors attending the May meeting can cast their ballots at that time, or they may choose to mail the ballot to the BBFI Mission Office, so long as it is submitted before July 1. Likewise, pastors who are unable to attend the May meeting may request a ballot from the BBFI Mission Office and return it by mail by July 1.

The complete bylaws are available electronically at www.bbfi.org on the link “About Us.”

2016 OFFICER ELECTIONS

All ballots must be postmarked by July 1.

Complete candidate bios can be found in this issue on page 22.

Editor’s Note: During the business meeting held May 2016, a committee was approved to evaluate the current constitution and bylaws.

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What is the

BBFI?

What unifies us?

by Randy Harp

Once saw a man on a bridge about to jump. I said, "Don't do it!" He said, "Nobody loves me." I said, "God loves you. Do you believe in God?"

MAN: "Yes."

ME: "Are you a Christian or a Jew?"

MAN: "A Christian."

ME: "Me, too! Protestant or Catholic?"

MAN: "Protestant."

ME: "Me, too! What denomination?"

MAN: "Baptist."

ME: "Me, too! Northern Baptist or Southern Baptist?"

MAN: "Northern Baptist."

ME: "Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist or Northern Liberal Baptist?"

MAN: "Northern Conservative Baptist."

ME: "Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region, or Northern Conservative Baptist Eastern Region?"

MAN: "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region."

ME: "Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879, or Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912?"

MAN: "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912."

ME: "Die, heretic!" And I pushed him over.

Sure, the above scenario is just a joke, but the underlying principle is a reminder of how often we focus on areas where we disagree with others. It has well been observed that when two pastors get together, there are often three opinions. If we are to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace in our Fellowship of churches, here are nine basics that have generally been held in common by most pastors and churches throughout the history of the BBFI. One might even consider these the unofficial core values of the BBFI.

BIBLICAL CENTRALITY. While attending Baptist Bible College, multiple professors repeated the phrase, "What does the Bible say?" This is not only taught in our colleges but is also lived out in our churches. The Bible is the primary textbook and the only real source of preaching and practice.

DOCTRINAL UNITY. The BBFI unifies around is the 20 Articles of Faith. These are found on the BBFI website and are often copied onto church websites and used in the examination portion of the ordination of BBFI pastors.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS. A popular rallying cry of the BBFI is, "The strong right arm of the Fellowship is missions." With over 800 career missionaries serving in 89 different countries and over \$1 billion given to date through the BBFI Mission Office, it is hard to argue with that statement. BBFI churches promote and partner with BBFI missionaries through monthly support, special projects, short-term mission trips, mission conferences, and other creative endeavors.

CHURCH PLANTING FOCUS. Thousands of churches have been started by BBFI pastors and can be found in all 50 states. In 2004, a third branch was added to the organization of the BBFI as the Judea-Samaria fund was officially transferred to the National Church Planting Office (NCPO). It was renamed APEX in 2015. The vision of APEX is for every single BBFI church to be passionately engaged in planting, funding, and serving a new church.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING. While each of our colleges strive for academic excellence, the strength lies in the practicality of their training. Our students learn theology and apologetics, and they also learn homiletics and soul-winning. Students are

privileged to learn from some of the greatest leaders through chapel and local church services. Training doesn't end with formal education, however. Many churches host ministry training events and three times per year our pastors gather together for further training and encouragement.

SOUL-WINNING PRIORITY. When Elmer Towns wrote *The Ten Largest Sunday Schools and What Makes Them Grow* in the 1960s, half of the list included BBFI churches. His explanation was the strong soul-winning focus of BBFI churches. This was true with the founding of the BBFI and it is still true of the church plants today.

PERSONAL HOLINESS. High standards of morality, accountability, character, ethics, and integrity have been preached and practiced. Yes, some have failed in this regard, but this is a strong value most pastors strive for.

LOCAL CHURCH AUTONOMY. One of the strongest characteristics of an independent Baptist church is its autonomy. That is why two BBFI churches could agree completely with the 20 Articles of Faith and share all nine of these listed commonalities and still look and feel entirely different. No other church or parachurch organization (including the BBFI) has any authority over a local, independent church.

VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIPS. While every church is autonomous, BBFI pastors voluntarily work together for the furtherance of the Gospel. This is seen in sending and supporting missionaries, starting new churches, and supporting the BBFI entities. This is also seen in the mutual encouragement through Fellowship meetings both on the state and national level.

It is possible some BBFI churches may not find commonality with this entire list of nine characteristics, but in our day where biblical Christianity is under attack, it is much more important to focus on the areas where we can find common ground than to focus on those areas where we may differ. As the Scriptures say, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" Ephesians 4:3.

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SPECIAL GUESTS



AUTHOR, "THE CIRCLE
MAKER" & PASTOR,
NATIONAL COMMUNITY
CHURCH

MARK BATTERSON



AUTHOR, "ORDERING
YOUR PRIVATE WORLD"
& EDITOR AT LARGE,
LEADERSHIP JOURNAL

GORDON MACDONALD



PROFESSOR, MIT &
ORIGINATOR OF
MIT OPENOURSEWARE

DICK YUE



CEO, CHILDREN IN CHRIST
FULL NAME AND PICTURE WITHHELD
FOR SECURITY PURPOSES

JENNIFER

SPEAKERS



EDDIE
LYONS



BRUCE
GARNER



JON
SLAYDEN



KEVIN
WHITACRE



STEVE
VAN WINKLE



BRIAN
MOORE



ARCHIE
EMERSON



PAUL
BLUE

SEPTEMBER 19-21

IN THE TRENCHES

THE BBFI: EDUCATION

Pastor

Terry Kizer
Pastor | Alliance Baptist Church | Fort Worth, TX

My mom and stepdad separated when I was 16, and divorced when I was 17. I dropped out of school when they separated and started working on a framing crew to take care of my little brother and sister (who was pregnant at the time). When I turned 18, I was hired at a commercial print shop where I earned a living for the next 20 years.

I met my wife and we were married when I was 20. One year later, I was saved at Southwood Baptist Church where Lloyd Taylor pastored. At age 24, I felt the call to ministry and shared that call with my wife and pastor. I was advised to go to college.

My idea was to enroll in community college first because of the expense. When I went for the entrance exam however, I discovered I was not “smart” enough to enroll in college and was encouraged to attend literacy classes at the local library. I was devastated and I had no idea what

that meant for my future.

A short time later, Helen Sullivan from Arlington Baptist College learned of my story and said, “Have him come out here, I can help him.” I went, enrolled in a remedial English class and Bible Study Methods, and I was off and running. One year later I passed the GED test.

It took from the fall of 1985 until May 1992, and a lot of sleepless nights and long days to finish my bachelor’s degree. I did all this while being a husband working full time in the printing industry, part time as a youth pastor, and being a dad for the final three years of college. But we made it! I was the first one in my family to earn a college degree.

In 1996, we started Alliance Baptist Church in North Fort Worth as a part of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. God has done so many wonderful things through our ministry here. It has been incredible how He has used

our church to support the Fellowship (local and national), the missionaries, the colleges, and the church planters.

Twenty years after graduating college, I am attending Southwestern Seminary to begin a Master’s program. I am close to finishing the MTS and plan to earn the MDiv as well. I believe education is vitally important to our continued growth as leaders and pastors. I am thankful for men like Mark Milioni and his team and David Melton and his team for educating our future pastors, missionaries, and Christian leaders. Education is needed to excel the Kingdom and reach others for Christ.

My education was vitally important to the success of my ministry, and I am thankful to be a part of the education system of the BBFI. It is our future. Our students inspire me! Our professors encourage me. I see the investments our colleges make in our students and I am grateful.

Class of 2016 (BBC)

Tabitha Clapp
Baptist Bible College - Class of 2016

How can I summarize what the past four years at BBC has done for me in just a short article? When I first arrived at BBC, I was terrified to be independent from my parents for the first time. I knew God had called me to attend BBC, but I was hesitant to follow through with His calling on my life.

As I began my freshmen classes and to build relationships, I became more comfortable and immediately started to feel at home at BBC. Then it happened: I fell in love with my school.

My professors pushed me outside my comfort zone and challenged my Biblical worldview, my thinking, and my approach to problem-solving. My love for God and for His Word grew on a daily basis. I thought I knew

all there was to know about God and what He expected from me, but every class taught me something new in my Christian walk. There was not a day I did not see passion and hard work from the professors in the classroom. Their care and love for every student who came through the door pushed me to work my hardest and to do my best on every assignment. I have made lifelong friends and spiritual mentors who desire my best and push me towards Christ-likeness.

At the beginning of my senior year, I had the opportunity to become the resident assistant for the girls living on second floor Vick. My mentors in the student life department have shown me how to gracefully lead and to mentor others. I have learned how to do ministry and how to love

every student as they have loved me. BBC has pushed me to become more than I ever thought was possible.

God has His hand on BBC and is continuing to bless the hard work that has been put into my school. Now, having walked across the stage to receive my Intercultural Studies degree, I think back to who I was as a scared freshman and to who I am now. I am beyond ready and excited to begin the task God has called me to fulfill. I am and will forever be thankful for BBC and the impact it has had on my life. I would not be where I am today without BBC.

Class of 2016 (Boston)

Mike Quinlan

Boston Baptist College - Class of 2016

College! It's a major life decision. And when you intend to prepare for ministry, then the importance meter really gets cranked up. Prospective students wade through a deluge of recruitment catalogs, agonize over their major, worry about finances, wonder if they will make new friends, and hope the professors are not overly dull. Parents consider the quality of education and investigate the on-campus environment. Caring pastors give their input while praying the precious clay they send away will not be sculpted to the secular world, but chiseled into a Biblical mold that can be used by God.

When I prayerfully considered this important choice, I realized Boston Baptist College was the right one for me. A distinct combination of Scriptural supremacy, academic excellence, a relational environment, and unique opportunities

set it apart from the rest. Now, as I graduate, I can look back and say it truly exceeded my expectations.

At Boston Baptist College, I learned about the authority and centrality of the Bible, the intricacies of theology, and the importance of the local church; but I also learned about the necessity of taking these timeless truths and lovingly communicating them in a relevant way to impact today's lost and messed up world.

The quality of education I received at Boston Baptist College was second to none. Professor Patterson, a veritable walking encyclopedia of history both Biblical and secular, is just one of the many gifted instructors among the faculty. Adjunct professors, like Bruce Garner, a pastor from California, and Mike Ivey, a missionary to Korea, share their ministry experiences in the classroom. Dr. Malcom Yarnell, an influential Baptist theologian and author, was a visiting professor for my Senior Seminar. Every course was saturated with academic excellence. However, that only paints half the picture. These godly role models were also genuinely concerned and engaged in my life, growth, and ministry.

When I was perplexed with how to help a friend struggling with PTSD, Professor Amador, also a reserve army chaplain, provided some much-needed guidance. Knowing I was from Kansas City, Professor Gillming invited me to his home to cheer on the Chief's playoff game. At every juncture, I found instructors who wanted to build a relationship and make a personal investment in me.

Even with the Biblical primacy, the great education, and the caring professors, let's be honest, most prospective students are still looking for that x-factor; that one thing that will make a Bible college stand out from the crowd. This is where Boston Baptist College bursts ahead of the pack. Yearly (and affordable) study trips are available to allow students to see the Bible come alive in Israel, follow the journeys of Paul in Greece and Turkey, delve into church history in Europe, and trace the history of the English Bible in Britain and Ireland. Plus, the campus is in Boston, a vibrant modern metropolis that is teeming with historical sites.

Boston was my choice for college. And it was a great choice.

Missionary

Keith Gandy

BBFI Missionary | Germany

It is my personality, I suppose — I am inquisitive and love to learn. The best days are those when I learn something useful and beneficial. I am a firm believer in the axiom "The more you know ...", and add ... the further you go. It has been correctly stated: leaders are readers. Always expanding knowledge and widening horizons is a way to deepen the leader and the organization.

For that reason, I am drawn to those organizations and institutions that instill a desire to explore, comprehend, and teach future generations.

Moses said, "Teaching sons is what real dads do"

Paul said, "Teaching faithful disciples is what real discipling leaders do"

The wise king Solomon said, "Son, listen to what wisdom has to teach you"

There is something magnetic about students

that sponge up information, even when the questions come fast and furious.

When Tim Adrian, chairman of the Baptist Bible College Trustee board, contacted me about filling a vacant seat on the board, we spoke about the responsibilities and even the things I might bring to the table to add value. The carrot dangled was the opportunity to speak into the lives of mission students. Enough said. I'm in. In retrospect, it was a turbulent time — we were immediately tasked with survival: Find a school president, find enough finances to survive in order to fight another day. Many of those initial meetings would go into the wee hours of the next morning. Was it worth it?

In April of this year, a couple of churches asked me to report about ministry in Germany. In the few days between meetings, we took the opportunity and to drive 12 hours to the BBC

campus and be with students. President Milioni and his competent staff have brought a vibrant healthy spirit to the campus!

Sitting with students who invited me to their lunch table brought a delightful conversation. Hope Suffelette illustrated this inquisitive nature and "googled" the guest at the table: "If you had only one thing to share with us of a younger generation, what would it be?" That is the spirit of learning that will carry this delightful young student far in life and ministry. It is what an institution of learning desires to instill. It is what makes a 12-hour car trip worth every mile.

Learning and its reverse side, teaching, is important because it reflects the commitment to carrying on the unbroken chain of our once-delivered doctrine and faith. Learning is the desire to sharpen our ability to deliver that unchanging message to an ever-changing society.

Why the Fellowship Needs Baptist Bible College by Mark Milioni | President, Baptist Bible College

Have you ever wondered what would happen if there was no Baptist Bible College? What might your life be like if BBC had never existed and someone had not learned how to share the gospel, or preach, or start a church, or be a great pastor or missionary? Where would we be without BBC?

What started as a small Bible college in Springfield, MO, has reached around the world with the Gospel, producing dynamic leaders who have started churches, gone to the ends of the earth as missionaries, and developed ministries like MANNA Worldwide, Hope International, Awana, and even Liberty University.

Our Fellowship has depended on BBC to train our pastors and missionaries for many years, but why does the Fellowship need BBC now? Aren't there other colleges that can produce ministry leaders? The more I travel and attend seminars regarding higher education, the more I realize there is no place like BBC. God has ordained, entrusted, anointed, and called us to make a difference in the world for Jesus Christ.

The Fellowship needs BBC now more than ever before. Why?

1. BECAUSE THE WORLD NEEDS THE TRUTH

Our world needs the truth of God's Word. How can you know that it is the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God and how can you explain that? You learn this at BBC.

How can you explain why Jesus is the only way, the importance of the virgin birth, of fulfilled prophecies, of how his blood has paid the price for our sin? How can you explain the resurrection, the rapture, heaven and hell? How can you explain the concept of eternity? You learn this at BBC.

2. BECAUSE THE LOCAL CHURCH IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD

BBC is not a church, but we are here to serve the local church. God's plan from the beginning was for the Gospel to be preached and work to be done in and through local churches. This is where people are saved, baptized, taught, and sent.

Why does the Fellowship need BBC? Because the local church is the hope of the world. Our Fellowship is made up of pastors and local churches. BBC exists to train men and women for ministry through the local church. Our Fellowship cannot continue to exist unless we have strong leadership in our local churches. We are needed now more than ever before to provide these strong, well-trained leaders for our churches, mission fields, and ministries.

3. BECAUSE WE CANNOT WAIT FOR OTHERS

There are many fine colleges, but God has given us His direction. He created this college to inspire and train people to reach this world with the Gospel. He gave us this mission and we cannot ask someone else to carry out what has been entrusted to us. If we believe God has created the BBFI, then we must give our all to do what God has called us to do. We cannot wait for someone else while millions are lost and dying.

4. BECAUSE THE KING DESERVES OUR BEST

We all realize ministry is a tough job. That is why

we work so hard, teach and expect our students to learn, strive to meet every accreditation standard, and encourage our students to do their best. We want to train the best leaders in the world to meet the needs of the local churches in our Fellowship.

Why? Because God, who gave His only begotten Son, deserves it.

The Fellowship needs BBC. This old school has taught men and women who could barely speak how to stand and share the Word.

This old school has produced some of the greatest preachers and leaders that the world has ever known.

This old school is worn. It needs a lot. It has been mocked. It has been criticized. It has been rejected.

But, this old school has survived. God still has a plan and purpose for us. The future strength of our Fellowship depends on the strength of our college. Let's work together to be stronger than ever.

ASSESSING THE VALUE OF EDUCATION by Doug Cox, BBFI third vice president

The fourth level language teacher at Yonsei University in Seoul surveyed her class of Western missionaries with disappointment. Their confidence was undaunted by a year of language study, but their competency fell far short of excellence. The speaker presented his talk with passion. Unfortunately, the he consistently used the wrong word for *hope*. Although only one letter different, the word used was *samang* instead of *somang*, meaning death not hope.

Trying to encourage the class to excellence, the teacher said, "If you speak to my head, I will listen. But, if you speak to my heart, I will follow." Her illustration made the point. Outcomes always reveal the level of excellence. Education is important because the outcome matters.

AN ENTRANCE

In our global worldview, education provides entrance to communities populated by people without Christ. The secular world is being redefined, and the master's degree has seemingly become the entry-level requirement for leadership. Paul reminded Timothy to "study to show thyself approved ..." in 2 Timothy 2:15.

Forty Years ... Together by Dave Melton | President, Boston Baptist College

Forty years ago, 1976. I was a high school kid driving an old Oldsmobile. That company doesn't even exist anymore! In 1976, a peanut farmer from Georgia wanted to be President. Back then everybody knew what 7-11 was but nobody ever referenced 9-11. In 1976, our local Boston Red Sox hadn't won a World Series since the end of World War I!

Of course, 1976 was the same year a group of Baptist pastors started a new college, originally in New York state, called Baptist Bible College East. The founders had a dream — a ministry college in the northeast — where so many millions live who have so little access to biblical churches. John Rawlings and A. V. Henderson were the leaders. But they were hardly alone. The BBFI joined the dream, and so the journey began. Now, four decades have incredibly flown by. Most of those first dreamers have gone on to glory. We lost Harry Boyle back in 2010. John Rawlings went to heaven in 2013, and then just last year A. V. Henderson passed. Others, like Col. Jack Henry, whose leadership in the 1980's could never be overstated, are in

incredibly fragile health. But their dream, their legacy, this aspect of their lives' work lives on and thrives. Today, after 40 years, together, we have built Boston Baptist College — an accredited, reputable, Baptist fortress of truth in the northeast. We stand on the shoulders of some great men and march into the future with, I trust, the same heart and mission.

This dream of a Baptist college with a ministry heart and focus in the northeast was backwards from the very beginning. Colleges like Boston Baptist are always started either at a large church that serves as a hub for churches around it, or at least where there is a strong local contingency of churches. For the BBF, we had neither of those in the northeast in 1976. Instead, the founders were driven by the lack of those kinds of churches in this heavily populated region! This college was founded to produce churches and focus on the needs of the northeast. The college has certainly contributed much to that end.

In the providence of God, this BBF dream (some worried it would be a nightmare!) landed

**AT BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE,
WE ARE EDUCATING OUR CHURCH
LEADERS OF TOMORROW TO STAND
TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE INCREASINGLY
SCRIPTURELESS CULTURE.**

in Boston. As best I can research, the move to Boston was almost entirely financial — a former Catholic property that fit the size and price point came on the market. But I want to suggest, that this was more, much more, than good competitive shopping. As we begin our fifth decade, together, in Boston, we find ourselves positioned not only to continue our founders' conviction for church leaders, but also to engage the exploding paganization of our culture. I keep saying this to anybody I can ... Boston is the epicenter of the intellectual culture. The world's finest come to Boston to study. Tomorrow's leaders in all endeavors are studying in Boston now, right now ... almost a half million college students! And we are here, too. At Boston Baptist College we are educating our church leaders of tomorrow to stand toe-to-toe with the ever-increasingly-Scriptureless culture. No other Baptist group, no other evangelical college, has a Boston address. This is uniquely a BBF accomplishment. God has used us, together, to bring this college into existence, and to grow it into this platform of biblical thought, right under the nose of the forces of evil.

Boston Baptist College is full-blown educational engagement. When we need mission work done, we understand fully we need to put boots on the ground, to follow the Pauline example — to go to where they are, to the ends of the earth. When we see a need and feel a calling to plant a new church, we recognize that we have to uproot our church planter and move him to that place. Being there gives you the opportunity to influence "there." When it comes to the vigorous, mentally-accelerated academic world, there is only one "there." Boston is the hub of all things academic. The whole world knows it. And we know it, too. That dream, that 40-year-old dream ... near lunacy, outlandish, over-the-top daring ... it's now a reality. It's Boston Baptist College at 40. It's us. Together.

A PLATFORM

God's church must sit at the table of relevance in society's moral debates as educational institutions have challenged spiritual truth. Christians must not only state the truth, they must be able to apply the truth with relevance. In a spiritually bankrupt society, we need to reestablish truth as the basis for belief. Education is the platform upon which we learn to think and communicate with effectiveness.

AN ASSET

In the world's portfolio of power, military might, financial might, and political position are being nudged aside by knowledge and education. Knowledge is power, and education is the conveyor of knowledge.

In a world that openly challenges truth, Christians cannot afford to be poorly prepared. Education must be highly valued.

Affiliate Schools

Affiliate Institutions occupy a unique relationship with the BBFI. They must apply for recognition and meet several requirements. Once approved they are allowed to receive money through the Mission Office, their graduates will be recognized as meeting the educational requirements to become candidates as BBFI missionaries and they are recognized in BBFI meetings and communication outlets.

LOUISIANA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Louisiana Baptist University was founded in 1973 as a ministry of Baptist Tabernacle in Shreveport, LA. The school remained small during its early years, but it graduated some exceptional students who are now successful Fellowship pastors.

In January 1993, the university went through a major transformation with a new name, a new Board of Trustees, a restated Charter and, most importantly, a new direction. It was decided, rather than build another brick-and-mortar school like the Fellowship schools in Springfield and Boston, LBU would focus mostly on distance education, benefiting both the university and the Baptist Bible Fellowship.

For over two decades, LBU has had substantial growth. They bought and remodeled a campus, and three years ago built a new conference center. Enrollment has grown to well over 1,000 students, with a large number of those students doing their undergraduate work at Baptist Bible College or Boston Baptist College and their graduate work through LBU's online degree program.

LBU also established the International Student Training Educational Program (INSTEP). Its purpose is to serve foreign missionaries by providing low-cost, quality education to train nationals for church planting and world evangelism. LBU provides curriculum, textbooks, and other educational supplies.

Beginning with only one school in Kenya, INSTEP now has 52 schools in over 20 countries. Fellowship missionaries run almost all of those schools. LBU currently has students in over 40 countries.

From its humble beginning, LBU has grown into a global university, gratefully serving the churches and pastors of the BBFI.

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE ASIA

If missions is the strong right arm of our Fellowship, education is the key to accomplishing that vision. Through BBC and other BBFI partner schools, multiple generations have been equipped to go into the world. This instruction in doctrinal truth and practical methodology is the very same aim Baptist Bible College Asia seeks to achieve.

Entering into its 16th year of training effective leaders for the 21st century, BBCEAsia has reached an enrollment of over 1,600 students. With this growth comes an ongoing pursuit to offer our students a first-rate education. This focus on training is the inheritance we received through our BBFI roots. But our efforts here in the Philippines also instill the DNA of the Fellowship into hundreds of Filipino pastors, church planters, missionaries, and lay leaders. These men and women carry the mark of the BBFI on their hearts: our theological core, our evangelistic emphasis, our church-planting focus, and our commitment to work together to accomplish more than we can possibly attain on our own.

BBCAsia founder and president Greg Lyons (a veteran BBFI missionary) stated, “We don’t even know yet the ideas and strategies God has placed in the hearts of these students that will be unleashed on the world through the efforts of BBCAsia, but our goal is to train so many leaders that we must overflow into the rest of Southeast Asia.” This is a reminder of the global spiritual transformation God makes possible through ministry preparation at BBCAsia.

Editor's Note: The national directors voted to accept two additional schools as affiliates during the May 2016 National Meeting. Our publishing deadline did not allow time to gather and include a complete report for either of the new affiliates.



On A Global Scale

by Jon Konnerup, BBFI Mission Director

If all we do is turn on light switches and move to another place, we are not completing the Great Commission as Jesus gave it to us.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. - Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus said we are to teach them to observe all things that He has commanded. We just can't leave believers to struggle, figuring things out on their own, as this will impair their growth and the training of pastors and leaders. They

need to know what to teach and how to teach it.

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. - 2 Timothy 2:2


Training and equipping future pastors and teachers requires career missionaries to be on the mission field. This arduous process takes people committed to being on the ground, living with the people, learning the language and culture, and being an example of Christ – every day before the people.

Bible institutes and Bible colleges, meeting in church buildings, homes, and other facilities

are vital resources in accomplishing this training. Our missionaries, who studied and prepared for world missions, begin training those who have been saved and desire to serve God. No matter where they meet, leaders are being established in the faith and ministry.

It takes career missionaries teaching them to observe all Christ has commanded in His Word. In the graphic below, countries in red indicate areas of the world in which BBFI missionaries have established training institutions.

Once properly trained, indigenous leaders will complete the process of the Great Commission among their people.

 Countries where BBFI missionaries have established training institutions.





MAY 2016 BBFI NATIONAL MEETING REPORT By Randy Harp



Mark Batterson writes in his book *All In*, “If Jesus is not Lord of all then Jesus is not Lord at all.” “All In” was the theme for the 66th Annual Graduation Fellowship Week held on the campus of Baptist Bible College. Hundreds of pastors, church staff, missionaries, and alumni made their annual “pilgrimage” back to Springfield for one of the BBFI’s highlights. Those able to make it to this year’s event were encouraged and challenged to go all in for Jesus, the Gospel, and worldwide evangelism.

This year’s May meeting emphasized those areas that make the BBFI special. Continuing the momentum from the Global Fellowship Meeting in Korea, there was a focus on missions. As is expected from a BBFI meeting, there was also great preaching. And we all know anytime a few pastors get together there will be plenty of fellowship. Of course, there was the need to conduct the normal

business of the Fellowship. And, for close to 50 students, the most important part of the week was the graduation ceremony.

MISSIONS

One couple and one single career missionary were approved and one couple was reinstated. Christian and Shawna Hendrick were approved as missionaries to the Democratic Republic of Congo. They served part of their internship as TEAM missionaries working alongside Elmer Deal. A single lady was approved as a missionary to a creative access nation in south Asia. Richard and Missy Orrick were reinstated as missionaries to Wales.

There were two TEAM (short-term) missionaries approved. Wade and Shannon Cooperrider will work with Brian and Rachel Weed in Nicaragua. Joshua and Teah Lane

will serve with Wesley and Melina Lane in the Dominican Republic.

Jim and Geri McCarty (Hong Kong and Taiwan) and a couple serving in a creative access nation received their 30-year pins, while Frank and Karen Auterson (Ethiopia and New Guinea) were recognized for their 50 years of service as BBFI missionaries.

Mission Director Jon Konnerup shared dates for upcoming mission events. The BBFI Missionary Family Reunion will be held June 13-17 in Branson, MO. Missionary Candidate School is July 11-15 at the Mission Office in Springfield. The World Mission Forum is an event hosted by the Mission Office to discuss and inform about world evangelism. The first forum was held at Baptist Bible College and a second is being planned for this fall in Texas.

A new BBFI Missions mobile app was also introduced. This app will help pastors



"There are only two reasons to go all in ... you either have an unbeatable hand, or you are desperate. Both are true for pastors today."

-Mark Hoover

and church members stay in better contact with their BBFI missionaries and it will inform potential new missionaries of the mission office services.

PREACHING

Seven men preached during Fellowship Week, all with the theme "All In." Tom Messer preached Monday night on the supremacy of the Gospel. It was a reminder, at the end of the day, the Gospel is sufficient to meet all of our needs. Tuesday morning included three speakers, Jason Henderson, Matt Eachus, and John Houston. I do not believe it was intentional, but all three shared on the struggles of ministry. I heard many people say they were possibly the most honest and transparent messages on ministry struggles ever heard at a national Fellowship meeting.

Mark Hoover spoke Tuesday night on the

importance of being all in for reaching your community for Christ. The phrase, "Draw a crowd and preach the Word" was repeated often. Jon Konnerup wrapped up Wednesday's mission morning with a challenge to align with and stay focused on God's mission — to share the Gospel with the world. Jonathan Falwell was the final speaker of the week, on Wednesday night, and used Noah as a biblical illustration of being all in. You can listen to these messages on the new BBFI mobile app, online, or the BBFI Leadership Podcast on iTunes.

FELLOWSHIP

You can't have a Fellowship meeting without fellowship. The second annual Party in the Parking Lot took place after Monday night's services. The parking lot, commonly referred to as the Caf Pit, was transformed and lit

to intentionally provide attendees a place to catch up and reconnect. The BBC food services provided several stations with a variety of food from alligator tail and a whole hog to deep fried cookie dough balls and ice cream slushies.

BBC provided a breakfast for the men to enjoy prior to their meeting on Tuesday morning while the women gathered for a ladies meeting with pastor's wife Judy Henderson speaking. Tuesday afternoon also provided a time of fellowship at the BBC Alumni and Friends Banquet.

BUSINESS

During the business meeting Tuesday, pastors received reports from the Mission Office, colleges, APEX, and the Tribune. BBC President Mark Milioni shared the need to remodel the BBC dorms at \$7,500 per dorm room. Baptist Bible College and Institute of

Costa Rica and Grace School of Theology in The Woodlands, TX, were introduced as BBFI affiliate schools. APEX reports being ahead of schedule in reducing liabilities and has operated in the black for the past two years. Communication Director Randy Harp shared highlights of his first six months, introduced the new BBFI mobile app, and shared the current financial state of the *Tribune* and the need for new partners.

Other business included forming a committee to examine the current BBFI Constitution and Bylaws to evaluate its language in lieu of current political and cultural challenges. The ballot for BBFI national officers was also presented and distributed to supporting pastors. Those in attendance could submit their completed ballot during the business meeting. If you were not in attendance you are encouraged to participate by contacting the BBFI Mission

Office by phone or email (elections@bbfmissions.com) and requesting a ballot be mailed to your church. All ballots must be returned to the Mission Office postmarked by July 1 to be counted. (For a listing of candidates see page 22.) Ben Feldott wrapped up the business meeting with an invitation for all to attend the September Fellowship Meeting at his church in Cape Cod, MA. (For more information see ad on page 9.)

GRADUATES

For 47 people, the highlight of the week came at Thursday morning's graduation ceremony. This year marked the completion of President Milioni's first freshmen class. It also included the graduation of eleven from the seminary with a master's degree. The trustee board conferred an honorary doctorate degree to Jonathan Falwell, this year's commencement speaker.

Photo coverage continues on page 24



THE RIGHT ANGLE

BIBLICAL WISDOM FOR A CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Q.

What is the intended purpose for daily devotions?

By Kevin Carson

A. Generally speaking, devotions fall into one of two styles. Some provide the storyline or context of the Bible (usually accomplished through a Bible-reading plan where one reads systematically through the Bible). Other methods of devotions strive for content and greater understanding of meaning. Both styles are helpful.

Regardless, all devotions should focus on helping you grow in communion with God and living consistent in fellowship with Him. Notice how James describes it.

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (James 1:25)

THREE STAGES OF DAILY DEVOTIONS

Read for Comprehension. Regardless of how many verses are read, focus on a particular verse or verses. To “look” means to stoop over to observe. Essentially, you want to know what was said, where it was said, to whom it was said, and why it was said. Ask:

1. Who is the author? Who are the characters in the story/episode? Who are the recipients of the letter?
2. When and where is it taking place (setting)? and
3. What is the author teaching (authorial intent)? Your goal is to comprehend what a particular verse means.

Remember What You Read. Intentionally remember what you read, “continuing or remaining” in the meaning of the passage throughout the day. The psalmist refers to this, “But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law does he meditate day and night” (Psalm 1:1). To help you remember, try the following:

1. Use a journal to write the verse and its meaning.
2. Write the verse on an index card and set a goal to read it 10 to 25 times throughout the day.
3. Take time to discuss what you read with a friend, family member, or colleague.

Apply What You Read. Once you understand the meaning of the text, apply it to your daily living. Key questions to connect what you have read with your life include:

1. How does the meaning of the text correlate to your personal situation?
2. What do these verses reveal about who God is or what He does? (You are setting the scenario to understand the “bigger issue” at hand; not just your present problem or situation.)
3. What do these verses reveal about me or people in general?

4. What should I resolve to do in response to these verses/passage? What is explicit and implicit in the text? What looks wise as a result of the passage’s meaning?

5. How does this passage help me love God or love my neighbor?

Write key issues of application in your journal. Then share your desired application with someone for accountability.

WHAT IS THE RESULT?

When you read, remember, and apply God’s Word, God blesses and rewards your efforts in seeking to honor Him. He strengthens and encourages you in your inner man, while establishing you in every good word and work. Further, you begin to live more consistent with what you read, which brings more blessings.

TEST THE RESULTS

James challenges you, in the next two verses, to consider whether or not you are actually religious — are you the real deal? It starts with your tongue. Do you have control of your tongue? Are you serving others selflessly? Are you living a pure lifestyle? James expects his readers to read, consider, remember, and apply God’s Word to everyday life and circumstances.

Have a question?

Submit your question to TheRightAngle@Tribune.org. Due to space limitations, not all questions may be answered in print. Questions that do appear in this section will have all personal identification removed. For questions requiring answers beyond the scope of a simple Q&A forum such as this, the Tribune recommends you contact a local biblical counselor. The advice given here is not a substitute for a personal conversation with your local biblical counselor.

Kevin Carson serves as department chair of Biblical Counseling at Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary in Springfield, MO. He is the pastor of Sunrise Baptist Church in Ozark, MO.

SPURGEON AND HIS BIOGRAPHERS

The individual Baptist preacher about whom more biographies have been written than any other must surely be Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892). The only possible challenger for this distinction is John Bunyan, the Bedford tinker. Spurgeon, pastor of Metropolitan Tabernacle in South London, a mega-church with a multitude of ministries reaching far and wide, was truly a legend in his own time, and it is affirmed even in our day, nearly a century and quarter after his death, he still exceeds any other single Christian author in the number of different volumes he authored which are currently in print.

Because of the immensity of his ministry, its worldwide influence, and the remarkable accomplishments in his very full 57-plus years, Spurgeon has been the subject of a multitude of biographies. There has been a continuing fascination and interest in this man of God, his up-bringing and training, his remarkable abilities as preacher, writer, and administrator, his doctrinal views and his commitment to biblical truth. But with more than 30 published English biographies of Spurgeon, where should one begin his reading, or which are most worthy of one's time, attention and money? Having read more than 20 different Spurgeon biographies, and possessing several more, I can characterize them variously as excellent, adequate and just so-so. (Titles will only be given for volumes that don't have the name "Spurgeon" in them).

Spurgeon's *Autobiography* must be counted as the single most important account. Spurgeon himself occasionally penned individual chapters expressly for a projected autobiography, but much of this account is a compilation gleaned from Spurgeon's voluminous writings by his personal secretary Mr. Joseph Harrald and his widow Susannah Spurgeon. His sons also made contributions. This richly illustrated account was originally published in 1897-1900 in four volumes (1,511 total pages), *quarto*, by Spurgeon's longtime London publishers Passmore and Alabaster. Used copies are readily obtainable, and a reduced size facsimile edition in two volumes, *octavo*, has been published by Pilgrim Publications of Pasadena, TX. The Banner of Truth Trust issued a two-volume abridged edition titled *The Early Years* (1963; 562 pp.) and *The Full Harvest* (1973; 520 pp.). Reading this abridged edition as a graduate student was a milestone in my Christian life. In our modern lazy era, perhaps few would be inclined to undertake to read a four-volume biography of anyone, but to neglect this

biography of Spurgeon would be a great mistake.

There were a few Spurgeon biographies written while he was still alive. Among these are those by William Walters (1882; 336 pp.); and Geo. C. Needham, published in 1884, to mark Spurgeon's 50th birthday (631 pp.).

When Spurgeon died in 1892, a torrent of biographies began to issue from the presses. Among the best of these are those penned by people who knew him personally for years, often being students in his college and co-laborers in his many ministries. Two companion volumes are *From the Pulpit to the Palm-Branch* edited by W. Y. Fullerton (1892; 281 pp.), an official account of Spurgeon's funeral, followed by *From the Usher's Desk to the Tabernacle Pulpit* by R. Shindler (1892; 316 pp.). G. Holden Pike published an account in 1892 (397 pp.) followed by the fullest biography outside the *Autobiography*, in six volumes (1894; 1,150 pp.; facsimile reprint, bound in two volumes, BOTT, 1991). W. Williams (1895; 288 pp.); W. Y. Fullerton (1920; 358 pp.); and J. C. Carlisle (1933; 312 pp.) all contributed worthwhile accounts. American pastor Russell Conwell, who had met and interviewed Spurgeon, hastily compiled an adequate but not excellent biography of Spurgeon (1892; 616 pp.) that had an immense sale (over 125,000 copies in four months).

As the advancing years have cast Spurgeon in clearer historical perspective, additional biographers have undertaken to write his life. In the mid- to late-20th century, several single-volume biographies of Spurgeon were written, among them those by Richard E. Day, *The Shadow of the Broad Brim* (1934; 236 pp.); Ernest Bacon (1967; 184 pp.); Bob Ross, *A Pictorial Biography of C. H. Spurgeon* (1974; 136 pp.); and Eric Hayden *Highlights in the Life of C. H. Spurgeon*. These give adequate introductions to the man, and whet the appetite for other, fuller accounts. Arnold Dallimore's 1984 biography (252 pp.) is among the better modern biographies, and the fullest on the famous tobacco and ale controversies. Lewis Drummond's 1992 volume is the longest recent Spurgeon biography at 895 pages. It is not well edited and uneven in quality, but has easily the best account of the "Down-grade controversy."

There are more than a dozen additional published Spurgeon biographies, some old, some recent, some of which I own, a few of which I have read, and some I have never seen. A full accounting of Spurgeon's biographies and biographers would require a book all by itself.

Marriage in an urbanized world

Living in a large metropolitan area for a generation and a half, I still find it fascinating and disturbing that the sociology of urban America a generation ago has become the sociology of our entire culture.

Perhaps this is demonstrated most dramatically in the marriage arena.

When Mark tearfully told me 40 years ago he didn't see how his love relationship with John could possibly be wrong, it was part of my education, and a wakeup call.

Historically, homosexuals gravitated to large cities, seeking others like themselves and desiring to live away from the social structures of their smaller cities and towns and the prying, if not condemning, eyes of family and friends. This was known to the general public in some vague, distant kind of way.

Of course, lately, a tsunami of different thinking has covered the land of the free and the home of the brave. The political activism that was confined to a particular ward in a given city has become state and federal law in such a swift sweep that sociologists and historians will be calling it "stunning" years from now. Marriage has been "re-defined."

The sea change did not come from nowhere. The Sexual Revolution unmoored Judeo-Christian mores. Biblical absolutes were washed away in the tide of "if it feels good, do it" and "who are you to judge my pursuit of happiness?" Christians began divorcing their spouses at record rates. Pulpits went soft, if not silent, on divorce and remarriage. If Pharisees were wonders at creating interpretations of interpretations of the Law, contemporary evangelicals seemed to become wonders at finding every loose, loopy interpretation of Scripture to accommodate the selfish individualistic whims of people in our pews wanting to end a marriage.

Arguably, there is a link between the "Christian" "marriage my way" of the last 50

years and the current cultural "marriage my way."

Note the stressors in urban living.

Intensity. There is an intensity that permeates every facet of life. The population density, the traffic, the noise all play to a unique intensity.

Pace. The intensity creates a pace characteristic of urban living. Harried, hurried, late, pushing, pressing, squeezing to make the most of every minute of every day because there's so much to do. It takes longer to do it, and it has to be done now.

Schedule. Naturally, this impacts everyone. Of course it impacts family time, husband/wife time.

Stress. The above creates a stress level that never lets up.

Sexualization. Everything, everything is sexualized. The appeal to sexuality is naked, pervasive, multifaceted, life-sized, relentless.

Baggage. What about the fact that because moral standards have eroded rapidly in the last half of the last century, almost everybody comes into a marriage with relational baggage? This may be one of the greater understatements of the generation.

Expectations. At the same time, people thoroughly "Hollywood-ized" and more self-centered than ever, if that's possible, come to relationships with higher, dare we say unreasonable, and impossible expectations. Naturally, this is a setup for disaster.

Support systems. At the same time, support systems for healthy marriages are fewer and farther between. Also, people take less advantage of existing support systems. Often people have moved away from family. They are anonymous in their neighborhood. Schedule and life demands cut into consistent church attendance. Forget about meaningful engagement with a community of believers. Extended family, church, and social structures, all which used to support the institution of

marriage, aren't in the mix or have no force.

These realities now characterize our culture as a whole.

In cities like Corinth and Ephesus, where the first-century culture surely has enough commonality with the 21st-century to draw our attention, Paul speaks clearly regarding God's design for marriage. Think about it, one church per city consisting of new believers, many of whom are coming out of heathenism and stark hedonism.

Paul affirms God's design. "The husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her ..." Ephesians 5:23, 25 (NAS).

Paul teaches God's intention. "... But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. ... Stop depriving one another ..." 1 Corinthians 7: 2-3, 5a (NAS).

Paul reminds of God's boundaries. "... For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God" 1 Thessalonians 4: 3-5 (NAS).

Sexual integrity, without which there is no relational integrity, is not only held up as possible, it is expected. Relational integrity is not only possible, it's expected.

Christ-honoring marriages proclaim God's good news in a bad-news world. In a wounded world, good news is just what the doctor ordered.

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



PRESIDENT

**BILL HOWE**

Bill Howe pastors Liberty Church in Union, NJ (14 miles from Manhattan, NY). He was born in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland,

Canada, but grew up in Syracuse, NY, to adopted parents. During his 36 years in ministry, he has served as both associate pastor and senior pastor. He is a graduate of Boston Baptist College and has been a Pennsylvania state chairman, a Pennsylvania and New Jersey national director, and for five years was a Boston Baptist College trustee. Bill and his wife, Beverly, have three children.

**EDDIE LYONS**

Eddie Lyons pastors High Street Baptist Church in Springfield, MO. He grew up on the mission field of the Philippines and later

went back as a missionary for 20 years. He became pastor of High Street in 2002. Eddie is a graduate of Baptist Bible College and Ateneo University of Manila. He has been a trustee of Baptist Bible College, a vice chairman of the Missouri BBF, and currently is president of the BBFI. Eddie and his wife, Cindy, have five children.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT (MISSIONS)**TIM ADRIAN**

Tim Adrian pastors Westside Baptist Church in Hutchinson, KS. He is a third generation Baptist minister and has held

various positions in churches in Arizona and Colorado. Tim is a graduate of Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College, Liberty University, and Louisiana Baptist University. He has been a trustee of Baptist Bible College and a Kansas national director. Tim and his wife, Pam, have three children.

**JOHN REILLY**

John Reilly co-pastors Beacon Baptist Church in Taylor, MI.

During his time in ministry, he has served as youth pastor, music director, associate pastor, and executive pastor. He is a graduate of Baptist Bible College and has been a Boston Baptist College trustee, a Camp Chautauqua Committee member for the Michigan BBF, and was on the NCPO loan committee. John and his wife, Rhonda, have four children.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)**DOUG COX**

Doug Cox pastors Parkhill Baptist Church in Pueblo, CO. Prior, he served as a missionary in Korea and pastored in Arizona. He

has been at Parkhill for 19 years. Doug was a trustee of Baptist Bible College, a Colorado national director, and is currently 2nd vice president of the BBFI. He and his wife, Nancy, have two children.

**MICHAEL HALEY**

Michael Haley pastors Cross Creek Church in Fountain, CO.

He served as youth pastor for churches in Florida, Colorado, and Delaware before moving to Colorado. He is a graduate of Baptist Bible College and is the Colorado national director. Michael and his wife, Misti, have three children.

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3RD VICE PRESIDENT (CHURCH PLANTING)**DAN GREER**

Dan Greer pastors Community Baptist Church in The Woodlands, TX. During his 43 years of ministry, he has also

served as youth director and has planted two churches. Dan is a graduate of Baptist Bible College, has been director for the Texas BBF, and was part of the initial organizational team of the Home Missions and Evangelism Division of the BBFI. He currently serves as 3rd vice president of the BBFI. Dan and his wife, Gayla, have three children.

**LONNIE LEHRMAN**

Lonnie Lehrman pastors Granbury Baptist Church in Granbury, TX. He held various church positions in Texas,

Missouri, and Illinois before becoming lead pastor at Granbury 14 years ago. In that time, the church has started three churches. Lonnie is a Baptist Bible College graduate and has served as director for the Texas BBF and as a board member for MANNA Worldwide. He and his wife, Heather, have three children.

SECRETARY

**PAUL FOSTER**

Paul Foster pastors RiverWest Baptist Church in Jenks, OK. He grew up on the mission field of Korea. He has been in ministry

for 36 years including 22 years as youth pastor and 14 years as lead pastor in two church plants. Paul is a graduate of Baptist Bible College and has been an Oklahoma state chairman, an Oklahoma national director, and currently serves as secretary of the BBFI. Paul and his wife, Cindy, and have eight children.

**CHRIS HIGHFILL**

Chris Highfill pastors Grace River Church in O'Fallon, MO. Prior to planting Grace River, Chris was youth pastor for 13 years

at Seminole Baptist Church in Springfield, MO. He is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University and is a board member of the Chamber of Commerce in O'Fallon and the Saint Charles County Vision Leadership program. Chris and his wife, Sarah, have three children.

TREASURER

**ROB HOFFMAN**

Rob Hoffman pastors West Division Street Baptist Church in Springfield, MO. He has held various church positions

in Florida, Iowa, and Tennessee, and is a graduate of Baptist Bible College. He has served in a variety of offices of the BBFI, has been vice president of BBC, and is currently treasurer of the BBFI. Rob and his wife, Sharon, have two children.

**RON TAYLOR**

Ron Taylor pastors Rockaway Beach Church in Rockaway Park, NY (NYC). He is the director of ConnectingpointNYC which

ministers in the urban setting of New York City and is a graduate of Baptist Bible College. Ron and his wife, Susan, and have two children.

Pastors who were unable to attend the May meeting may request a ballot from the BBFI Mission Office and return it by mail by July 1. To request a ballot, call (417) 862-5001 or send an email request to elections@bbfmissions.com.

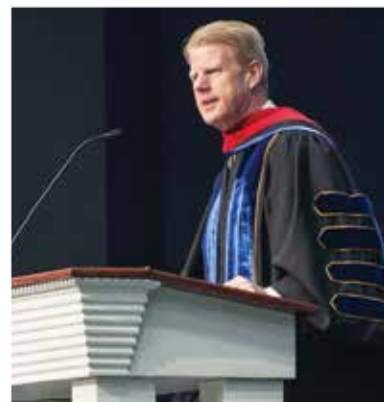
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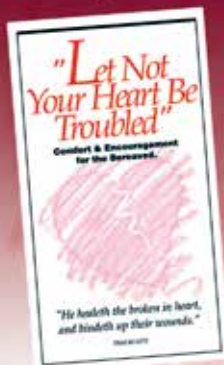
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SPRINGFIELD, MO

MISSIONARY CARE INVITATIONAL RAISES MORE THAN \$20,000

Twenty-one golf teams and 39 sponsors raised over \$20,000 towards care for BBFI missionaries at the recent Missionary Care Invitational held in Springfield, MO. A special thank you goes to primary sponsor Florence Baptist Temple, Pastor Bill Monroe.



OWASSO, OK

CARTERS CELEBRATE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Barton and Harriett Carter, longtime BBFI missionaries to the Philippine Islands and the Navajo Indian Nation, now retired and living in Owasso, OK, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary May 16, 2016. A reception for friends and family was held May 14 at the Family Center of Eastland Baptist Church in Tulsa, OK.



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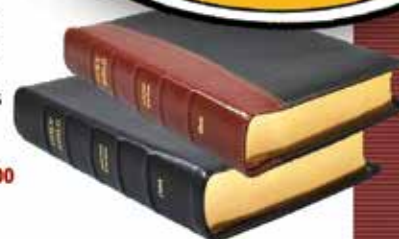
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SPRINGFIELD, MO

SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 75 YEARS, MISSIONS, AND A NEW PASTOR

South Side Baptist Church celebrated many things the weekend of April 8-10, 2016 — the church's 75th anniversary, their mission conference, and a new pastor.

South Side Baptist Church began April 7, 1941, with 13 people gathering in a small living room under the leadership of Pastor Bill McTeer. McTeer's daughter and charter member, Marilyn McTeer Zerbe, was in attendance for the church's 75th anniversary on Sunday morning April 10 along with

Springfield's mayor, Bob Stephens, who issued a mayoral proclamation recognizing South Side's 75th anniversary and its service to the Springfield community.

In the evening service, over 430 gathered as two of South Side's "daughter" churches, Parkcrest Baptist and Graceway Baptist of Springfield, joined in the anniversary service. Bible Baptist Church in Republic and Pastor Bud Everett (a previous pastor of Southside) also were present. The guest speaker was Pastor Bob

Stephenson of Graceway Baptist. Pastor Phil Housley of Parkcrest shared testimonies from two of his members who were saved as a direct result of Parkcrest's and in turn South Side's ministry. Graceway and Parkcrest generously gifted South Side with a sign renovation and presented an artist's rendition of the new sign.

The church also held their annual mission conference that weekend. Pastor Eric Doucet of Texas Avenue Baptist Church in College Station, TX, was the guest speaker. Missionaries in attendance were Beau and Valerie Moore (Portugal) and Josh and Brenda Lei Casey (Belgium). Both missionaries are sent from South Side Baptist Church.

Pastor Chadd Harkrider was called as pastor of South Side Baptist Church January 31, 2016. For the past ten years, he served as associate pastor of Texas Avenue Baptist Church in College Station, TX. Harkrider retired as the city marshal for College Station in January to become pastor of South Side.



Above left: Pastors Bob Stephenson (left) and Phil Housley (right) with Chadd Harkrider.
Right: Morgan and Chadd Harkrider.

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WITH THE LORD

FELTON, DE

DOROTHY PRICE

Dorothy Price, wife of retired pastor F. Dean Price, went home to be with her Lord April 29, 2016. She was born September 20, 1928, to Willie and Purvis Dees. She was the matriarch of a family who loved her well and she served faithfully with her husband in many ministries throughout the United States.

Dorothy is survived by her husband of almost 68 years, two daughters, six grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren. Services were held May 5 at Berry-Short Funeral Home, Felton, DE.

BATON ROUGE, LA

BETTY LOU HOLSKE

Betty Lou Holske, wife of longtime BBFI pastor and missionary W. F. Holske, passed from this life April 6, 2016, at the age of 92. She was born in Jane, MO, in 1923. After WWII, she and her husband were saved in a revival meeting in Joplin, MO. She was a pastor's wife in National City California and later she and Mr. Holske served as missionaries in Pakistan, Iran, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Mrs. Holske is survived by her two daughters, seven grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Gospel Light Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, LA.

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Participation in the Baptist Bible Fellowship International is open to any Baptist pastor of a supporting Baptist church believing in and adhering to the Word of God, on the basis of the BBFI Articles of Faith. For listing on this page, a Baptist church is one that declares in legal and/or faith documents it is Baptist in doctrine and practice. A supporting church is one that financially supports BBFI missions or colleges. (Sources: Constitution and Bylaws of the BBFI and the BBFI Contact Directory)

The BBFI is in my DNA

By Marty Hughes | Pastor | Grace Harbor Baptist Church | Grove, OK

When my mother walked across the platform at BBC to receive her diploma, I was already well on my way to making my grand entrance into the world. I have never been a member of a church that was not associated with the BBFI. My childhood heroes were not athletes, musicians, or movie stars, they were pastors, missionaries, evangelists, and pioneering church planters.

My first recollection of being a part of something bigger than myself was a trip to BBC with my father and two other pastors, Carl Bush and Clyde Barnes, when I was only nine years old. Those men were giants in my eyes and they were going to Springfield to challenge students to start BBF churches in the wide-open mission field of Wisconsin.

That visit opened my eyes to the passion our Fellowship has always had for training young men and women to turn the world upside down for Christ. It wasn't long after that visit I decided one day I would be a student at Baptist Bible College.

The four years I spent on BBC campus had a phenomenal impact on my life. In the classroom, I learned practical truth from men and women who had been on the front lines for Christ. In chapel, I heard from the best and brightest of our Fellowship. My heart was stirred and motivated to reach the world for Christ at any cost. The opportunities for practical ministry taught me things I could learn in no other way. But looking back, the most valuable resource I acquired during those years was the network of friends, associates, and mentors I have drawn on continually over the last 35 years of ministry.

This is the main reason the colleges and their respective alumni associations are so important to the success of our Fellowship. Ministry is difficult, if not impossible, to survive in isolation. Genuine fellowship thrives in an atmosphere of commonality. A common spirit, a common mission, and a common resource make for a fruitful endeavor. In a Fellowship as large and diverse as ours, we need a rallying point and a common connection to remind us we are part of something larger than ourselves.

As a BBFI pastor, I look at our colleges as my connection with the past. Strong and faithful leaders, at great personal cost, set the course and laid the foundation for a movement that would impact the world. We have a fruitful history, evidenced by the wonderful display during the international meeting in Seoul this spring.

But as Tom Messer said in his sermon during Fellowship Week, "The past is a point of reference, not a place of residence." Our

colleges are my connection to what God is doing right now in the present. As our churches grow and face challenges of an ever-decaying culture, we need the zeal and passion of youth to join us in the fight. New voices and fresh perspectives are not always welcomed, but they are needed if we are to break through the ever-increasing barriers erected by our post-modern culture. I am deeply encouraged by the passion for Christ I see in recent graduates of our colleges who are now entrenched in ministry in our churches and on the mission field.

Yesterday, I spoke with one of the "old guard" of our Fellowship about an alumnus of my generation who attended Fellowship Week this year for the first time in a couple decades. His comment was, "It does my heart good to see so many of you young guys stepping up." I chuckled that he considered me a young guy, but I believe his observation is accurate. As I look around, I see a new generation of leadership arising in our Fellowship that I believe bodes well for our future.































Our colleges and their alumni associations serve as the connection between our past and our future. The alumni association challenges those who have benefitted from the resources of our Fellowship in the past and in the present to engage with and invest in those who will lead us into the future. We cannot afford to be short-sighted about this.

The founders of our Fellowship recognized the importance of having schools train those who would pastor our churches and serve as our missionaries. For over six decades, our churches have invested money, time, energy, and the lives of their students so the colleges of the BBFI would thrive and grow. That investment must not fall by the wayside.

I am thankful for my BBFI DNA. I am grateful for the network of friends and associates I have benefitted from over my years of ministry. And I am hopeful we can see continued blessings of God on our Fellowship from generation to generation until He comes.

JUNE 2016

PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1  MISSIONARY Chris & Lois Tignor <i>Ecuador</i>	2  CHAPLAIN Capt. Elliot & Gail Barrowclough <i>U.S. Army National Guard</i>	3  MISSIONARY Frank & Marjorie Thompson <i>England</i>	4  T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY Rebecca McMurphy <i>Thailand</i>
5  MISSIONARY Joseph & Darcy Flory <i>Russia</i>	6  MISSIONARY Bill & Therese Williams <i>Spain</i>	7  MISSIONARY Guy & Debbie Bankston <i>New Zealand</i>	8  MISSIONARY Ricky & Tammy Salmon <i>Thailand</i>	9  MISSIONARY June Kruse <i>Retired</i>	10  MISSIONARY Lavern Rogers <i>Japan</i>	11  MISSIONARY Matthew & Adriana Conder <i>Mexico</i>
12  MISSIONARY Jerry & Nancy Novak <i>Kenya</i>	13  WORKERS IN Restricted Access Nations	14  MISSIONARY Robert & Sandy Frazier <i>Mexico</i>	15  BBFI MISSION OFFICE - SPRINGFIELD, MO Staff	16  MISSIONARY Gary & Janet Tomberlin <i>Brazil</i>	17  MISSIONARY Ed & Ruby Bausell <i>Sioux Indians</i>	18  MISSIONARY Sabrina Shangle <i>Ireland</i>
19  MISSIONARY Brent & Amanda Longenecker <i>Philippines</i>	20  MISSIONARY Alan & Kathleen Cruthers <i>Retired</i>	21  MISSIONARY J.A. & Pamela Richards <i>Wales</i>	22  MISSIONARY Aaron & Chrissie McNeff <i>Argentina</i>	23  Baptist Bible College - Staff <i>Springfield, MO</i>	24  MISSIONARY Dave & Terri Green <i>Taiwan</i>	25  MISSIONARY Lavon & Carolyn Waters <i>Spain</i>
26  MISSIONARY Rick & Susie Biven <i>Mexico</i>	27  MISSIONARY Rick & Fran Schuessler <i>Bahamas</i>	28  BBF Builders	29  MISSIONARY Vladimir & Debbie Lukyanov <i>Russia</i>	30  MISSIONARY Robert & Jane Riddle <i>Mexico</i>		

As is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes,
so it is the business of Christians to pray.
Martin Luther

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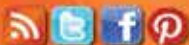
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