

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

MARCH 2012 | VOL. 62 NO. 7

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ON THE TABLE

Help us balance the books

by Keith Bassham | Editor

I am taking an Accounting Concepts for Managers course these days, and so I am paying more attention than usual to the flow of numbers and reports from the business side of the *Tribune*. I don't know whether I know more about less, or less about more after a few sessions with my instructors, but I do know from my reports that the *Tribune* has many friends who are responding to the February Tribune Offering (FTO) appeal.

On the positive side (debit, left – credit, right ... I think), I have noticed several new names on the list of those committing and giving to the FTO. And I have also noted churches that I know are doing all they can to stay above water and still they are motivated to participate in the annual offering. Some states with fewer participants have already sent in their reports, and I see that more than a couple have exceeded what they did last year!

There are still reports to come, and several I will not be able to complete until we meet later in the month (I'm writing this in early February), and if we have a repeat of last year, some will not be complete until months from now.

Keep in mind, this is not an exercise in scorekeeping like a sporting event — and it's certainly not academic. There is a more important point to this appeal. We raise the offering to help us print and circulate the *Tribune*. Some readers receive the magazine at no cost to them, and we gladly distribute them on that basis among our Bible college students, to our missionaries, for our retired preachers, for the ministry widows, in newly planted churches, and even a few prison libraries (I get a very nice thank-you letter every year from a prison chaplain in Colorado).

But all the *Tribunes*, even the ones circulated without charge, and the one you hold in your hand, cost somebody something to produce and mail. I don't mean to sound harsh, but that is the truth of it. If you did not pay for the magazine you are reading, someone is ministering to you. And if you gave to the *Tribune* through the offering, or through monthly *Tribune* support, or even if you purchased a subscription, someone somewhere is benefitting from your ministry.

How do I know this? It's simple. The books have to balance — a ministry taking place on one side means someone is receiving ministry on the other side. That's something accounting teaches. Why not help us keep things in balance? Be on both sides of the ledger — give to the *Tribune*, and receive the *Tribune*. Call the office at (417) 831-3996 and make a commitment by phone, or ask for an offering card or subscription envelope to be mailed to you. If you are a pastor, call and ask about receiving a monthly bundle of *Tribunes* for your church. We will all benefit.

Keith Bassham

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

People of the Book



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

The Greek philosopher, Plato, once said there are three valid sources of knowledge:

- 1. The five senses – touch, taste, smell, sight, and sound
- 2. Reason – that which sets us apart from the animal kingdom
- 3. The third he called “Divine Madness” by which he referred to the spiritual world of supernatural communication

Later, his disciple, Aristotle, eliminated the third source — the entire intuitive faculty by which divine perception comes to man. Aristotle said knowledge comes only through the senses and reason.

Much of the Western World was affected by what Aristotle taught. While Aristotle would have rejected the Bible as a source of knowledge, Jesus never hesitated when He said the Bible is the primary way through which God reveals Himself to mankind.

Today, millions of people are looking for a reliable voice of authority. They have found they cannot trust treaties between nations, statements from scientists, and even some religious leaders. The Word of God is the only real authority we have. Proven across the years, the Bible sheds light on human nature, world problems, and human suffering. But beyond that, it clearly reveals the way to God.

There are many misunderstandings about the Bible. It is interesting to note that the Bible holds two distinctions. First, it is one of the best-selling books of all time. Second, it is one of the most shoplifted books of all time. Can you imagine shoplifting a Bible?

For some people, the Bible itself is an icon. It is the book you put out on the coffee table to show that you are religious. For others, the Bible is like an Ouija Board. They let it fall open, and they place their finger on a verse and do what the verse says. Still for others, the Bible is a source of proof texting to help people win arguments.

Sir Walter Scott, a famed British novelist and poet, was also a committed Christian. On his deathbed Scott is reported to have said to his secretary, “Bring me the Book.” His secretary thought of the thousands of books in Scott’s library and inquired, “Dr. Scott, which book?” “The Book,” replied Scott. “The Bible — the only book for a dying man!”

And the committed Christian would have to add that the Bible is not just for a dying man, but it’s the only book for a living man, because it is the Word of God.

The BBFI has long been known for a strong commitment to the Word of God.

With these things in mind I am asking the pastors of the BBFI to work together to distribute 100,000 Bibles in the U.S. this year. We all agree that this world needs the Word of God. The Bible is not just some ancient book. It is the Book of Life.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

BBFI Global Prayer Week Mar. 25-31



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

The Great Commission was given to the church. That means every member of every church has a role to play in this task given by Jesus Himself. If we are in Christ, then we should personally lift up the banner of world missions.

Our churches should be churches of prayer, impacting the world as never before. The unreached of this world need to be told what Jesus has done for them, and prayer is a major aspect of making this happen. Very little of eternal value happens without somebody, somewhere praying. Often credit is given to more obvious outward ministries for what has actually been accomplished through prayer.

We may not all be called to go to the ends of the earth and preach, but every one of us has been called to pray. Prayer is not optional, it is operational. It makes things happen. The kind of prayer that will impact the world around us is extremely intense and persistent. As in everything that God requires of us, prayer must be done with all our hearts, all our souls, and with all our strength. Could this really be said of each one of us?

Although we should be praying every day for our efforts in global evangelization, we have an opportunity to make a lasting impact by making a concerted effort to join together in prayer during the week of March 25, 2012. Specific locations and items to pray for will be listed in the *Tribune*, on our webpage, bbfmissions.com, with a downloadable bulletin insert, and on Facebook. A second week of prayer will be scheduled later in the fall with additional specific requests.

Together we can approach the throne of God on behalf of those who we have sent to the frontlines of the strongholds of the devil. In all actuality, missions is a war — a war for the souls of men, women, and children. The devil’s plan is to deceive people around the world through false religions and to discourage, confuse, deter, and suppress our soldiers — the missionaries.

We must pray on behalf of the unreached and those who are unengaged with the gospel. They are searching for a way to have the burdens of their sins removed by trying all means of good works. They need to hear of the finished work of Jesus on the cross for the remission of their sins.

A Christian Chinese motto goes like this:

*Much prayer, much power;
Little prayer, little power;
No prayer, no power.*

God has given us prayer because Jesus has given us a mission!

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Unengaged People Groups

Candidate school great success



by Jason Todd | Associate Director | NCPO

Wow! What an amazing week! The National Church Planting Office held its Church Planter's Candidate School at Orlando Baptist Church in Orlando, FL, this last week (January 23-27). We want to thank Pastor Dave Janney and his staff for being wonderful hosts.

We had 12 church planters, two missionaries, and various local pastors and staff that attended most of the classes during the week. We certainly want to thank all of our teachers for taking their time to be with us and sharing their hearts with those in attendance.

John Arnold shared with us in the area of prayer, Rick Carter talked about stewardship and fundraising, Mark Milioni taught his classes on church planting about pre-launch and launch, Wayne Guinn dealt with their personal and church finances, Duke Hergatt shared his story of how he planted his church, and Keith Bassham shared the history and function of the BBFI as well as giving a discussion about leadership styles. Also there to challenge everyone was Terry Kizer, Dave Janney, BBFI founder Al Janney, John-Erik Mosler, Mark Hodges, and Ron Barber.

One of the church planters wrote, "I highly recommend this school not only for church planters but for all church staff. I was refreshed and motivated in ministry."

Joey Baynes of North Carolina said, "The lessons, principles, and values will be a great asset as we plant a church for the glory of God."

Troy Wolfe of Texas writes, "The session of greatest value to me was John Arnold's class titled 'Prayer Habits that Last a Lifetime.' There were also leadership principles shared that will impact my life and our church for years to come."

Another church planter said, "This has been the best training school I've ever been to."

A New York church planter commented, "This was a fantastic conference. Not only did it stir my passion for evangelism and church planting, but it gave me direction and a strategy to actually pursue planting a church."

Ben York, an Ohio church planter, wrote, "John Arnold's session, 'Prayer Habits that Last a Lifetime,' has overwhelmingly impacted me."

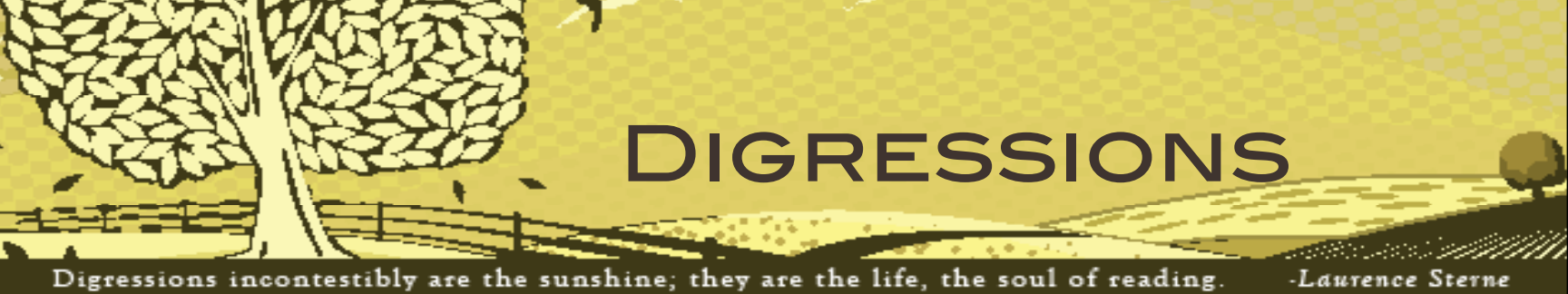
David Harris, church planter in Rusk, TX, said, "This has been a great encouragement to me and renewed my strength to continue the battle to plant a church in Rusk. I encourage anyone who intends to plant a church to attend this school."

Be watching for information on our next Church Planting Candidate School coming in January 2013.

**We could get by without the
annual *Tribune* offering,**

but you wouldn't like the *Tribune* as much.





DIGRESSIONS

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

G-rated movies more profitable than R-rated

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — R-rated movies continued to generate smaller profits for Hollywood last year, though the movie industry released 205 R-rated films compared to just 18 G-rated movies.

“Year in and year out, our statistics show that moviegoers prefer family-friendly movies with positive Christian, wholesome, patriotic, conservative and traditional moral values,” Ted Baehr, founder and chairman of the Christian Film & Television Commission, said.

In 2011, R-rated movies averaged \$10.8 million, compared to \$12.6 million in 2010 and \$14.9 million in 2009. But G-rated movies averaged \$34.6 million last year compared to \$56.6 million in 2010 and \$19.9 million two years ago.

Not only do G-rated movies make three to five times more money than R-rated movies, they also surpass R-rated films on DVD and Blu-Ray, Baehr said, adding that PG movies also do better on average.

“Middle America wants to see, rent and buy entertaining movies with Christian, biblical values that they can show to their whole family,” Baehr said in a news release Jan. 4. “They want to see good triumph over evil, justice to prevail, truth to defeat falsehood and purity to conquer lust. They reject movies with explicit, graphic sex and violence.”

Baehr said Hollywood does not know how to market to the average American.

For more information, visit movieguide.org.

Source: Baptist Press, Copyright 2012

Prayer and sports

The success of Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow and his personal expressions of faith – including the addition of a prayer posture now known as Tebowing – has reignited conversation about the relationship between sports and religion.

In an in-depth study of nine former NCAA Division 1 Christian athletes, researchers from Samford University and the University of Tennessee found prayer helped the athletes cope with the stress of competition and provided a sense of self-worth and mission that transcended winning and losing. One participant said, “When I prayed, I felt more relaxed because I had a connection with God. I felt like whatever happened, happened. If I was successful, I was successful. If I failed, it’s not I failed. It’s not the end of the world.” Winning or losing was inconsequential to most of the athletes, the researchers wrote in an article on “The Experience of Christian Prayer in Sport” for the *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*.

Source: Excerpted from “Prayer, Tebowing and the Super Bowl: The evolving relationship of sports and religion,” by David Briggs at <http://blogs.thearda.com>.

Ninth Circuit decides California Prop 8 unconstitutional

The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed February 7 a district court ruling that California’s Proposition 8 is in violation of the federal Constitution. Proposition 8 was passed by voters in November of 2008 to declare that legal marriage was a union of one man and one woman, effectively banning what is known as “gay marriage.” Religious and political conservatives condemned the ruling.

The ruling by a three-judge panel (deciding 2-1) upheld a lower court decision by now-retired federal Judge Vaughn Walker in August 2010. Judge Walker later admitted that he was a practicing homosexual and had a long-term partner. Those appealing his ruling believed this should have been revealed and that Judge Walker should have recused himself.

Family Research Council President Tony Perkins released the following statement in response to the decision:

“Today’s decision was disappointing but not surprising, coming from the most liberal Circuit Court in the country. This Hollywood-funded lawsuit, which seeks to impose San Francisco values on the entire country, may eventually reach the Supreme Court. This is not about constitutional governance but the insistence of a group of activists to force their will on their fellow citizens.

“This ruling substitutes judicial tyranny for the will of the people, who in the majority of states have amended their constitutions, as California did, to preserve marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

“However, we remain confident that in the end, the Supreme Court will reject the absurd argument that the authors of our Constitution created or even implied a ‘right’ to homosexual ‘marriage,’ and will instead uphold the right of the people to govern themselves.

“Voters in 31 states have voted to uphold the historic and natural definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman. Twenty-nine, a majority of American states, have actually inserted such a definition into the text of their state constitutions,” concluded Perkins.

Source: www.frc.org

In the NEWS of the WEEK

BY R. O. WOODWORTH

Dr. Fred S. Donnelson's ministry is being owned and blessed of God wherever he goes. Bro. Jack McEwen, pastor of Park Drive Baptist church, Hillsboro, Texas, gives the following report of his visit there:

We were indeed fortunate to have as our guest last week-end a speaker whose ministry had an impact upon each one who heard him. There was a rare mellowness to his preaching and an earnest love for the Lord Jesus evident in his speaking. Dr. Donnelson did a great job of acquainting our people with our missionaries now serving in Formosa, Japan, Philippine Islands, and Mexico. Along with this we were privileged to see pictures of the Baptist Bible College. These people and places are rapidly becoming a part of our prayer life. By God's grace, we will make a marked effort in their financial support also. Thanks to Dr. Fred S. Donnelson for giving us a greater vision of a greater work.

Despite inclement weather exactly 100 Sunday school enthusiasts registered for Sunday school Bro. McEwen announced. A record offering of \$177.54 was received for the day.

The six-day revival led by Dr. W. E. Dowell in the Berean Baptist church, Bolivar, Mo., last week brought spiritual uplift to the believers and salvation to some unbelievers. Bro. R. Schott, Baptist Bible College student, succeeded Bro. Cecil McLeod, former Baptist Bible College student as pastor when he resigned to accept a call from the Berean Baptist church, Glens Park, Texas. Bro. McLeod organized the Bolivar church while he was a student in the college.

March 9 marked an epoch in the history of the High Street Baptist church, Springfield. Both services were epochal events. The Sunday school attendance reached an all time high of 2,205. A capacity crowd which filled the balcony jammed the auditorium to hear the pastor, Dr. W. E. Dowell, expose certain forms of vice raging unchecked in Springfield. Names and addresses of gambling houses were given. The large crowd that attended and the enthusiastic "amens" to the preacher's statements are a good criterion of the attitude of the citizens of Springfield toward the illegal practice of open gambling in the city. It proves that the people of Springfield are opposed to all violators of the law and strong for meting out justice to all offenders.

Bro. Geo. Hodges, pastor of the Beaver Street Baptist church, Jacksonville, Fla., reports that a new impetus was given the work of the Sunday school when nearly 200 workers gathered Monday night, Feb. 25, for visitation. The pastor announced that the increasing numbers who are offering to shoulder part of the responsibility to help build a bigger and better Sunday school is cause for gratitude to God. He stated that more help has been added to the nursery.

The superintendent, Bro. S. E. Ackerman reports the inauguration of a new Couples Class which got off to a good start with an attendance of 48.

When a 362 Sunday school attendance taxed the Sunday school facilities of the Tabernacle Baptist church, Roswell, N. M., to capacity

March 2, the deacons met the following night to discuss plans for expansion. The following Wednesday night the church voted unanimously to accept their proposal to enlarge the quarters. Under the aggressive leadership of the pastor, Bro. Howard Ingram, the work was begun the next day. A complete new building, 30x46, adjacent to the auditorium, is now under construction. When completed it will provide space for an additional 180 people. This is the second unit the church has added within a year. Following the completion of this new unit a project of adding 12 feet to the auditorium will get under way immediately.

The monthly Oklahoma state Youth Fellowship of the Baptist Bible Fellowship was scheduled for March 14. The entertaining church was the Calvary Baptist, Chickasha. Bro. Curtis Goldman was the host pastor.

The two-weeks meeting in the Temple Baptist church, Springdale, Ark., which culminated in a baptismal service, had as its general purpose revival and awakening of the members to their possibilities of service in Christ. It was undoubtedly, according to the record of the first week, a most successful campaign. At this writing the meeting is entering its second week and already 20 have responded to the appeal of the evangelist, Bro. Raymond Tracy, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist church, Lebanon, Missouri. The good pastor is Bro. Dwayne Pringle.

Substituting for Bro. Tracy at all services in the Lebanon church was Bro. Gilbert Thomas pastor of Noble Hill Baptist church. In his absence Bro. Tommy McSpadden filled the pulpit.

The radio broadcast sponsored by the Tabernacle Baptist church, Altus, Okla., is having a fine reception. Hundreds of people write that they enjoy both Sunday broadcasts. "Your program was the means of interesting me in coming to church," is the testimony of scores of folks who have been saved the last year. Bro. Wayne Imboden, pastor, informed his congregation Sunday of the soon delivery of the brick and

stone for the new building.

One of the most encouraging things about the work of the Castleberry Baptist church, Ft. Worth, Texas, is not the average offerings of \$682.54 a Sunday, not the 12 additions to the church for the month of February or the growth in Sunday school attendance—the most encouraging thing about the work and the surety of its continued growth is the large number they have out each week for visitation. The reason the month of February was a blessed month for the church as reported by the pastor Bro. David Cavin is that a large proportion of the workers visit systematically each week. Friends of Bill and Mary Troutman who recently became affiliated with Bro. Cavin in the work will be interested to know that they had an increase in their new class and two saved last Sunday.

In anticipation of an increase in attendance in Sunday school the Grace Baptist church, Oklahoma City, under the direction of the pastor, Bro. J. C. Brown is enlarging its quarters by remodeling a building recently purchased by the church in order to provide room for expansion. They hope to occupy these new quarters by April 1.

The members of the Tulsa Baptist Temple, Tulsa, Okla., and the pastor, Bro. Clifford Clark, have been fired with enthusiasm by the renewal of the work on the new building. Everyone appears to be working with growing faith and vigor. All the steel has been purchased together with the brick, glass block, and plumbing equipment.

The City of Detroit, Michigan, is called the industrial center of the world. Working in the numerous giant plants of this city are men and women from all walks of life.

A tremendous visitation and a mighty evangelistic program is carried on by the Temple Baptist church among the multiplying thousands of workers, in these factories. Up until March 9, the Sunday school attendance had been averaging over 3,500. But a late snow storm cut March the ninth's attendance to 3,311. The number of additions to the church, however, were not affected by either the snow storm or the slight drop in attendance. Among the 53 who accepted the proposition of the pastor, G. Beauchamp Vick in the morning and Bro. Stanley Kruse in the evening to meet Christ at the altar, 43 united with the church.

In many other ways is evidenced the grace of God upon the ministry of Bro. G. Beauchamp Vick. Thursday morning, March 13, he left Detroit with his family on an itinerary which includes a speaking engagement at a Fellowship meeting sponsored by the Lockland Baptist church, John Rawlings pastor, and supplying the pulpit of the Beaver Street church, Jacksonville, Florida. Geo. Hodges, pastor for both services Sunday March 16, and several days with Bro. Geo. Ziemer, pastor of the Bible Baptist church, North Miami, Fla.; also a quick hop to Havana, Cuba, provided they get the revolution settled over there. On his return

Americans still open to door-to-door visits from church members

North American Mission Board's Center for Missional Research asked a polling firm to help them find the answer to the question, "Are people more open to an invitation to church or to an evangelistic message when approached at their door?" The answer, according to Ed Stetzer, Senior Director of NAMB's Center for Missional Research, might be both.

According to the survey, Americans are far more open to people coming to their door with that simple invitation than trying to tell them how to get into heaven (53 to 35%). There was an exception among half the African Americans polled who reported they were okay with a gospel appeal.

Stetzer says, "These stats tell an important story — many people are open to an invitation to your church and some are open to hearing about heaven. Even 40 percent of the most unchurched are open to an invitation to your church, which is something that the whole church can do — something that's much less scary for the typical believer and takes less training. It is helpful to know that many people are open to a church event invitation where, perhaps, they can hear the gospel in an understandable way. Imagine how many more houses your church group could visit if every person could be convinced to make one visit and one simple invitation. Many people, including me, were surprised that the negative reaction was not more pronounced. But, the numbers are here and, surprisingly, more people are open than we think — particularly if they are approached in a respectful manner."

Source: www.namb.net

Number of new marriages dropped 5% from 2009 to 2010 in U.S.

Barely half of all adults in the United States — a record low — are currently married, and the median age at first marriage has never been higher for brides (26.5 years) and grooms (28.7), according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census data.

Source: D'Vera Cohn, Pew Research Center



ADONIRAM JUDSON

BY GREGORY A. SMITH

EDITOR'S NOTE

2012 marks the 200th anniversary of Adoniram Judson's inaugural missionary journey, first to India and later Burma (modern Myanmar). To commemorate that event, the *Tribune* is republishing a biographical article about Judson (May 1998, *Tribune*) and an article about Ann Hazeltine Judson, whom Adoniram married in 1812 (April 2008, *Tribune*).

We must understand, of course, that Judson's missionary career was the product of several earlier events as the other *Tribune* articles will show. In the summer of 1806, a group of students from Williams College planned to meet and pray about the subject of foreign missions in a grove of trees in Sloan's Meadow near Williamstown, MA. During the meeting, a thunderstorm caught the five young men and they sought shelter in a haystack. The event was known thereafter as the Haystack Prayer Meeting, and historians speak of it as the beginning of American-based foreign missionary work. These students formed a group called "The Brethren," and they began to spread their missionary zeal on other campuses. Four of the original Haystack participants — Samuel Mills, James Richards, Luther Rice, and Gordon Hall — visited Andover where Adoniram Judson was a theology student. As they told the story of their commitment, Judson, already moved to compassion on those without Christ overseas, heard them and responded. In 1810, he helped found the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and two years later he was among the first American missionaries sent by the new board.

A DONIRAM JUDSON (1788–1850) was a pioneer American missionary to Burma. His surrender to missionary service in 1810 started a chain of events that led to making the United States "the dominant world force in missions" a century later.¹ His influence among Baptists has been summarized as follows: "Having sustained such hardship and loss in pursuit of his calling, Judson became an inspiring example of missionary sacrifice and dedication for several generations of young people."² His legacy of faithful service and commitment to spiritual values merits our attention on the threshold of the third millennium.

BACKGROUND AND CONVERSION

Adoniram Judson was born in Malden, Massachusetts, on August 9, 1788. He was the oldest child of Adoniram Judson, Sr., a Congregational minister in Malden, and Abigail (Brown) Judson. As might be supposed,



A PORTRAIT OF FAITHFULNESS

young Adoniram was influenced by devout Christians throughout his childhood and adolescence. He did not, however, choose to follow Christ in his early years.

Being a bright young man, he entered Brown University as a sophomore at the age of 16. His skeptical attitude toward the religion of his parents grew during his years at Brown until his graduation as valedictorian in 1807.

Uncertain as to his purpose in life, Adoniram opened a school and taught for a year. By the summer of 1808, he had become weary of pretending to agree with his parents' belief system. When he made public his revolt against their views, emotional chaos was unleashed in the Judson household. The conflict was enough to drive Adoniram to leave home in search of his destiny.

His destiny would turn out to be much different from what he had imagined. He found little excitement in New York's theatrical world. He discussed religion with a young minister who, though devout, was less austere

than his father. Perhaps most importantly, he was confronted with the reality of death. As the hand of providence would have it, Judson spent the night at a Massachusetts inn across a partition from a dying man. Through the night he tried to convince himself that death meant nothing to a skeptic like himself. In the morning he was startled to learn the identity of the man who had died. It was Jacob Eames, a classmate from Brown who had encouraged him to reject Christianity for deism.

This strange turn of events led Adoniram to enroll as a special student at the Andover Theological Institution in the fall. There, under the influence of godly professors, he turned his life over to Christ within just a few months.³

SURRENDER TO THE MISSIONARY CALL

Judson grew quickly in his new faith. He was both an intelligent student and a man of spiritual fervor. Over the course of about a year he encountered several influences that led him to believe he should dedicate his life to foreign

missionary service. This was a bold venture since no American church had ever sent a missionary overseas.

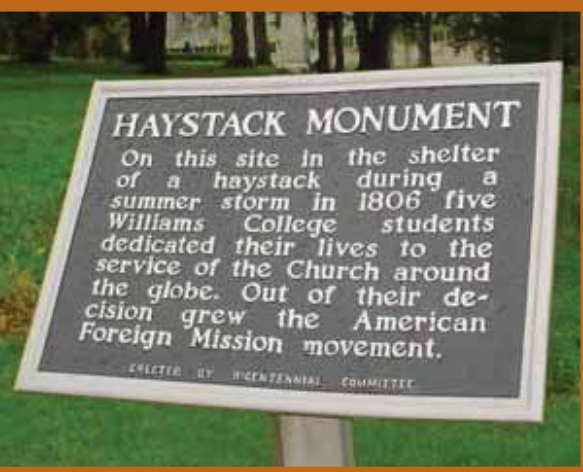
When he announced his decision at the seminary, he encountered unexpected support from his peers. In the sovereign design of God, several other students at Andover were contemplating the same calling.

PREPARATION FOR MISSIONARY SERVICE

Following graduation in 1810, Judson and his enthusiastic classmates began to prepare in earnest for foreign service. The budding missionary movement would require planning and organization, as there was no existing infrastructure to support the cause.

The efforts of Judson and his comrades resulted in the founding of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The next two years were a flurry of activity for Judson. He visited the London Missionary Society to discuss the possibility of international cooperation in missions. When

this idea was rejected, he returned to New England. Support was quickly raised with the aid of several influential pastors.⁴ In the month of February, 1812, Adoniram married his first wife, Ann “Nancy” Hasseltine; he was ordained to the Congregational ministry; and he set sail with another missionary couple, Samuel and Harriet Newell.⁵



In 1867, a monument was erected to memorialize the Haystack Prayer Meeting where college students began the modern American missionary movement. See <http://wso.williams.edu/~dchu/MissionPark/contents.html> for more information and photos.

A PHYSICAL JOURNEY, A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

There was some question as to where the missionaries would actually settle. Their initial destination was India, but there was in Adoniram’s heart a strange allurements to Burma.

During the four-month voyage to India, the Judsons began to study the Baptist position on baptism, anticipating the need to defend the sprinkling of infants in the course of their ministry, particularly when interacting with Baptists. Their honest examination of the Scriptures led them to accept the biblical pattern of believer’s baptism by immersion. Some time after their arrival in Calcutta, they were baptized by British Baptists.⁶

While their arrival and change of sentiment were well received by the Baptist missionaries in India, they faced immediate political opposition from the British East India Company. This led them to flee India in order to avoid deportment. For several months, they wandered from port to port wondering where God would lead them. When God’s direction was made clear they set sail for Burma and reached its shores in July of 1813.

The Judsons’ decision to adopt Baptist views resulted in the severance of some of their

personal associations as well as the erosion of their support base. They were not forsaken, however, for American Baptists accepted them with open arms. By 1814, the Triennial Convention had formed for the purpose of advancing Baptist missions.⁷

MISSIONARY WORK IN BURMA

Upon arriving in Rangoon, the Judsons immediately set out to begin translation work. This was a laborious but essential process. It was complicated at times by Adoniram’s poor health. His efforts resulted ultimately in the printing of a complete Burmese Bible in 1834 and an enlarged English-Burmese dictionary in 1849. These works were part of “the monumental translation and literary work that became Judson’s legacy to the church in Burma.”⁸

Vast differences in language, culture, and religion separated the missionaries from the Burmese people and made soulwinning a slow process. Nevertheless, the Judsons were faithful and began to see progress in this area after several years.

TRAGEDY AND HARDSHIP

Missionary service definitely took its toll on Judson. He was imprisoned for over a year-

“NO, MY DEAR PARENTS, OUR HEARTS ARE FIXED ON THIS MISSION, AND WITH GRACE ASSISTING US, WE SHALL RELINQUISH IT ONLY WITH OUR LIVES.”

NANCY JUDSON

Letter to Mr. Hasseltine Asking for His Daughter’s Hand in Marriage

Young Judson, before he had resolved to be a missionary, had made up his mind to the sufferings and privations which he well knew were in store for him. He thus wrote to Mr. Hasseltine, of Bradford, when asking for his daughter’s hand:

I have now to ask whether you can consent to part with your daughter early next spring, to see her no more in this world? whether you can consent to her departure to a heathen land, and her subjection to the hardships and sufferings of a missionary life? whether you can consent to her exposure to the dangers of the ocean; to the fatal influence of the southern climate of India; to every kind of want and distress; to degradation, insult, persecution, and perhaps a violent death? Can you consent to all this, for the sake of Him who left His heavenly home and died for her and for you; for the sake of perishing, immortal souls; for the sake of Zion and the glory of God? Can you consent to all this, in hope of soon meeting your daughter in the world of glory, with a crown of righteousness brightened by the acclamations of praise which shall redound to her Saviour from heathens saved, through her means, from eternal woe and despair?

and-a-half during a war between Burma and England. Disease claimed the lives of Nancy and her two children. Nevertheless, Nancy's devotion to her Master's calling was steadfast. In a letter to her parents, she penned the following words: "We will ... spend the remainder of our days [in Burma], though

deprived of health and strength, in assisting [other missionaries] to acquire the language and encouraging them in their arduous work. No, my dear parents, our hearts are fixed on this mission, and with grace assisting us, we shall relinquish it only with our lives."⁹

Adoniram remarried in 1834, taking as his

wife the widow of a deceased colleague, Sarah Hall Boardman. Sarah gave birth to several children, three of whom died in infancy. She proved to be as much of a complement to Adoniram as Nancy.¹⁰ Sarah's health declined and she died en route to the United States in 1845.

In 1846, having returned to the United

THEIR INITIAL DESTINATION WAS INDIA, BUT THERE WAS IN ADONIRAM'S HEART A STRANGE ALLUREMENT TO BURMA.

Letter to Ann Hasseltine Before Their Marriage

"These same anticipations of missionary sorrows pervade a pathetic letter written by him to Miss Ann Hasseltine, during the period of their betrothal:" Source: *The Life of Adoniram Judson* by his son Edward Judson. New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Company, 1883.

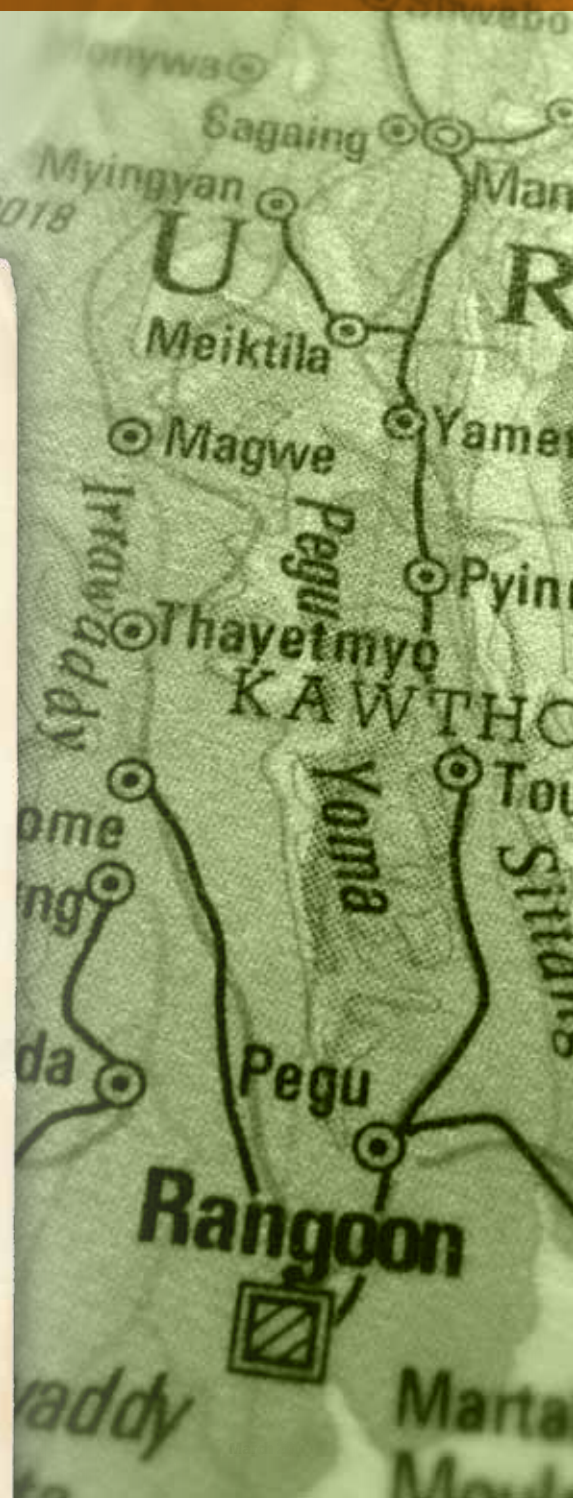
Note: Adoniram and Ann (sometimes called Nancy) were married February 5, 1812, and he was ordained the following day. The pair set sail about two weeks later.

January 1, 1811. Tuesday Morning

It is with the utmost sincerity, and with my whole heart, that I wish you, my love, a happy new year. May it be a year in which your walk will be close with God; your frame calm and serene; and the road that leads you to the Lamb marked with purer light. May it be a year in which you will have more largely the spirit of Christ, be raised above sublunary things, and be willing to be disposed of in this world just as God shall please. As every moment of the year will bring you nearer the end of your pilgrimage, may it bring you nearer to God, and find you more prepared to hail the messenger of death as a deliverer and a friend. And now, since I have begun to wish, I will go on. May this be the year in which you will change your name; in which you will take a final leave of your relatives and native land; in which you will cross the wide ocean, and dwell on the other side of the world, among a heathen people. What a great change will this year probably effect in our lives! How very different will be our situation and employment! If our lives are preserved and our attempt prospered, we shall next new year's day be in India, and perhaps wish each other a happy new year in the uncouth dialect of Hindostan or Burmah. We shall no more see our kind friends around us, or enjoy the conveniences of civilized life, or go to the house of God with those that keep holy day; but swarthy countenances will everywhere meet our eye, the jargon of an unknown tongue will assail our ears, and we shall witness the assembling of the heathen to celebrate the worship of idol gods. We shall be weary of the world, and wish for wings like a dove, that we may fly away and be at rest. We shall probably experience seasons when we shall be 'exceeding sorrowful, even unto death. We shall see many dreary, disconsolate hours, and feel a sinking of spirits, anguish of mind, of which now we can form little conception. O, we shall wish to lie down and die. And that time may soon come. One of us may be unable to sustain the heat of the climate and the change of habits; and the other may say, with literal truth, over the grave--

'By foreign hands thy dying eyes were closed;
By foreign hands thy decent limbs composed;
By foreign hands thy humble grave adorned;'

but whether we shall be honored and mourned by strangers, God only knows. At least, either of us will be certain of one mourner. In view of such scenes shall we not pray with earnestness 'O for an overcoming faith,' etc.?



States, Adoniram married a young writer by the name of Emily Chubbuck (also spelled Chubbock). She accompanied him to Burma and assisted him in his ministry until his death in 1850. In 1848 Emily published a memoir of Sarah Judson. Later, she contributed to the preservation of her husband's memory by assembling materials which Francis Wayland used to write a definitive description of his life.¹¹

JUDSON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Judson's labors were not in vain. "The concrete results of his work were ... impressive, as he left a flourishing church of 7,000 members and more than 100 national ministers among both the Burmese and the tribal peoples of the country — a church that has continued in unbroken succession since his death."¹² He served as an example to his own generation and to generations to come.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM JUDSON

There are many important lessons to be learned from Judson's life. First, he recognized the value of education for ministry. He excelled while pursuing college and seminary degrees. He must have realized that a sound mind is a powerful thing when it is surrendered to the Lord's use. Likewise, we should value proper academic preparation for ministry.

Second, Judson was a man of intellectual and spiritual integrity. Indeed, his whole life exemplified this virtue. His integrity was perhaps best demonstrated when, compelled by scriptural evidence and the direction of the Holy Spirit, he risked his reputation and financial security by severing his ties with Congregationalism. We need men and women of his caliber today!

Third, Judson's life demonstrated that unity among believers is strongest when they share a common cause. American Baptists were arguably never more united than in 1814, when they banded together on a national level to support missions through the Triennial Convention. We need to recognize that our shared interest in fulfilling the Great Commission should be a source of cohesion rather than division.

Fourth, Judson practiced sound principles of missionary work. He recognized that mastery of the Burmese language was essential to cross-cultural communication. He understood that the success of his work would

depend on the availability of the Scriptures in the language of the people. Accordingly, he devoted 20 years of his ministry to translation. He also recorded linguistic notes for the benefit of missionaries who would follow in his footsteps. Finally, he realized that the continuation of the Lord's work could only be ensured through the training of national leadership and the planting of churches.

Perhaps the greatest lesson Judson modeled was that of self-sacrifice and determination to serve God. The depth of his commitment is illustrated in a letter he wrote to Luther Rice in 1816: "[This] is a most filthy, wretched place. Missionaries must not calculate on the least comfort, but what they find in one another and their work. However, if a ship was lying in the river, ready to convey me to any part of the world I should choose, and that too with the entire approbation of all my Christian friends, I would prefer dying to embarking."¹³

ENDNOTES

- 1 Harvie M. Conn, "Missions, Evangelical Foreign," in *Dictionary of Christianity in America*, ed. Daniel G. Reid (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1990), 750.
- 2 Everett A. Wilson, "Judson, Adoniram (1788-1850)," in *Dictionary of Baptists in America*, ed. Bill J. Leonard (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1994), 159.
- 3 Courtney Anderson, *To the Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1972), 36-50.
- 4 Anderson., 115.
- 5 William H. Allison, "Judson, Adoniram," in *Dictionary of American Biography*, ed. Dumas Malone (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1961), 5:234.
- 6 Anderson, 127-29, 143-46.
- 7 "Judson, Adoniram, D.D.," in *The Baptist Encyclopaedia*, ed. William Cathcart (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1880), 626.
- 8 Wilson, 158.
- 9 Nancy Judson, Letter to her parents, 18 July, 1816, *The American Baptist Magazine, and Missionary Intelligencer*, n.s., 1 (Nov. 1817): 222.
- 10 Allison, 235.
- 11 Paul Clasper, "Judson, Emily Chubbuck," in *Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions*, ed. Gerald H. Anderson (New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 1998), 346.
- 12 Wilson, 159.
- 13 Adoniram Judson, "Letter to Luther Rice," 3 Aug. 1816, *The American Baptist Magazine*, and *Missionary Intelligencer*, n.s., 1 (Sept. 1817): 184.



Rules of Holy Living

The rules of living which follow are copied from a paper in the handwriting of Dr. Judson. They are inserted here for the sake of illustrating the earnestness with which he strove after personal holiness, whilst engrossed with the labors of his missionary calling. He well knew that no external services could purify the heart; that this work could be done in no other way than by practically subjecting the whole soul to the commandments of Christ.

Rules adopted on Sunday, April 4, 1819, the era of commencing public ministrations among the Burmans; revised and re-adopted on Saturday, December 9, 1820, and on Wednesday, April 25, 1821.

1. Be diligent in secret prayer, every morning and evening.
2. Never spend a moment in mere idleness.
3. Restrain natural appetites within the bounds of temperance and purity. "Keep thyself pure."
4. Suppress every emotion of anger and ill will.
5. Undertake nothing from motives of ambition, or love of fame.
6. Never do that which, at the moment, appears to be displeasing to God.
7. Seek opportunities of making some sacrifice for the good of others, especially of believers, provided the sacrifice is not inconsistent with some duty.
8. Endeavor to rejoice in every loss and suffering incurred for Christ's sake and the gospel's, remembering that though, like death, they are not to be wilfully incurred, yet, like death, they are great gain.

Re-adopted the above rules, particularly the 4th, on Sunday, August 31, 1823.
Re-adopted the above rules, particularly the 1st, on Sunday, October 29, 1826,
and adopted the following minor rules:

1. Rise with the sun.
2. Read a certain portion of Burman every day, Sundays excepted.
3. Have the Scriptures and some devotional book in constant reading.
4. Read no book in English that has not a devotional tendency.
5. Suppress every unclean thought and look.

Revised and re-adopted all the above rules, particularly the second of the first class, on Sunday, March 11, 1827.

God grant me grace to keep the above rules, and ever live to His glory, for Jesus Christ's sake.

A. Judson

Advice to Missionary



(Note: we have left the spelling, grammar, and punctuation much as they were first published in *The Life of Adoniram Judson* by his son Edward Judson. New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Company, 1883.)

To the Foreign Missionary Association of the Hamilton Literary and Theological Institution, N. Y.

Dear Brethren,

Yours of November last, from the pen of your Corresponding Secretary, Mr. William Dean, is before me. It is one of the few letters that I feel called upon to answer, for you ask my advice on several important points. There is, also, in the sentiments you express, something so congenial to my own, that I feel my heart knit to the members of your association, and instead of commonplace reply, am desirous of setting down a few items which may be profitable to you in your future course. Brief items they must be, for want of time forbids my expatiating.

In commencing my remarks, I take you as you are. You are contemplating a missionary life.

First, then, let it be a missionary life; that is, come out for life, and not for a limited term. Do not fancy that you have a true missionary spirit, while you are intending all along to leave the heathen soon after acquiring their language. Leave them! for what? To spend the rest of your days in enjoying the ease and plenty of your native land?

Secondly. In choosing a companion for life, have particular regard to a good constitution, and not wantonly, or without good cause, bring a burden on yourselves and the mission.

Thirdly. Be not ravenous to do good on board ship. Missionaries have frequently done more hurt than good, by injudicious zeal, during their passage out.

Fourthly. Take care that the attention you receive at home, the unfavorable circumstances in which you will be placed on board ship, and the unmissionary examples you may possibly meet with at some missionary stations, do not transform you from living missionaries to mere skeletons before you reach the place of your destination. It may be profitable to bear in mind, that a large proportion of those who come out on a mission to the East die within five years after leaving their native land. Walk softly, therefore; death is narrowly watching your steps.

Fifthly. Beware of the reaction which will take place soon after reaching your field of labor. There you will perhaps find native Christians, of whose merits or demerits you can not judge correctly without some familiar acquaintance with their language. Some appearances will combine to disappoint and disgust you. You will meet with disappointments and discouragements, of which it is impossible to form a correct idea from written accounts, and which will lead you, at first, almost to regret that you have embarked in the cause. You will see men and women whom you have been accustomed to view through a telescope some thousands of miles long. Such an instrument is apt to magnify. Beware, therefore, of the reaction you will experience from a combination of all these causes, lest you become disheartened at commencing your work, or take up a prejudice against some persons and places, which will embitter all your future lives.

Candidates



Sixthly. Beware of the greater reaction which will take place after you have acquired the language, and become fatigued and worn out with preaching the gospel to a disobedient and gainsaying people.

You will sometimes long for a quiet retreat, where you can find a respite from the tug of toiling at native work -- the incessant, intolerable friction of the missionary grindstone. And Satan will sympathize with you in this matter; and he will present some chapel of ease, in which to officiate in your native tongue, some government situation, some professorship or editorship, some literary or scientific pursuit, some supernumerary translation, or, at least, some system of schools; anything, in a word, that will help you, without much surrender of character, to slip out of real missionary work. Such a temptation will form the crisis of your disease. If your spiritual constitution can sustain it, you recover; if not, you die.

Seventhly. Beware of pride; not the pride of proud men, but the pride of humble men — that secret pride which is apt to grow out of the consciousness that we are esteemed by the great and good. This pride sometimes eats out the vitals

of religion before its existence is suspected. In order to check its operations, it may be well to remember how we appear in the sight of God, and how we should appear in the sight of our fellow-men, if all were known. Endeavor to let all be known. Confess your faults freely, and as publicly as circumstances will require or admit. When you have done something of which you are ashamed, and by which, perhaps, some person has been injured (and what man is exempt?), be glad not only to make reparation, but improve the opportunity for subduing your pride.

Eighthly. Never lay up money for yourselves or your families. Trust in God from day to day, and verily you shall be fed.

Ninthly. Beware of that indolence which leads to a neglect of bodily exercise. The poor health and premature death of most Europeans in the East must be eminently ascribed to the most wanton neglect of bodily exercise.

Tenthly. Beware of genteel living. Maintain as little intercourse as possible with fashionable European society. The mode of living adopted by many missionaries in the

East is quite inconsistent with that familiar intercourse with the natives which is essential to a missionary.

There are many points of self-denial that I should like to touch upon; but a consciousness of my own deficiency constrains me to be silent. I have also left untouched several topics of vital importance, it having been my aim to select such only as appear to me to have been not much noticed or enforced. I hope you will excuse the monitorial style that I have accidentally adopted. I assure you, I mean no harm.

In regard to your inquiries concerning studies, qualifications, etc., nothing occurs that I think would be particularly useful, except the simple remark, that I fear too much stress begins to be laid on what is termed a thorough classical education.

Praying that you may be guided in all your deliberations, and that I may yet have the pleasure of welcoming some of you to these heathen shores, I remain

Your affectionate brother,

A. Judson
Maulmain, June 25, 1832

HISTORY

BAPTIST

ANN JUDSON – Heroine of Burma

Ann Judson was more than a missionary's wife; she is one of the noblest and heroic women who ever bore the Christian name. Every Baptist should be aware of the life and the ministry of the heroine of Burma.

Ann Hasseltine was born in Bedford, Massachusetts, on December 22, 1789. As a child, she exhibited an inquisitive mind and a tenacious perseverance, and her thirst for knowledge distinguished her as someone destined for a life of service. In her 17th year, after many conflicts and much prayer, she found pardon in the finished work of Christ. When she was 20, she read the life of David Brainerd and was deeply moved for those who had never heard the gospel. She recorded in her diary that she felt "a willingness to give herself away to Christ, to be disposed as He pleases." But, her future life of service was sealed when she met and ultimately married Adoniram Judson. However, she did not make her decision solely upon Mr. Judson's proposal. After much prayer and earnestly seeking the will of God, she wrote, "I am not only willing to spend my days among the heathen, in attempting to enlighten and save them, but I find much pleasure in the prospect. Yes, I am quite willing to give up temporal comforts and live a life of hardship and trial, if it be the will of God."

Ann and Adoniram were married on February 5, 1812, and sailed for Calcutta on the 19th. It was on this three-month journey that both Adoniram and Ann embraced believer's baptism. Upon their arrival in India, they were immersed by William Ward. This decision severed their relationship with their Congregational supporters. The Judsons offered their services to the Baptists who gladly accepted.

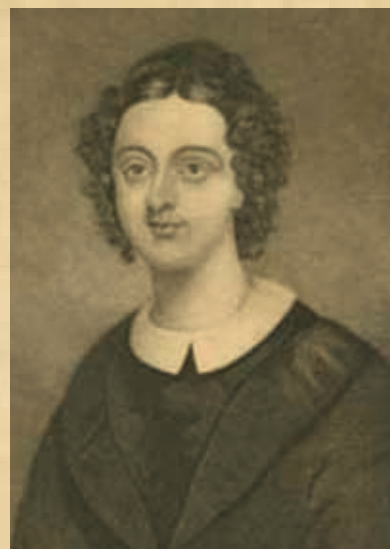
Shortly after their arrival, they were ordered by the East India Company to leave India or be deported. After numer-

ous hardships and disappointments, they were finally able to book passage on a ship bound for Rangoon, Burma. Upon arrival, they immediately established themselves and began to study the difficult Burmese language. Through their dedication and untiring labor, the gospel began to produce fruit.

In 1823, reinforced by additional missionaries, it was determined that the Judsons and Prices would relocate to Ava, the capitol. War broke out between England and Burma soon after they arrived and Judson and Price were accused of being English spies. They were arrested and thrown into a prison known as the death house. Adoniram's life depended completely upon Ann's ability to provide for his physical needs.

Ann's heroic efforts during those dark days read more like fiction than reality. Forced to live in inhumane conditions, she became seriously ill, and her responsibilities were multiplied when she gave birth to her precious Maria. Adding to her burdens, the two Burmese girls she had adopted and her infant daughter were stricken with smallpox. However, empowered by God's grace, she was able to sustain her husband and Dr. Price and nurse the seriously ill children while being assisted by only one helper. Even though seriously ill herself, she persevered through incredible hardships which continued until the Burmese were forced to sue for peace or be destroyed.

After Adoniram obtained his freedom, the Judsons relocated to Amherst where they established a mission. Judson was called away to interpret for the British, and sadly, in his absence, Ann Judson was seized with a malignant fever. Her shattered constitution was unable to withstand the attack. At 8:00 on the evening of October 24, 1826, she passed into the arms of her beloved Savior. Exactly six months later, little Maria also died and was buried by her mother.



"I am not only willing to spend my days among the heathen, in attempting to enlighten and save them, but I find much pleasure in the prospect."

by Thomas Ray



This article originally appeared in the February 2008 *Tribune*.

Suggested reading: *The Judson's History and Legacy*, Rosalie Hall Hunt.

Mike & Christy Napper | **Burkina Faso**

We both passed our last language school test! Mike had been told French would be impossible to learn with his learning disability, but he has already preached his first message and shared the gospel with many. Once again we have seen nothing is impossible for our God!

Corey & Kaylee O'Grady | **Netherlands**

A church we visited recently encouraged their people to write us notes throughout the week describing how our ministry impacted them or what they learned. After the conference we were presented with dozens of encouraging notes. While I was flipping through the letters, I came across one from a little boy that simply said, "Stop the Sin!" After seeing our presentation on Amsterdam his prevailing thought was, "Make the sin stop!" This got me thinking. What is our solution to stopping the sin? I think far too often our goal, whether intentional or not, is to simply turn individuals into "good people." If we can make them stop doing bad things and start doing good things, then we have done our job. I believe biblically speaking nothing could be further from the truth. Our job as the church is not to produce "good people," but instead to teach them to be imitators of Christ. As we go to Amsterdam we know we are incapable of spiritually changing people. Instead we leave that transformation in the hands of Christ. He's the only one who is able to "stop the sin."

Craig & Fran Lingo | **Colombia**

For years our task has been to train and thrust others into areas of ministry, so when people show an interest in the gospel, normally I am not the one who is called to deal with them. It was, therefore, a real treat when a particularly "difficult case" was passed on to me at our Young People's Evangelistic Camp. His name is Brian (just knowing his name transforms him into a person instead of a "difficult case"). He is a fine looking 16-year-old. After ten years of secular humanistic education, he had pretty much given up on the possibility of there being a God. In fact, that is what he told me: "You all have me totally confused, I had decided that there wasn't a God, and here you open my eyes to the possibility of a real and personal God who is interested in my affairs." So that Sunday night he and I sat in the dining hall and I answered his questions. He wasn't argumentative, but truly searching. Knowing that the Spirit of God was not going to let go of his heart, I told him, "Brian, you sleep on it, and tomorrow we'll talk again."

So on Monday morning, the last day of camp, God arranged for me to walk by the Canteen area right when 400+ campers were heading to the coliseum for the last session. Wouldn't you guess it, there sat Brian finishing off his soda. He was alone, and I could tell he was pensive. I walked up and sat down beside him and said, "So Brian, what do you think, does God exist or not?" He looked up at me and said, "Yes, he does!" "So do you want to accept His free gift of salvation and abundant life?" I asked. That morning Brian bowed his head and asked Jesus to save him from his sins!

There is something special about helping give birth to a new baby! That happened ten weeks ago. Every Saturday I slip into our youth meeting to check up on my "baby!" No, I'm not the one responsible for his spiritual growth now ... I'm sort of like the grandfather, and I will have a vested interest in him all the way to eternity!

Bill & Vicki Hoving | **Puerto Rico**

On Sunday, August 28, Henry Alicea made the biggest decision of his life — he trusted Christ as his Savior. The following day Henry was shipped to Parris Island, SC, to begin basic training in the Marines. He kept in touch through letters while in basic training and we wanted to share some examples of his growth (English is Henry's second language):

"Dear Pastor Bill, could you please contact my family and try and bring them to North Point (our church). My mother cries all the time and I don't want her to suffer any longer for me ... God is now with me more than ever, for I pray every night and every chance I get. The Lord has guided me, and I have had to keep Jesus real tight in my heart. Jesus is taking me through some rough stuff like Joseph in the Bible, but He is molding me."

Henry was able to come home on leave last Sunday and share a stirring testimony of how God is changing his life. Please pray for him and his family.

Stephen & Melinda Sissons | **Japan**

This month Jacob and Sean's second term of the school year will end and their winter break will start. Just prior to that day, they will have *osouji*. This literally means "big cleaning." The cleaning of the school is the responsibility of the students. This is done out of respect for the building. Let me give you an example. Sean is playing on a basketball team here. Every time the boys enter and exit the gym for practice they say an *aisatsu* (greeting) to give respect to the building because of it being provided for their use. Therefore, they have a sense of obligation to take care of it, which includes sweeping and cleaning the gym floor. It is the same with the schools. So, Jacob and Sean on a monthly basis clean the school and three times a year do *osouji*.

Stan & Jackie Sherwood | **Panama**

During our travels in Boston, MA, we met Kaylie, a Boston Baptist College student, on a train ride back to our hotel. She told us she had been on many mission trips and loved being involved with God's work on the field. She was very interested and had many questions when we talked about our "calling" from God. We arrived at our destination and gave her our prayer card. Kaylie said she would be praying for us.

We received an email a few days later from Kaylie stating that from our conversation she now knows that God is directing her path into missions. Praise God for bringing us together to encourage our young sister in Christ!

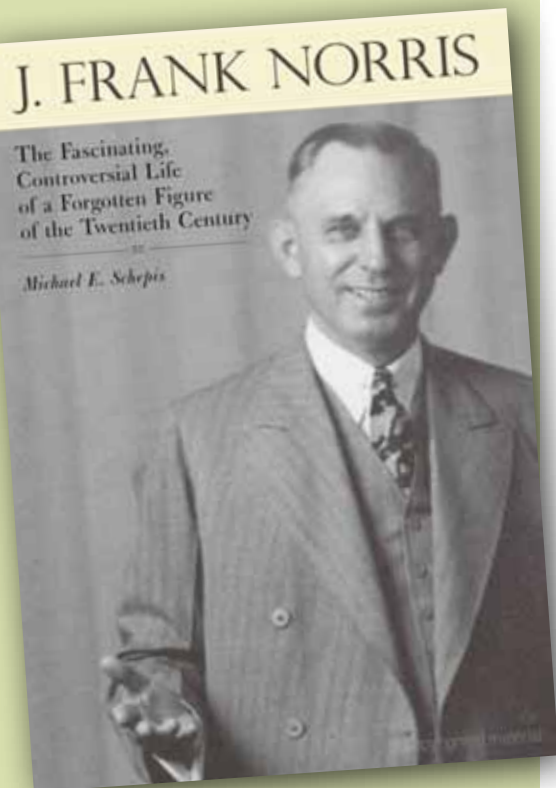
Christine Fulmer | **Kenya**

Recently we had 37 doctors, nurses, lab techs, surgeons, and anesthesiologists from the States arrive in Nairobi to offer free medical, optical, dental, and surgical care to Kenyans. We chose two locations, Lenana and Matasko, to set up tents for registration, triage, pharmacy, surgeries, and evangelism. In four days, we ministered to 1,975 people! The best part was the opportunity we had to present the gospel to each person! Sixty souls received Christ as Savior, many were helped with assurance of salvation, and we prayed with every one of them. It was great watching Kenyans work alongside missionaries as they ministered to the needs of these dear people. We were all exhausted — but thrilled to be part of this act of love, kindness, and sacrifice. Because of faithfulness in giving, especially during these tight economical times, souls have been saved and lives made right with God. Asante sana!

New biography of J. Frank Norris released

As the movements who were influenced by the controversial Baptist leader, J. Frank Norris, grow older, there is also a renewed interest in Mr. Norris. Among those publishing studies about him is Michael Schepis, author of J. Frank Norris, The Fascinating, Controversial Life of a Forgotten Figure of the Twentieth Century. Schepis has deep roots in the independent Baptist movement, and he has that in common with other Norris biographers. However, he also possesses a rare collection of over 500 audio recordings of Norris, 60-70 years old, and many heard only once. The book itself contains information from these recordings, as well as 75 photographs and a foreword written by former Tribune editor and BBFI founder James O. Combs.

This is an excerpt from J. Frank Norris, The Fascinating, Controversial Life of a Forgotten Figure of the Twentieth Century, by Michael E. Schepis, 2011 by JFrankNorristhebook.com, LLC



Four Preachers Meet with Pope

On August 19, 1947, J. Frank Norris boarded an American Airlines plane in New York for a trip that would include a conference with Pope Pius XII to discuss the threat of Communism and talks with Jewish and Arab leaders regarding the establishment of a homeland for the Jews in Palestine. The trip made stops in London, Rome, Jerusalem, Palestine, Egypt, Babylon (Iraq), and Greece. Accompanying Norris on this trip were G. Beauchamp Vick, Temple Baptist Church, Detroit; Luther C. Peak, Central Baptist Church, Dallas; and Wendell Zimmerman, Kansas City Baptist Temple, Kansas City.¹

Norris, in an address later in Fort Worth, said that when the group landed at the airport in London, there were four men to greet them from the Ford Motor Company with a new Lincoln car and another car to carry the baggage. The company had reserved a room in the finest hotel in London for their stay. They were driven to their destinations in England and Scotland. The company repeated this when they landed in Amsterdam, where two men met and drove them wherever they needed to go through Holland and Belgium and then on to Paris. Another car drove them over the Alps of Switzerland to Italy and on to Rome. This was repeated again when they landed in Athens and Egypt. Norris said that he did not know that his friends from Ford would be providing this service for him at no cost.²

The visit with Pope Pius XII by the four Americans took on historical significance at the time, as a report of the meeting was broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company.³

In a report to the congregation at First Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Dr. G. Beauchamp Vick related some of the details and his impression of the visit with the pope. He said, "The summer home of the Pope was about a 15 mile trip from Rome. When we went in he was seated behind a small desk in an ordinary chair. There were four chairs arranged on the opposite side of the desk. We went in and shook hands with him. He was very gracious in welcoming us. He spoke very good English. After the meeting he very

graciously invited us back to see him on any of our future visits to Rome. We said we'd be very happy to accept that invitation if events made it possible."⁴

Though the press focused on the events in Rome, the greater immediate issue to Norris was the Jewish-Palestine tension in the Middle East. The question of a homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine was under discussion by the United Nations. President Truman asked Norris for his views on the issue. After returning from the talks in Jerusalem, Norris sent a letter to Truman outlining the Palestine situation. Upon receipt of the information the president sent a personal letter stating, "I deeply appreciate having the benefit of this expression of your views because I know that you have given long and extensive study to the Jewish Palestinian question."⁵

Prayer Changes Things

Norris had a great sense of humor and exhibited it often when speaking publicly and in private conversations. He combined humor with a fascinating incident that occurred to illustrate a point he was making in a sermon he preached on July 25, 1948. He was speaking on the topic of how prayer changes things. In the middle of the sermon, he called for Reginald Woodworth to come to the platform. I was fortunate to have known Reg and his wife, Dorothy, back in the seventies and eighties. Reg and I were teachers at a college in Springfield, Missouri (Baptist Bible College). Dorothy was the bookstore manager at the time. He was quite a character, as all who knew him would attest. He had a way of being humorous in so



many situations that people got accustomed to laughing just at the mention of his name. During one semester, we were teaching classes in the same building, and often we would hear uproarious laughter coming from his classroom. At the time of this sermon, Woodworth held the position of business manager at the seminary that used the facilities of the First Baptist Church. The description of this incident related during that Sunday evening service went like this:

Norris: "Prayer changes things! Reg Woodworth, I want you to come up here. I want to give you (the audience) the greatest real example of how prayer changes things. I wouldn't tell this if I didn't have a witness because it's incredible, impossible to believe. I got in to Chicago. I went in to use the telephone in the Union Station. I phoned out to the Chicago airport and said I have a ticket on your plane and am now leaving. I told him how fast I'd get there. He said if you will get here within a certain time, I forget now—twenty or thirty minutes—you'd make it."

Woodworth: "An impossible time."

Norris: "It was an impossible time. I said, 'Reg, don't pay attention to the speed law because I'll pay the fine. I've got to make that plane to make that appointment.' Dorothy was with us."

Woodworth: "Yes, sir." (Laughter)

Norris: "And, I know she tells the truth."

Woodworth: "I do too. I know she tells the truth." (Laughter)

Norris: "I know she tells the truth—she's here in the audience. Alright, as we drove up to the Chicago Airport I got out, rushed in, but the plane had left."

Woodworth: "Yes, sir." (Laughter)

Norris: "I rushed up to the attendant at the counter and said, 'That plane to Detroit?' He said, 'It just left.' I said

I have to catch it. I said, 'Where is the Superintendent, the high man in control?' He said, 'There he is in that office.' I went to the office and said, 'I am the man that phoned you. I have to catch that plane.' He said, 'Well, it's already gone.' I said, 'Well, that doesn't make any difference, call it back!'"

Woodworth: "That's right." (Laughter)

Norris: "He went in and radioed and that plane turned around and came back, didn't it!"

Woodworth: "Yes, sir. I saw it. I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it!"

Norris: "That's the reason I want you to be here. I know you (the audience) wouldn't take my word for it, but you know it happened, didn't you?"

Woodworth: "Yes, sir. I stayed real close to him so everybody would know I knew him." (Laughter)

Norris: "They made up the time. People met me when I arrived in Detroit. Now, here is the great illustration. There was a schedule for that plane to leave there at a certain minute. When the minute came, that plane took off."

Woodworth: "Amen."

Norris: "But, it was also in the predestinated plan of God Almighty that when I got there, He would put it in the heart of that manager to call that plane back. My friend, that's how prayer changes things. I believe in the God today, the same God that told Joshua, 'Command the sun to stand still and the moon to stand still in the valley of Ajalon.' (Joshua 10:12). We have a God, my friend, who can change time and seasons. I'll put my faith in Him!"⁶

This is but one of the many fascinating incidents that took place in the life of J. Frank Norris.

Dr. Norris meets Billy Graham

In 1950 on a trip to the Columbia, South Carolina, area, Norris heard thirty-one-year-old Billy Graham speak in an evangelistic rally and met with him afterward. In a letter to Graham the next day, he wrote, "You are intellectual both by birth and by training, but, most important you have heart and tenderness. The effect of your message on me was overwhelming. I found myself wanting to go up and repent of all my life."⁷ In the same letter, Norris invited the young evangelist to come to Detroit and Fort Worth to hold meetings, where the entire membership of his churches would support the efforts. At the time, Graham was president of Northwestern College in Minneapolis. He had been converted under the ministry of Mordecai Ham, who was a close friend to Norris.

In his sermons and on radio, Norris began to laud Graham's efforts and declared that the young evangelist was a premillennialist, preaching the same message he had been preaching all these years. In 1951, Graham held a crusade in Fort Worth. During the crusade, Norris contacted Ham to come to the meeting and mentioned that the young Graham had referred to his conversion under his ministry several times. Ham came to Fort Worth to hear his young protégé in the final days of the meeting.⁸

1. Louis Entzminger, *The J. Frank Norris I Have Known for 34 Years* (Fort Worth, TX: by the author, 1948)p. 14.
2. J. Frank Norris, Audio Record from the Heritage Collection at Arlington Baptist College, October 19, 1947.
3. *Fundamentalist*, September 19, 1947.
4. G. Beauchamp Vick, Audio Record from the Heritage Collection at Arlington Baptist College (n. d.).
5. Entzminger, pp. 342–344.
6. J. Frank Norris and Reginald Woodworth, Audio Record from the Heritage Collection at Arlington Baptist College, July 25, 1948.
7. Norris to Graham, Norris Papers, March 1, 1950. (Courtesy of the Heritage Collection, Arlington Baptist College)
8. J. Frank Norris, Audio Record from the Heritage Collection at Arlington Baptist College, March 18, 1951 and Norris to Ham, Norris Papers, March 11, 1951. (Courtesy of the Heritage Collection, Arlington Baptist College)

Fellowship Week

May 14 - 17, 2012

It's
All
About
The
Gospel

For I am not ashamed of
the gospel of Christ...

Romans 1:16



Ron Sears
Interim President

The student body, staff, faculty, and administration want to invite you to the campus of Baptist Bible College. We are in prayer and preparation for the May BBFI Fellowship meeting. Our theme for this year is, *It's All About The Gospel*. Each of our speakers will focus on the subject that binds us together as family - the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These men are excited about what God is doing in their life because of their salvation. Their heart is to share that passion with us. I also want to invite you to be in prayer for our annual May Offering. You will be contacted in the near future to see what God has laid on your heart for BBC. You are important to our college and your participation is needed now more than ever.

In His name,
Ron Sears, Interim President



Linzy Slayden
BBFI President

It's All About the Gospel!

The church is unique from every other organization or institution in the world in one respect; its mission is determined by its message. Practically every other organization in the world determines its message by its mission. For example, the airline industry has a mission. Their mission is to fly people from one place to another. What is their message - "We love to fly and it shows." Years ago, you used to hear this about United Airlines, "Fly the friendly skies of United."

The church is just the opposite. Our mission does not determine our message. Our message determines our mission. What is that message? It is the gospel. What is the mission? The mission is to spread the gospel. It's all about the gospel.

The gospel is the only message that has the power to take a person from sin to salvation, from hell to heaven, from deadness to life and from darkness to light. The gospel impacts eternity! Let's gather at Baptist Bible College in May and once again be challenged to take the life-saving, soul-saving power of the gospel across the street and around the world.

Pastor Linzy Slayden
Friendship Baptist Church, Owasso, OK

BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

God can be trusted in times of change



by Ron Sears | Interim President | Baptist Bible College

God's economy offers hope that is founded on life's certainties: seedtime and harvest; day followed by night; life leading to eternity; heaven and hell; all proving the eternal certainty of God — He can be trusted.

We also find hope and certainty in change. Spring turns to summer, which is followed by fall bringing winter. Each of the seasons declares a change has come and another is on its way. This allows us to be absolute in determining the passing of time and finding a hope that after the winter there will be the new life of spring.

His faithfulness gives hope as one generation gives birth to the next. It has been constant since creation. The winter of age has been comforted by the birth of the springtime of youth. Though each generation is different than the preceding, there are many similarities. They were all born in sin and in need of the Savior. God's grace is offered to all and those who respond in faith are made new.

Hope guides humanity as it steadily moves towards eternity in the footsteps of their parents. They see their need of forgiveness and repent. They watch as their world careens toward an eternity without Christ. A burden is born in their souls and they surrender to the call. It's the same voice their ancestors heard and followed. They have different means available for sharing the gospel and there are many more souls in need. They view the landscape with a different eye but their heart is the same — Jesus saves. They are sensing the unchanging truth of seedtime and harvest. As they recognize this, they are responding with a passion to plant the seed of God's grace while there is time.

Hope is born because God is at work. We are blessed to participate in the training of today's generation. It is an age offering God's truth as it brings a passion to youth. It's how God designed it to happen. Yet we have a shortage of laborers. Even this is not different than when Christ lived. Hope was born when He said to pray to the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers into the field. It's His field. The laborers are called and sent forth by Him and there is comfort in knowing God continues His work.

Because God is faithful, we know that when these students become great-grandparents, God will still be at work. He came to seek and to save the lost. He's still looking for some laborers to go into the field. Are you praying?

Trustees continue to consider candidates for president of Baptist Bible College. They ask that we pray for God's leadership as the decision-making continues. Trustee Chairman Doug Cox hopes to complete the interview process and to propose a new president for ratification soon.

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE

In appreciation of Judson



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

I was an undergrad when my brother-in-law, James Nash, first got me to read the little Moody Press biography of Adoniram Judson. From that moment I was hooked. I would have been hooked a few years earlier but when my sister, Grace, recommended it to me, I laughed her off. I said to her, "I don't want to read that dumb twelve-year-old-girl book." I could not have been more wrong. Only one other story outside of the Scriptures — the story of my father's conversation which radiated the Gospel to me and now to my household — trumps the impact of Adoniram Judson's story on me for 35 years (it would be a good 40 if I had listened to Grace). Maybe that's because Elisabeth Elliot's words from *Shadow of the Almighty* have been etched in my mind for years: "If we are to find the channel and the harbor, surely we need some lights to steer by." For me, Judson has been a beacon.

This month is the 200th anniversary of the sailing of two Massachusetts young people, Adoniram and Ann Judson, from Salem to the mission fields of the East. I have been laying this bicentennial on our Boston students pretty thick.

I have always been most stirred — once I understood the story of the Judsons — by the original letters and diary letters that have survived. I'm sitting here today with a three-inch-tall file I've accumulated through the years of copies of original Judson writings, as well as my copy of the 1853 memoir compiled by Francis Wayland.

For example, I love the way Ann tried to explain to a lifelong friend why she and Adoniram had become Baptists: "Thus, my dear Nancy, we are confirmed Baptists, not because we wished to be, but because truth compelled us to be."

In another setting, when avoiding conflict was impossible, Judson conveyed that he communicated so as "to please One whom I desire to love supremely, and whose smile I covet above all created good."

Frustrated? Try this one. "If we cannot do all the good we would, let us do all the good we can, and not fret because our means are limited."

Philosophy of ministry? "The preached Gospel and the written Word are the two arms which are to pull down the kingdom of darkness and build up the Redeemer's."

Is the ministry fire in your gut in need of a little stoking like mine does all too often? "Happiness consists not in outward circumstances. Millions of Burmans are perishing. I am almost the only person on earth who has attained their language to such a degree as to be able to communicate the way of salvation. How great are my obligations to spend and be spent for Christ! What a privilege to be allowed to serve Him in such interesting circumstances, and to suffer for Him."

Light for my way. Happy Judson bicentennial. Thanks, James. Sorry, Grace.

Filipino retreat remembered for inspiration and tragedy

Luzon, Philippines

By Jon Konnerup, BBFI Mission Director

Nestled in the mountainous region of Calot, Sablan, on the island of Luzon, Philippines, is High Acres Camp. This camp, initially purchased and developed by High Street Baptist Church under the leadership of the late David Cavin, is situated 17 kilometers outside the city of Baguio. For years, youth camps, ladies' and men's retreats, and seminars have been held at this location with souls being saved and lives being dedicated to the Lord and His service.

One of the exciting and encouraging privileges of being the mission director of BBFI is having the opportunity to meet, visit, and partner with the fruit of the ministries of our missionaries. Recently, I had the honor to preach for a retreat at High Acres Camp held for Filipino pastors and men of their churches.

I had anticipated this year's annual event since Lloyd Baker invited me last year. The men who attended were encouraged and uplifted by the songs of praise provided by singing evangelist Mark Gray.

It was a thrill to interact with these men

and hear the testimonies of how God is using them in their ministries. I was able to witness their zeal for world missions and hear that they not only support Filipino missionaries but are the sending churches for some of these missionaries as well.

The theme for this year's conference was "For Such a Time as This" from Esther 4:14. Each speaker, from national pastors to our missionaries, developed this challenging theme in their own unique and stimulating way. The men were attentive to the messages and responded with many "amens" which added to the air of excitement evident in each service. The local pastors interjected their cultural humor which many times caused much laughter.

At the end of the evening, the pastor from each church would meet and discuss that day's messages with his men. Several pastors told me that this week is always the highlight of the year



for their men and church leaders.

After the first night's message, missionary Mike Reap was leading his men in discussion when one of the men, Boyet Francisco, gave his testimony sharing how God had been working in his life, and how he really wanted to follow the Lord with the rest of his life.

The next afternoon some of the men were playing basketball when Boyet collapsed on the court. Attempts were made to revive him on the way to the hospital, however, before they arrived, he went home to be with the Lord. Boyet's wife told how much he loved to go to preacher's camp and spend time with the other men as they focused on their relationship with God. He also loved to play basketball with his fellow servants of God. She was holding onto the good and virtuous things just as the Bible directs us to do. We don't always understand the Lord's timing in situations like this but as my heart ached for his family, my mind went to the Lord with thanks that he had heard of the Savior because our missionaries had brought the good news.

Needless to say, this event changed the atmosphere at the retreat somewhat. However, it became a reminder to all that we each need to be ready for such a time as this — that moment when we take our final breath. Are we doing all we can to serve Him? Do we really understand the importance of missions?

It was a blessing to experience this retreat and it is always wonderful to meet and fellowship with fellow servants of Christ from different regions of the world. All this is possible because of the mission efforts of the BBFI for these past 62 years. It is also possible because those nationals who have been saved in their countries are in turn reaching their own people and now even going to the regions beyond them. To God be the glory!



Openings at Boston Baptist College



Professor of Christian Ministries/Christian Education

Boston Baptist College is seeking a full-time professor of Christian Ministries/Christian Education for the purpose of teaching undergraduate-level courses in local church ministries as well as Biblical Studies. The college aims to recruit candidates from diverse backgrounds who share a commitment to excellence in scholarship, effective Baptist church ministry skills, exemplary pedagogical techniques, strong interpersonal skills, a passion for the engaging theological perspective of our historic Baptist roots, and the ability to function as a team member in a small college environment.

Professor of Biblical Studies

Boston Baptist College is seeking a full-time professor of Biblical Studies for the purpose of teaching undergraduate level courses in Biblical Studies and Church History. The college aims to recruit candidates from diverse backgrounds who share a commitment to excellence in scholarship, effective Baptist church ministry skills, exemplary pedagogical techniques, strong interpersonal skills, a passion for the engaging theological perspective of our historic Baptist roots, and the ability to function as a team member in a small college environment. The institutional perspective is neither reformed nor ecumenical.

For more information see the full postings on www.boston.edu/facultysearch

Hillside Baptist hosts first Beast Feast

Springfield, MO

On February 4 the fellowship hall at Hillside Baptist Church, pastored by Cecil Tolbert, was abuzz with activity as hunters, fisherman, and all-around outdoorsmen came together for the church's first Men's Beast Feast. It was a great celebration of the outdoors as men exchanged hunting stories and enjoyed delicious food catered by Rib Crib. Other festivities included a wild game cook-off contest and drawings

for various door prizes ranging from camouflage t-shirts to numerous hunting accessories. One lucky attendee even walked away with a 20-gauge shotgun. But the highlight of the event were speakers Joseph Gleason, professor at Baptist Bible College, and hunting enthusiast Tim Slayball, who shared some of their hunting adventures in conjunction with the salvation message.



What was originally estimated to be a gathering of 100-150 people grew to an exciting 274 guests, 139 being first-time visitors to the church. Despite this "problem" of lack of space, when the men were asked if they would come to the event again, the answer was positive.

Though the Beast Feast is

concluded for the year, the follow-up is far from over. Already, those in attendance who left addresses have received a letter from Hillside, and soon visitation will begin in order to maintain contact with the guests. "The salvation seed has been planted; now it's time to water it, and we would appreciate your prayers as we see the Lord gain the increase through this ministry," says BBC student Cory Lavalie.

Owasso church hosts 10th Beast Feast and Retreat

Owasso, OK

Pastor Linzy Slayden reports Friendship Baptist Church of Owasso, OK, held its tenth annual Men's Wild Beast Feast and Life Skills Retreat January 20 and 21. A record number of 550 men attended. The Beast Feast on Friday was a great time of fellowship and challenge. Saturday was a time of teaching sessions for men of all ages with a final service. The theme was "Courageous." Pastor Vic Bledsoe, Shiloh Hills Baptist Church, Kennesaw, GA, was the keynote preacher.

The individual workshops, called Life Growth Sessions, were based on the theme. For instance, Oklahoma pastor Greg Baxter used the phrase, "It Takes Courage to Lead," while Missouri pastor Dennis Jennings led a session called, "It Takes Courage to Build Your Family." Other speakers and their topics were Integrity with John Clapp, Authenticity with Bill Carter, Commitment with Bob Weger, Finishing Strong with Rob Hoffman, Mentoring with Jim Goodman, and a women's question and answer panel about Strengthening Your Marriage.

Sessions designed for young men were led by Jon Slayden of Baptist Bible College and Friendship Baptist Church Youth Pastor Jeff Smith. Pastor Linzy Slayden is president of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International.



The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is the most precious thing known to mortal man because it alone can wash away our sin. This treatise examines the crucifixion of Christ and provides medical evidence that His blood was different from ours in that it was indeed sinless. All Scripture references are from the KJV.

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Jerry Burton succeeded by Tim LaBouf in Rittman, OH

Rittman, OH

After serving Calvary Baptist Church in Rittman, OH, 32 years, Pastor Jerry Burton retired from that pulpit in December 2011. December 11, at the annual business meeting, the church extended a call to youth pastor Tim LaBouf to become pastor at Calvary.

The church held a retirement reception on December 18 after the morning service. A number of those who had been affected by his ministry came to help him celebrate. Among those was the mayor of Rittman, William Robertson, who came and spoke about Jerry's involvement with the community during the time he has served as mayor. During Pastor Burton's tenure at Calvary the church has done considerable remodeling of the buildings, paying cash for each project. The mission outreach has grown from \$9,000 when he arrived to \$68,000 plus for the current mission fiscal year. The church supports over 60 missionary projects, including BBC, the BBFI office, and the *Tribune*.

Burton served churches in Texas, Ohio, and Missouri before becoming senior pastor at Calvary. In 2005 Jerry lost his wife, Jean, to cancer. In the spring of 2007 Jerry met and married Carol Feistel, a recently widowed BBFI missionary.

Tim and Kendra LaBouf joined the staff at Calvary in August 2010. Burton says, "God has blessed the youth under their leadership. It was a smooth transition for us and we are grateful for God's leadership in the transition."



From left: Jerry and Carol Burton with Kendra and Tim LaBouf

Pastor Jerry and Carol are joining the staff of the Lima Baptist Temple, Lima, OH, as pastor of counseling and discipleship. Jerry previously served on staff there from 1965-1975. The pastor in Lima is Charlie Miller.

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Friendship Baptist hosts Fun on the Run event

Owasso, OK

Over 500 teenagers gathered on January 27 at Friendship Baptist Church of Owasso, OK, to enjoy their tenth annual Fun on the Run. The event began with praise and worship by the singing group Breakaway from Baptist Bible College. Then, illusionist Jared Hall amazed the teenagers with his illusions and spiritual application. Aaron Cavin from the Boston area was the guest speaker and there was a good response at the altar with several teens accepting Christ and many others making life-changing decisions. But the night was only half over. At midnight 14 school busses full of teenagers headed to Tulsa to finish out the night with Incredible Pizza, ice skating, and bowling.

Oklahoma youth pastors and surrounding states are working hard to network youth groups. Check out www.theloopevents.com to see upcoming events for 2012.



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Asian Baptist Clearinghouse dedicates new office

By Paul Byars, BBFI missionary to the Philippines and ABC leader

Asian Baptist Clearinghouse in Manila (Philippine Islands) hosted a dedication service January 13, 2012, to mark the opening of their new office. Pastors, missionaries, the ABC Board of Trustees, ABC staff, and others gathered to rejoice and witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony. BBFI Mission Director Jon Konnerup delivered a challenge for partnership in missions and cut the ribbon.

The clearinghouse, believing it prudent to purchase its own property, received a gift from the B'Etta Funk Foundation, and after the purchase and renovation, staff moved into their new facilities on September 12, 2011.

ABC began in 1994 in the mind of BBFI missionary to the Philippines Lloyd Baker. As the Filipino churches grew and began the transition from a missionary-receiving nation to become a missionary-sending nation, some sort of mechanism was necessary to help the churches. A Filipino family, Peter and Ryna Lynn Ayon, surrendered their lives to go to Indonesia. At the time it seemed like a very big step, but a step in

the right direction. Baker knew the Ayon family would need assistance getting their support from the Philippines to Indonesia, so the clearinghouse started taking shape. All that was required at first was a columnar ledger book, some receipts bought at the local office supply, and a sharp pencil, and the Asian Baptist Clearinghouse was up and running.

The early years were crucial as the foundation of integrity, accountability, and philosophy was laid. At first most Filipino pastors did not think ABC would work because they felt the churches were too poor to send missionaries overseas. But God had other plans. Within a few years, more and more families were giving their lives to foreign missions, and more and more churches were being greatly blessed through faith promise mission giving.

With a growing number of missionary families, the ministry of ABC grew as well. In 2011, Asian Baptist Clearinghouse serviced 111 Filipino missionary families on 35 foreign fields, and they processed \$2.4 million. And with the growth came the need for adequate office space and a convenient location to service the missionaries and churches. The past ten years, ABC has enjoyed the use of facilities graciously provided by the Rawlings Foundation, but leadership felt that having their own property would give a tremendous impetus to the future mission endeavors of the Philippines. However, finding and securing property for ABC seemed to be an unreachable goal.

The gift from the B'Etta Funk Foundation made the new office possible. The foundation carries the name of B'Etta Funk, half of the BBFI missionary team, Leslie and B'etta Funk, who became missionaries to the Philippines in 1954. Leslie had fought in the Philippines during WWII, surviving the Bataan Death March and returning to the Islands with the gospel. Two of the churches begun by the Funks, Grace Baptist Church in Tacloban, Leyte, and Berean Bible Baptist Church in Paranaque City, Metro Manila, are some of the strongest missions-giving churches in the Philippines.

The missionary couple was very conservative with their finances, and after years of biblical stewardship and sacrifice, they established a foundation to help further Filipino ministry. Leslie passed away in 1987 and B'Etta joined him in heaven in 2009, but their legacy continues bearing fruit. Because of their love for missions, their love for the Filipino people, and their wise planning, they will be a blessing for years to come. ABC is blessed and honored to be one of those ministries connected with them. As another continuing blessing, many of the missionaries using ABC today are direct products of the Funk's ministry.

To honor the Funks, ABC mounted a plaque of dedication in which they are named, and their gift is memorialized. With vision such as theirs, and those who have worked hard to see the clearinghouse develop, Asian Baptist Clearinghouse will continue to lead the way for developing nations to show that any Baptist church-planting movement in any country can trust God's promises and reach beyond itself with the gospel.



From left: Paul Byars, Jon Konnerup, Jerry Nable, Gilbert Toquera, Lloyd Baker, Dimver Andales, Boyd Lyons, and Jun Lumagbas

A FREE BOOK FOR YOU!

A new book, *Something Was Missing*, is my testimony as to how I was saved out of Catholicism. I'll send a free copy to any pastor or to any individual who has also been saved out of Catholicism. Former Catholics are using my book to reach relatives and friends who are still in the Roman church.

As a boy growing up I was regularly challenged, "John, always be a good Catholic." But *Something Was Missing*. I was never challenged to apply what I had been taught about the Lord dying on the Cross for the sins of the world, to my own need for the Savior.

At age 37, through reading the Bible, I came to know I was lost and deserving of Hell. I cried out to the Lord and He changed my life. Since then, I've tried to tell others how, through faith they can also find a life of joy and peace and a full assurance of salvation.

For years, a kind and decent Catholic friend regularly challenged me to explain why I had left what he believed was "The One True Church." My 47-page letter of response eventually became the basis for *Something Was Missing*. The book has helped others get saved when they came to see that something had also been missing in their upbringing.

To get your free copy of *Something Was Missing*, email your address to jstormer@centurylink.net. Do it now!



JOHN STORMER • PO BOX 32 • FLORISSANT, MO 63032

Larry & Dixie Quade | **Wales**

Recently, a family of four was gloriously saved. John started coming to Sunday school after one of our teens, Timothy, extended an invitation to John's brother, Richard. John came a few times to Sunday school and then began attending our new Friday evening youth ministry started by David and Mary Campbell. The Campbells visited the parents and they came to a Friday night activity and both services the following Sunday. David and Mary began to answer their many questions with great results — all four of them asked Jesus to be their Savior! What a wonderful Sunday it was, and all as a result of Timothy asking someone to Sunday school and the new ministry on Friday evenings. Hallelujah!

Winston & Ruth Kumar | **India**

Our recent trip to India was exciting. The Indian leaders welcomed us with great joy and love. The former president of the All India Christian Law Association was notified of our arrival in Orissa. He offered us valuable information about the government and anti-conversion laws and ways to go about our work — all at no charge. Our days were spent visiting old friends and villages. We found two good areas to begin training the leadership and planting churches. Almost every night we had the opportunity to spend time in prayer and preach to Christian believers and the nonbelievers they invited. During the meetings, there were six salvations and one lady rededicated her life to share Christ with nonbelievers. The believers said that many of their Hindu friends wanted to meet the "American" and to know Christ but there was no room in their home.

The fields are ripe unto harvest in India. God has even provided the workers. Most of these co-laborers have experienced pressure from radical Hindus at some point. Please pray for the people of Orissa, India.

Roy & Anna Hendrickson | **England**

Two of our Sunday school children, Lewis (7) and his sister Chloe (5), trusted Christ as their Savior during a time of invitation. As I gave the example of the ABCs (acceptance, belief, confession) for salvation, they each made it their personal prayer. Their mother noticed immediate changes in their attitude and behavior. She told us that the following day at school Lewis tried to comfort his classmates who were sorrowing over the deaths of a little schoolgirl and her parents who were killed in an automobile accident during that weekend.

Brian & Rachel Weed | **Nicaragua**

We have been training Dennis Fuentes for several years to take over the church he was saved in. A few months ago, our pastors went to La Esmeralda to officially place him over the church. That is what it is all about — reach them, train them, and then watch them serve the Lord.

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Independent Baptist missionaries murdered near Monterrey, Mexico

Santiago, Mexico

An Amarillo, TX, couple, John and Wanda Casias, missionaries with the Global Independent Baptist Fellowship, were found dead by their son Shawn, Tuesday, January 31, 2012. The pair had been strangled with electrical cords, and their home was robbed in the town of Santiago in northeast Mexico. John Casias was 76 and Wanda was 67.

The missionaries acknowledged the danger in their area when they visited the churches in the U.S. to make their reports. However, they felt compelled to stay where they had ministered 29 years. On the website, www.casias.org, the late summer report

in 2011 contained these lines:

"Second Timothy 3:1 'This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.' The only hope for the Mexican people today is Jesus in them, the HOPE of glory. I confess that it's getting easier to witness to the wealthy — at least they are listening. The wealthy are fleeing to Canada and the U.S.A. for protection. The only problem is that when they return to renew their visas the cartel is waiting, and either kill them or kidnap them for thousands of dollars, in some cases millions. The cartel has NO mercy or value for life. They are ruthless murderers! You probably heard about the mayor of our town, kidnapped on the 15th of August and murdered on the 18th, threw him like an animal, hands tied and blindfolded on the side of the highway. He was a fine young man that was against the cartel."

According to AP reports, fighting between the drug cartels has brought a surge of violence and other crimes to Monterrey and the surrounding region since 2010. There is no evidence, according to authorities, however, that the missionaries were a cartel target. They believe the murderers wanted the couple's vehicle.

The Casias's sending church was Liberty Baptist Church of Lewisville, TX, where Dick Webster is the pastor.



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Debbie Williams

Springfield, MO

BBFI missionary Debbie Williams, wife of Mark Williams, left this life January 23, 2012, after a long fight with cancer. Debbie is a 1973 graduate of Baptist Bible College, and she and Mark have been missionaries to Mexico since 1982.

Debbie leaves behind her husband, three children, her father, K. B. Murray, brothers, sisters, and 12 grandchildren.

A memorial service was held for Debbie January 26 at Graceway Baptist Church in Springfield, MO.



Donald Atchley

Silver City, NM

Donald Atchley, 87, passed away December 20, 2011. Born August 24, 1923, in Colgate, OK, Donald was married to his wife Johnnie in 1942 and graduated from Baptist Bible College, Springfield, MO, in 1957.

He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, and afterward attended Temple Baptist Church in Odessa, TX, while working the oil fields of West Texas. He was saved, and subsequently attended BBC in 1953. After graduation he founded and pastored churches in New Mexico and Texas. He started his last church, Faith Baptist Church in Silver City, NM, and retired in 2001 for health reasons.

Donald is survived by his wife of 69 years, Johnnie, five children, 13 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.



Kathleen Baty Hodges

Savannah, GA

Kathleen Baty Hodges, wife of the late Cecil A. Hodges, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, January 23, 2012. Born in Jacksonville, FL, January 29, 1927, for over 40 years Mrs. Hodges was the "first-lady" of Bible Baptist Church, Savannah, GA. She was a Sunday school teacher, taught many ladies' seminars, worked in the church office doing whatever was needed during her husband's pastorate.

Mrs. Hodges is survived by her daughter, two grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Bible Baptist Church in Savannah January 26.



G. Eldon Cotton

Smithville, AR

Retired pastor George Eldon Cotton was taken to heaven December 30, 2011, at the age of 77. Cotton was born September 25, 1934, in Alex, OK. He worked in the oil fields of West Texas and New Mexico before surrendering to ministry. He graduated from Baptist Bible College in 1977 and pastored three churches before retiring from the ministry for health reasons. He and his wife, Alice, moved to Smithville, AR, where he resided until his death.

Cotton leaves behind his wife of 60 years, two daughters, ten grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

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Giving is a seed I sow

By Victoria Conley

Growing up, I knew little about stewardship. I did, however, know the importance of giving from observing my parents each week in church. Every Sunday, my sisters and I would ask my parents for some money for the offering. And of course, my parents would place some quarters into our hands. By placing that change into the offering plate, I remember feeling good inside because I gave back to Jesus so He could use the money to change the world. When I finally started making money by babysitting, dogsitting, and tutoring, I began to tithe at least ten percent of my small earnings, just as I had seen my parents do. It actually became quite exciting to tithe, because I got my own tithing envelopes from the church with my name on them, and that made it personal.

Whether I made \$5 or \$120 that week, tithing was the first thing I did with my money. At first it was really easy because when I made about \$15 from a babysitting job, the tithe was only \$1.50, so it was not much sacrifice. But when I started earning more, the tithe amounts got larger. At one point, I thought, “Wow! I could do a lot with the money I give. I could have gone to the movies more with friends, gone shopping more — which is my favorite pastime — or bought tons of new books.” But, I realized that even though I could do plenty with the money, God could do so much more.

It was not until I was around 12 years old, however, that I realized that there are other ways to give that do not include money. I learned in youth group that stewardship is about tithing plus giving. Tithing always involves money, but giving does not have to be limited to money. It can be anything, from helping out in nursery, assisting in parking lot duty, or greeting people at the door of the church. There are so many ways people can give of their time and talents. For example, I was the secretary of the Cubbies and Puggles in AWANA for two years and had an absolute blast. I served so I could bless those kids, but seeing their enthusiasm for Christ blessed me. There was not a night that those precious kids did not make me smile as they ran down the hall, gave me hugs, sang Bible songs, or said their verses.

I picture giving as an act of worship. Anytime I give back to God whether through money, time, or talent, I sense Him standing near me, smiling. Despite my youth, I can give back by helping out in the children’s ministry, leading worship in youth

group, doing more community service activities to show others who Christ is, arranging rides for someone in the youth group who needs one, anonymously helping someone out, or going on mission trips. Once I took that first step towards giving back to Jesus, I could not get enough of it. Giving back through my money, time, and talents has consumed my life and given my life a purpose. Through stewardship, I have learned that I truly don’t begin to live until I truly begin to give.

I heard someone say a long time ago, “Tithing is a debt I owe. Giving is a seed I sow.” Over the years, tithing has changed my whole attitude from one of “I have to give” to one of “I am glad to give.” In Luke 6:28, Jesus said, “For if you give, you will get. Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure. Whatever measure you use to give, it will be used to measure what is given back to you.” Tithing is such a bare minimum, ten percent. Giving is the extra stuff we do because we love God. By tithing and giving, we exhibit God’s importance in our life. Beside all that, giving some of my money, some of my time, some of my talents, is the least I can do for all that He gave to me. He gave me His Son’s life, a family that loves me, a Christian environment to grow up in, a church home to fellowship in, and so many other blessings!



Victoria is a senior at Bible Baptist School, Savannah, GA. She is an active member in her community and at Bible Baptist Church where Herb Hubbard is her pastor. Currently she is the worship leader for the elementary children during the Sunday school group session, and she is a member of the Chatham County Youth Commission, a government organization that allows youth to experience various aspects of their local government while serving their community and advocating for youth in various countywide events. In that organization, Victoria has been involved in several campaigns informing teens about domestic violence, teen driving safety, and HIV/AIDS. Victoria is also the president of Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Bible Baptist School and will attend Mercer University. This article is based on a testimony she gave at church during stewardship month.



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