

# BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

MAY 2011 | VOL. 61 NO. 9 | \$1.95

JAMES 2:15-17

IF A BROTHER OR SISTER BE NAKED, AND DESTITUTE OF DAILY

**COMMUNITY**

FOOD, AND ONE OF YOU SAY UNTO THEM, DEPART IN PEACE,

**OUTREACH**

BE YE WARMED AND FILLED; NOTWITHSTANDING YE GIVE THEM

**ON THE**

NOT THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE NEEDFUL TO THE BODY;

**MISSION**

WHAT DOTHT IT PROFIT? EVEN SO FAITH,

**FIELD**

IF IT HATH NOT WORKS, IS

DEAD, BEING

ALONE.

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*Lil' Sprouts*



## 2s & 3s

*Planting Faith*



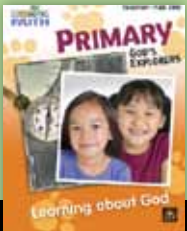
## PRE-PRIMARY

*Planting Faith*



## PRIMARY

*Growing Faith*



## MIDDLER

*Growing Faith*



## JUNIOR

*Growing Faith*



## JUNIOR HIGH

*Living My Faith*



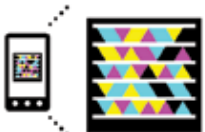
## SENIOR HIGH

*Real Faith*



## ADULT

*Life Design*



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ON THE TABLE

## I'm all in

by Keith Bassham | Editor

I mentioned to my wife this morning that 35 years ago today she and I were preparing to leave Springfield for our first post-college ministry in Texas. I cannot remember if I was more excited about getting out of school or getting into serious ministry. That's what this time of year makes me think of.

That and bluebonnets. My first pulpit was in a small town south of Dallas. The church is Fundamental Baptist in Palmer, TX, 12 miles east of Waxahachie and seven miles north of Ennis, and in April the area around Ennis is awash with fields of bluebonnets. Texas names the bluebonnet as the official state flower, but true to Texas ways, there were arguments for about 70 years about which species of bluebonnet should be the official one. In 1971, the Texas legislature passed a law naming all species of Lupines as the official flower, but most agree the most attractive of them all is *Lupinus texensis*, the Texas bluebonnet.

One time in Oklahoma, I was visiting a small art showing and stopped in front of a canvass filled with a field of bluebonnets. I said to the artist, "You painted this near Ennis, TX, didn't you?" She said, "Why, yes. How did you know?" I told her I lived there for a time, and we both enjoyed the view her vision and acrylics had brought to life.



But enough diversion. This past week, Joey Candillo of Bales Baptist Church in Kansas City, MO, preached at the Missouri BBF meeting. He delivered a good message on the importance of teaching sound theology to a church, and near the end of his message he switched gears a little. In a very frank, personal appeal he declared, "I don't know what's ahead for the BBF, but I want you to know, I'm all in."

That's how I felt 35 years ago as I left Springfield for Palmer. And, occasionally I have to do a gut check, but I keep coming back to the same attitude. I'm all in.

Let's meet together in Springfield for a great meeting during Graduation Fellowship Week.

*Keith Bassham*

# BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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## PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

# The power of mentoring



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

**M**entoring has withstood the test of time. Mentoring was, and continues to be, one of the most effective ways to pass on skills, knowledge, and wisdom, and to train the next generation. If you ask ten different people to define mentoring, you will get ten different answers. In the medical field they use the phrase, “Watch one, do one, and teach one.”

Although there are dozens of more complex definitions, our thinking always takes us to ministry. We know mentoring is taught in the Word of God. Paul told Timothy to pour his life into faithful men who in turn could teach others (2 Timothy 2:2). Just as Paul poured himself into Timothy, Timothy was to pour himself into others. What Paul had been to Timothy, Timothy was to be to others.

This is the Holy Spirit’s formula for church growth. Paul used no clever tricks. He used the same method the Lord Jesus used. Our Lord poured Himself into a dozen men, who, when filled with the Holy Spirit, turned the world upside down. Mentoring relationships can be informal and unstructured, more complex and procedure-based, or somewhere in between. We all thrive when we learn in the presence and with the help of others who have gone before us. Through the very act of mentoring, we help others acquire vital knowledge and skills more quickly, and often more effectively. I am thankful for the few who have been mentors to me. I have found their personal touch an invaluable asset for effective ministry. In light of the pressures of today’s fast-changing ministry climate, it is more important than ever for pastors to work to improve their skills.

A good way to think about our interactions with others is to think of them in terms of filling a bucket and pouring its contents onto others. With this in mind, consider two factors. What’s in your bucket? Jesus pointed out a number of things we can choose from — wisdom, material possessions, love, money, mercy, and knowledge. The second factor to consider is the size of the bucket. Jesus says that by our standard of measure, it will be measured back to us. One day the books will be opened and we will all be held accountable for what we have done with our gifts, opportunities, and responsibilities.

Our churches will benefit and our Fellowship will benefit when we get involved in mentoring. We have a great opportunity before us to reach the next generation of pastors. Let’s reach out to motivate our younger pastors and those who would be future leaders in our Fellowship to not only grow personally but also take an interest in and to understand the importance of our Fellowship. Let’s embrace this new day. Let’s encourage fellow pastors to attend the May Fellowship and the state meetings. Let’s introduce younger pastors to the flavor of the BBFI. We have the best thing going and I am glad to be a part of this great work of world evangelism.

## WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

# Japan needs our help and prayer



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

**O**ur hearts are saddened by the recent tragedy in Japan. We have not yet seen the full scale of the damage, death, and destruction. Despite these things, God is still in control and desires to be exalted and turned to in times of distress, according to Psalm 46:1-5.

As I write this article, it has only been a few weeks since the earthquake, and by the time this is in your hands there will have likely been many changes. Here is what we know right now.

Our missionaries and Japanese pastors report ongoing problems. The entire affected region is being governed by federal mandates carried out by the National Self Defense Forces. In most places, civilian entry to the affected area is being restricted. People are suffering from shortages of gasoline, roads have been damaged or destroyed after more than 50 reported earthquakes, and the fear of radioactive fallout from the damaged nuclear plants is ever present. All of these inhibit most relief efforts, but our churches are doing what they can to assist during this time of uncertainty.

Churches and individuals can give to the BBFI Mission Office Japan Relief Fund to assist our missionaries and churches. All money this fund receives will be directed to missionaries and Japan BBF pastors as the needs are shared.

Following are some of the needs already reported:

- 1) Several pastors in the area have reported damaged buildings. Their congregations are also facing unemployment in addition to the shortages of gasoline, electricity, food, water, and medicine.
- 2) A campsite is being set up to take in some evacuees from the damaged areas. Many supplies will be needed to assist with food, water, and bedding.
- 3) One of our missionaries has been in contact with a Christian organization involved with providing relief services. He has been offered the opportunity to go under their “umbrella” to provide some relief supplies transported at his own expense. This organization has received approved certification to go into the needy areas to provide relief. Our missionary will need help to obtain this transportation in order to deliver the supplies given to him.

A Japanese pastor writes, “I believe that God is showing us Japanese Christians the importance of physical life, but more importantly, the eternal life given by our Lord Jesus Christ through His suffering at the cross on Calvary.”

Missionary Lavern Rodgers writes, “I dare to say, this is a wake-up call from God to draw attention to the biggest need, the spiritual need of the most unreached nation for Christ. I know our people will respond from both sides of the Pacific, and it will impact this nation as never before!”

Certainly we can pray for wisdom for our missionaries as they minister to these down and destitute who are considering the uncertainty of life.



## Joy in watching churches grow



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

**D**uring my travels and preaching this spring, my wife Linda and I had the joy of celebrating the anniversary services of two of our church plants out of our ministry at Bethany Baptist Church in Melbourne, Florida.

Pastor Ron Todd of Harbor Baptist Church in Ormond Beach, FL, invited us to share in their 10th anniversary celebration March 6. What a thrill to see what the Lord has accomplished there. From the humble beginning in a small office complex which they quickly outgrew, they moved into a public school facility, and finally to their own building. They have outgrown their present auditorium space and have started a second service to accommodate the crowd. What a privilege to see the resulting return on our investment 10 years ago.



Wayne and Linda Guinn (left) with Ron and Margaret Todd

We were invited to share in the 25th anniversary services of Community Baptist Church of Sebastian, FL, on March 13. Pastor Ron Barber is the founding and present pastor. The church was started in a local school where God blessed with wonderful growth, and the church was able to purchase a five-acre plat. God led Bethany Baptist of Melbourne to co-sign a bank loan for the first building project. With God's continued blessing and growth, additional property and a beautiful new auditorium has been added. Our souls were uplifted with the marvelous music program, following which I was able to preach to a full house. The services were followed by dinner on the grounds and an afternoon concert.

Birthing a new church has such a huge personal reward attached, and that is in addition to the spiritual benefits. Could I challenge you preachers to reproduce your ministry by birthing a new church? There is no way to calculate your return on that investment!

## What we've heard about the Cebu meeting

by Jon Konnerup

**A**fter 60 years of global evangelization, nearly 7,000 churches have been started outside the United States as a result of the efforts of the BBFI. Many countries are now sending their own missionaries. Our biblically based philosophy has been blessed by God and has been working. BBFI missions is no longer from the "West to the rest" but from "everywhere to everywhere." Read, in their own words, what some of the international attendees shared concerning the historic meeting in Cebu in February.

**Srim Sara** (Cambodian missionary to Laos)

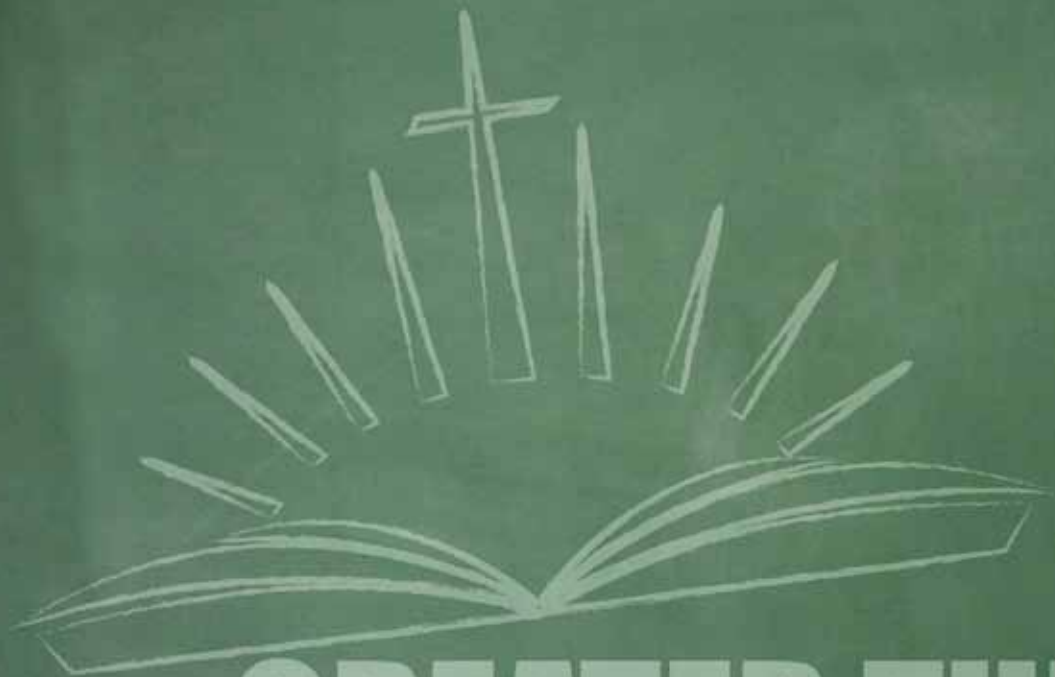
*God has used the BBFI for the last 60 years. I was just so excited to share with my wife of what God has done and the sweet fellowship that I had with the pastors from different places during that milestone Global Fellowship Meeting.*

**Larry Nelson** (BBFI missionary to Australia)

*This Global Meeting will have a lasting impact upon Dawn and me. From the time we arrived at Cebu International Airport, saw the welcome banner, and delighted in the youth choir outside singing "There's a Welcome Here," Dawn and I knew we were in for a treat. We loved the preaching and got a kick out of the way the Filipino crowd "urged on" a few of the preachers. The spirit of the meetings indicated clearly the incredible missions focus of the Asian pastors and churches. This meeting showed we've matured as a Fellowship and I think it's safe to say that we have many global partners.*

(photos and testimonies continued on page 20)





# GREATER THINGS

GRADUATION & FELLOWSHIP WEEK **MAY 9-12**  
**BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE** SPRINGFIELD, MO

## Monday

- 9 AM BBFI Executive Committee Meeting *Mission Building*  
1 PM BBFI National Director's Meeting *Mission Building*  
6:30 PM Evening service speaker: Linzy Slayden *BBFI president and pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Owasso, OK*

## Tuesday

- 9 AM BBFI Business Meeting *Field House*  
Ladies Meeting *Cafeteria*  
12 PM Alumni Luncheon *Cafeteria*  
1 PM BBFI Mission Field Rep. Meeting *Mission Building*  
6:30 PM Evening service speaker: Jerry Thorpe *Pastor Emeritus of Crossroads Fellowship, Odessa, TX*

## Wednesday

- 9 AM Missionary approvals  
Refuel: Student Ministry General Sessions  
12 PM Missionary luncheon *Mission Building*  
7 PM 75th Anniversary Celebration of High Street Baptist Church  
*(held at High Street Baptist: 900 North Eastgate Ave, Springfield, MO)*  
Speaker: Jonathan Falwell *Pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, VA*

## Thursday

- 9 AM 61st Graduation Exercises *Field House*  
BBFI Golf Tournament *Branson Creek Golf Club*

## CLASS REUNIONS

### 1959-60

Tuesday, May 10, 7:30 AM  
IHOP  
2647 N. Kansas Expwy  
Contact: Branson & Jorene Howard  
at (417) 865-1559 or (417) 818-2326

### 1962

Tuesday, May 10, 7:30 AM  
Shoney's  
2731 N. Glenstone Ave.  
Contact: John Page at  
(417) 862-6478 or  
jcp6560@aol.com

### 1970

Tuesday, May 10, 8:30-10 AM  
Panera Bread  
2535 N. Kansas Expwy.  
Contact: suegarard@aol.com or  
driscolhbma@usa.com

### 1971

Tuesday, May 10, 1:00 PM  
Ryan's Steak House  
1950 E. Kearney  
RSVP: Bill Carter at rhfbrc@yahoo.  
com by May 3, 2011

## LODGING

### Ramada Oasis

2546 N. Glenstone Ave.  
(417) 522-7725  
\$71 + tax

### Comfort Inn & Suites

2815 N. Glenstone Ave.  
(417) 869-8246  
\$75.99 + tax

### Holiday Inn

2720 N. Glenstone Ave.  
(417) 865-8600  
\$94 + tax Sun-Thu  
\$79 + tax Fri-Sat

### Drury Inn & Suites

2715 N. Glenstone Ave.  
(417) 863-8400  
\$89 + tax

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BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

## Priority 5: Global relevance



by Jim Edge | President | Baptist Bible College

Thinking globally today, the United States is no longer the center of the universe. Nowhere could that be seen more clearly than at our recent international BBFI meeting in the Philippines. Those who attended the meeting saw the fruit of the past 60 years of missionary work — the product of Baptist Bible College and the BBFI in countries around the world.

In many countries, our American graduates have won nationals to Christ, who have then planted churches. Those churches are now sending their own people to places like Cambodia, Ghana, Vietnam, and many other places. Not only are they sending out missionaries, but these missionaries are supported by the national churches and fellowships. In fact, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines (just to name a few) now have Bible colleges patterned after Baptist Bible College and are sending mission graduates all over the region. Looking ahead, our trustees, administration, and faculty are shaping Baptist Bible College to become even more effective and missional.

In order to accomplish our goal of global relevance, we are strengthening a number of strategic relationships around the world. We are creating more opportunities for professors from BBC to teach in Bible colleges globally. Many of these colleges are patterned after BBC and look to us for encouragement and guidance.

We are creating opportunities for our students to travel to other countries for faculty-directed field studies. Our goal is for every student to have the opportunity to travel abroad during their undergraduate studies. This “world class” education will broaden the vision and increase the burden of our students for other cultures.

Churches are seeking staff members and pastors who have a global mindset. Baptist Bible College graduates must be well versed on the cultural realities around the world, including an understanding of social structures, thinking mechanisms, and worldviews. Our focus is on exposing and sensitizing students to the nuances of doing ministry across national frontiers. These international internships, faculty-directed field studies, and other travel opportunities will give our students real-world ministry skills, deepen their passion for the lost, and develop within them a heart of gratitude.

These five priorities have become the compass that guides our trustees, faculty, and administration:

- *An emphasis on the spiritual formation of every student*
- *A solid independent Baptist Biblical interpretation*
- *Regionally accredited academic excellence*
- *A conservative worldview*
- *Global relevance*

Five excellent reasons why you can trust your students to the faculty and administration of BBC. I invite you to visit our campus any time to find a sense of excitement that is contagious and students who are committed to following the Great Commission now.

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE

## Pictures



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

I like pictures. Around my office I have all kinds. My son, Samuel, did a sketch of our family when he was about six years old ... I am tall and thin. I like that picture! On the mantle is a picture of our whole family with the 2004 World Series trophy. The digital frame on my desk has a rotating collection of my family — Christmas morning, summer vacation, silly shots.

Pictures are the greatest. They can freeze a memory in time and save it for when you want to see it again. But we can also use pictures another way. We can picture what is not yet but what we hope to do. On cold New England winter days, sometimes I picture myself in a warm climate.

Well, picture what we are doing in Boston. A new generation of church leaders is needed — church leaders for Baptist churches like ours. “Like ours” is dicey for some, but from my perspective, “us” are the ones who pay the bills and do the work. So I picture preparing leaders who can jump in and help our existing churches and start more. It is hard to picture more important work than that!

Picture Boston. Picture students who understand and love Baptist distinctives. I picture the student who just emailed me to request a term paper topic that contrasts baptism with Jewish ceremonial washings. That’s one worth framing!

Picture Boston. Picture students who sat in class this morning discussing back and forth why differences in the synoptic Gospels aren’t a sign of weakness — challenging the notions of liberal theologians we have studied together.

Picture students who can truly think biblically, who don’t have to wait for a book review to figure out the textual deficiencies of some of the “cool” personalities who profess “Christosity.” Picture young leaders who can spot truth AND error!

Picture the student who came to see me in the last hour, downright “gushy” to show me her 1863 edition of a Baptist history work — I know some of you don’t see how that is possible, but this picture is not imaginary. Students want heroes. They grasp and respect courage and conviction.

I am looking around my office again. My dad and mom look down at me from a picture. Three Boston students on camels from our Middle Eastern study trip grin at me from across the desktop. Behind me is a picture from the Roman catacombs where 22 of us crammed into one picture after we sang “Amazing Grace” where second-century Christians worshipped.

I have pictures of the highlights of my life, the treasures I have known. But my mind has pictures of highlights yet to come. Boston Baptist College of tomorrow is about as real to me as the photo of my boy, Matthew, driving a boat wearing sunglasses that are way too big. Good times. Good pictures. Good future.

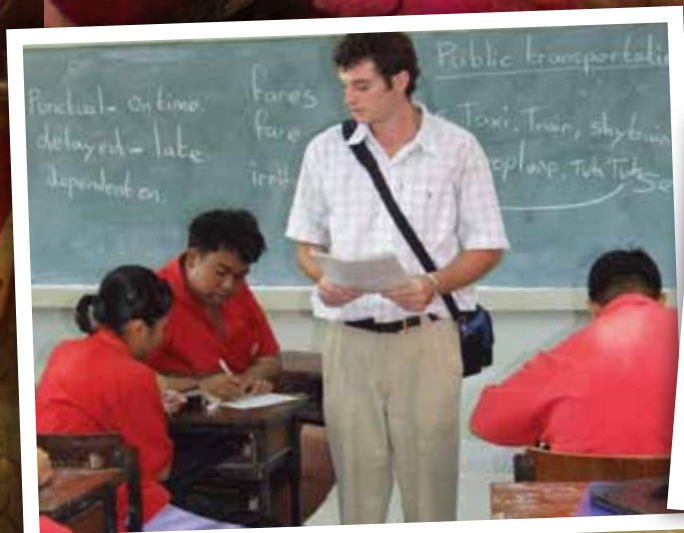


# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

When we asked our BBFI missionaries what types of community outreaches were being used, we were impressed with the variety of expressions of love and compassion. We received responses from Europe, Asia, Latin America, Australia, and multiple responses from Africa.



By James G. Smith  
BBFI Associate Mission Director



**READING CLUBS   FEEDING CENTERS   FLOOD AND FIRE RELIEF  
PRE-SCHOOLS   COMPUTER REFURBISHING   FAITH  
DENTAL CLINICS   VOLUNTEER WORK WITH THE POOR AND HOMELESS  
ORPHANAGES   DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAMS   PARENTING**

A sincere Christ-follower will give of himself for the needs of others. Our Lord told his disciples on the night before His crucifixion that the mark of our identity would be our love. Love will always show itself by giving. So it is not unusual that many of our global partners use community outreach as a method in their ministries.

It seems to us that there are two great, biblical, Christian purposes that motivate community outreach.

The first is simply showing the love of

God. The love of Christ constrains us. We display the love of Christ by the way we treat those who are less fortunate. This is not always measureable. The impact is not necessarily quantitative. We know that our Lord uses these acts of love and kindness.

James 2:15-17 "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

Charles Swindoll wrote in *The Practical Life of Faith*, "Because of our American pioneer heritage, we have a 'pull-ourselves-up-by-the-bootstraps', God-helps-those-who-help-themselves philosophy about life — which breeds contempt rather than compassion for the down-and-out ones in our society. As Christians, however, we are not called to be jurors trying the case of the less fortunate; we are called to be Good Samaritans."





## YOUTH CAMPS AND CENTERS    JOB SKILLS TRAINING FAMILY ASSISTANCE    WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTION HOMELESS MINISTRY TO HIV VICTIMS    PRISON MINISTRIES SEMINARS    ENGLISH CLASSES    LITERACY EDUCATION

The second great purpose is, of course, evangelism. Community outreach can be a very effective tool in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. We earn the right to tell others about the spiritual state of the soul when we have helped with the temporal state of the body and mind.

So we want to discuss the various methods used by BBFI missionaries in different cultures to serve the needs of the people to whom they have been sent to proclaim the Good News. We are grateful

for the cooperation of the missionaries featured on the following pages and for their willingness to help us inform and inspire. We asked them to tell about their specific community outreach program, tell how it is funded, and share some of the spiritual results. Some of them have included specific prayer requests. Pray for them as you read this.

One of the identifying marks of Baptist Bible Fellowship International missionaries is our emphasis and focus on church planting. We are committed

to the task of establishing indigenous, biblically sound, and gospel-preaching local congregations in all the world. We would do well to elevate our line of sight in order to see the harvest that is ready. We would do well to encourage our younger ministers to invest their lives in the great missionary enterprise of the BBFI. We should not slow down until every people group on Earth has been impacted with the Good News! Let's reach out into every community!



# GLOBAL PARTNERS



## Dave & Bonnie Jones | Tanzania

We have an orphanage called Huruma Children's Home. Huruma is Swahili for "Compassion." It currently is home to 16 orphaned children, but we are preparing for an addition that will allow us to accept more children. Down through the years we have conducted a number of community or compassion-type ministry outreaches. We have held dental clinics in the villages. We have drilled wells, bringing safe drinking water to village areas. We have distributed wheelchairs donated from the United States. We have also distributed grain during times of famine when people were on the verge of starvation.

Several good organizations have been instrumental in helping us fund these outreaches. Living Water has assisted with well drilling. Children's Medical Ministries has donated wheelchairs and paid to ship them to Tanzania. An organization called C3 International has been helpful in supporting our orphanage ministry. Besides these ministries, our local churches and individual donors have given in tremendous ways to make our community outreach ministries possible. Our own work funds have been used as well, and our local Tanzanian churches have contributed manpower and also funding from time to time.

Most of these ministries have been conducted in partnership with our established local churches. Whether it is fitting a child with a wheelchair, pulling a rotten tooth, or distributing grain to the hungry, we always proclaim the gospel through preaching, witnessing, testifying, and handing out literature. We have seen boys and girls as well as adults come to Christ through these ministries, but not in large numbers. The primary goal of compassion-type ministries is to display the love of Christ. It is hard to measure the impact this has on people in the long term. To be sure, though, God uses these acts of love and kindness as only He can.

Please pray that we would be sensitive to the needs all around us and have the wisdom to know how to best help. Pray that God would continue to touch the hearts of His people to respond to the needs of others less fortunate.



# Tanzania



# Philippines

## Greg & LuAnn Lyons | Philippines

Through a partnership with local government organizations, our community livelihood programs help the public with job skills in a variety of areas: welding, cell phone repair, hotel housekeeping skills, to name a few. We provide a location for the training and then conduct moral value training for all who attend. We offer small groups for families with marital problems and other family-related problems. Counseling is always available when needed. Through this outreach ministry, over 150 have been trained in the past six months. Over 80 have been saved and have begun attending our church.

Through our Toughguys International ministry, we offer the public schools and communities a very effective drug and violence prevention program. Including multimedia, personal interaction, role-play, refusal skills, and other elements, we help communities lessen the drug usage and impact on the families. Currently we have over 1,200 who are participants in the Toughguys ministry.

Over the years, we have provided food, clothing, building materials, and counseling for flood and fire victims in the Metro Manila area. During the catastrophic flood in 2009, our ministry was able to provide assistance for over 8,000 families throughout Metro Manila. We partnered with local government, provided a boat to help rescue families in need, and transformed our facilities into relief centers for the public.

The above programs are funded mainly through our local congregation and some funds from the U.S.A. Funds from international donors are critical in times of great need, such as flooding, earthquakes, and the like. Several of our partnering churches in the United States have embraced the vision of "felt-need" ministries as a platform for evangelism. Without our international partners, we could not sustain the expansive effort.

These outreach ministries have had a great effect on our evangelistic and discipleship ministries. We have families in our various churches that are direct results of these efforts. In the case of the livelihood program, we have added over 80 adults to the church in the past six months. We are currently in the process of nationwide certification to partner all of our church-planting efforts in the country with the livelihood program.

Please pray that more people would be strategically involved in the various community development parts of the ministry. Pray that churches would be intentional about how to partner with your missionaries, realizing that through these efforts there are skill sets in your church that could be effectively used on the mission field today!





# Zambia

## Phil and Melody Stephens | Zambia

**V**ictory Baptist Church, the second church planted in our ministry, is in the remote Habanyuka Valley. Some time ago this church was host to a guest of our ministry from the United States. As Steve, the guest, saw the work of Christ abounding in the lives of many, he identified several great needs for the community.

The biggest need is a health clinic. The closest clinic to these remote people is 22 miles of walking or pushing a patient on a bicycle out of the valley over mountainous terrain.

Steve, through Victory Baptist Church of Habanyuka Valley, has funded the building materials for a medical clinic. The church has organized the surrounding 11 villages and headmen to provide the labor to build. Amazingly, the Zambian Ministry of Health has responded by agreeing to build a house for the clinic doctor, fund the doctor and his wife, and equip the clinic.

This clinic is being built less than 100 meters from our church building. It will be a constant opportunity for Pastor Breyford Mwaanga and the men he is discipling to serve Jesu Christu, to minister and witness to the patients and their families from the entire area. Over 600 families will be served by this clinic. We are certain that our evangelism, discipleship, and church planting will be greatly enhanced by this medical clinic.

Please pray that the Lord would continue to provide the leadership and the finances for these ministries.





# GLOBAL PARTNERS

## Mark & Debbie Williams | Mexico

**W**e began 13 years ago working in an area of squatters and extremely low-income families. Many people were moving into Mexico City looking for work. When no work was found, they didn't have money to return home. They would stay and work selling gum or candy on the subway system or in the central markets taking what was thrown away, cleaning it up a bit, and taking it to sell or eat.

We felt the need of a feeding center in the church facility that would serve the community and change lives. From the beginning it was understood that the feeding center would be used to teach the Bible to those receiving the food. Those who were fed would learn that God is love and that He loves them individually. Many lives have been transformed.

The children are fed in small groups because we want to give them individual attention. Before the meal is served a teacher teaches a Bible lesson and a memory verse. The children are very competitive and want to say their verse. The teacher then prays with them and they are served their hot meal.

This community outreach is funded by MANNA Worldwide. They send us a monthly amount for each feeding center.

The feeding center has had a direct effect on the ministry of the church. The growth of the church is attributed mainly to this ministry. Many of the leaders in the church today are those who as children started by coming to the feeding center.



They accepted the Lord as Savior and have given their lives to serve Him.

The Castaneda family worked with us in the church and in the feeding center. They are now missionaries in Guatemala.

Our assistant pastor, Javier, started coming to the feeding center when he was eight years old. Viridiana, his wife, came also at a young age. David, her brother, came to the church first through the outreach of the feeding center. He started when he was six years old and is now a blessing as he plays the guitar and leads the singing in the Sunday services.

Claudia is a wonderful example of the effectiveness of the outreach. She arrived carrying her baby sister and her three small brothers trailing behind her. Over time, they each accepted the Lord. Their parents came and also got saved. She studied to be a nurse, went on to the Bible institute, and is now serving the Lord in Bolivia.

Please pray for the expansion of this area of our ministry. There is a great need for us to start an orphanage. Pray for our son and daughter-in-law, Jonathan and Kimberly Williams, as they raise their support to come and help us in our expanding ministries.



# Mexico



# GLOBAL PARTNERS

## Brent & Sheila Moeller | South Africa

**W**e have assisted people in our church and community through MANNA Worldwide. We have not been able to have a feeding center *per se* but we do purchase food for a number of people.

We have seen people come to church as a result of this outreach. Obviously one has to be aware of those coming for the wrong reasons and so screening and continually reassessing situations is a very important aspect of this type of outreach. We have been able to provide food for a number of university students while they were studying. This has been a very good way of encouraging and helping them. We have seen a loyalty develop in the lives of these students. Some are now assisting in our ministries.

We have a youth center at one of our ministries where the kids from the community can come and play and get involved in sports.

The benefits of this are easy to quantify in the fact that our Sunday school has grown substantially as a result of this. There are other benefits that may not be as easy to quantify but there is a definite value as it has elevated our standing in the community because we provide a service to the children that had previously been lacking. We have a good name in the community because of this service to them.

We are involved in a children's home for orphans where grannies from our churches go to serve. This home is provided to them through the ministry of our colleagues Bob and JoAnna Graham.

We have 16 new kids in our Sunday school and have grannies ministering out of our church to them. This will continue to grow in size and we believe our influence will be strong in the lives of the kids. The Grahams have made a great impact on the government departments and child welfare agencies.

On the property where the children's home is we are developing a retreat center for our churches and national pastors. This is also a place for youth camps and we envision sports camps that will reach into the communities we are serving.

We are just now beginning to see the fruit of this labor. As we are able to hold more and more different types of camps we will reach our communities for Christ. We recently held a men's retreat where we had nine professions of faith and many young men who vowed to break off unacceptable relationships when they went home. This is also a place where we hope our national pastors will come and find respite from their busy ministries.

Please pray that the Lord will give us wisdom and direction as we coordinate these ministries with our primary focus of church planting in metro Durban.



# South Africa



# Philippines

## Del & Lora Hooge | Philippines

**B**asic Literacy Education & Support System (BLESS) is an evangelistic ministry that uses literacy as a tool. It penetrates communities through its network of churches, Christian schools using the School of Tomorrow system, and mission organizations. These entities open BLESS Reading Centers and teach children how to read in 18-20 weeks.

BLESS has four main goals:

- Lead souls to Christ (children, parents, siblings, and relatives)
- Teach children how to read
- Teach children rudimentary math
- Instill godly values by teaching of God's creation and plan of salvation through Christ.

Volunteers are required to attend a five-day extensive training that prepares them to successfully implement the program and eventually progress to other ministry avenues that BLESS opens (such as home Bible studies, feeding programs, medical missions — all of which have soul-winning activities integrated).

Our target groups are children between the ages of five and nine and indigent and out-of-school youth. Four-hour daily sessions are conducted; the program is expected to be completed in 18-20 weeks.

Facilitators are called Master Reading Instructors (MRI). An MRI is required to complete the training requirements and get a passing mark of 100 percent in the post test.

BLESS funds come from corporate and individual donors, church offerings, love gifts from sponsors, and fundraising activities. The main goal of the ministry is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ one child, one parent, one sibling, one relative at a time.

Since its inception in 2002, BLESS has led over 5,000 people to Jesus Christ. Statistics show that an average of two or three adults get saved for every child enrolled in a BLESS Center.

- Please pray for the safety of our volunteers in the Muslim areas in Mindanao.
- Pray for the financial resources so we can continue helping our centers all over the Philippines in their initial start-up.
- Pray for open doors into both tribal and urban areas.
- Pray for our own building expansion.
- There are 46,000 barangays (neighborhoods) in the Philippines. We would like a presence in all of them.





# Uganda

## Russ & Sylvia Daniels | Uganda



The pastor of the first church we started in Mbarara began a counseling ministry to AIDS victims in 2006. Through this counseling ministry, Pastor Naboth came across a number of children who had lost one or both parents to AIDS and were living in desperate circumstances. In 2007, he started caring for some of these orphans, and eventually started an orphanage for them. Then he started a school to educate these orphans and other children in the community. Over the years, both the orphanage and school have grown. There are now 22 orphans between the ages of eight and 16 in the orphanage, and the elementary school has over 200 students. We have built a dormitory for the orphanage and classrooms for the school.

Pastor Naboth himself first funded this outreach when he brought a couple of the orphans home to live with him and his family. Then he began to appeal for sponsors for the orphans. We wrote letters to our supporting churches and mentioned the needs when we were on furlough. Subsequently, a couple of churches and some individuals began sponsoring some of the orphans on a monthly or annual basis. Recently, one of the men in our sending church has begun to help raise money for the orphans through various community events. Funds are sent through a sub-account at the BBFI called "Mbarara AIDS Orphans." Sponsorships for the orphans and funds for constructing the facilities have been raised from supporters in the U.S.A.

This outreach has had a great impact on the church ministries in Mbarara. Many people have been saved and brought into the church through the orphanage and school. Each of the orphans has been saved. Through the school, a number of students and teachers have been saved. Families have been brought into the church through the school. The orphans sing in the choir of the church in Mbarara, and some of them help minister in that church. Each of the orphans has been discipled and some are becoming involved in other outreach ministries including evangelism to Muslims. Six or eight of the orphans are currently helping to minister in three new churches started out of the church in Mbarara last year.

Please pray specifically for Pastor Naboth, for the orphans, and for continued sponsorships for the orphans. It costs \$900 per year to sponsor each orphan, which pays for his or her food, clothes, upkeep, medical expenses, and education.





By Jon Konnerup  
BBFI Mission Director

# The deepest need

**T**he evangelization of the world is supremely important because it deals with the deepest need of the human race. In Matthew 9:35, 36 it says:

*And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

Jesus saw their sicknesses and diseases, and He healed them. But when He saw them as sheep without a shepherd, He was moved with compassion. He was concerned about their physical needs and responded. However, He felt compassion for their spiritual needs. This ultimately led Him to the cross of Calvary.

We all know the basic needs for our world are food, shelter, medicine, and education. As Christians we should not close our eyes to those in need of these. Our missionaries around the

world are church planters who also use their ministries to reach out into the communities responding to physical needs.

As you have read in this edition of *Global Partners*, missionaries are reaching out to feed those who are hungry. MANNA Worldwide partners with some of our missionaries to accomplish this task. Reports show that many children and family members have been saved through these efforts. Shelter is being provided in various regions. Clinics have been set up by some of our missionaries to assist those with sickness and diseases. Schools have been started to help educate the less fortunate. Orphanages have been started to meet the needs of the fatherless.

We have seen and heard of those who have been fed that have trusted in Jesus Christ as their Savior and now are leaders in churches. Many of those whose wounds were treated have responded to the gospel. Many educated in our schools and brought up in orphanages have become leaders of local governments and educational institutions as well as in their churches.

However, there is a need that is deeper still. One can meet all the basic needs and still there is a profound emptiness within the heart. This reality makes evangelism and church planting the most important task of missions. It is important to keep these community outreaches under the ministry of the church as a means of credibility for the church in the neighborhood.

You see, it is not enough for us to give bread to eat; we also have to give them the Bread of Life. It is not enough for us to teach them how to write their own names; we must also teach them to trust in the Savior's name. It is not enough for us to introduce them to a better way of life; we must introduce them to the One who can impart everlasting life.

One missionary put all this into perspective by saying, "We hope to be successful in our projects to improve the health and welfare of the people, but we must remember being healthy in hell doesn't count for much. We are failures until these people know Jesus as their Savior. We must present the claims of Christ and plead with them to be saved."

# GLOBAL PARTNERS



# HISTORY

# BAPTIST

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## EDWARD & ANNA SCOTT — Examples of commitment

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Edward Scott and Anna Kay had never met, but they had something in common — both had broken their marriage engagements when their prospective mates because they refused to go to the mission field.

A friend informed Scott about Anna Kay's determination to become a missionary. He wrote Anna a letter asking if she would consider going with him as his wife to Assam, a north-eastern state in India. He closed his letter by asking permission to visit her if his proposal was possible. Anna agreed to Scott's visit and ultimately agreed to marry E. P. Scott, missionary appointee to Assam. Their marriage took place April 30, 1861.

Due to the Civil War they were forced to delay their departure for 14 months. Their journey, which proved to be extremely hazardous, began on June 20, 1862. The Scotts barely survived two hurricanes and severe cold weather. They arrived in India in the fall of 1862 and immediately began studying the language and assisting in the churches that had previously been established.

After seven years of diligent and faithful service, Scott became convinced God had called him to take the gospel to the unevangelized Naga tribes. The Naga were brutal and cruel head-hunters. Before a young man was allowed to marry he had to kill at least 30 of his enemies, after which he would shrink their heads and wear them around his neck as a token of his bravery. Only after accomplishing this feat would he be considered brave enough to defend a wife.

The British military commander, upon hearing of Scott's plans, warned him that any attempt to enter the Naga territory would certainly cost him his life. Scott was undeterred. Armed with only his Bible and violin and prayer for the success of his mission, he entered Naga territory. Suddenly he was surrounded by 12 savage warrior chiefs; their spears were raised and death seemed imminent. Scott demonstrated no

fear, placed his violin on his shoulder, and began to play and sing "Am I a Soldier of the Cross." The Naga, mesmerized by the beautiful music, slowly lowered their spears. Scott, sensing he had gained their attention, explained he had come to tell them about the one true God. He asked the chiefs for their permission to live among them. They agreed to his request but only if he would bring his violin.

Scott's ministry among the Naga produced amazing results. In fact, the Naga would become one of the most evangelized people groups in India. Tragically, in 1869, Asiatic cholera struck the Naga and thousands died from this dreaded disease, including missionary Edward Scott. The last words he spoke were in response to his wife's question, "Do you have peace?" He responded, "Yes, perfect peace."

Anna Scott remained four additional years, but in 1873 she and her three children returned to America. She enrolled in medical school, graduating in 1878. In 1889, with her children now grown, 50-years-old Anna Scott requested the mission board send her back to Assam. The board informed her that the Naga mission was being well served, but there was a pressing need for her medical talents in China.

Disappointed but believing it was God's will, she agreed. She arrived in China November 15, 1889.

At first the Chinese were reluctant to allow a woman to treat their illnesses, but her exceptional talents as a physician earned her the reputation as the woman who could raise the dead. Her labors were extensive, training native nurses and supervising the building of medical facilities. Her normal day began at 4 a.m. and ended at 10 p.m. She often treated as many as 200 patients a day. Her untiring physical labors for the Chinese people eventually undermined her health. However, Dr. Scott remained at her post until she was 75 years old. She was finally replaced in 1914 by Dr. Mildred Scott, the granddaughter of Dr. Anna Kay Scott.



by Thomas Ray







# URBAN CURRENT

## One man, one vision — one city, one world

**W**ho can foretell the ultimate potential of one person with an idea?

He was born a child of the city in 1735. This son of privilege inherited his father's successful printing concern, which produced the *Gloucester Journal*.

Robert Raikes grew up in the spiritual vacuum of England. Cities were growing wildly, his included. The growth was marked by godless inhumanity, terrible physical conditions, gross exploitation of the lower classes, and the accompanying social problems those realities produce.

As a business man, not moving in the social circles of the "teeming masses," Raikes was aware of the urban landscape crammed with poverty-stricken humanity, rife with disease, and streets run by thugs and urchins.

Though influenced by Wesley and Whitfield, Raikes's idea did not grow out of a religious revival. He was not a religious leader. He did not recruit people with formal religious training to participate in his plan.

Raikes became convinced that he must do something for the thousands of people living in vice and poverty. He developed a program to serve prisoners. When prisoners were released, he would meet with them and try to help them start a new life. He worked this plan for almost 25 years. He hoped it would transform English society. He failed to see any measurable impact.

He shifted his focus. He determined that rather than wasting time on adults who were maybe already too far-gone, he would target children. He wondered if something could not be done to help "the little heathen of the neighborhood." He embarked on a new experiment he described as "botanizing" in human nature. He was convinced he must do something to break the vicious cycle of ignorance, poverty, and crime.

The children who most needed what Raikes had in mind worked in the mills and factories six days a week. They had no time for formal schooling and certainly not religious education. When Sunday came, they would enjoy their day off by running the streets. Ellwood Cubberley, the well-known educational historian, wrote "Sunday being day of rest and the mills and factories closed, the children ran the streets and spent the day in immorality and vice. For Raikes's idea, it was Sunday or no day.

Raikes's plan involved gathering children to teach them to read and write. He would add to this teaching on morals and manners by teaching them the Bible. In 1780, Raikes began his experiment. He chose the worst slum in Gloucester. Two teachers and two years later it looked like this effort would also fail. He had gathered about 90 children employed in the pin factories of Gloucester. He paid teachers about 25 cents to teach children on Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1-5 p.m. The children Raikes described as "miserable little wretches" who drove off the first couple of teachers.

Raikes persisted. He continued hiring teachers. He started one school after another. Queen Charlotte heard what was taking place. She granted Raikes a private audience to hear him tell his story. She gave her royal endorsement. When a fundraising drive was initiated, her name headed the subscription list.

Many churchmen opposed Raikes or simply ignored his work. John Newton, slave trader turned preacher, of "Amazing Grace" fame, supported Raikes in his work.

At some point Raikes stopped paying teachers. It became fashionable to volunteer teaching in Raikes's Sunday schools. The movement grew from four schools and 90 children to an enrollment of 250,000 pupils four years later. The schools morphed away from paid teachers,

secular subjects, and independence to being exclusively biblical in content, run by volunteers, based in local churches.

In a report issued in 1835, about 50 years after Raikes began, there were more than 1.5 million students enrolled in United Kingdom Sunday Schools served by about 160,000 volunteers. Over time, with the Bible as the focus, the Sunday school movement grew toward global impact.

Several observations...

Raikes was an urban visionary. Born in the city, raised in the city, running a business in the city; he was moved by the needs of the city and saw himself as a necessary part of the solution to its problems.

Raikes was not a native of the slums. It took him a while to figure out how to be effective. Because he was a man of means and influence, he was able to experiment, go the long haul, and "sell" his vision to people of prominence and means.

Innovation matters. Apparently nobody had ever tried to do what Robert Raikes did. Though his new idea was denigrated by religious leaders and mocked even by his own friends, he persisted.

This is another example of a Christian seeking to address social ills by spiritual means long, long before the contemporary fascination with "social justice." He did what believers have done down through history: love their neighbors, meet needs, solve problems, and point people to Jesus.

by Charles Lyons, Pastor  
Armitage Baptist Church,  
Chicago, Illinois  
[charles.lyons@armitagechurch.org](mailto:charles.lyons@armitagechurch.org)





## Cebu meeting

(continued from page 5)

### Dr. Jae Lee (Korean pastor)

The meeting made a huge impression upon our lives. We will never forget what we experienced there. It was a great joy to see what God is doing around the world through the mission efforts of the BBFI. We were challenged by people's passion for the gospel, world missions, and the glory of God. We were also impressed by the hospitality of Filipino Christians. Last Sunday I reported what I have learned to my church. I challenged our people to broaden their vision for the world.

### Georges Houssney

(Evangelist to the Middle East)

I was blessed to be in the presence of faithful missionaries who are passionate about Jesus and his church. I was awed by the faithfulness and dedication of a number of veteran missionaries who have persevered for very long. Believe me, I do not see this in all conferences that I visit. The speakers were right on and powerful. Praise God. What amazed me is the number of Asians who are committed to world missions.

### Tsunehiro Michishita

(Japan BBF President)

The meeting in Cebu made a huge impression upon my life. At the next JBBF meeting I want to share how great the Cebu Meeting was! I want to share the blessings which I received with my fellow workers here in Japan. I was especially impressed by the great work having been done by Filipino Bible Baptist churches. In Japan, we have the vision to plant 100 Baptist churches. We were strengthened to see that the Philippine BBF has planted so many churches in their country. We should be united once more for the Great Commission.

### Shoji Yoshida

(Japanese missionary to the Chinese)

It was the first time for me to be shaken so badly by the songs, sermons, and fellowship with other missionaries. I felt uncomfortable. Not because we could



not have such a big conference in Japan, but because we still do not have so many missionaries from Japan. This meeting challenged me to dream. We pray for 100 missionaries going from Japan, and 1,000 local churches started in Japan. To make this dream to come true, we must labor ten times as much. The Cebu meeting encouraged us further to make this a reality.

### Edivaldo Cano (Brazilian pastor)

What a joy and privilege it was to participate in the Cebu Global Meeting. The Lord talked to my heart in many occasions, I should say, all the time. It was a meeting where Jesus Christ was centered and honored, and because of that, it was blessed by God. I was blessed with all the messages and speakers. I was also tremendously impressed with missions growth in the Philippines, and the dedication of the missionaries from others countries as well, with that I was much challenged to work even harder for the Lord. I felt ashamed for our Brazil BBF doing so little compared to the Philippines. Because of this I felt compelled to return to Brazil and challenge the Brazilian pastors and churches to do more for missions (for the Lord). I will give this testimony to all the pastors I meet and use our national and state meetings as a way to pass the vision and the blessings received in the Cebu meeting.

### Gerardo Nable (Filipino pastor)

I am personally blessed with the sweet and healthy spirit of fellowship, and the messages and challenges received that we can certainly strengthen friendship and partnership for world evangelization. What a joy to behold laborers together with God, "consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works."



# LBU to launch fundraising campaign for new building

Shreveport, LA

Louisiana Baptist University plans to initiate a three-year capital fundraising campaign with a kick-off banquet during graduation week. The campaign is to help raise \$500,000 toward a paid-in-full 4,500-square-foot expansion.

"Over the past 15 years, Louisiana Baptist University has experienced unprecedented growth. During those years LBU has revised their curriculum, acquired a first-class staff, expanded and increased their degree programs, bought and developed a new campus, and es-

tablished the university as a well-respected and well-recognized school. We now serve approximately 1,400 students in over 40 counties. In order to continue this growth, more space will be required," says LBU President Neal Weaver.

This expansion will provide assembly space for 200 people, free up two additional classrooms for on-campus classes, and provide extra bathrooms and a serving kitchen. This will increase the university's ability to host larger Bible conferences, special topic worship, and musical con-

certs, and will allow them to expand their exit workshops during graduation week. LBU also hopes to equip the new building with the very best audio/video technology in order to provide more e-campus classes and the ability to stream live Bible conferences, workshops, and module classes around the world.

Full details of the building and fundraising campaign are available on the school's website, [www.lbu.edu](http://www.lbu.edu).

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## ONE girl's conference at BBC

Springfield, MO

The annual ONE girl's conference was held on the Baptist Bible College campus March 4 and 5. This is a weekend getaway for junior and senior high girls to be reminded how special they are to God. It also gives BBC students hands-on ministry experience in addition to what they learn in the classroom.

The theme this year was YOUnity. Sharon Hoffman, author, founder,

and president of GIFTED Women Ministries was the main speaker. She taught on three main top-



ics: your relationship with Christ, your friendships, and your future. Breakout session speakers were: Kathy Harmon, Abigail Perry, Jordan Shores, and Holly Tucker. They focused on issues teenage girls face on a daily basis.

Many BBC students worked hard to make this event possible. Churches from Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Mississippi attended ONE this year. Three girls accepted Christ as their personal Savior and countless rededications were made along with other decisions. There were 260 in total attendance.

The organizers wish to thank all the churches who partnered with them through prayer and financial support. Mark your calendars for ONE 2012 in March.

For more information and to see pictures from this year's conference, visit [www.gobbc.edu/one](http://www.gobbc.edu/one).

**LBU GRADUATES ARE SAYING...**

**Dr. Jimmy DeYoung,**  
Speaker, Author,  
President of Shofar  
Ministries

"I chose to complete my doctoral work at LBU because of the quality and flexibility of the program and because the school is doctrinally conservative and dispensational. My experience at LBU was very gratifying. I continue to be affiliated with the university and recommend that graduates from my School of Prophets Institute consider LBU for further studies, especially in their graduate program."

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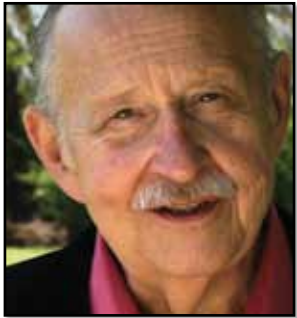


# The Dartts are a quartet again

Greenbrier, TN

The Dartts, well known for their gospel music in Baptist Bible Fellowship churches, are thrilled at the prospect of being all together again as a quartet.

In July 2008, Tracy and Sharon Dartt moved from California to Greenbrier, TN, to be closer to their two oldest sons and their families, and to



Tracy Dartt

be more conveniently located for ministry. Tracy had been troubled by his kidneys for years, but he did not know that his organs would completely give out six months

after the move. He spent the next two years undergoing dialysis at Vanderbilt Medical Center

in Nashville, TN.

Effectively not able to travel during those two years, Stone Dartt and BJ Speer (who has been with the Dartts more than seven years) kept the ministry going as a duet. They had good ministries and hundreds of salvation decisions in their concerts.

When churches around the country were asked to pray for Tracy, he began receiving offers of kidney donations — 17 all together. The first 14 volunteers, including three family members, were turned down in the testing stages. Two pastors volunteered, but found they were in the beginning stages of diabetes themselves. One lady in Phoenix found she had a heart murmur and was referred to a cardiologist. Volunteer potential transplants came from Canada, Washington, California, Arizona, Texas, Michigan, Massachusetts, Maine, and Florida.

The 15th volunteer was a deacon in a Bap-

tist church in Greenbrier, TN. He had never met the Dartts, or heard them. He met Tracy only by telephone. The second time they talked, he said, “By the way, the Lord laid it on my heart to give you a kidney.” This one turned out to be a near perfect match, and the transplant took place January 11, 2011, at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville.

Later, Tracy discovered that the donor lived only about a mile and a half from the Dartts’ home.

Tracy’s doctor gave permission for Tracy and Sharon to rejoin the rest of the group in California in April. They continue to pray that Tracy will regain strength and be able to travel and sing for many years to come. The “God on the Mountain Legacy” CD and DVD, based on Tracy’s gospel song of the same name, are now available at [www.darttmusic.com](http://www.darttmusic.com).

## Reflecting in Cebu

By Gail Gritts

BBFI Missionary to Great Britain

What did they dream as they sailed to the Philippines? What prayers were they praying? How large was their vision? Jeena Rani Marquez-Manaois gives us an idea in her book, *From the Shadows of War*:

*“In 1950, after two years of missionary work in the Philippines, Frank and Elsie Hooge found themselves in a foreign land without anyone behind them, as they were no longer receiving support from the United States ... He didn’t see what was happening in the larger scheme of things. The Baptist Bible Fellowship International was founded in the same year. And in that same year, the Fellowship sent him a telegram that told him it was adopting him as its missionary.”*

The meeting in Cebu in 2011 brought the open realization of the dreams, prayers, and vision of those first BBFI missionaries. Testimonies abounded of God’s grace for sinners, of churches being planted, of workers trained and equipped, of the establishment of a missionary clearinghouse, and the furtherance of the gospel going out from the Philippines to

the nations of Asia and beyond. I was sitting in the very presence of answered prayer and the blessing of the hand of God.

In Cebu, Missionary Paul Byars challenged us, “We think we can only do what we can see or imagine. But, God wants us to look beyond the horizon and see what we cannot see. That is faith.” I sat there reflecting on our own ministry in the UK and began looking at our horizon. We see God at work all around us in a mightier way than ever before. New churches are being planted. New missionaries are on their way. British men are taking leadership, and our horizon is more hopeful than ever though our field remains a hard slog.

Don Whitney, in *Spiritual Disciplines*, said this about evangelism: “What is success in evangelism? Is it when the person you witness to comes to Christ? Certainly that’s what we want to happen. But if this is success, are we failures whenever we share the gospel and people refuse to believe? ... We need to learn that sharing the gospel is successful evangelism.”

Cebu brought this truth home to me — that God had been at work in the Philippines since 1950 and blessed the prayers and labor of His men and women both at home and abroad for His glory. God will bless the prayers and labours of His men and women in the UK also. Missionaries have been here since the middle 70s, so we are 20 years behind! I am anxious to see what will be on our horizon.

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# Arkansas author takes Rowdy Raccoon to the Philippines

Harrison, AR

When a group of people from Arkansas traveled to Cebu for the BBFI meeting in February, they smuggled a raccoon along for the trip. But it was all perfectly legal, and fun, and ministry. The raccoon is a children's book character named Rowdy, the creation of writer Donna Braymer.

Howard and Donna Braymer, Jim and Debbie Goodman, and Chad and Jennifer Braymer traveled to the Cebu meeting in February. However, they first had a stop scheduled in Manila to meet BBFI missionary Lance Gotcher and some children in his ministry.

"Lance and his family are very special to us," Pastor Howard Braymer said. "Lance was Donna's first piano student when I was on staff at South Austin Baptist Church in Austin, TX, with Pastor Bill Sparks." Howard has been pastor of Open Door Baptist Church in Harrison, AR, 28 years, and he currently serves as BBFI treasurer.

Of Rowdy, Donna said, "That started 17 years ago when our boys were young and we were camping with Don and Lona Elmore. I got the idea for a raccoon story and quickly scratched out my thoughts. I knew God had given me the idea, but I never thought we would take Rowdy to the mission field." Those original stories led to published books, educational programs, and

using them in his Manila Sunday school classes.

"So I started contacting pastors and friends to see if we could raise the money for 260 books. Sable Creek Press reprinted the books in a soft cover for me, so they were lighter and less expensive," Donna said.

The Arkansas group met with a group from Boston led by Pastor Sean Sears who were also



now international exposure.

When the Arkansas group began making plans to attend the Cebu International meeting, missionary Lance Gotcher asked Donna to bring Rowdy too. He was interested in giving books to the children at a MANNA Feeding Center and

visiting with the Gotchers, and then headed to Calauan, Laguna with candy, toys, and some new underwear for the kids.

This congregation had been relocated more than two hours away from Manila by the government because their homes had been destroyed by a mudslide after last year's typhoon. Lance and some of the Bible college students and church members hold services there each Saturday. It's also the location of a MANNA Feeding Center.

"When the van pulled up for services on that Saturday morning, I saw very poor conditions but lots of welcoming smiles and excited expressions. I read the story to two classes of children. It was such a blessing to me to be able to share how special each child is to God and that He created each one of them to be unique and He had a plan for their lives," Braymer explained.

The children were excited to receive their own copies of the book. "Many would hold the book close to their chest and take in a deep breath to smell the newness of the book," she said.

Sunday, the group was divided and ministered in various church locations. The men preached in several services while Debbie and Donna taught several classes with Rowdy.

(continued on page 24)

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# Back from the valley of death

By Mike Randall, former editor of the Baptist Bible Tribune

Last May, Marty Stringfield, veteran BBFI missionary to Kenya, was at her wits' end. Her husband, missionary Larry Stringfield, couldn't walk or stand. At times he was confused and couldn't even speak. She was his primary caregiver and both of them wanted answers that had eluded them for more than two years as Larry developed these symptoms. Weakness and anemia progressed to difficulty standing and walking. Doctors in Kenya couldn't diagnose or treat these symptoms. Perplexed and discouraged, the Stringfields returned to the United States at the end of 2008. Over the next year and a half they saw numbers of American doctors. Larry underwent a myriad of tests that failed to result in a diagnosis or treatment. Even exams at the Mayo Clinic were inconclusive.

By May 2010 his symptoms intensified. On three occasions emergency personnel had to be called. Twice he was taken to the hospital via ambulance. They thought he could be dying.

But Larry is no stranger to trials. He has been a BBFI missionary to Kenya since 1974. His first wife Michelle died on the field in December

1987. He declares it to be the deepest valley he has ever experienced, although his current battle comes close. In 1989, he met Marty Cox, a 16-year veteran single missionary to Ghana. They have been married since 1990. The Stringfields planted eight churches in Kenya before his health began to fail.



In May 2010, when the Stringfields were living with Larry's mother in Stewart, FL, they contacted a local neurologist who diagnosed his problem as hydrocephalus, commonly called "water on the brain." After having surgery to drain excess fluid from the brain, Larry's condition began to improve. He still needed rehabilitation, some hospitalization, and some time, but less than one year later, in February 2011, doctors cleared him for a return to Kenya

where he will continue his recovery.

Larry and Marty are thankful to all their supporting pastors, churches, friends, and family for the prayers. They still have a few thousand dollars in uncovered medical costs, but they are so grateful for the medical insurance provided to BBFI missionaries. The Stringfields are now on deputation preparing to return to Kenya in early 2012. They can be reached by emailing at [larry.stringfield@bbfmissions.org](mailto:larry.stringfield@bbfmissions.org).

## Editor's note

On page 12 of the April 2011 *Tribune*, a portion of the last sentence was left off of the BBC Alumni Association special feature article "What if..." The final sentence should have read:

*That way my grandchildren will never have to face the prospect of life without Baptist Bible College.*

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## (Rowdy Raccoon continued)

"We met some very dedicated, hard-working, caring Christians in the Filipino churches. Our mission dollars are being spent well and it was so encouraging to see God's harvest through the efforts of our missionaries."

Gotcher says, "Having Rowdy Raccoon was a rare treat for our children here in the Philippines. Our children at our main church services in Antipolo and Quezon City really enjoyed the book and meeting Rowdy and the author. The children in this area lost their homes and most of their possessions in Typhoon Ondoy and were relocated there last year. To receive this new book as well as clothes and candy was a big highlight for them and for our ministry."

Donna said, "I was very humbled by the experience. I know God has a plan for me and Rowdy Raccoon, but just as Ephesians 3:20 states, I could not have imagined how God would use a simple children's story to be a blessing to children in the Philippines."

Readers can receive more information and contact Donna Braymer at [www.RowdyRaccoon.com](http://www.RowdyRaccoon.com)

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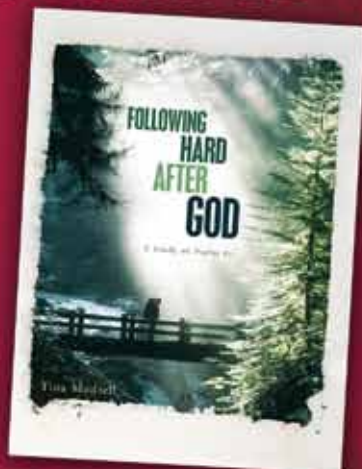
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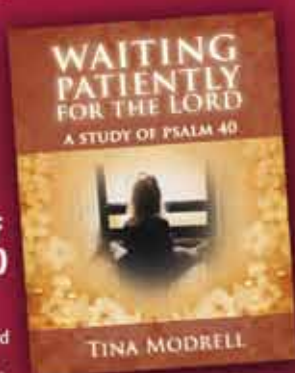
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## New! Study of Psalm 63



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We all have a hard time waiting. In Psalm 40:1, David encourages us by saying: "I waited patiently for the LORD, and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry." Our timetable is not the same as God's. But if we wait on Him, His blessings will come, and we will find the joy of His presence in the midst of our circumstances. This study will help us in Waiting Patiently For The Lord.

Tina Modrell, 1993 Elementary Education graduate of BBC, has just published her second Bible Study entitled: *Following Hard After God - A Study of Psalm 63*.

*Following Hard After God* \$19.95  
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## Mrs. Combs celebrates birthday

Springfield, MO

Friends, family, and guests gathered in Springfield, MO, March 25 for a birthday celebration for Mrs. Jeri Combs. James Combs has been in the ministry more than 60 years and is a former editor of the Baptist Bible Tribune. The couple continues to enjoy an active ministry. (Editor's note: The current Tribune editor is not reckless, and so those curious about Mrs. Combs's age should consult her.)



## BBC of Great Britain accredited

Cannock, England



Baptist Bible College of Great Britain is now an accredited college offering National British Qualifications. This has been one of the long-term goals of the college and now it is official. **Photo:** Tom and Gail Gritts (left) with students and instructors on a typical class night.

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# Meeting a great need in European nations

By Gordon and Brenda Pulley

The need is great in the third world as we know, but it is also great in first-world countries like Germany and other European nations. They've had it all in centuries past, but they need a future, a future with the true God. They need more than religion. They need Jesus as Lord and Savior.

We have served in Europe since February 1972. We were missionaries in Germany for 27 years and missionaries in England for three years. We have been missionaries in the BBFI SMORS (Skilled Missionaries Offering Relief Service) ministry since February 2002. Yes, there is a need for this replacement relief ministry.

Just ask the missionary brothers in Darmstadt, Dresden, Munich, Germany, and Arnhem, The Netherlands. I was able to take their places for up to three months.

When I am in their cities, I try to stay busy with Bible tract distribution. Our record for this distribution is 20,000 Bible tracts. This was in Munich. I recall standing in the Old Market Area in Dresden. I would stand with hand and tract outstretched. Many people who did take a tract would just keep on walking. One man did stop and gave me 15 to 20 minutes. I asked him if he was raised a Communist under the German

Democratic Republic. His answer was, "Yes."

After about 15 minutes, he said, "Listen, if God was so interested in me, He would have sent someone to tell me!"

I said, "You're looking at him!" At the beginning of our time he refused to take a tract from me, but at the end he did take one and went on his way.

We ministered in Bremerhaven, Germany, from 1989-2001. We had a lady in our mission church named Trudel. She was also born in East Germany. She led a hard and sinful life. One day she decided to end it all and bought or borrowed a pistol. She placed it to her head and pulled the trigger. As she told my wife Brenda and me this story, I was sure that she would say that the pistol misfired. She did not! She blew part of her skull off, but she lived. We sat with her in her small kitchen and she received Christ as her Savior. God's grace kept her alive, and God's grace saved her many years later.

When I do take someone's place in Germany or Holland, we try to work in an outreach to Prague, Czech Republic, or to Warsaw, Poland, or to Athens, Greece. It is a real blessing to be able to take gospel tracts in their language to these countries.

Someone asked me once, "Brother Pulley, do you speak all those languages that you distribute?"

I said, "No, but God does!"

## LABBF meets on LBU campus

Shreveport, LA

Louisiana Baptist Bible Fellowship held its state meeting at Louisiana Baptist University March 18. There were approximately 45 people in attendance.

Special music was provided by two LBU staff members, Mark Crook and David Keeny. Speakers were Ron Fox, the LABBF State Chairman and pastor of Bible Baptist Church, De Quincy, LA, and Pastor Chad Mills of First Baptist, Oil City, LA,

LBU President Neal Weaver shared

the university's vision to construct a new auditorium so the school could host larger events.



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## Fred Vaught

Weatherford, TX

Longtime evangelist and founder of Sand Mountain Bible Camp and Good Samaritan Girls Home of Trenton, GA, went to be with his Lord March 10, 2011. He was 84 years old.

Mr. Vaught was born in Las Cruces, NM. He preached the gospel for 58 years and leaves behind a ministry legacy, his wife Joan, to whom he had been married 64 years, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. His funeral was held in his home church, Victory Baptist Church of Weatherford.

## Julius John Blazs

Jacksonville, FL

Julius Blazs, 80, was called home to be with his Lord whom he served faithfully in ministry for 61 years on February 11, 2011. He served as music minister for Jacksonville Baptist Temple for 15 years, Temple Baptist Church, Detroit, MI, for seven years, Tri-Lakes Baptist Church, Brighton, MI, as senior pastor for 11 years, and back home to Jacksonville at Belfort Road Baptist Church for 16 years, retiring in 2004.

Mr. Blazs fought a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer for 10 months. Funeral services were held February 15, 2011, at First Coast Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL, with Pastor Richard Edwards officiating. Donations in Mr. Blazs's name can be made to the First Coast Baptist Church building fund.

## Robert W. Warner

Johnson, KS

Robert "Bob" Warner was born on August 12, 1952, and passed away on Saturday, February 19, 2011. He was a 1980 graduate of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO.

Pastor Warner is survived by his wife Louise, sons, a daughter, and three grandchildren.

Services for Warner were held February 23, 2011, at First Baptist Church in Johnson, KS, with Pastor Randy Parks and Pastor Carl Kissell officiating, and February 24, 2011, at Westside Baptist Church in Hutchinson, KS, with Pastor Tim Adrian and Pastor Ron Aulgur officiating.

## Jim Price

Ringgold, GA

James "Jim" Price, originator and co-founder of KWFC, the Baptist Bible College radio station, passed from this life March 8, 2011, at the age of 64.

As a student at BBC in 1968 he, along with Bill Askew from Jacksonville, FL, laid the groundwork for a professional broadcasting station for the BBC campus. KWFC, the station, began broadcasting in 1969 with Jim's voice opening the inaugural broadcast.

Jim left Springfield and moved to Ringgold 35 years ago where he was a member of Poplar Springs Baptist Church. He leaves behind his wife of 43 years Pat, children, and grandchildren. Memorial services were held March 11, 2011.

## William Lee Taylor

Murfreesboro, TN

Longtime pastor William Lee Taylor, 77, was taken to glory January 14, 2011, after a short illness.

While raising a family in Michigan in the 1960s, he was led to go into the ministry. He enrolled at Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, and graduated in 1972. He served as an associate pastor in Nashville and then was called to pastor Union City Baptist Temple. In 1981 he was called to Bible Baptist Church in Ottumwa, IA, and in 1986 to First Baptist Church in Ruskin, FL, where he served until his retirement in 2001.

Active in missions, he made several trips overseas to encourage missionaries and mission giving, worked in Taiwan on two short-term ministries, and he served in various posts with the Baptist Bible Fellowship in Florida.

Mr. Taylor is survived by his wife Joyce, two sons, three daughters, 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held at Franklin Road Baptist Church in Murfreesboro with Pastor Mike Norris officiating.

## Louis Kahler

Chihuahua, Mexico

Louis Kahler went home to be with the Lord April 1, 2011. He was buried among the Tarahumaras with whom he worked in a village in the mountains of Chihuahua.

Louis and Joan Kahler were approved as BBFI missionaries in 1959. After language study the Kahlers moved to Chihuahua where he founded Calvary Baptist Church and the Baptist Bible College of Chihuahua. In 1979 the college moved to Torreon, Coahuila, and the name was changed to Baptist Bible Institute Las Americas.

Mr. Kahler resigned from the BBFI in 1984 but continued his work with the institute and a church, later moving the institute to the Indian village in the mountains.

Mr. Kahler is survived by his wife Joan and two sons.

(Information for this obituary was provided by Lonnie Smith Sr.)





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

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• **Ocean View Church**, 2460 Palm Ave., San Diego, CA 92154, 619/424-7870 *www.oceanviewchurch.com* *Pastor Jim W. Baize*

• **Calvary Road Baptist Church**, 319 West Olive Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016, 626/357-2711, *www.calvary-roadbaptist.org* *Dr. John S. Waltrip*

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# God and gravitas

By Keith Bassham

Rob Bell, pastor of Mars Hill Bible Church in Grand Rapids, MI, has released a book titled *Love Wins*. This is not a review of that book. However, there are many reviews filling Christian blogs and websites, and there are dozens of sermons and studies in that same venue where at least part of the book is addressed. Additionally, Mr. Bell has been on television promoting the book, so you have probably heard about it.

The book's central subject is the cause of this publicity: apparently, everything we think we know about heaven and hell and who occupies those places is wrong.

As I say, this is not a review, and the book defies attempts to give a simple summary, but briefly, it looks like Mr. Bell objects to the teaching that one must believe on Christ to be saved, and that those who do not believe experience the wrath of God, or at least he is questioning our understanding of Bible passages such as John 3:36: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Here is an example of his thinking:

*Millions have been taught that if they don't believe, if they don't accept in the right way according to the person telling them the gospel, and they were hit by a car and died later that same day, God would have no choice but to punish them forever in conscious torment in hell. God would, in essence, become a fundamentally different being to them in that moment of death, a different being to them forever. A loving heavenly father who will go to extraordinary lengths to have a relationship with them would, in the blink of an eye, become a cruel, mean, vicious tormenter who would insure that they would have no escape from an endless future of agony.*

*If there was an earthly father who was like that, we would call the authorities. If there was an actual human dad who was that volatile, we would contact child protection services immediately.*

*If God can switch gears like that, switch entire modes of being that quickly, that raises a thousand questions about whether a being like this could ever be trusted. Let alone be good.*

*Loving one moment, vicious the next. Kind and compassionate, only to become cruel and relentless in the blink of an eye.*

*Does God become somebody totally different the moment you die?*

*That kind of God is simply devastating. Psychologically crushing. We can't bear it. No one can. ... That God is terrifying and traumatizing and unbearable. (Rob Bell in Love Wins, 173–75)*

Now, rethink that verbiage, but substitute gravity for God:

Millions have been taught that if they don't remain in a tall building, if they don't leave the building in the right way using stairs or an elevator but rather used an upper story window, and then died by stepping out the window into midair, gravity would have no choice but to send them quickly to the pavement below. Gravity would, in essence, become a fundamentally different force to them in that moment of death, a different force to them forever. A gravitational force would, instead of keeping them from flying off into space from the earth they walk, would in the blink of an eye, become a cruel, mean, vicious force that would insure that they would have no escape from an impact with that same earth below their feet.

If there was another natural force that was like that, we would call the physicists. If there was another physical law that volatile, we would contact research universities immediately.

If gravity can switch gears like that, switch its practical results that quickly, that raises a thousand questions about whether a natural law like this could ever be trusted. Let alone be good.

Benefitting us one moment, keeping our feet on the ground, vicious the next, pulling us unstoppably from the 15th story window to that same ground. Kind and compassionate, only to become cruel and relentless in the blink of an eye.

Does gravity become something totally different the moment you exit a tall building by the window?

That kind of natural force is simply devastating. Psychologically crushing. We can't bear it. No one can. ... That gravity is terrifying and traumatizing and unbearable.

At least one or two reviewers noted that Mr. Bell's problem with God's wrath is not dissimilar to what one might find in the writings of Christopher Hitchens (*god is not Great*) or other secularists. J. I. Packer explains this: (thanks, Chris Regas for the tip):

*The sentimental secularism of modern Western culture, with its exalted optimism about human nature, its shrunken idea of God, and its skepticism as to whether personal morality really matters — in other words, its decay of conscience — makes it hard for Christians to take the reality of hell seriously. The revelation of hell in Scripture assumes a depth of insight into divine holiness and human and demonic sinfulness that most of us do not have. However, the doctrine of hell appears in the New Testament as a Christian essential, and we are called to try to understand it as Jesus and his apostles did. (James I. Packer, Concise Theology, 261)*



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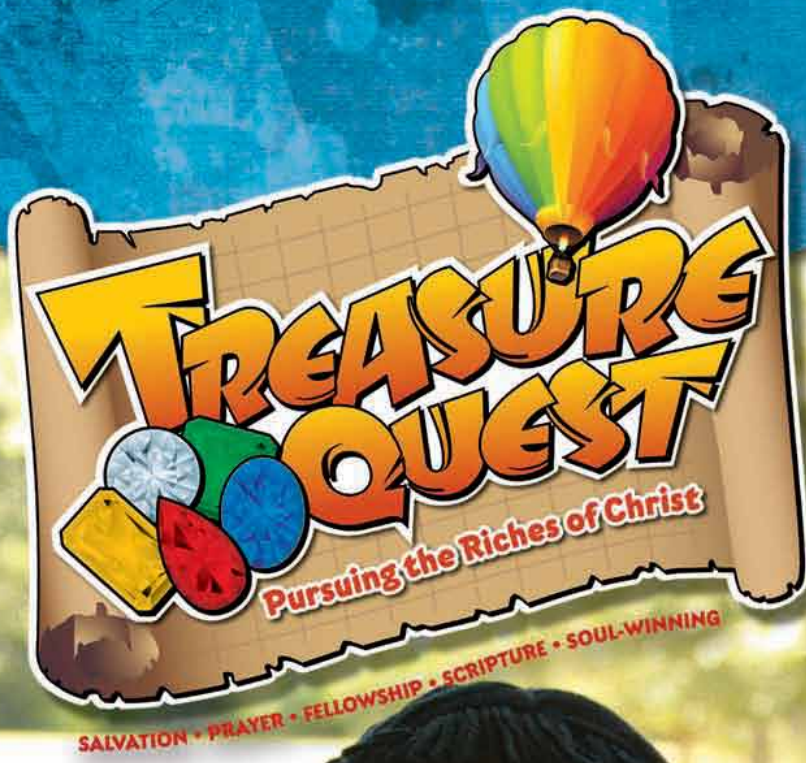
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