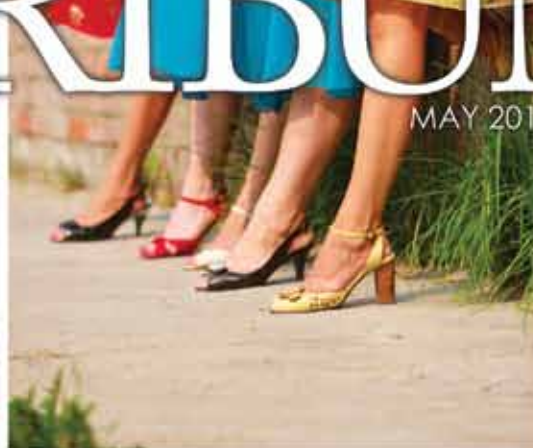


BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

MAY 2012 VOL. 42 NO. 9



THE MISSIONARY
WOMEN OF THE BBFI:
**COULD YOU FILL
THEIR SHOES?**



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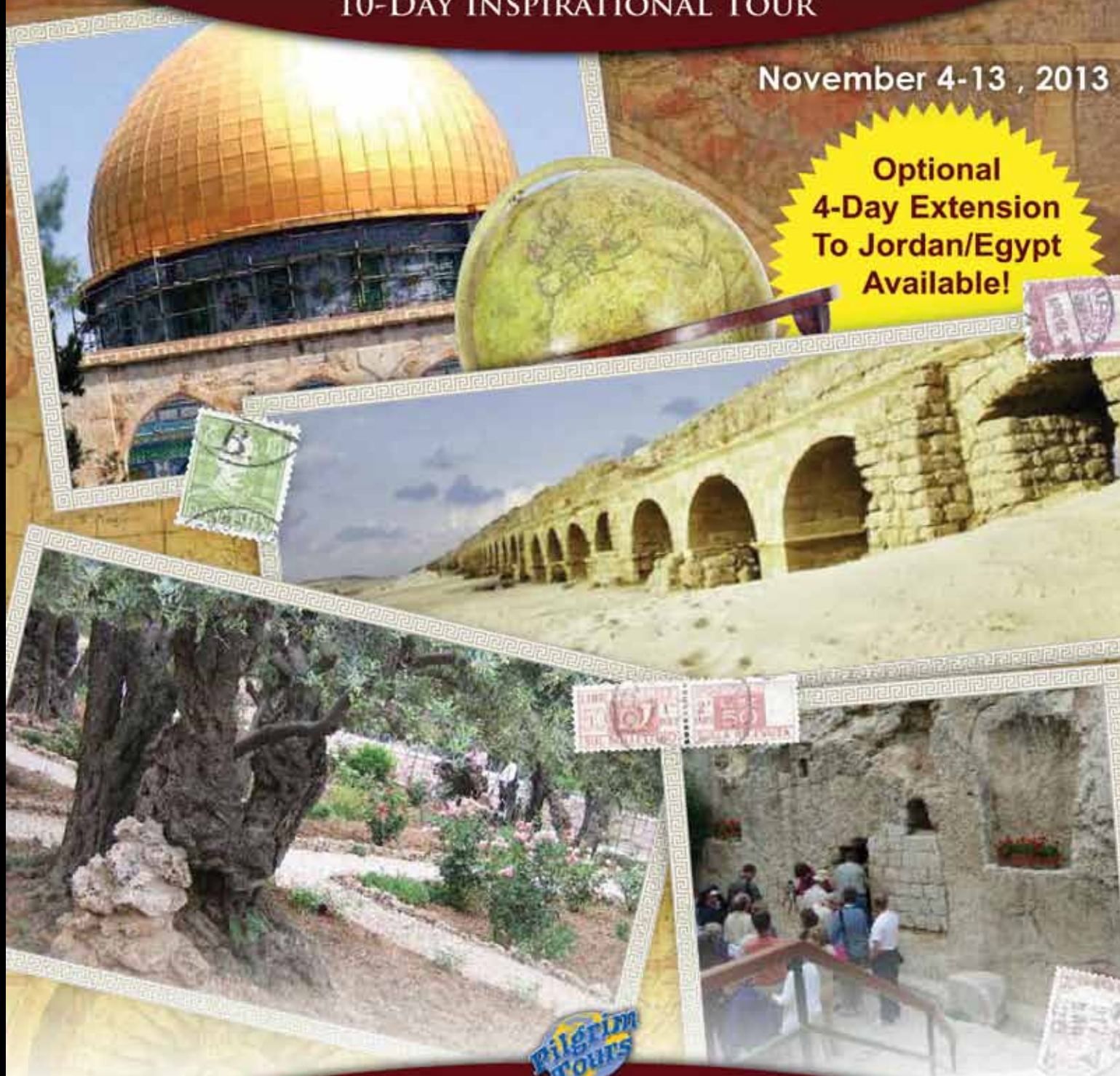
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ON THE TABLE The May issue

by Keith Bassham | Editor

Several years ago we adopted an 11-issue publishing schedule that creates some confusion this time of year. This magazine, the May issue, goes to the printer at the regular time, but we will not publish again until after the May Graduation Fellowship Meeting, or roughly six weeks from the day I write this. And then the summer issue will appear about six weeks after that. It just works better for our office and for getting the news out about the Fellowship meeting while it is still news.

My wife reminded me a few days ago that she and I met 40 years ago on the campus of Baptist Bible College, and she knew the date. I was visiting the campus, anticipating a fall enrollment, staying in the dorm with a friend who was in his first year. Shari, my future wife, was in a group of students who piled into my friend's car for classes at High Street Baptist Church. I've tried to explain that the reason I don't recall meeting her was because I was the new guy meeting lots of new people. I believe that her knowing me before I knew her empowers her in some way ... at any rate, I did take notice of her a few months later — obviously.

And roughly 20 years before that, Noel Smith was the editor of a two-year-old newspaper telling about what was happening in a two-year-old Fellowship. People seem to like to see and hear what was going on in and around the Fellowship 60 years ago, but back then, Mr. Smith liked to talk more about the future. This is part of an editorial from May 9, 1952, a couple of weeks before a major meeting announced to take place May 21. Mr. Smith describes what he hopes to come from such a meeting, and then he writes this about the relatively new Baptist Bible Fellowship:

There is a future, and a great future, for a Baptist group such as the Baptist Bible Fellowship — if:
We teach and preach that the Bible knows no such thing as a faith that is not demonstrated by works.
We teach and preach that the Holy Spirit is not some impersonal, Divine power that we in our vulgar ignorance are to "get hold of and use," but that He is a Divine Person who's to get hold of us and use us.
We emphasize the absolute necessity and importance of all the offices of the Ministry, not just one or two.
We balance our evangelistic zeal with systematic Bible teaching.
We teach and preach that there is no difference between intellectual crookedness and any other kind of crookedness.
We teach and preach that we shall not be rewarded unless we play the game according to the Divine rules.
We constantly strive, through humility and the hardest kind of work, to reach as high standards in teaching and preaching as we can.

May we take it to heart 60 years later.

Keith Bassham

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Hold the rope



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

A rope is used in the Bible to illustrate many things. It refers to strength in Ecclesiastes 4:12; it is used as an emblem of servitude in 1 Kings 20:31; it is used in casting lots in Micah 2:5; it illustrates love in Hosea 11:4, affliction in Job 36:8, and temptation in Psalm 140:5 and Proverbs 5:22.

But Acts 9:25 is a passage where a rope played a significant role, “Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.” Obviously a rope is not explicitly mentioned in this passage. However, the disciples used a rope or something that served that purpose to lower Paul down the wall.

Paul, the greatest leader of the New Testament church, had recently come to faith in Christ. In Damascus, he was filled with passion and zeal, preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. However there were Jews plotting to kill him. They were opposed to his message. That conflict escalated to the point that Paul was forced to escape for his life. A group of fellow disciples lowered him to the ground in a basket. They held the rope. What a service! We read this passage and quickly pass over this significant act of service. We might notice Paul’s being lowered over the wall. But the act of holding the rope is quickly overlooked.

Notice three encouraging applications for the BBFI.

1. Hold the rope: there is an important person at the other end.

These disciples had no idea who they held in their basket. They knew he was a preacher. They knew he had recently been converted to faith in Christ. There was no way, in their wildest dreams, they could imagine the impact this man would have on the world and the Christian faith. As the first missionary of the New Testament church, he would shake the Roman Empire with his preaching. He would write one third of the New Testament. You never know who you will have in your basket. That idea is incentive to be faithful in the work God has called you to and to influence others.

Paul was a great man of God, but he needed the assistance of others. Let me use this to remind you that we have a responsibility to those around us. Some people get so preoccupied with their own needs that they cannot see the needs of others. God has created us with a desire and a capacity to be servants. Service is not a draining enterprise. It is a life-giving activity. Serving others should be a privilege.

As our Fellowship comes together for the great work of world evangelism, we need to hold the rope for those coming after us. Should the Lord tarry His coming there is a generation following us facing tremen-

dous ministry challenges. We need one other. Experienced pastors need to mentor and encourage younger pastors and not ignore them or complain about them. The younger pastors need to respect the experience and track record of pastors who have held the ropes for a long time and not complain about them. There is wisdom that comes from fighting the battle and we should tap into that wisdom. Methods may differ but our goals are the same.

2. Hold the rope: apparently, menial tasks have eternal value.

What a menial task — lowering a man through a window in a basket at the end of a rope. The word menial refers to “work that requires little skill or training, is not interesting, and confers low social status on somebody doing it.” Our churches have jobs that may seem menial. This is not God’s opinion. The Lord Jesus honors efforts that may seem menial and insignificant. In our Fellowship a small word of encouragement or appreciation from one another can go a long way.



3. Hold the rope: there is a cost!

Paul is being lowered because the Jewish leaders were plotting to kill him. In helping Paul, the disciples could face persecution or death. We need to understand that holding the rope sometimes carries a cost. Serving Jesus Christ is a joyful thing, but it carries a cost. There is a cost for nearly everything in life. Following Jesus Christ and serving Him has a cost. Martin Luther said “A religion that does nothing, that saves nothing, that gives nothing, that costs nothing, that suffers

nothing, is worth nothing.”

There is a cost to keep the BBFI strong for the next generation and until Jesus comes again. It costs to start new churches and build buildings. It costs to get missionaries to the mission field. It costs to keep the Mission Office strong. It costs to keep our colleges strong. It costs to keep the *Baptist Bible Tribune* strong. It costs to distribute Bibles. It costs to develop the Gateway Project and other BBFI projects. These projects are worthy and the cost is worth it!

A rope is built of cord and fiber collected to make one unit. One unit not only bound to be stronger in itself but outside of itself. Each strand works with the other; each bears its weight, each yields to the purpose for which it was created ... to support, to strengthen, and to sustain. Strength emerges, a power only seen through the frame of unity is revealed. When we unite, come together, and bind ourselves to one vision, we too may become unstoppable.

Why are fewer going?



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

When I compare the number of new missionaries approved with those resigning or going home to heaven, I note that our missionary force is staying in the positive — not by much, but still positive. In May 2008, we had what we consider a large class of approvals with 35 career missionaries, seven TEAM missionaries, and two reinstatements. Last year we approved 20 career and recognized 17 TEAM. This year we will see more than 30 join our missionary family.

Despite these statistics, I wonder why we don't see more people surrendering for the mission field. Why are fewer of the younger generation surrendering to ministry? Have they not grasped an understanding of the Great Commission as those in the past? Are there barriers in our churches that keep young people from pursuing full-time Christian service? During the next few months I will share what I consider to be some of the reasons why fewer people surrender to serve as missionaries.

1. The mission of the church. I wonder if world evangelism has become an insignificant program of the church rather than "The Mission of the Church." Perhaps this is one of the reasons missionaries struggle to raise financial support. Perhaps our youth observe these struggles and question the church's priorities and thus have less desire to enter the ministry and live a life of service.

2. The political climate. Since the attacks on our nation on September 11, 2001, I have seen an increased fear of people to go and serve the Lord internationally. Indeed, our planet is a threatening place to live. With the volatile situation in the Middle East, the move toward socialism in Latin America, the tensions in North Korea and Iran, and the threat of terrorism around the world, I wonder if our youth are hesitant to consider cross-cultural service. Our world has always been plagued with troubles of some kind, but it may be that our awareness is heightened due to TV coverage and the Internet. Early pioneer missionaries dealt with a variety of issues such as deadly diseases, dangerous travel with less-than-worthy vessels, hostility of other religions and governments, and wars. Sometimes surrender and service brings suffering for the cause of Christ. I still believe it is true that the best place to be is in the will of God — no matter where.

3. Selfishness. Sacrifice is not a frequent theme in most churches today. Is there less challenge for people to totally surrender and follow the call of God from today's pulpits? Maybe that is why there are fewer who are yielding their all as a total living sacrifice for their Lord (Romans 12:1-2). Let's remind our people that the greatest life is the abundant life of serving Christ and obeying His commission.

In the following months I will share more about this, and I want to know what you think. Email me with your thoughts or suggestions at jkonnerup@bbfmissions.com.

A refreshing report



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

Once in a while the mailman delivers to your door a letter or card that lifts your soul and reminds you that what you are doing does make a difference. I received such a letter recently. Here is a portion:

Bro Guinn,

I wanted to write you and let you know how well things are going. They are not where we would like them to be, but things are improving. I don't know how to thank you for your help, for your friendship, and your prayers and concern. We appreciate you so much. Please find enclosed a booklet that we printed to give to our people at our annual meeting this past month. I believe that our assimilation system is showing the greatest improvement. In the last three weeks we have had 32 families or individuals fill out 'connection cards,' and we have made contact with all of them. We have seen seven people trust Christ as Savior in the past three weeks and had one family join the church. I believe that all of this has its roots in what happened last July when you were with us and challenged us. I truly believe that it is beginning to bear fruit. Thank you again. I hope this report will be a blessing to you.

What a blessing it truly was. That is the kind of letter that keeps you going in the work God has called you to. I challenged this church about regaining momentum in church growth, financial growth, and spiritual growth. In my travels throughout our Fellowship I've discovered this is a need in many of our churches. If we could be a blessing to you, please contact us at (419) 961-7500 or office@bbfncpo.com.

By the way, we have had a wonderful response to our article concerning online giving. Several churches have begun to include this as an option for their people to be good stewards of their finances. If you need more information about online giving, contact us at the above-listed contact information, and we have other potential ways to create income streams for your church and school.





DIGRESSIONS

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

-Laurence Sterne

People in the pew deserve some credit

Every so often, a story pops up making light of religious illiteracy because a significant percentage of the population cannot identify facts such as the names of the four books of the Gospel. More often, researchers and media pundits attempt to classify different believers by how they vote or their stands on controversial social issues. Yet, American Christians can and do articulate for themselves what matters most.

Ask Orthodox Christians about the importance of regular attendance at services, and six in ten will say you can be a good church member without going to church every Sunday. But inquire about the resurrection, and 96% will say you cannot be considered a good Orthodox Christian if you do not believe Jesus rose from the dead, according to *The Orthodox Church Today* study.

In a Gallup Poll, 42% of American Catholics said the teaching claimed by the Vatican is very important. But twice as many, 84%, said belief in Jesus' resurrection from the dead was very important to them as a Catholic. Overall, 97 percent said the belief was important to their faith.

Source: www.blog.arda.com

Iranian Christian pastor in jail 900 days

Jailed Iranian pastor Yousef Nadarkhan remains behind bars, after having passed the 900-day mark, and he still faces possible execution.

Rumors of his execution have been repeated on social media websites, but the pictures accompanying the reports are a year old and depict another person. American Center for Law and Justice's executive director Jordan Sekulow told *Baptist Press* "We're able to confirm that he's alive pretty regularly, at least weekly."

According to *Baptist Press*, in September, Nadarkhani was given four chances to recant his faith in court and refused each time. His case then was referred to the ayatollah. The American Center for Law and Justice reported one of his court exchanges.

Nadarkhani: **"Repent means to return. What should I return to? To the blasphemy that I had before my faith in Christ?"**

Judge: **"To the religion of your ancestors, Islam,"**

Nadarkhani: **"I cannot."**

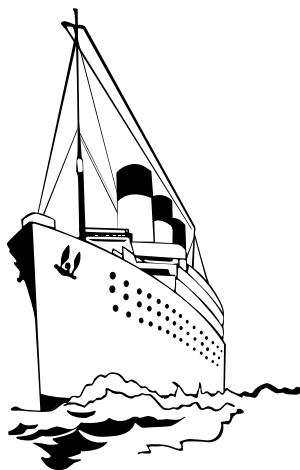
Source: www.bpnnews.net

Titanic sailed and sank 100 years ago

The steamship *RMS Titanic* hit an iceberg April 14, 1912, mere days after it had set sail from England on its maiden voyage. Believed to be "practically unsinkable," the ship was on the ocean's bottom a few hours after the collision.

After 100 years of studies, papers, books, and films (including a 3D release of the 1997 feature film *Titanic* set for the centennial), and not a few scholarly queries into the causes of the disaster, most have come to the same conclusion. In the words of Lee Clarke, Rutgers University disaster expert and author of *Worst Cases*, "The basic facts of *Titanic* are not in dispute: The boat was going too fast in dangerous waters." In an AP report, Clarke said people keep looking for causes "because if it's nature or God, then we're off the hook, morally and practically."

Ironically, an 1898 novel, *Futility, or the Wreck of the Titan*, written by Morgan Robertson, tells the story of an ocean liner that sinks in the North Atlantic after hitting an iceberg. Written even before the *Titanic* had been designed, the novel describes a remarkably similar ship — close in size and number of passengers, with a similar shortage of lifeboats, traveling at about the same speed, and sinking in nearly the same spot (400 miles from Newfoundland). And the ship's name? The *Titan*, and considered unsinkable 14 years before the *Titanic* disaster.



Worldwide Bible translation statistics

6.5 billion world population

6,909 Languages spoken in the world
[*Ethnologue*, 16th ed., 2008]

2,393 Languages with probable need of Bible translation, representing 200 million people

2,479 Languages with some or all of the Bible:
Of these, **451** have an adequate Bible

1,185 have an adequate New Testament

843 have Scripture portions [UBS 2008].

1,998 Languages included in translation, linguistic, or literacy programs known to be in progress worldwide, reaching an estimated 1.2 billion people (all known programs being carried out by any organization)

Source: pngbta.org Papua New Guinea Bible Translation Assoc.)

In the NEWS of the WEEK

R. O. WOODWORTH

There are two things which we must on no account relax—praising God for the daily news of conversions, of widening interest and Missionary zeal, and praying that this may continue and that God may separate unto Himself for the ministry a great many workers.

We have had ample testimony to the benefit conferred by spreading information regarding God's grace to our churches.

No later than this writing we have several letters from several pastors as far away as California and one from Canada, dated April 26, saying, "I have just finished reading in The Tribune the wonderful things the Lord is doing for the Baptist Bible Fellowship."

After mentioning attending a fellowship meeting in the Central Baptist church, Sherman, Texas, Bro. L. L. Pruitt, pastor of West Main Baptist church, Henderson, Texas, went on to say, "We have just closed our anniversary revival meeting here. It was the greatest since I organized the church seven years ago. Chief White Eagle, pastor of the only Indian Baptist church in Texas, was the evangelist."

Eleven united with the church, nine on profession of faith. Such letters should encourage us all to spread the news of God's goodness far and wide, at home and abroad.

It is a Scriptural thing to do so, as we read in Acts 14:27; 15:4. "They rehearsed all that God had done with them." It does a great deal of good to let it be known that God is working.

Pastors who are being blessed or who have special information to give can help the cause of Christ by sending me a condensed account of facts regarding God's work in His churches. Here is what we mean:

The Lord has been mighty good to us here. Our Sunday school attendance has increased. We exceeded 300 the past three Sundays. We expect to have the complete plans for our new auditorium soon. At the groundbreaking services we raised \$716 for the building fund. Our new Sunday school superintendent, Dick Freeman has organized the Sunday school into departments. A new D.S.R. bus purchased last week hauled 25 on its first trip.

Art Wilson will be with us May 12-16 in a short meeting. We feel the Community Baptist church, Garden City, Mich., will be greatly blessed then. James B. Allen, pastor.

There is a present revival in the opinion of this writer in the Baptist Bible Fellowship. We see it daily, hear of it and read of it. Thousands of souls are being reached by this movement. The country is certainly not moved from end to end—there is no great national awakening—but the churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship are making the greatest effort in their history to diffuse the message of salvation and sinners are being convicted of sin and converted.

The Temple Baptist church in Detroit, Mich., under the power of God's spirit, has no doubt been used of God to spread both directly and indirectly the blessed gospel of Christ everywhere. The Lord be praised for the 19 men and women, many of whom found redemption in His blood and 45 of whom united with the church, under the preaching of Dr. Fred S. Donnelson, Director of Missions, April 20. There was an immense attendance of 4,397 and a total offering of

\$12,369.78; \$4,869 of which was for Missions. But that is not the end, the offering for the month of April alone was \$34,143.36. This is almost double what it was for a whole year before Dr. G. Beauchamp Vick's administration. An average of 46 a Sunday made a total of 184 additions for the month and the Sunday school averaged 4,305. When results like that which have been achieved in the industrial metropolis occurs, it moves pastors who hear of it and stirs them to the depth of their spiritual being to seek the same results in their own churches.

As great times of refreshing have been seen in the Lockland Baptist church since Dr. John Rawlings became pastor as has ever been seen in this church. The scores of souls in Lockland, and elsewhere, that have been led to Christ by Him, and the number of Christians who have been aroused from their lethargy and persuaded to labor with fresh zeal, and new churches established in many places over the State—between 1600 and 1700 in the Sunday school each Sunday—10, 15, and 20 souls uniting with the church each Sunday, over 100 people out for visitation weekly, a radio broadcast—these are some of the results of this earnest servant of Christ's ministry.

The Castleberry Baptist church, Ft. Worth, Texas, is filled with adoring wonder that it has come in for such a rich share of blessing, for all plans are complete for the erection of the proposed 80x110 foot white stucco auditorium. Designed to seat 1,200 persons the auditorium will have a three story section on the rear for Sunday school quarters including a nursery large enough to care for 80 babies.

The pastor Bro. David Cavin, and his people who prayed for this badly needed building felt that their prayers were answered when they watched workmen resume work April 28 on the basement

which had been completed previously.

During these "months of harvest" Bro. Al Hatfield, having a passion for sinners, works daily in Rockford, Ill., with a sharp sickle in his hand reaping precious souls. It is cheering to hear of the good work which he is carrying on in Him in the Auburn Street Baptist church. Although small the congregation is rejoicing over the three precious ones added to their number last Sunday.

God is pouring out upon the Kansas City Baptist Temple, Kansas City, Mo., an earnest zeal to save souls and a real skill in winning them. The pastor, Bro. Wendell Zimmerman, is a pattern of personal effort. His article "The Need of Revival" in April 25 issue of Waves of Grace, descriptive of what the humblest or willing workers might accomplish, must challenge every reader, especially the members of Kansas City Baptist Temple. In his article Bro. Zimmerman urged upon his members the importance of personal soul winning which, he pointed out, would be attended by God's blessing.

An announcement of thrilling interest was made in the same issue. Bro. O. R. Schwab, Pasadena, Calif., will conduct a "Crusade for Souls" campaign from April 28 to May 4. Best known for his radio ministry, Bro. Schwab sang and preached the Gospel for several years over a hook-up of seven west coast stations.

A revival effort in the Trinity Baptist church, Ft. Worth, Texas, led by Bro. Wendell Zimmerman resulted in rich blessing to the church, the pastor, Bro. Earl Williams, and to many unsaved souls. Many who had been saved were made to realize more fully the blessedness of their standing in Christ and many others for the first time were made conscious of sins forgiven.

During his absence several bleeding, weeping hearts sought mercy at the cross of the crucified Jesus in the services of the Kansas City Baptist Temple led by Bro. Lonnie Smith, pastor of the West Side Baptist church, Hutchinson, Kansas.

An indirect report of the revival conducted by Dr. John Rawlings, in the Ramseur Baptist church, Paris, Texas, indicated that it was a blessing from Heaven for all including Pastor Lester Singleton. One young man gave his life to Christ for full time Christian service, a goodly number were saved and there were some outstanding victories in the lives of professing Christians.

Enthusiastic audiences are greeting Bro. James O. Combs each night in the current revival sponsored by the New Testament Baptist church, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Many have already been aroused from the slumber of sin to ask anxiously what must I do to be saved?

The blessings of God have attended the efforts of the pastor, Bro. Al Cox, since he accepted a call to this field.

The rapt attention given Dr. W. E. Dowell throughout the revival held in the Ottumwa Baptist Tabernacle, Ottumwa, Ia., April 13-26, the thrilling way in which the hymns were sung and the fervency of the prayers testify to the deep earnestness which pervaded the meeting. The meeting bore a good harvest of spiritual fruit consisting of the conversion of precious souls, additions to the church and the restoration of backsliders. Bro. A. D. Pringle, pastor, is a protege of Dr. Dowell.

A revival planned for two weeks opened April 28 in the Baptist Tabernacle, Carthage, Mo., Bro. Wally Williams, pastor, called Bro. Lester Singleton for the campaign. The crowds were good and the interest high and there were a number of visitors from the Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri. The fact of the salvation of souls in answer to prayer was received as proof of the presence of the Holy Spirit in answer to the prayers which had been offered for a great blessing to accompany the revival.

In the Park Drive Baptist church, Hillsboro, Texas, the adorable presence of Christ is continually made manifest in the joy and gladness which He pours upon it in His showers of blessings. The pastor Bro. Jack McEwen, is praising and blessing the Lord for all that He is accomplishing amongst the members of the unsaved.

The last two Sundays were especially blessed by the highest attendance ever recorded in the church and the presence of Bro. Bill Sears and his family, students of the Bible Baptist College, Jack writes, "His preaching, teaching, and playing will long be remembered."

Although the weather was bad in Tulsa, Okla., Sunday 20. Tulsa Baptist Temple was well filled and there were three additions to the church and one redeemed by the blood. Bro. Clifford Clark, pastor announced a revival for Church members. Beginning April 28 he will alternate with Bro. William Crieder a fellow pastor, for five nights.

The Thursday night Bible class, conducted by Bro. Ralph Tapp, assistant pastor is gaining favor and stimulating interest in a study of the Blessed Book.

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

LODGING

Current BBC Preferred Rates

Best Western Coach House Inn
North Glenstone & I-44
417.862.0701
\$63.95 + tax

Candlewood Suites
1920 E. Kerr Street at I-44
417.866.4242

Studio Suite:
\$79 + tax (1-6 nights)
\$69 + tax (7-14 nights)
One Bedroom:
\$104 + tax (1-6 nights)
\$94 + tax (7-14 nights)

Comfort Inn & Suites
2815 N. Glenstone Ave.
417.869.8246
\$75.99 + tax

Double Tree
2431 N. Glenstone Ave.
417.831.3131

Drury Inn & Suites
2715 N. Glenstone Ave.
417.863.8400
\$89 + tax

Holiday Inn
2720 N. Glenstone Ave.
417.865.8600
\$94 + tax Sunday – Thursday
\$79 + tax Friday & Saturday

La Quinta
1610 E. Evergreen St.
417.522.7725
\$62.00 + tax

Ramada Oasis
2546 N. Glenstone Ave.
417.522.7725
\$71.00 + tax

Monday, May 14

- 8:00 am BBFI Executive Committee Meeting • *Mission Office*
- 1:00 pm BBFI National Directors Meeting • *Boonstra Chapel*
- 1:00 pm BBC Trustees Meeting • *Presidential Dining*
- 6:30 pm Evening Service
Jon Slayden, Director of Student Life at BBC
Linzy Slayden, BBFI President, Owasso, Oklahoma

Tuesday, May 15

- 9:00 am Ladies' Meeting
Special Guest: Paula Dunn, Lynchburg, VA
- 9:00 am BBFI Business Meeting • *Fieldhouse*
- 10:00 am Speakers:
Charlie Miller, Lima, OH
Michael Haley, Fountain, CO
Anthony Milas, Salem, NH
- 1:00 pm National Mission Field Reps • *Mission Office*
- 6:30 pm Evening Service
New President of Baptist Bible College
- 8:30 pm Presidential Reception • *Cafeteria*

Wednesday, May 16

- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm BBFI Global Missions Celebration
Mission Videos
Missionary Recognition
Missionary Approvals (11 families!)
Special Guest: Ole Konnerup
- 12:30 Missionary Luncheon • *Mission Building*
- 5:00 pm Alumni Banquet
Tickets available at Alumni Booth
- 6:30 pm Evening Service
Special Guest: Dr. Elmer Towns, Co-Founder
Liberty University

Thursday, May 17

- 9:00 am Commencement
Special Guest: Dr. Jerry Thorpe
- 1:00 pm Annual BBFI Scholarship Golf Tournament

FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND TO REGISTER FOR SPECIAL
EVENTS, GO TO
GOBBC.EDU

sandals, heels, sneakers, athletic shoes, flats, clogs, loafers, slippers, oxfords, boat shoes, high heels, bridal shoes, orthotic friendly, Adjustable Strap Shoes, Business shoes, Casual Shoes, Comfort shoes, Dress Sandals, Dress Shoes, Fashion Shoes, Formal shoes, Heeled Sandals, Heels, Luxury shoes, Open Toe Shoes, Ornamented Shoes, Pumps, Rounded Toe Shoes, Slingbacks

A LADY & HER SHOES

THE METHODS AND MINISTRIES OF MISSIONARY LADIES

By James G. Smith
BBFI Associate Mission Director



We have all heard and probably used the expression “wearing different hats” regarding our various responsibilities as parents, children, spouses, employees, and people in ministry. But since we are featuring ladies in missionary ministry in the BBFI this month, we thought shoes were a more appropriate metaphor than hats.

A girl can never have too many shoes ... or so that’s what I’m told. I’m not sure men will ever understand this apparent obsession — the quantity and variety of shoes that must be in their possession. For most guys about three pairs will do.

At one women’s shoe supplier on the Internet, we found these categories: sandals, heels, sneakers, athletic shoes, flats, clogs, loafers, slippers, oxfords, boat shoes, wedges, platform heels, bridal shoes, running shoes, diabetic-approved, orthotic-friendly, eco-friendly, and vegan shoes. If we add boots, we have rain boots, riding boots, rubber boots, work boots, cowboy boots, snow boots, total terrain, mid-calf, thigh-high, knee-high, narrow, and extra-wide. This one supplier listed 33,150 different shoes and 4,043 boots for women!

Then we interviewed the missionary ladies in

Taking care of my family • Teaching • A children • Curriculum development • S ministry coordinator • My husband’s se mandolin in the orchestra • Singing in the events • Team worker with my husband Ladies’ retreats and seminars • Feeding Home for girls • Teaching pre-school E everything he does • Oversee the orpha the choir • Help train the next pastor’s church • Sending out prayer updates, th

primary school • Organizing the church our house for church every weekend • college • Teach a weekly class for ladies

the BBFI ... not about shoes, but about ministries! We found an amazing variety of ministries being performed all around the world.

The single missionary ladies and the missionary wives of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International have amazing talents, abilities, and opportunities to exercise their spiritual gifts in serving the Lord cross-culturally. They wear many different kinds of shoes!

While this subject would be much broader in other publications, we will skip the discussion over the election of women as deaconesses or the ordination of women as pastors. Our constituency and readership would be pretty much agreed on that topic. We are hoping, however, that there will be great interest in the lives and ministries of the women in ministry who make up an integral part of the BBFI’s global partners.

It is our opinion, and thus our premise, that traditionally BBFI missionary women have accepted their roles in the family and in ministry as significant and fulfilling.

We asked several questions and were very pleased at the response to our questions. We are very grateful to the 40 ladies from 23 different countries who collaborated with us to

Administration • Teacher training • Discipleship training • Teaching in the seminary • Educating my Sunday school administrator • My family • Women's ministry • Church website administrator • Music secretary • Counseling • Electronic Bible study • Photographer • Children's ministry • Playing the piano • Singing in the choir • Supporting my husband • Writing lessons • Coordinating mission trips • Speaking at ladies' Bible studies • Church administration • Discipleship • Administrative Dean at the Bible college • Youth camps • Organizing programs • Soul-winning • Bible conferences • To my husband primarily • Music • Outreach • English • Baking refreshments • Keep the nursery • My principle ministry is helping my husband do his ministry • Manage • Coordinate the finances • Program director of the camp • Pastors' wives outreaches • Lead the church • Wife • Lead the Bible clubs • Visitation • Decoration of the church for different functions • Cleaning the church • Thank-you notes • File the quarterly reports • Mobilize, train, and equip God's servants •

Caring for and serving students in our institute • Sunday school workshops • Music in the church • Family life seminars • Missionary training seminars • Caring for our home • Host ladies' Bible studies • Equip people for teaching ministries • Head cook at camp • Young people's ministries • Medical assistant at the clinic • Teach in the public school once a week • Assistant principle in the school • Sports program • Hospitality • Outdoor evangelism • Cross-cultural mothers and children • Prepare for the future • Keeping myself spiritually fit and ready for service • Bible college administration • Teach in the Bible • Leadership • Teaching children • Working in the youth camp

present this issue. All of them contributed. Most of them are quoted directly. As always, we hope that our readers will be encouraged to continue to participate with our global partners in getting the gospel around the world.

You will find there are obvious differences in the priorities and perspectives of the single women and the missionary wives. However, the need for personal and ministerial encouragement to all these ladies is incumbent on all of us who form their support base.

We will make room for a few of them to elaborate, but take a moment and look carefully at the brief answers at the top of this page to the question, "In what kind of ministries are you involved?"

One of our ladies who transitioned from missionary kid to TEAM missionary and has now transitioned to career missionary is Megan Beard. We asked her about her ministry opportunities so far.

"Right now my husband and I do not have children, so while my first priority is supporting my husband in ministry and creating a comfortable and healthy home environment, I spend much of my time on responsibilities outside our household.

Since we are on deputation, we spend a lot of time communicating with churches and pastors. While my husband makes initial contact, I handle our follow-up communication, including our website, sending information to churches and pastors, revising and sending out our prayer updates, and sending thank-you notes after we have visited churches. I also manage our finances and file our quarterly reports.

Our primary ministry role in Korea is to mobilize, train, and equip God's servants, and God has opened the door for both of us to further our education so that He can use us in an educational and administrative capacity. Right now I am a full-time student and I try to balance this with our deputation travels.

While on the field, I spend a significant amount of time caring for and serving students in our institute (preparing meals during the school week and overseeing student housing), administrating in the school setting, investing in one-on-one discipleship with students, and teaching a few courses.

Outside of the school ministry context, we enjoyed using our home to host Bible studies and small groups, and about once weekly we would invite a family or group of individuals to share a

meal and an evening in our home."

We also received the following response from Miss Georgia Webb who ministers in Mexico:

"My principal ministry responsibility has always been teaching. At first I taught children in the churches and in starting new works, then young people, and for many years I taught mostly women, now I teach the young people again. In addition, I taught in the Bible institute in Ciudad Mante for 14 years, followed by 22 years as director and teacher in the Querétaro Spanish Language School.

For many years I have prepared illustrated lessons for children and for women. I have made them available at cost to our churches. This seems to meet a special need for teaching materials in Spanish. Recently I received a special blessing when a young lady, about 20 years old, told me her mother had taught my lessons when she was a child and they had been a blessing to her. Now she herself teaches children and would like to use the same lessons. It's great to know this ministry will go on even after I am gone to my heavenly home! By the way, some lessons are now available on the Internet so people can print them out free and use them."

Special thanks to all of the ladies who contributed

Joy Anzalone	Ecuador
Karon Auterson	Ethiopia
Edith Baker	Philippines
Janice Baker	Haiti
Megan Beard	Korea
Susie Biven	Mexico
Kristina Brown	Croatia
Kim Davis	Wales
Carol Elkins	Nicaragua
Carol Esquibel	England
Christina Fulmer	Kenya
Gail Gritts	England
Caliopi Gonciulea	Romania
Mary Herman	Teacher

Bonnie Jones	Tanzania
Ruth King	Japan
Joy Loveday	Spain
Lisa Mantonya	Brazil
Debbie Norris	Navajo
Christine Pelletier	Kenya
Dixie Quade	Wales
Linda Redding	Mexico
Sue Reddoch	Wales
Paula Rhoades	El Salvador
Tammy Rogers	Nicaragua
Sabrina Shangle	Ireland
Melinda Sissons	Japan
Mary Smith	Tanzania

Rachael Smith	Portugal
Uldine Steffy	Philippines
Melody Stephens	Zambia
Marie Strickland	Argentina
Ginnie Switzer	Ethiopia
Sandy Todd	Argentina
Carolyn Waters	Spain
Georgia Webb	Mexico
Rachael Weed	Nicaragua
Joy Williams	France
Becky Winters	Japan
Donna Woodson	Nicaragua



Q&A

How is missionary life different than you imagined it?

Carol Elkins, Nicaragua: "It's a bit busier than I might have anticipated. However, it is much more satisfying because I am where God wants me. The peace of that fact is amazing. The love that I have for these kids is more than I could have imagined."

Kristina Brown, Croatia: "Life as a missionary is a lot different than I imagined. We are often in the spotlight and we did not mean to be. Here, we are the weird ones who speak English, drive a huge American-sized minivan, and talk funny. In our little town, everyone knows we are here. The kids in our neighborhood call our house 'the American house.' We hope to begin teaching English on Tuesday nights in the next few weeks. We hope to use our 'weirdness' as a door for ministry."

Rachael Smith, Portugal: "I imagined being busy with ladies' meetings, children's classes, and discipleship. As it has turned out so far, most of the adults that have been saved have moved away, the young people saved at camp are not allowed to be discipled or to come to church, and no one will allow their children

to come to Sunday school or to vacation Bible schools. Women I have built friendships with are very guarded about discussing spiritual things, and have all backed off for a while when I have actually opened up the topic with the purpose of witnessing. Having grown up in Mexico, where the people were more receptive to the gospel, it has been difficult to breathe deep and be patient for the Lord to work in His time. Our church is still very small, but definitely growing deeper in their walk with the Lord. But, my heart still aches with the desire to disciple more women and girls, and to see families reaching out to other families. I knew the work here would be slow and that the 'soil' is very hard, but I don't think I expected it to be this dry and sparse spiritually."

Sandy Todd, Argentina: "I would say that it is always changing. Every year is different. Every stage of life and ministry is different. Circumstances and life events can change how you do missionary work or feel about being a missionary. I have felt things emotionally that I never thought I'd feel. My Christian and personal values have often been challenged. I have learned so much more about God, my family, the world, and myself than I ever even imagined."

Q&A

How do you handle stress in the ministry?

Visit a friend.

Pray.

Take a day off, wander around a little town.
Visit another missionary friend.

My husband and I are total opposites. When he sees the negative, I see the positive. Helps keep a balance.

I love to walk and talk to God about the challenges.

Exercise and get my mind off myself.

I usually pray, talk it over with my husband, and sometimes my parents. I take down time to paint or sew or build something.

Mary Herman: “**Knowing that God will never give me more than I can handle is comforting.**” I have found it is important to have someone with whom I can share burdens, get proper rest, and recognize that the world does not revolve around me and my needs. I have learned how important it is to just wait on the Lord. Much stress occurs when I wish to achieve something in my time frame and energy instead of His.”

My husband and I are very thankful that God has allowed us to serve Him here. Being a little older and seeing how God has provided in the past, we trust in Him and know that He has our backs.

Spend time with the Lord and listen to godly music.

When I start to worry, I pray and praise. I give it to the Lord! It sounds so simple, but I have truly just rested in the Lord to know that He knows what is ahead and behind and around. What He allows I may not understand, but He does.

Prayer, Bible study, exercise.

I try to keep my mouth closed and pray. Taking a nap is a great stress reliever for me.

When there is stress in the ministry, talking to my husband about it is best and then we pray for wisdom on how to deal with it. My husband seems to be more patient and levelheaded in stressful situations.

Cry, sometimes. **Take a day off of regular duties to work on a special project.** Our ministry stress mostly comes from the rejection that is so common here and the lack of seeing “results,” so sometimes it helps just to step away for a few hours.

Not well.

Prayer, God’s Word, talking with my husband, mom or sister-in-law. **There are times when the best thing to do is to step away for a few hours or days to get refreshed, strengthened, and to gain a new perspective.** Then there are also times when you need to get some extra help and we have a counselor friend and some supporting pastors that we call to get counsel.

Christina Fulmer, Kenya: “Cry in the shower. Do something completely different from my usual schedule, get some exercise, or eat a great meal. I also have a great support group who prays

with me at a moment’s notice, via phone call or Internet.”

Prayer, putting it into God’s hands, and then self-searching to see if I’m part of the problem.

Pray, cry if I need to, search the Scriptures for answers from God, leave my stress in God’s hands each night, go for a walk, read a book, do a craft.

Karon Auterson, Ethiopia: “I have known disappointments, discouragement, bitterness, and even depression. Relationships with others can cause great challenges. I determined years ago to not allow these things to rule my life. I try to turn them over to the Lord as soon as He reminds me of them. A frequent prayer from my lips and my heart is Psalm 19:14 ‘Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.’”

Sometimes over the years I have to confess I handled stress poorly! But I have learned that if I put it all in the Lord’s hands and leave it there, He does the handling.

I find that it is best to talk things out with my husband. After that, I only share specific things with a close friend back in the U.S.A. She is a wonderful, godly friend and she always has words of encouragement and advice.

We live just three hours from the United States. So when we need a break, we can take a quick run to the border, have a nice dinner out, go to a bookstore, and just sit and read.

Tammy Rogers, Nicaragua: “The best way I have found to handle stress in the ministry is regular, vigorous exercise combined with a healthy diet. We have always been active, but this past year we made some drastic changes in our daily diet that has helped us tremendously. We both feel so much better, have more energy, and think more clearly.”

Q&A

How do you make your personal relationship with God a priority in your life?

Daily quiet time with Bible and prayer.

Trust Him in every challenge.

Faithfully meeting with Him every morning.

For more than 15 years I have read through the One Year Bible. I also do in-depth studies for our ladies Bible study.

I make sure first thing in the morning to have devotions before everything else overwhelms me.

Making Him a part of everything I do. Trying to always find new things to gain insight from.

I found out early in life that my relationship with the Lord is ongoing. I talk to Him throughout the day and He is truly my best friend. I have my personal time with Him and I read many good Christian books as well.

The only way to keep my personal relationship with the Lord on an even keel is to have a set time every day, a set plan for Bible study and prayer. Otherwise, too many other things take priority.

It is difficult at times. This is just a matter of discipline. Taking time to read, pray, and think on Him is a daily discipline which is also a joy.

My relationship with God is my priority and this is accomplished by spending time with Him in His Word and listening to godly music and sermons.

After my morning walk, I spend time reading my Bible, have personal devotions, and prayer time.

By making time to study God's Word and apply it to my life.

I make my personal time with the Lord a priority by having a routine in the mornings with the Lord. I also listen to Christian music when I am working.

I made a choice to have a daily relationship with the Lord a long time ago. If I am not willing to make my relationship with God a priority, then what am I doing in the ministry? Every morning I wake up before anybody else and I sit down with the Lord. It is a habit that I am not willing to break.

I find that the morning has to be my time with the Lord. Otherwise, it gets shuffled aside with the busyness of the day.

I love talking to God while I work. It makes me feel connected with Him all day long. I try to read a portion of Scripture every day. **I also enjoy reading Oswald Chambers' My Utmost for His Highest every day on the computer.** It always seems relevant to my life.

Keeping my relationship with God a priority means I have to get up early and sometimes sacrifice something to get it done. I often fail in this area.

I try to make time in the morning before the rest of the family is up. **When I am working in the house, I listen to music that encourages my walk with the Lord.** I also use Scripture to decorate my home.

Janice Baker, Haiti: "When I was just a young mom and wife, I asked God to wake me each morning for devotions and God still does. We have a close relationship. Why would I miss His cuddles, His 'I love yous,' and His ministering Spirit?"

I set aside a special time for God and **I fast once a week.**

Every morning, first thing, my husband brings me a cup of coffee and I have my personal devotional study time.

I get up in the morning before anyone else gets up and have my quiet time with the Lord. That way I don't have any distractions or things screaming for my attention.

Never lay down to sleep until I have spent time in the Word. I talk to God all day.

Making my personal relationship with God a priority has been a challenge through the years. I wish more than anything that I had made this area a priority earlier in life. **It wasn't until I was 40 years old that I began a consistent daily personal time.** Each stage of life comes with its own difficulties and distractions, but I finally determined that this had to come first. Since I made this my number-one priority, my life has been so different. Sometimes I get up earlier or go to bed later. Sometime I even get up in the middle of the night. I have found that the more time I spend alone with God, the more I desire to spend time with Him.

Getting up early, a good cup of coffee, my Bible and notebook, and some good women's devotionals all keep me "normal" ... although some may question if I am or not.

First thing in the morning I read my Bible and have my devotions. This is hard sometimes. **I find that when I'm in a Bible study, I grow and stay better connected.**

I have a set time each day for my own devotions and my husband and I have a time for devotions together.

Joy Loveday, Spain: "I set aside my first time each morning to read the Word and pray and journal. Recently I began a new series with a few church ladies called "Daily in the Word." I am joining them on part of the homework that is actually writing out the Word of God. This has been amazing! I also **take my mp4 player to the grocery store and listen to a sermon while shopping.**"

I try to get up early, before the activities of the day take over my time. The days just go smoother that way.

This has always been a difficult task for me. I have found that my favorite time to pray is when I take the dog out for a walk every day.

The early morning alarm and being disciplined to not schedule anything that would keep me from that appointment. **Making sure I am a part of a Bible study where I am the student.** When I started to study for a degree again I realized how much more time I needed to dedicate to my personal relationship with God.

I have made Jesus my best friend. He awakens me every morning at 3 a.m. This is my time of prayer and meditation. I love it because it is quiet and only Jesus sees my tears.



Becky Winters, Japan: In January, the Wyatt family came to Japan to work as TEAM missionaries. Cristy has already been a huge blessing and encouragement to me. The Lord knew the timing of their arrival and knew that I would need the extra encouragement!

Carolyn Waters, Spain: When I underwent major surgery in January to have one of my diseased kidneys removed, I was in the hospital for eight days. The response of my church ladies and even some of my unsaved friends was overwhelming. I am talking about spending the nights with me in the hospital, bringing me entire meals for the eight days following my release from the hospital, and in general just showing their love in many ways.

Marie Strickland, Argentina: My most precious blessing now, being retired, is to keep up on the news of the ministries still functioning in Argentina. These are churches, our Bible seminary, youth camps, Sunday school teachers, musicians, and evangelism all being carried on by the Argentines won to the Lord during our many years in Argentina.

Gail Gritts, England: My greatest joy is to watch God work. I revel in listening to new Christians finding their way through God's Word and seeing them learn truth. I know you might not consider this a personal blessing, but it blesses my heart like nothing else can. God's love spread abroad in our hearts is very personal. It confirms that I am in His will, it confirms His hand upon our ministry, and it confirms that the sacrifice and hard work is truly worth it all! It is my most specific blessing to be a servant of the Lord.

Joy Loveday, Spain: In February, we celebrated the church's 25th anniversary. At the end of the service, a visiting lady asked to talk with me. She prayed and asked the Lord to save her. She is originally from Romania and we had just given her a Bible in her own language. She read the verses in Romanian and then prayed to receive Christ in Romanian as well! Never can I explain the joy in my heart to be able to guide a

soul to the truths found in the Bible and hear the prayer for salvation!

Ruth King, Japan: My greatest blessing is sharing the ministry with my young Japanese sisters. God has blessed me with gifted cooperative Japanese co-workers. When I came to Japan, they were youth and children. Today they are my allies, collaborators, and confidants.

Q&A

What is a recent, specific blessing you have received from the Lord as a missionary?

Paula Rhoades, El Salvador: My husband and I had the opportunity to counsel a couple with marital problems. After about a year, this couple is doing better now than they have in 20 years and God is using them in huge ways to minister to other couples. This family could have been destroyed and God is being glorified in them. The fact He allowed us to be a part of this process is truly humbling.

Christina Fulmer, Kenya: I recently began working with young teens in the local

church where I serve. Within three weeks of beginning this ministry, seven youth have been saved. I personally led each of them to the Lord. In addition, two of the girls have mentioned how grateful they are to have a lady teaching them — who loves them and shows it. They both are spending time in their Bibles daily and are growing quickly.

Recently I have had the opportunity to counsel several Kenyans in a variety of situations. I absolutely love this area of ministry and witnessing first hand how the Scriptures can and will totally change an individual's life from the inside out!

Caliopi Gonciulea, Romania:

I started a Bible study with the ladies from Rogova. Even ladies from the village are coming. This is a great blessing for me. Because of the heavy snow, we had to stop for three weeks. Now that the weather is getting better, we have started up again. It is a blessing to see how these ladies want to grow and to learn more about God.

Tammy Rogers, Nicaragua: I think the greatest recent blessing I have received is twofold. First, my son and his wife were recently approved as missionaries to the country of Nicaragua and will be returning to help us for their internship. Finally, after ten long years I will have one of my children close by. Second, God has given me unspeakable joy in seeing great beauty and spiritual maturity in my daughter. I am awed by the maturity I see in both my son and daughter's lives and am so thankful that they have developed a truly intimate relationship with God at a young age. I know that it is only by God's grace that they have remained true to Him.

Christine Pelletier, Kenya: I was reconnected on the Internet with a former student of mine from 35 years ago. I was able to

lead her to the Lord and now God is blessing me with the opportunity to mentor her as well.

Carol Esquibel, England: My husband was a pastor for 16 years in Kansas and Indiana and we have now been in England for 15 years, which is difficult to believe at times. My ministry is to my husband primarily. I am so proud of him. I feel like my calling is to hold his arms up as the battle is being won for God in this world. I also minister alongside him teaching the women and children of the church. I enjoy being called to be my husband's wife! I love sharing the ministry with him, and I love sharing the Lord that we serve with others who do not know Him.

Dixie Quade, Wales: Recently in my Sunday school class a boy, after much deliberation, asked me how to be saved. I had been praying for him for four years. He would never admit that he was a sinner. Since being saved he has been reading his Bible and learning the memory verses. It is such a blessing to see how one comes to the knowledge and acceptance of the Lord Jesus!

Mary Herman, STEP: I just returned from the Philippines where I taught on the Island of Bohol. There, I found a group of young pastors and their wives who were so very hungry to learn how to take the Word of God and teach it more effectively. There were 14 churches involved in the conference and others had to be turned away as there was no more room in the conference area. After the two-day seminar, I presented them with materials for visuals and activities to help in their children's ministries. Many had tears as they accepted the materials. One couple in particular stands out. They came to tell me that they had never had the opportunity to study in college, but the teaching had helped

them so much. Then the lady began crying and said, "Oh ma'am, we have been praying for visuals and ways to teach the children and now we have them. Thank you so much." After three weeks, we received a report that one Sunday school has tripled in attendance. Praise the Lord for such an opportunity!

Bonnie Jones, Tanzania: One of the greatest blessings I have had recently has to do with being in Tanzania a long time. We are not only seeing children in the ministry but grandchildren. What a joy to watch these young people grow up and serve the Lord. Many of the new young leaders we have in our churches are children of people we led to the Lord years ago. What a joy!

Joy Anzalone, Ecuador: One of the really neat blessings for me in the ministry here in Manta is my work with the ladies in the church. I've had the opportunity to teach a ladies Sunday school class since the church started and to disciple several of them. In the first years I also was very hands-on in the children's ministry but after working closely with Ceci, I have been able to hand over that ministry into her capable hands and now I'm just a "consultant" for "big questions." In our ladies ministry it has been a joy, as I have worked with our leaders' wives in a bi-monthly Bible study and planning session, to see them step up and use their gifts in ministry. Two of them started having a monthly Bible study and fellowship time for the young wives and mothers in the church. Another great thing to see is that they are now taking ownership of this ministry. When we have monthly meetings, baby or wedding showers, they are organizing them, and working out the details, from food and decorations to games and activities.



How can we more effectively pray for women in missionary ministry?

Q&A

When we asked our missionaries this question, we had an abundant response with some general ideas and some very specific prayer requests. We joyfully present these to you in hopes that you will indeed pray for these amazing ladies.

Joy Loveday, Spain:

When a missionary lady has a problem, sometimes being in another country can compound the problem. We need prayer for God to help us in times of physical illness as well as encouragement to study His word daily and walk in a relationship that is marked by our obedience to Him. God sustains and gives strength and health to serve Him in every situation, and the prayers of God's people are always so appreciated.



Karon Auterson, Ethiopia: We have the same needs as women in America. Pray for health, wisdom, and a constant awareness of His presence when loneliness tries to take up residence.



Linda Redding, Mexico: Ladies groups could make an effort to personally find out what specific needs or prayer requests their missionary has and pray regularly for those specifics.



Paula Rhodes, El Salvador:

Praying for God to put a hedge about our hearts and minds — helping

us to stay focused on eternity and to not lose sight of the goal of expanding the kingdom. Also, it's a huge blessing to me when I know they are praying ... little notes or emails are such an encouragement.

Uldine Steffy, Philippines: By making an effort to know the missionary.



Sabrina Shangle, Ireland: That we would not get discouraged. We put ourselves into the lives of people and they don't seem to care. So we sometimes wonder why we even try. But then I remember ... for Whom are we doing this?! The Bible says they rejected Him first. So we stay faithful to the Lord and pray for the people He has sent us to, that their eyes would be opened to His truth.



Christina Fulmer, Kenya: Our health — both physical and emotional, our focus on ministry, and pleasing Him, direction for care of elderly parents, strength to stay the course.



Lisa Mantonya, Brazil: For grace and strength to keep running the race. To not lose sight of the fact that I am a helpmeet first.

Kim Davis, Wales: My two biggest concerns: 1. That we will keep our devotional life a priority. It is our lifeline!! 2. For our children — I have three older children back in the States and it is one of the hardest things I deal with. When my daughter calls and says she misses me and needs her mom, it really causes me to have to stop and remember why I'm here in Wales and not there. We need to know that there are people in the States who will minister to our children while we are ministering in our respective fields.



Caliopi Gonciulea, Romania:

That God will give me the wisdom, understanding,

and love to reach more children and ladies for Christ.

Christine Pelletier, Kenya: Safety and boldness. Because the world is not very friendly these days, we need to be careful but we also need to be bold to continue reaching out to the lost. We need wisdom to know God's will in all ministry endeavors.



Janice Baker, Haiti: My prayer for missionary ladies is that we will lead disciplined lives even with all the responsibility we carry.

That we will have a one-to-one relationship with the Father and keep His commandments. Knowing Christ in our inner life is important.



Tammy Rogers, Nicaragua: My prayer request would be for wisdom. I need wisdom in prioritizing and time management, counseling, outreach, and so many more areas. Life and ministry many times become so overwhelming that I feel as if I am drowning, and I know that I lack the wisdom to be effective in either arena.



Rachael Smith, Portugal: Pray for our walk with the Lord more than anything else. Busyness can be one of our greatest enemies and cause us to miss our times with the Lord. Aching for close Christian fellowship can become a real weight, and we need to run to the Lord and find our friend who is closer than a brother. Pray for our relationships with our husbands to be what the Lord desires for them to be. Pray for our relationships with our children and for their faith to become deep and personal. Pray for protection for our children.



Susie Biven, Mexico: Pray for our spiritual growth and understanding, that we would serve the Lord with a joyful heart, and be faithful to His calling on our lives.



Bonnie Jones, Tanzania: Missionary women are just like women everywhere. We have good days and bad days. We have PMS days and menopause days! We have health scares without a good doctor around. We have marital conflicts. We feel lonely and separated from our families. We miss our children and grandchildren. [I have only seen my little granddaughter twice.] We feel inadequate in the face of trials, attacks, and failures. I believe I am still on the mission field and happy to be here because people pray for me. I cannot do this on my own. The readers can more effectively pray for us by remembering us in our



specific needs and in realizing we are normal women who live in "abnormal" places.

Rachael Weed, Nicaragua: 1. That we would always keep a healthy balance between ministry and family. 2. That we would be able to train our children to love the Lord, (both cultures and ministry). 3. For complete protection and safety.



Ginnie Switzer, Ethiopia: To be able to pray more effectively for women in missionary ministry, it is crucial to learn about the specific challenges these women face. Many missionaries face the same challenges, such as linguistic barriers and cultural adjustments. However, each field has unique challenges that are endemic to that particular field. Effectiveness in prayer can be greatly increased when focus is given to those unique challenges.



Dixie Quade, Wales: People can pray more effectively for missionaries by not only praying for their work and salvation decisions, but also pray for their wisdom, as well as their physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. It has always been hard to be away from family, but now that I am a grandma, it gets harder.



Sandy Todd, Argentina: I would say to try and have a more intimate relationship with the missionary, not only asking about her prayer requests but following up with her. I have no doubt that ladies have prayed for my prayer requests. But one thing I feel like we lack is a more personal relationship with ladies back in the States with whom we can more openly share our needs.



Debbie Norris, Navajo: The only way we are different is the distance from family and the culture. For the most part, pray for us as you would any other woman. We need boldness to witness and strength and health to share the gospel. For our health — with diseases you may not face in the U.S. or the medical benefits that might be lacking. Holidays are usually hardest when away from family.



Carole Elkins, Nicaragua: Pray for our health, emotional stress, and physical and ministry stress. Pray for our language ability to increase and our love for the Lord to deepen with each day.



Melody Stephens, Zambia: I would ask that people not only pray for us but for our families in the States also. If we are worrying about things going on with our parents, children, or grandchildren, it takes our focus away from our ministry. We need wisdom. I want people to pray that I will keep my focus on what is important and to be effective in my witness.



Mary Herman: Please pray for your missionary ladies. They need encouragement and a feeling of not being isolated. I have a few supporting churches who have a ladies' prayer circle for missionaries. They write me monthly and let me know they are praying. What a blessing to me! It is definitely a privilege to have these precious ladies taking my needs to the throne.



Joy Williams, France: By remembering that we are a long way from family and can't be there for them when they are in need. I think that is the hardest thing, especially as we age. Our parents are old and frail, and we aren't there. Our children are grown and our grandchildren are growing up across the ocean from us.



Mary Smith, Tanzania: I believe that women are indeed the weaker gender. Pray for your missionary women in the realm of their emotional health. Asking God to make clear what is chemical, spiritual, physical, or emotional. In the clinic I am faced with this daily, as well as seeing how Satan invades my thought life.



Melinda Sissons, Japan: The mission field really takes a toll on the women. I pray for physical strength for each of our missionary ladies. I pray for their finances. I also pray for our sending church's finances. It is good to pray for language learning as many missionary wives do not get the language as well as their husbands. I pray that we do not get lonely. Even though we may have a family, it does get lonely sometimes living in a different country.



Gail Gritts, England: For courage and strength. It is easy to get fearful and angry on the field. It is easy to get distracted and discouraged. We need courage and strength for the journey. God gives it, but we can always use more!



Donna Woodson, Nicaragua: Pray for our personal relationship with God to grow stronger daily; for friendships that will be iron sharpening iron; for wisdom, discernment, and guidance in all that we do; for the vision to see the opportunities God has laid out in front of us.



Edith Baker, Philippines: Pray for good health and a great ministry.



The ladies below contributed to this issue of *Global Partners* but their responses did not appear in this final section so we have included their pictures here.



Kristina Brown, Croatia



Georgia Webb, Mexico



Carolyn Waters, Spain



Sue Reddock, Wales



Carol Esquibel, England



Becky Winters, Japan



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HISTORY

BAPTIST

CRAWFORD TOY 1836-1919 — He left his faith

Crawford Toy was one of the most brilliant and promising Baptist scholars of the 19th century. His downfall is a warning to all who forget the simplicity that is in Christ.

A brilliant student, Toy enrolled in the University of Virginia in Charlottesville at the age of 16 where he came under the influence of the renowned Baptist pastor and scholar, John A. Broadus. Toy was baptized by Broadus in 1854. In 1856 he graduated from the university, and for the next three years he taught at the Albermarle Female Institute. In 1859 Toy enrolled in Southern Seminary in Greenville, SC. He completed the three-years course in about a year.

In 1860 Toy applied to the Southern Baptist Mission Board as a missionary candidate to Japan. The Board accepted his application, but before he could depart, war clouds began gathering on the horizon, and the Mission Board felt it would be unwise to send any new missionaries to the field. Toy was disappointed and considered going anyway, but he eventually accepted the Board's decision. The Board's fears became a reality when war broke out between the states in 1861.

Toy enlisted in the Confederate infantry and was appointed a chaplain in General Robert E. Lee's army, participating in most of the war's great battles. At Gettysburg, when the Confederate army retreated, Toy chose to remain with the wounded and dying. This decision resulted in his capture and imprisonment.

At the war's conclusion, Toy spent the years of 1866-68 studying in Germany. Unfortunately, he drank deeply from the poisoned waters of German rationalism. Upon his return from Europe, he accepted a professorship at Southern Seminary teaching Old Testament interpretation and oriental languages. Gradually and insidiously, the rationalism he had acquired in Europe began to destroy his faith in the inspiration of the Scriptures. He began to teach that Moses was not the author of Genesis and that the creation account was compiled by several authors from material borrowed from the Babylonians. He also embraced Darwin's evolutionary theories as truth revealed by God. In addition, he came to believe the New Testament writers had used faulty hermeneutics in identifying several Old Testament passages as Messianic, pri-

marily Psalm 16:10 and Isaiah 53.

John A. Broadus, his fellow professor and former teacher, advised Toy to abandon his new philosophy and warned if he continued on this path it would eventually lead him to universalism. In 1879 Toy wrote an article for the *Sunday School Times* expressing his views on Isaiah 53: 1-12. His radical views produced a storm of protest among the Southern Baptists. This turmoil forced the Southern Board of Directors to examine Toy's doctrinal beliefs. Toy presented to the Board his views on Scripture along with his resignation. He felt he would be vindicated but the Board voted 18 to 2 to accept his resignation.

Toy's journey into rationalism had come at a great cost, alienating him from lifelong friends and separating him from the woman he was engaged to marry. The woman Toy was engaged to marry was renowned Baptist missionary Lottie Moon. Toy had met Miss Moon while he was teaching at Albermarle Female Institute. Lottie was a brilliant student and Toy's intellectual equal. In 1861 he asked Lottie to become his wife, but she declined his offer.

However, about 17 years later they began to exchange letters and Toy again proposed marriage, and this time she accepted. Lottie had been serving in China for about six years and was unaware of the contro-

versy surrounding Toy's orthodoxy. When she was informed by friends about Toy's theological problems, she purchased several books supporting his new position. She was shocked by what she read, and then she wrote to Toy expressing the incompatibility of their views and breaking their engagement.

Toy accepted a professorship at Harvard Divinity School, but he remained a Baptist uniting with a Baptist church in Cambridge, MA. In about 1886, John Broadus's prophecy was fulfilled. Toy severed all relationships with the Baptists and joined the First Unitarian Church. This decision was a complete denial of the faith of his youth. Surprisingly, Toy is considered a martyr and a hero to many moderate Baptists. No one knows the number of impressionable young men whose minds were poisoned by the man who deserted the faith once delivered to the saints.



Crawford Howell Toy

by Thomas Ray





URBAN CURRENT

Leap of Faith

Editor's note – Charlie Miller is subbing this month for Charles Lyons who is taking a sabbatical.

When my youngest, Katrina, was only two, I put her on the bed and said, “Okay sweetheart, jump!” I smiled and held my arms out wide, waiting for her to run and leap into my arms.

She had another idea. She shook her head no and sat down on the bed. In a second or two, her lower lip pushed out, her face turned red, and tears rolled down her cheeks. I sat down beside her and hugged her. I held her and said, “You aren’t going to get hurt. I know you are scared, but if you jump, I promise I will catch you. Do you want to try again?”

She nodded yes. Carefully she bounced on to the top of the bed — cautiously looking around her. She stood on the edge with her hand worriedly placed over her mouth. Again I held my arms out and said, “Go ahead ... jump!” She stood silent, still. “Come on sweetheart, you can do it — JUMP!”

She looked at me, then the floor. Her eyes darted between the two several times. Her mind spun like a top as she contemplated leaving her place of safe haven. I looked at her and said, “Katrina, I want you to jump. I promise I will catch you. Daddy’s not going to drop you or hurt you.”

What is God asking you to trust and believe him for? Maybe you have never trusted Jesus and given your life to him. Perhaps God has put a friend on your heart who does not know Jesus. God is asking you to teach a class and work with the children. God is asking you to extend yourself and mentor a young believer in their faith journey. Whatever the case may be, you stand on the edge of the bed.

Your Father is calling you to leap out of your comfort zone. You want to obey Him, but you cannot get over the ominous danger. His Word and Spirit reassure your heart, “Go ahead and jump. I promise you, I will catch you. I will not let you fall. If you jump, it will be the best time of your life!”

Katrina believed me. She did it. I was so proud of her. It really wasn’t much of a jump at all. It was more of a step with a lean — ala Buzz Lightyear’s “falling with style.” She did it — she left the bed. For less than one second, she was in extreme peril. For one slender moment in time she was falling and nothing held her up. At that moment she chose to believe her father over the imminent threat to her wellbeing. She exercised faith.

Katrina’s descent was abruptly interrupted by the sudden jerk of my arms surrounding her and lifting her up. I pulled her up and to my chest. Her arms immediately lassoed my neck and her legs clamped down on my waist. She hung on for dear life and then it happened. She relaxed. She was at peace.

Peace is that moment in time when the danger seems real, but God’s presence and promise is real. Peace is not the absence of the storm — it’s Jesus in your boat. Peace is not a life free of problems, but realizing that God is in control. It is then you can relax. It is then you are at peace.

She slid out of my arms and ran off. I thought she was headed for her mother in the next room. Instead, she made a sharp left turn and climbed onto the bed. She hurried to the very edge, smiled, held out her arms, and shouted, “Again, Daddy!” This time she really jumped. In fact, we repeated this process another dozen times. Each time I would step back a little bit further until she was jumping

several feet away from the bed. After a while she tried falling backwards. It was a great day.

Friend, God stands before you — with His arms wide open. He is asking you to take a great step of faith. The danger seems real — but He is real. All you must do is believe and jump. Jesus called Peter out of the boat. God commanded Moses to pick up the serpent. He told Abraham to leave everything for an undisclosed location. Go ahead and jump — God said so.

What about you? Will you jump? Will you exercise faith in your Father and go for it? Will you take a leap of faith and obey God in spite of the danger?

If you jump you will find that while you feel like you are falling you are never in any real danger. Your Father is taking care of you, and in a few moments, His omnipotent arms will secure you. You will catch your breath and fall asleep in His warm embrace. His peace will flood your life. After awhile, you will be running and jumping off of the bed — never realizing that God keeps inching back further and further so that He is able to accomplish more and more in the lives of others through you.

As a father, I really enjoyed that day. I saw my daughter overcome her fear and do things she never dreamed she could. Oh, how God longs for us to trust him, take the leap of faith, and become what we only dreamed we could be!

*by Charlie Miller, Pastor
Lima Baptist Temple,
Lima, OH*



BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

It's all about the Gospel



by Ron Sears | Interim President | Baptist Bible College

The month of May is filled with celebrations at 628 E. Kearney. In the next few days there will be groups of alumni gathering at class reunions and wondering why everyone looks so much older (of course they will also realize how thankful to God they are for not marrying “that” person). A large group of missionaries will be celebrated as they are approved by the BBFI to carry the Gospel to the field God gave them to labor. The graduates will cheer as they walk and receive their diplomas — something they have dreamed of since childhood. A few parents will celebrate the end of accruing costs for another year of school for their child.

We will celebrate:

- The campus ready with full foliage and beautiful flowers ...
- The staff making sure everything is ready for the big event...
- Those coming for the first time in many years while others wondering how quickly time has passed since last May...
- New friendships being formed and lost relationships renewed...
- Some who follow the message on an electronic device as others open their well-worn Bibles that have stood the test of time.

Yes, we will celebrate. But there is something that will cause us to celebrate even more. Our focus this year is all about the Gospel. This is a common denominator between the young and old, the electronically savvy and the one preferring the tried and true hard copy. The Gospel is our common thread. From the unreached northern regions to the Bible belt section of America. From the Dark Continent to the land of the rising sun — it's all about the Gospel and we celebrate.

The Gospel is God's gift through His Son. It gives us hope for our fallen nature and an eternity with the risen Savior. We are focused on the freeness, the fullness, and the depth of the Gospel. The graduate and the newly approved missionary are connected because of the Gospel. And they are both joined to the oldest person coming to campus. The traditionalist and others are also related through the Gospel. That's something to celebrate!

The Gospel divides us from all others. It is the death, burial, and the resurrection of God's only Son. It says there is only one way and that is through Jesus. Our very purpose for existence is to prepare a generation to carry the Gospel from here to the world. Our original statement by our founders has always been, “Enter to learn. Go forth to serve.” It remains the same today as it did in the hearts of those men and women. They sacrificed so much to entrust to the BBFI and BBC their hopes of eternal souls being introduced to our risen Savior.

The work continues. The cloud of witnesses (Romans 12) watches. The angels stoop to understand the Gospel. They all celebrate as the work of God continues. Come and join the celebration with us. This year it's all about the Gospel!

REMINDER: Updated BBFI voting procedures

As a reminder, in 2009 the Fellowship adopted new rules for the election of the BBFI Executive Officers. Here is the section of the bylaws containing the rules:

The ballot shall be approved in the May business meeting and made available to any pastor in attendance and qualified according to Article III (“Affiliation”) of these bylaws. Voting pastors will identify themselves on the ballot and voting will begin immediately upon distribution of the ballots. Qualified pastors not in attendance may obtain a ballot from the BBFI Mission Office. Those ballots must be submitted to the BBFI Mission Office before July 1st of the year of the election. The Executive Committee shall oversee the counting of the ballots and release the results within one week after the votes are tallied.

Key points:

The changes to the bylaws were adopted by the Fellowship in the national meeting held in Canton, OH, in 2009. The election of 2010 took place under the new rules.

Nominations for Executive Officers will be received during the May Graduation Fellowship meeting in May at the Monday meeting of the National Directors (sometimes known as the Committee of 45), after which the Directors will prepare a ballot.

Ballots will be presented at the plenary business session during the May Graduation Fellowship, at which time pastors attending the meeting will cast their ballots.

Those eligible to vote are BBFI pastors defined by the bylaws in Article III: “Affiliation with the Baptist Bible Fellowship International is open to any Baptist pastor of a supporting Baptist church believing in and adhering to the Word of God, on the basis of the Articles of Faith appended hereto. A supporting Baptist church is one that financially supports our missions or colleges.”

Pastors will not automatically receive a ballot in the mail. Pastors unable to attend the May meeting but qualified to vote (see the bylaws for definition) must request a ballot from the Mission Office if they wish to vote in the election for the Executive Officers.

No one, including state BBF officers, is allowed to request a ballot for anyone else. Each pastor who wants to vote must request a ballot for himself.

The ballot must be returned to the Mission Office for counting no later than July 1. The election results will be announced prior to the fall meeting.

New officers will take office at the fall meeting at Canton Baptist Temple in Canton, OH in September.

BBC Asia Graduation 2012

Metro Manila, Philippines

Baptist Bible College Asia held its 12th commencement exercise Friday, March 9, at Ynares Stadium in Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines. During the ceremony, 539 students received degrees and pledged their commitment to change the world. BBBCA leaders, faculty, students, and family members were present to help the graduates celebrate their achievements.

This year's commencement speaker was Johnnie Ray Moore, Jr. from Lynchburg, VA. Moore, who delivered a strong spiritual challenge, is a vice president and



Johnnie Ray Moore, Jr.

the campus pastor of Liberty University. After Moore's challenge, the 2012 valedictorian, Sherwin Arguiles, offered parting words to his fellow graduates — to keep their focus as they pursue a life of fervent, sold-out service to the Lord.

"For me, BBBCA is the best school that I ever studied in," Arguiles shared after the ceremony. "It has really trained me and taught me a lot of things, especially in my Christian walk. All the things I've learned I am applying now. Honestly, before I didn't understand what calling was," admits Arguiles. "I just thought if I like this thing,

then God is calling me to this. But now that I have graduated from BBBCA, I understand what a true calling is. I was really burdened, God has given me the heart and burden to help share the gospel and to be used by Him effectively. I think that is what made me go into missions, not my own but God's divine, personal plan."

After the ceremony, a presentation was held to honor two men for their dedicated service to the college. Appreciation plaques were given to Arthur Esmalla and Mark Johnson. Johnson (who was unable to be at the ceremony) has been a long-time member of the board of directors and hosts a BBBCA campus at his church in San Mateo. Esmalla has served as president of BBBCA for the past four years. During that time, the college has grown from an enrollment of 300 students to the current enrollment surpassing 1,000. Esmalla will continue to play an influential role in BBBCA as he moves to the position of vice president of international campus development.

Greg Lyons, international president of Baptist Bible College Asia states, "The vision



of BBBCA is to see thousands of young people fulfill God's purpose for their lives as pastors, members of church-planting teams, and cross-cultural missionaries. These students are being equipped to effectively communicate God's Word in a dynamic way. Many of these new graduates already have plans in motion to plant themselves across Asia in their effort to spread the gospel message."

Pre-registration at BBBCA for the 2012-2013 school year has already begun. Enrollment is June 5-9 and classes commence on June 13. The school anticipates enrollment to reach 1,500, with a long-term vision to grow to over 5,000 students. BBBCA currently has 16 campuses strategically located across Metro Manila and the surrounding area.

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1959-1960—Annual Breakfast

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Highland Baptist celebrates 41 years

Paducah, KY

Highland Baptist Church of Paducah, KY, and Pastor Richard Beck celebrated the church's 41st anniversary March 17 and 18 with a Saturday dinner and a Sunday celebration service. Guest preacher for the event was *Baptist Bible Tribune* Editor Keith Bassham.

Beck decided to have a two-day celebration for the benefit of those who work to provide the support services for the church.

He said, "Our ladies especially appreciated the fact that they could serve a dinner separate from the church service. In the past, many of them had to

leave early to see that the meal and other preparations were taken care of."

The church began in 1971, the basement

of the home of the founding pastor. The congregation relocated to its current site on Husband Road in south Paducah, but they retained the name associated with the older location.

Beck, who has been pastor of the church 18 years, came from California where he was mentored by former *Tribune* Editor James O. Combs when he

was a pastor there. He remains close to the Combs family today.

In his sermon to the church, Bassham used the example of the selflessness and generosity

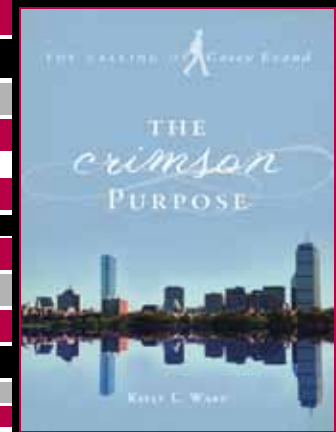
of Barnabas, encouraging the congregation to manifest those qualities in their ministry to Paducah.



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Crosspointe in Cincinnati to host homecoming

Cincinnati, OH

Crosspointe Baptist Church of Cincinnati and Pastor Scott Land will hold a homecoming reunion September 15 for all those involved in the church's ministry during its history. The come-and-go event will take place on the church property from 3:00-8:00 p.m. Bring finger foods, a lawn chair, and stories to share.

Crosspointe was founded as Bible Baptist Church in December 1954 in the home of prospective members. In January of the following year, the church held a revival, which led to the small congregation's (21 charter members) organization as a church in February 1955. During the church's 57-year history, the name of the church has changed three times. What began as Bible Baptist Church, was changed to Bells Lane Baptist Church, and most recently became Crosspointe Baptist Church. The congregation has had five pastors: Lee Baughman, Bruce Woodruff, Bill Avens, Eddie Lasley, and Scott Land.

Crosspoint Baptist Church is located at 4596 Bells Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45244. For more information or to RSVP to the homecoming reunion, email church.admin@crosspointebc.com.

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Retired missionaries' work continues in unexpected way

By F.C. Lasater

Editor's note: The author, F. C. Lasater, is a former BBFI missionary to Korea (1964-1987). Before going to Korea, he pastored, and after his return he served ten years in the BBFI Mission Office assisting Mission Director Bob Baird. Lasater pastored Temple Baptist Church of Monett, MO, for 13 years, and retired in 2010.

In March, my wife Mary Jo and I were with Pastor Bob Counts and Bible Baptist Church of Victorville, CA, for the church's annual mission conference. The conference raised more than \$150,000 in commitments, and Pastor Counts says it will be more than \$200,000 when all the promises come in.

A great highlight came for us when we were met at the airport by one of the men from our Korean ministry, Joseph Lee (Lee Hee Chul), who had been saved when he was 16 years old at the Ung Awm Dong Bible Baptist Church in Seoul. Joseph came to the United States and at-

tended Baptist Bible College in Springfield, and afterward he moved to California for ministry, and then entered into business. He says he was successful to some degree, but never had real joy and peace in his heart. Recently, at age 57, he realized he must be about his Father's business and surrendered again to do God's will. He is now running his own successful Farmers insurance agency, but at the same time he has gathered together about seven families, co-workers, interested in starting a Bible Baptist Church in the heart of the Korean area of Los Angeles. He tells there are a half-million to million Korean people living in that area.

He joined Bible Baptist Church in Victor-



F.C. and Mary Jo Lasater

ville, and the church will become his sending church. God's work has made a complete circle, and I am excited the work we began in Korea continues even though I am no longer the missionary physically present. It is part of the genius of Baptist Bible Fellowship missions.

Mary Jo and I are so grateful there are pastors and churches still willing to take the gospel to every creature, and so grateful that Fellowship pastors across America still have faith

and a burning desire to send young missionaries out into all the world. What a great God we serve, and what a great multitude of Christians willing to sacrificially give to accomplish His work. Please pray for this work, and we expect to hear great things in the future.

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Don't miss our feature in the June *Tribune* on Japan's BBF and the ongoing efforts to minister to those in need one year after the devastating earthquake.

**Evacuees are saying:
“Everybody came to help
at first. Now only the
Christians keep coming!”**



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Ray Masters

Cordoba, Argentina

BBFI missionary Ray Masters was called home to be with the Lord March 2, 2012. Ray was born February 13, 1936. He was saved at 12 years of age and called to mission work while in the Marine Corps in 1957. He entered Baptist Bible College in 1959 and married Virginia Ferguson in 1960. He graduated college in 1962 and was ordained to the ministry in 1966.

Ray and Virginia arrived in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in April 1973. The family moved to Córdoba in July of 1978. Since then, nine more works have been established across Argentina directly by them or men they have trained.

Ray is survived by his wife Virginia, four sons, 16 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Virginia's immediate plans are to continue her active ministry to the children and women of the works they established.



Freddie Wright

Joplin, MO

Longtime BBFI pastor Freddie Louis Wright, age 84, went home to be with his Lord March 24, 2012. Born August 31, 1927, in Hurley, MO, he graduated high school in Marionville and Southwest Missouri State College, after which he taught at Buck Prairie School north of Marionville.

Freddie married Oletta Evelyn Black in 1948. He worked as an accountant for the Gas Service Company and began pastoring Southside Baptist Church in Joplin in 1958. He pastored the church for over 51 years, retiring in 2009, but continuing to serve as needed. Pastor Wright was active in the Missouri Baptist Bible Fellowship.

He is survived by his wife Oletta of 63 years, three children, ten grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Services were held March 31 at Forest Park Baptist Church, Joplin.




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Rex Switzer

Springfield, MO

Rex Switzer, BBFI missionary to South Sudan, left his field of service to join the Lord March 28, 2012. Born January 9, 1951, Rex was saved as a teen and grew up in Wichita Baptist Tabernacle. He attended Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, and intended to go to Ethiopia as a missionary. After marrying his wife Ginnie in 1972, the couple worked in churches in Tulsa, OK, and Enfield, CT.

They received BBFI approval for South Africa in 1989, and worked there until moving to Ethiopia. More recently, Rex had been working in South Sudan with his son Jonathan earlier this year. In March, he became ill with malaria, and though he was able to return to Ethiopia for treatment, he died while waiting to be evacuated.

Rex is survived by his wife Ginnie and his son Jonathan. A memorial service will be held at Southwest Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, OK, April 24, 2012.



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Good Christian What? (GCB)

By Dan Greer, Senior Pastor

Community Baptist Church, The Woodlands, TX

A new television comedy-drama series written by Robert Harling and produced by Darren Star premiered Palm Sunday, April 2, 2012, on the American Broadcasting Company network (ABC) here in the U. S. and on Fox Life in Croatia, Serbia, and Slovenia. Harling, born in Nacogdoches, LA, in 1951 is a writer and film director who is best known for his play, "Steel Magnolias." Darren Star produced *Melrose Place*, *Beverly Hills, 90210*, and *Sex in the City*. The series is based on the novel, *Good Christian Belles*, written by Kim Gatlin which received the following reader reviews that posted on Amazon.com: "The cover is the best part." "Sorry I read this." "Save your money." "No, it's not the most intellectual read you'll ever get but it is a good trashy novel." Metacritic, a website that uses a scoring system based upon an aggregate of reviews from critics, gives the television series a disappointing 56 points out of 100, while the *A. V. Club*, an entertainment newspaper, graded it with a "C."

When ABC picked up the series back in 2011, it changed the name from *Good Christian Belles* to *Good Christian Belles*, using the latter in some of its promotional material. However, the network again renamed the series using the acronym, *GCB*. ABC will be airing ten episodes, even though the network was contacted by many Christians and Christian organizations who considered it demeaning toward Christians and disrespectful toward women.

The program depicts Christian women as former high school socialite types who carry their competitive issues with them into the church, and it portrays Christian men as naïve. It goes on to characterize Dallas suburban Christian women as wealthy self-centered charlatans with control issues positioning themselves for power among their peers. The first episode also depicted church members with counterfeit sensitivity at funerals, sensuality among the older church members, and considerable moral misconduct among their youth.

I have pastored a church here in The Woodlands (near Houston, TX) for years, and I have to say that the producers and writers of ABC have got it all wrong. The good Christian women I am associated with in our church and community are genuine people with a deep Christian faith, folks who contribute positive things to our society. They teach children, help the needy, support husbands, volunteer for service, care for the elderly, run households, raise families, run organizations, and participate in the workforce. Some of them are community leaders and missionaries. They are gracious, intelligent, productive, and respectful in stark contrast to their faux Hollywood counterparts

depicted in *GCB*. The most outstanding Christian woman of our era came from my hometown of Midland, TX, and now resides in Dallas. We all know former first lady Laura Bush as a woman who radiates with honor and respect when she enters a room. She carries herself with dignity and poise and speaks volumes with her quiet and unassuming presence.

In response to criticism, according to one source, Kristin Chenoweth, a professing evangelical Christian who plays Charlene Cockburn in the series said, "I certainly wouldn't do anything that would make fun of my own faith. This is just chocolate cake, and it's actually a love letter to Dallas."

I'm not sure how to interpret her response. Is she saying she doesn't have a problem making fun of someone else's faith but not her own ... or what? At any rate, she would, and has made fun of her own professed faith. Even in New York City, far away from the Bible Belt, NYC councilman Peter Vallone, Jr. has proposed a boycott of the television series calling it, "...yet another outrageous attack on the Christian faith."

I suppose the producers and sponsors of *GCB* thought it safe to poke fun at Christian women because most Christian women will go on about their lives and not react to this gross offense committed by ABC during the most holy week of Christianity. I shudder to think of the reaction and outcry from activists if the network giant were to have done a 10-week series like this about Muslim women, airing its first episode during Ramadan.

This kind of television series would be impossible if it weren't for the support of their sponsors, and I was taken aback at some of its commercial underwriters. To me, purchasing products of *GCB*'s sponsors is actually supporting the underlying propaganda that it promotes, which is utterly disrespectful to the Christian women in my life, including my wife, sisters, daughters, and granddaughters. During *GCB*'s first airing the long list of sponsors and products included; T-Mobile, Pedigree, Macy's, Turbo-Tax, Olive Garden, Sprint, Claritin from Walmart, Subway, Purastics from CVS, Snickers, Lincoln Continental, Reebok, Hallmark, Old Navy, Advil, Verizon, Toyota Camry, State Farm, Cody Pools, McDonald's, Audi R8, WGC Texas, The Cosmopolitan Las Vegas, MD Anderson, Victoria's Secret, and Red Lobster. I use some of these, and it irks me that the money I send to these companies is used to slam women whom I respect. I'm not calling for a boycott, but I will be sending letters to these sponsors expressing my displeasure at their association with ABC and *GCB*. I hope others will join me.



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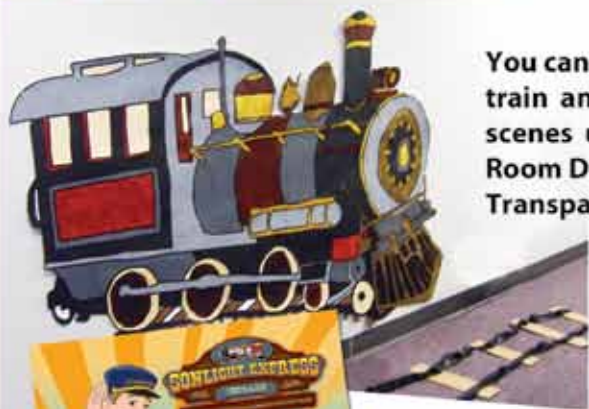
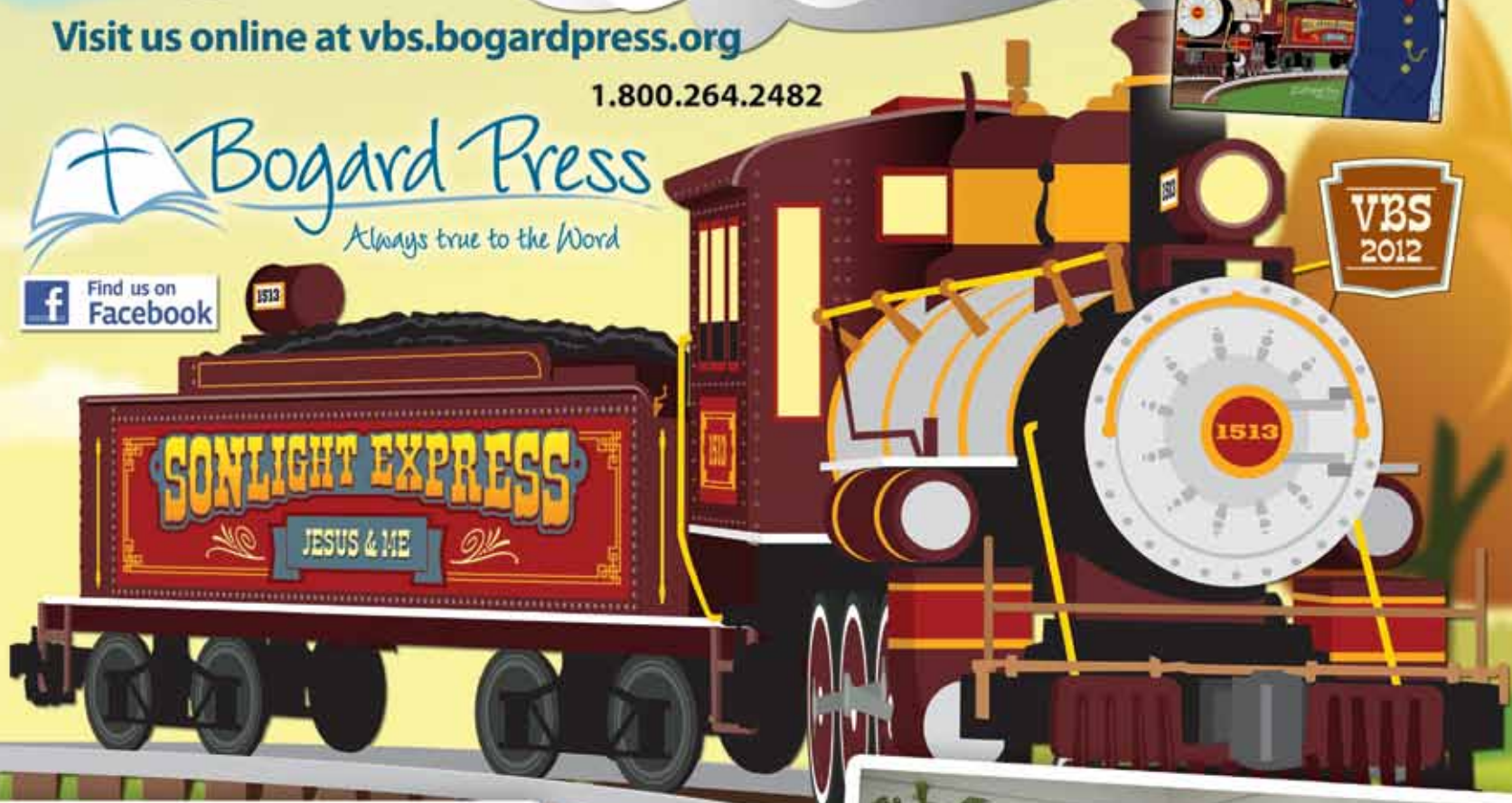
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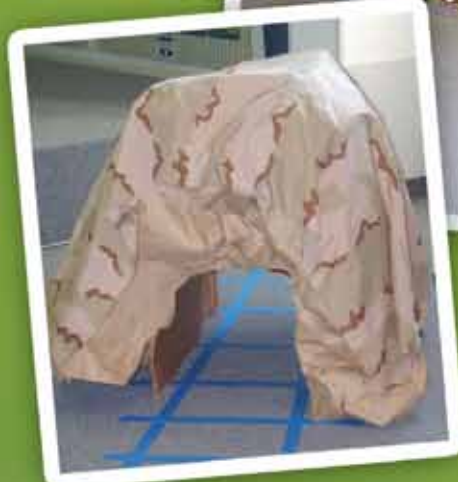
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