

# BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

MAY 2013 | VOL. 63 NO. 9

## MISSIONARY TRAINING

STEP 1: GET PREPARED

STEP 2: GET MORE PREPARED

STEP 3: GET MUCH MORE PREPARED



Language  
Customs  
Culture



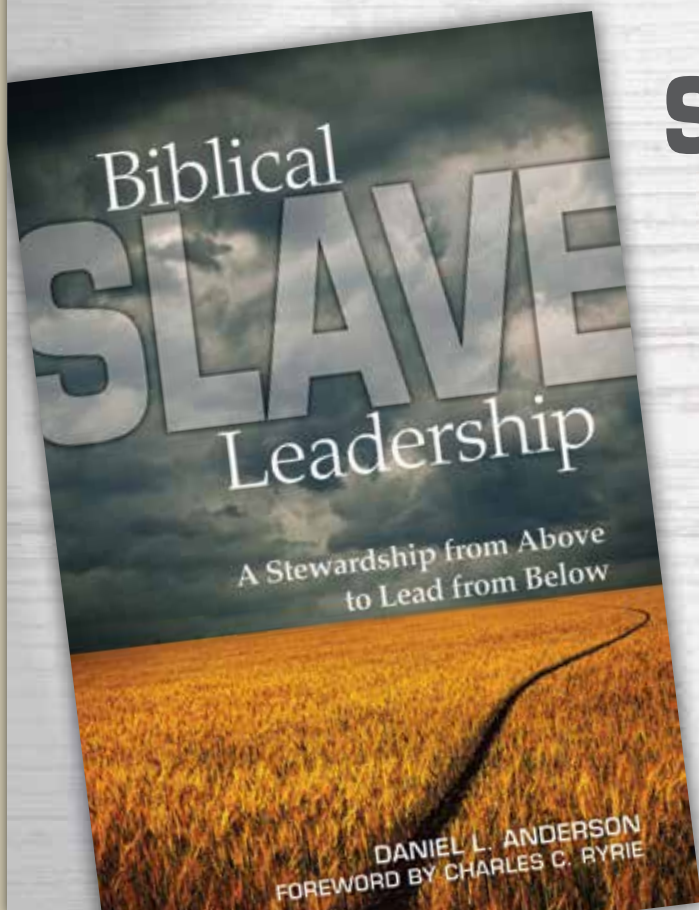
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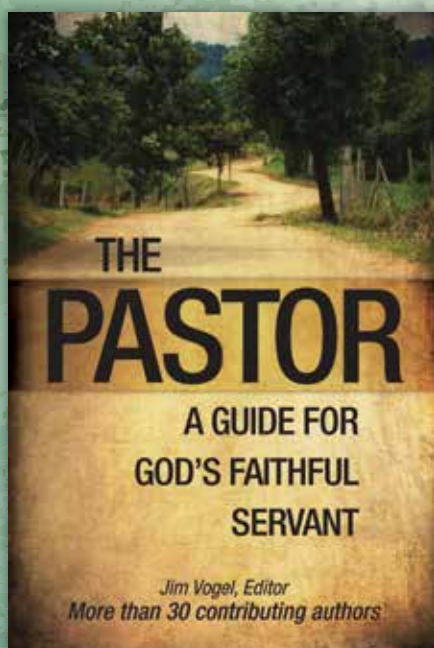


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## ON THE TABLE World-changers

by Keith Bassham | Editor

**W**e sometimes promote ourselves as potential world-changers, but we forget we are also competing with other world-changers. Since we last went to press, the world changed in major ways without my efforts. An example — no one in the past 600 years had ever seen two living Catholic Popes standing and greeting one another, but it happened last month when Pope Benedict retired and Pope Francisco, an Argentine, was named head of the Catholic Church. Big changes there.

From South America also came the news of the death of President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela. I was fascinated to read that the *Associated Press* obituary of the dictator characterized him as a “populist” crusader for the poor, while the same news service said of Lady Margaret Thatcher, who passed just as we were going to press, that she was “divisive,” an autocrat who “imposed her will” while she was prime minister of England. Really? World-changers, perhaps, but someone is fairly adept at truth-changing as well.

May means graduation time. Our Fellowship colleges will be hosting their alumni and supporters for the events, and Baptist Bible College will combine their own homecoming with a meeting of the Baptist Bible Fellowship, a tradition since 1951. You can show your support for the institutions and the students by attending.

My first Fellowship Week experience was in 1972, though I was not yet a student. The next year, May 1973, I was anticipating the end of my freshman year at BBC and beginning my first “real” job in a church. By summer’s end I had accomplished two major things as far as the church was concerned — I had run a car through the church’s auditorium wall and, in spite of the former, been licensed to preach the gospel by the church. Both my driving license and preaching license remain intact.

So I commend those churches everywhere who take in summer interns, newly-minted Bible college and seminary graduates, and others who want to bolster their academics with some practical experience. Those churches may never know what good may come from their patience and investment, but I will be always grateful for the leaders and congregations who saw some value in my early ministry and pushed me forward. And hardly anything can jar a congregation out of the doldrums better than a young voice and new ideas — provided the owner of that voice keeps the grillwork far away from the sanctuary wall.

I need to remind readers we alter the publishing schedule in May each year. The next issue will not go to press until after Fellowship Week, usually the third week in May. There is no issue published in June, so there will not be a *Tribune* mailed after that until July.

*Keith Bassham*

# BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

MAY 2013

VOL. 63 NO. 9

May Fellowship Meeting Info  
*Make plans to be a part of Graduation & Homecoming at BBC*

Global Partners: Missionary training  
*Study, preparation, and experience go into training missionaries*

Congo civil war prisoner is now a pastor  
*A sermon by Keith Bassham from the February BBFI meeting*

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## PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

## Tuning the tension



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

In 1950, Oberlin College awarded an honorary doctorate to Theodore Steinway. Over the years, his company has produced well over 600,000 pianos. There are 243 strings in each instrument, producing 40,000 pounds of pressure on each frame! Someone said, “Theodore Steinway has taught the world that out of great tension, harmony can come.”

Most people have the idea that tension is bad. While it is true that tension can be destructive, it is also true that tension can be an invitation for growth and great harmony. It all depends on your perspective. What life does to us pretty well depends on what life finds in us. The problem is really not tension, but the way we handle it.

Few of us have the privilege of enjoying problem-free lives. (If nothing else, we have to live with ourselves, and that might be our biggest problem!) Even if we could arrange to escape problems, we would probably be bored and experience little personal growth. “All sunshine makes a desert,” states an Arab proverb, and that statement rings true. Troubles and trials are a part of the furniture of life, no matter how you arrange the room.

Of course, the obvious thing is making the tension work for us, not against us.

Consider what this principle means in the home. Tension in the home may be evidence that people are growing, that their personalities are taking up more room than their bodies are, and some happy adjustments need to be made. Have you ever raised a teenager? Tension in the family and marriage can be an opportunity for evaluation and a deeper insight into the needs and hidden feelings of people. The same is true in the local church. The two enemies of harmony are ignorance and selfishness. If we sweep tensions under the rug, they will grow and become even bigger problems. If we refuse to submit to the Lord and each other in love, then tension will be destructive and not constructive.

As you read the book of Acts, you see a pattern of tension and response. The tensions changed from time to time but the Holy Spirit enabled the church to transform tension into growing power.

When it comes to the big tent of the BBFI, there will always be some tension. We have older pastors and younger pastors, and all ages in between with differing styles and methods. As I read magazine articles, blogs, and internet discussion lists, and as I talk to pastors and missionaries across our Fellowship, it is impossible to escape tension. We need a steady hand on the wheel while we listen to the tensions, being alert to the wiles of the devil, praying much, and spending time in the Word. It is only then the Holy Spirit of God will direct us to solutions just as He has in the past. The great need of the hour is for our Fellowship to work together in unity and harmony as we take the beautiful music of the gospel to a lost world.

## WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

Missionary care:  
Part two

by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

Last month's article closed with some very specific questions regarding the effectiveness of our Fellowship in caring for, retaining, and attracting missionaries.

- Do we adequately provide care for our people serving the Lord in the cross-cultural world of ministry?
- Is our Fellowship backing our missionaries the way we should?
- Why are we experiencing increased attrition of our missionaries?
- Are we relevant to the needs of our missionaries today?
- Can we make adjustments in time to capture the potential of what our current and new missionaries attempt to do for the Lord?

The same article introduced the restructuring of the September offering from the Missionary Project Offering, which will be phased out over the next few years, to an offering that will be used to enhance missionary care. The Missionary Care Offering will enable us to serve our missionaries more effectively and strengthen our efforts by allowing us to provide the needed care to keep them on the mission field.

Missionary care is the responsibility of everyone involved in missions — fellow missionaries, sending churches, the Mission Office, and all the churches of the BBFI. Caring for our missionaries will help us do missions well. It strengthens missionaries so they can effectively love, evangelize, and disciple people groups, and plant churches. It will help them endure hardships and grow as individuals. When missionary care is done well, it provides a strategic way to fulfill both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

As new missionaries are approved and others begin the process of searching for a partner organization, a crucial factor in the decision process is whether the “agency” will provide the care necessary to meet their emotional, financial, and spiritual needs. Many of our missionaries never imagined or prepared for the various struggles they encounter. We must all do our part by coming alongside and supporting them.

Following are a few of the areas in which the Missionary Care Offering will benefit our missionaries. I will elaborate on each of them in future columns: the annual missionary family reunion, crisis training for all missionaries, international missionary retreats where field representatives and Mission Office staff participate, ministering to missionary kids, and sending-church assistance.

The Mission Office wants to serve our churches, processing funds for their missionaries and assisting with missionary care. Our intended desire is not to usurp the authority of the sending church; however, when called upon, we want to be ready and available to assist them in the best way possible.



# Good news from Philly



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

It is always a joy to hear a report from a church planter. Here is a letter from Josh Todd, one of our guys who went to Philadelphia about two years ago:

*I firmly believe every church planter goes to their field with the belief that God is going to do great and mighty things. But when He does them, no matter how prepared you think you are, it still takes your breath away.*

*I remember so vividly the first gathering we held in our very small 1920s bungalow. We didn't advertise, market, or launch as a church. We simply told some neighbors and people in the community that we were having a Bible study. God did the rest! In our first Bible study we had a doctor and a gang member sit next to one another. The gang member accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Before he left, I told him he could invite anyone to the Bible study as long as they didn't bring a weapon or drugs, and as long as they were respectful. He turned to me and said, "Josh you wouldn't want the people I know here in your home." I told Vinny, "We let you here." He smiled. The following week Vinny returned with his cousin and she accepted Christ. The following week he returned with a fellow who left prison and came straight to our home for the Bible study. He didn't go home to see his family; he didn't call some old friends; he left prison and came to hear what this Jesus is really all about. I quickly came to the realization that this church I was planting wasn't my own, but was God's! Over the months that followed, God continued to grow our Bible study with no marketing and no advertising. It was simply God bringing people to Himself.*

*We planned to launch on Christmas Eve that year. But with the number of converts and those who were being baptized, we knew we would have to make the move from our small bungalow to an actual church building. The time had come to launch True Vine Baptist Church. We launched July 1, 2012, six months ahead of schedule with minimal advertising and had a full house, 73 in total.*

*We hosted the Delmar state meeting on February 5, 2013, to share with our local state fellowship what God is doing in the city of Philadelphia. He is doing what He has always done — saving and changing lives! We have seen 22 saved in the last six weeks and have 26 to baptize later this month. We have over 73,000 people within one mile of our church building. There are over 3.1 million people in our target zone. Less than one percent of the population can fit in a church building in the greater Philadelphia area. The harvest truly is plentiful, but the workers are few. Please pray for us as we facilitate God's mission here in Philadelphia.*



## GET TOGETHER! BBC FELLOWSHIP WEEK REUNIONS

### Classes of 1959-60

Annual Class Breakfast

**WHEN:** Wednesday @ 7:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** IHOP 2640 N. Kansas Expwy.

**CONTACT:** Branson and Jorene Howard  
(417) 865-1559 or (417) 818-2326



### Class of 1963

**WHEN:** After Tuesday morning Fellowship Meeting

**WHERE:** To be determined

**CONTACT:** Jim Sewell; j.t.sewell@gmail.com

### Class 1962

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 14th @ 1:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Golden Corral 2734 N. Kansas Expwy

**CONTACT:** John Page, (417) 862-6478; JCP6560@aol.com

## START PLANNING September 15-18 BBFI Fall Fellowship Meeting Ventura Baptist Church Ventura, CA Pastor Lewis McClendon

- |        |          |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun.   | 6 pm     | BBQ Dinner (Wood Ranch Tri Tip), Tim McClendon comedy, Jon Konnerup sermon.<br><i>Free event but advance registration required.</i>                                          |
| Mon.   | 6:30 pm  | Mike Frazier sermon, desserts after the meeting                                                                                                                              |
| Tues.  | 9:00 am  | Workshops, Ladies Tea (9:00-10:45 am)                                                                                                                                        |
|        | 10:00 am | Business meeting                                                                                                                                                             |
|        | 11:00 am | George Barna                                                                                                                                                                 |
|        | 6:30 pm  | Lizzy Slayden, desserts after the meeting                                                                                                                                    |
| Weds.  | 9:00 am  | Workshops                                                                                                                                                                    |
|        | 10:00 am | Missionary approvals                                                                                                                                                         |
|        | 6:30 pm  | Kirk Cameron                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Thurs. | 9 am     | Golf (Mission Office)                                                                                                                                                        |
|        | 9 pm     | Overnight deep sea fishing trip, 9 pm to 6 pm Friday<br>(\$200 includes boat with sleeping accommodations, fishing license and all equipment. Advance registration required) |



# BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP WEEK 2013 MAY 13-16

## MONDAY

6:30PM MAIN SESSION

**LINZY SLAYDEN**

*Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church Owasso, OK  
President of the BBFI*

**EDDIE LYONS**

*Pastor of High Street Baptist Church Springfield, MO*



LINZY SLAYDEN



EDDIE LYONS



THOM RAINER



MARK MILIONI



PHILLIP HOUSLEY

## TUESDAY

9:00AM MAIN SESSION

**FRED YOUNG**

*Pastor of East Side Baptist Church Independence, MO*

10:15AM LADIES MEETING: BEAUTIFUL

YOUTH PASTORS MEETING: REFUEL

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Social Church - Social Media And The Church**

*High Street Baptist Church Staff*

**Seeing More In The Ministry**

*Mike Marcellus*

**Increasing Church Offerings For Increasing Needs**

*Rick Blue*

**Stopping The Decline, Starting The Incline**

*Michael Haley & Jon Haley*

12:00PM NATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

6:30PM MAIN SESSION:

**THOM RAINER**

*CEO of LifeWay and noted author*

8:30PM PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION & BOOK SIGNING

## WEDNESDAY

9:00AM MISSIONS MORNING

12:00PM ALUMNI BUFFET LUNCHEON

6:30PM BBC HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

**MARK MILIONI**

*President of Baptist Bible College*

**DURING OUR HOMECOMING CELEBRATION:**

*Honoring Dr. and Mrs. Boland with the Fellowship Faithfulness Award*

*The Alumni & friends mass choir will be performing*

## THURSDAY

9:00AM BBC COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

*Commencement speaker: Phillip Housley*

*Pastor of Park Crest Baptist Church*

1:00PM GOLF TOURNAMENT

**START  
HERE  
GO  
GLOBAL**

FOR REGISTRATION AND HOTEL INFO VISIT [GOBBC.EDU/FELLOWSHIPWEEK](http://GOBBC.EDU/FELLOWSHIPWEEK)



@gobbc #FELLOWSHIP2013



# BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE **ALUMNI** **LUNCHEON**

WEDNESDAY 12PM \$20 PER TICKET

YOU CAN PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS @ [GOBBC.EDU/FELLOWSHIPWEEK](http://GOBBC.EDU/FELLOWSHIPWEEK)

## WHAT IS THE ALUMNI WORKING ON?

-Wi-Fi Project  
COST:\$8,000

The Alumni and Friends Association has fully funded new wireless access points on campus. The I.T. department on campus is working on installation in the coming weeks. Thank you for giving!

-Luncheon Project (air conditioning units for Vick Dorm)  
COST: \$10,000  
50 UNITS@ \$200 per unit

The Alumni Association is confident that through donations received before and during our luncheon, we will be able to fully fund air conditioning for Vick Dorm. Through this effort, and dorm consolidation, all students attending Baptist Bible College will be living in a temperature controlled dorm this fall. Having air conditioned rooms is a great tool for recruitment and retention on campus. Please consider sponsoring an A/C unit by going to [bbcalumni.org](http://bbcalumni.org) or sending in your gift to Baptist Bible College attn. Alumni Association.

**TUESDAY AT 10:15AM**  
**LADIES MEETING**

**YOUTH PASTORS MEETING**



BEAUTIFUL BLESSED CHOSEN

A special time with our presidents wife Barbara Milioni





## DIGRESSIONS

## Baptist Bible Tribune

FOR BIBLE BELIEVING BAPTISTS

[Founded June 23, 1950]

VOL. III

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1953

NO. 40

## Baptist Bible College Commencement May 18-21

HIGH STREET IS  
PLANNING A  
REAL WELCOMEMissionaries To Be  
Present

BY W. E. DOWELL

PASTOR HIGH ST. BAPTIST CHURCH

It is a privilege to be the host to this great national meeting on graduation week each year. We are making plans to provide the best entertainment possible for the hundreds of out-of-town visitors expected. A place to stay will be provided for all out-of-town visitors, but each pastor should write in and give us some idea as to how many we can expect from his church. Meals will be served at the College cafeteria at a very reasonable rate. Those wishing to stay in hotels should write in immediately so that we can make reservations for you.

From every point of view, this should be the greatest meeting of its kind that the Baptist Bible Fellowship has had thus far. We are already receiving reports from some pastors that they are bringing bus loads or several car loads.

However, from a human standpoint this meeting will be what we pastors make it. It is worthy of the very best support we can give. Begin now enlisting as many of your people as possible to come. It will be a thrill to see the student body of the Baptist Bible College and the work they are doing. It will be a thrill to attend the graduation exercises when some 50 students will proudly receive their diplomas. In addition to that we will hear some of the greatest preaching and Bible teaching ever heard as pastors from all over the nation gather in Springfield in the heart of the nation for this great Fellowship. Dr. John Rawlings, the president of our Fellowship, and Bro. G. B. Vick, president of Baptist Bible College, will be in charge of the program. Special

[Continued on page 3.]

## A Victory Roundup for Baptist Bible College

By G. B. VICK, President

The Victory Round-Up is the present campaign to pay off the last dollar of indebtedness against our College by Graduation Night, May 21, 1953.

Those who are to receive their degrees are those who entered as Freshmen the very first day our Baptist Bible College opened. In other words, by the time we graduate our first full cycle of students, we hope for the first time, to fulfill one Scripture which until now, we have not been able to obey, "Owe no man anything."

I think it will be wonderful if, when the third anniversary of that historic Texas Hotel Meeting in Fort Worth rolls around, we shall be able to look the world in the eye and say, "We don't owe any man one red cent."

In that meeting the Baptist Bible College and the Baptist Bible Fellowship were born. Born in the heat of battle; born in a storm—but God was in the storm. Against that little group gathered there were opposed the forces of Hell. Satan himself inspired every attack and he found some willing instruments, about six or seven Baptist preachers, most of whom were prompted by an overwhelming ambition to have "the pre-eminence among the brethren," and each of whom, like the dog on the Victor records, willing to listen to his master's voice (little "m" in master's) and re-echo any fabrication of lies that their headman could cook up.

In these hard, but gloriously hard years, what hath God wrought?

1. A beautiful five-acre wooded campus with six buildings.
2. A student body of 270 this year with advance registrations indicating between three and four hundred next year.
3. A splendid faculty of 15.
4. Property conservatively valued at between three and four hundred thousand dollars.

## BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

As to the Baptist Bible Fellowship: We have a growing, thriving mission work in China, Formosa, Japan, Philippine Islands, Old Mexico, and among the American Navajo Indians in New Mexico with other missionaries sailing in the very near future to India, and South America; altogether 54 missionaries.

Surely none but a spiritually blinded person would dare deny "This is the Lord's doings and it is marvellous in our eyes."

But back to our College Finances. Seven weeks ago when we started our VICTORY ROUND-UP we owed only \$31,500.00. Even then we envisioned a glorious public note-burning celebration May 21, Graduation night.

In these seven weeks many of our pastors and churches have responded nobly and about \$17,000.00 has come in on this indebtedness, thus we now owe only \$14,500.00.

So, Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition, brethren. For those who made pledges, this is a reminder that they are due to be paid by the time of our Fellowship Meeting in Springfield, Missouri, May 18 to 21, Monday through Thursday night. For those who have not made any pledges on this COLLEGE VICTORY ROUND-UP—we NEED YOUR help. As Kipling phrased it, "the everlasting team work of every bloomin' soul".

With victory almost in sight a great general stood upon a battlefield one time and said, "A few more rounds of grapeshot and the field will be ours."

BAPTIST BIBLE  
COLLEGE WILL  
GRADUATE 47Fellowship Meeting In  
High Street Church

Baptist Bible College will graduate 47 students at its Commencement exercises in High Street Baptist church, Springfield, Thursday night, May 21 at 8 o'clock.

The graduation service will climax four days of Fellowship and other activities in connection with the end of the College's spring term. As is true every year, the College activities are made a part of a Baptist Bible Fellowship meeting.

The Fellowship meeting will begin in High Street Baptist church, Monday night, May 18 at 7:30. Meetings will be held each day, morning, afternoon and night.

All out of town visitors will be guests of High Street Baptist church. This year the visitors will register at the office of High Street church, not at the office of Baptist Bible College. High Street church will provide homes for all who come. The out of town visitors will be furnished breakfast in the homes. Other meals will be provided by the visitors themselves. The cafeteria of Baptist Bible College will serve all meals, and at a reasonable price.

## Class Day

College class day will be held in Temple Hall Thursday morning. The College choir, under the direction of Mrs. O. K. Vanderpool, will furnish special music. Class speakers will be Rev. Faye Blakey, and Clara Gruver.

The Senior banquet will be held at Heer's Ozark Garden Room, Tuesday night, May 19 at 7:30. This will be for the Seniors, members of their immediate families, and the members of the faculty. Tickets will be \$1.65 and are available at the office of Baptist Bible College.

Toastmaster for the banquet will be Rev. William Sears, president of





## MISSIONARY TRAINING

By James G. Smith Associate Mission Director



LANGUAGE • CUSTOMS • LIFESTYLES • METHODS • SKILLS

**H**ow were you trained and prepared for the ministry that you are doing? How could we do a better job training the next generation of missionaries? Those were the general ideas behind this issue of *Global Partners*.

If the churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International want to be more effective in accomplishing the Great Commission, it seems to us that improving the preparation of our missionaries is essential. Who better than the missionaries themselves to help us see where and how to make those improvements?

We are an interesting assortment of servants of the Lord. People outside of our movement sometimes have trouble identifying us. We have a wide variety of opinions, preferences, and beliefs. What pulls us under the same BBFI tent are our strong beliefs in the authority of Scripture, the sufficiency of Christ for salvation, the autonomy of the local church, and the responsibility of the Great Commission.

With any given issue of *Global Partners* we aspire to have between ten percent and 25 percent of our missionary force participate. It is never the same list of missionaries. Different

subjects are interesting to different people at different times. This issue was addressed by the wide gamut of our demographic. We heard back from all the continents and from many different ministry styles and approaches. The respondents include the oldest active BBFI missionary and several on their first term.

Some questions were statistical while others were philosophical. More than half of the respondents said they have a post-baccalaureate degree. Most of them said it has been beneficial to their ministries. Many of them indicated that more education always opens doors.

We are thrilled with the responses we received this time from our global partners. We think our readers will benefit from this discussion, but none more than the missionaries themselves. The newer ones and the more experienced ones will all benefit from the comments and suggestions from our peers. We hope all the missions professors at our various schools will take heart and take note of what is being said. We are fairly certain this issue of the *Tribune* will be highlighted in the Missionary Candidate School this summer! As always, your response is also welcome.

[GlobalPartners@bbfmissions.com](mailto:GlobalPartners@bbfmissions.com)

**More than half of the respondents said they have a post-baccalaureate degree.**

**Most of them said it has been beneficial to their ministries.**

**Many of them indicated that more education always opens doors.**

# If you were involved in preparing today's students for missionary service, what are the most important concepts you would share?

## Bob & Dee Dodson - Tanzania

**Theology!** These new students need to know who they are in Jesus Christ. They need to know just how much they are loved by the Father and Son. They need to know how much their salvation cost. Then when they enter their country of ministry and are spat upon, laughed at, and ridiculed for not understanding the language or culture, they can take heart. They will be less likely to skip out after one term.

## Dick & Linda Redding - Mexico

**The importance of having a clear call from God** to be a missionary.

- The necessity of having a vibrant and steadfast walk with the Lord.
- The development of Christian character founded upon this walk.
- The practice of real Christian character:
  - a. The word *quit* should not be in your vocabulary
  - b. You really believe that God's grace is sufficient and can walk by faith.
  - c. You allow God's love to be poured out in your heart.
  - d. You are not thin-skinned about being an American because you realize that your true homeland is heaven itself.
  - e. You earnestly desire to learn the language and culture of the people because that is evidence of the love of God in your life.
  - f. You have a firm grasp of the fundamentals of the faith.
- The necessity of staying with the primary missionary commands of Christ. It still is about going to win the lost, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey all of Christ's commands.
- Don't be sidetracked by missionary fads.

## Tim & Barbara Downs - Ivory Coast

**Cultural studies** should be core curriculum for anyone preparing for ministry in any place.

## Jon & Ruth Bergen - Scotland

**Be Flexible** — adapt to and adopt the culture God puts you in. Be patient with yourself and others — culture shock is real. Then get to work and get out of the way! Let God be God in your life and the lives of those you minister to. Don't try to convert everyone, rather preach the gospel and be friends with everyone — you don't know who God will reach through you.

## Ruth King - Japan

1. **"By My Spirit" says the Lord**
2. Solid Bible and doctrinal foundations. The emergent church and shallow doctrine allow for the next problem. Bible theology and exposition must be taught to keep future missions and missionaries true to the Bible and God.
3. Technological skills for those with ability (continuing my education has pushed me to develop computer competence.)
4. Mentoring. This could be a key which is not being properly utilized today.

## Bobby & Lisa Bechtel - Kenya

Learn to be self-sufficient with home and auto repair. **Concern yourself with discipling people not getting large crowds.** Follow God's leading always. How to raise funds in a Facebook world.

## Derrick & Amber Lewright - Poland

**People are people no matter where you go in the world.** Therefore, there are many commonalities that we must first focus upon, no matter how diverse the culture. Once we understand that we aren't so different from others, God can open us up to those things that are different and allow us to communicate cross-culturally by starting with our common ground.

## Dave & Peggy Disney - Chile

**Better preparation in doctrine and a daily personal devotion to God** is necessary. Beware of the attacks of Satan. Too many missionaries have left the field because of letting down their guard on personal matters and minimizing their own devotion to God while attending to the needs of the people they serve. Learn to be patient and flexible.

## Jim & Sybil Eberhard - Kenya

**Cross-culture training** that presses them into situations to see how to relate to a different culture. Reading books specific to your prospective country on cultural understanding. Indigenous principles training that balances church planting with relevant culture adaption and adoption. I see a need to help them determine what area of ministry will be the focus. Such areas may include planting churches, feeding programs, orphanages, youth ministries, or community development. Then how will they work to leave a self-sustaining work within the culture.

## Jim & Mary Blume - Papua New Guinea

**God is God.** Do not try to be a pope.

## Kevin & Sarah Pine - England

**Passion for the lost**, how to train national leaders, and a love for the local church.

## Robert & Margery Elam - Brazil

There are three things that need to be remembered by the new missionary:

1. **Learn the language!**
2. **Learn the culture!**
3. **You are not the master!**

You need to listen to the people. Missionaries need to know how to love the people. Rigidity does not cut it, even with sin. God has mercy on sinners! So many want to kill the sinner.

## Jeffery & Judy Blanton - South Africa

**Be faithful, be active where you are.** Wait on the Lord!



**Janice Baker - Haiti**

**Develop a personal one-on-one relationship with God.** Have the faith to believe so you know moment by moment what God's ministry is for you. It is easy to get involved in busy work. Having devotions should be our first work and after that comes ministry.

**Elmer Deal - Congo**

**Study hard,** memorize many verses of the Bible, and prepare messages from the Word of God.

**Jeff & Andrea Williams - Canada**

**Emphasize practical church work.** Intertwine their studies with actual ministry in their churches.

Explore in detail the successes and failures of missions in the BBFI specifically. Give specific facts and examples. Show what has worked and what has not worked, so that the wise ones will develop strategies that will lead to explosive growth and success. Our BBFI facts and figures are vague.

Help them define their role on the field and how they should prepare for it. Ask them if they are going to go all in and create a mother church that is completely dependent upon the missionary, or are they going to go the tougher route of actually letting churches be indigenous? Help them honestly assess the realities of each type of ministry and see practical long-term results with BBFI's own statistical information and practical examples.

Why are many BBFI ministries still fledgling and dependent, while other BBFI ministries are on fire and indigenous? Is it truly cultural? Is it the missionary?

**Name withheld - Tanzania**

**Commitment and sacrifice.** This try-it-and-see-if-I-like-it generation needs a healthy dose of pioneer missionary biographies.

**Christina Fulmer - Kenya**

**Learn the culture** of those to whom you have been called — and work within that culture!

**Rex & Jan Harmon - Jamaica**

**Old-fashioned soul winning** along with personal devotions and trusting in God.

**Tom & Regina Franklin - Dominican Republic**

**Anything and everything practical** — preaching, basic computer curriculum-CMS, server management, social media, video, print projects, international operations, law and nonprofit management, finance, agriculture-related course, building (wood, metal, and concrete), and mechanics.

More than 50 percent of the undergrad course needs to be skill orientated, 25 percent Bible and Theology, 25 percent missiological. Graduate school is the time to tackle the more advanced subject material.

**Bill & Rhonda Smith - Belize**

**Be prepared to learn as much if not more from failures** than from victories.

**Lavon & Carolyn Waters - Spain**

**Make a lifetime commitment;** not go and try it and see if you like it.

**David & Mary Campbell - Wales**

**Make sure you are following God and not people** (as well meaning as they may be). Be well rounded — if you have not taken any business or accounting courses (between you or your spouse) you should seriously consider taking some. Find the balance between having patience with adjusting to your new culture and maintaining your zeal — you have a lot to learn when you arrive!

**Tom & Janice Crawford - Indonesia**

- 1. The calling is the enabling.**
2. Make sure you have a good grasp of Biblical hermeneutics.
3. Don't trust your feelings, learn to live by faith.
4. Love the people God gives you.

**Mike & Pam Hillhouse - Burkina Faso**

**How to develop a vision and goals,** organizational skills, and conflict-resolution principles.

**George & Luisa Dimakos - Greece**

**Go prayed up, versed up, and know culture** and language before you go to the field if you can.

**Randy & Sandy Roberts - Costa Rica**

The ministry and call of God is an **"act of faith and a labor of God;"** not a job.

**Max & Debbie Harmon - Peru**

One must **be the example in everything.** We must help the national pastors and churches mature and fly alone. We should learn from and work at relationships with veteran missionaries.

**Sandra Loveday - Spain**

**Submission,** faithfulness, and dedication.

**Craig & Amanda Dyson - Ethiopia**

I think there is a great deal of pressure to have a specific number of churches started, a certain number of people saved, and baptize a specific number by a certain time. Sometimes it is easy to think that if you don't see tangible results then you are failing. **If you are working hard and trusting God then you have to be confident that God will bring the victory.**

Also, I would stress that even as a missionary your relationship with God comes first and then your family. If there are issues or your family is struggling, seek counsel and if you have to move back to the States, then do it. Don't sacrifice your family just because you are afraid of what churches will say. God has a purpose and if you have to move home then He will continue to use you there.

Work hard, trust God, and don't quit, but at the same time remember that your family is your first priority and ministry.

**Steven & Marilyn Trask - Brazil**


Present-day students, I would encourage you to **be students of the Word,** to be faithful to your call, and to labor well with the nationals of your country.

**Christine Pelletier - Kenya**

I would want to help teach new missionaries that **throwing money at a problem is not the answer.** I would want to warn them of the dangers of creating dependency on the missionary. We need to train our people to depend upon God.

# TRAINING REPORT CARD

**“Which college course has been the most helpful to you as a missionary?”** While several of these subjects got multiple votes, it was enlightening to us to see the wide variety of responses to this question. We list them below in no particular order:



- Hermeneutics
- Music Courses
- Speech
- English
- Theology
- Missions Tech
- Prophecy
- Life of Christ
- Philosophy of Thought
- Counseling
- Greek
- Pastoral Theology
- Baptist History
- Cultural Anthropology
- Cross-Cultural Church Planting
- Teacher Training
- Child Evangelism
- All the Bible Courses
- Old Testament
- Missions
- Cross-Cultural Communication
- Doctrine
- Expository Preaching
- Planting the Indigenous Church
- Missionary Life and Work
- Linguistics
- Technical Computer Skills

**“What subject matter did you not study but would have been helpful to you before going to your country?”**

(Responses in no particular order)

- Construction
- Auto maintenance
- Health
- Government red tape
- UK tax laws
- Interpersonal relationships
- Sanctity of marriage
- Cross-cultural communication
- Greek & Hebrew
- How to start a church
- Adapting to new cultures
- Economics
- Cultural anthropology
- Cross-cultural evangelism
- Evangelism theory
- Leadership dynamics
- Social organization
- Spiritual warfare
- Fund raising in a global marketplace
- Personal evangelism
- African cultures
- Basic management skills
- Managing hostile relationships
- Culture shock
- Living and working in the third world
- Linguistics
- Islamic studies
- Charismatic theology
- Business
- Technology
- Apologetics
- Postmodernism
- Comparative religions
- People skills
- Ethnographical research
- Cultural behavior

## Attitudes that become obstacles to missionary training

By Richard Lewis, DMiss.

Fireman, policeman, teacher, IT worker, missionary, nurse, farmer, carpenter — which do you believe from this list needs occasional updating on their skills and/or knowledge to remain effective? No doubt some professions require at least annual retraining, other professions need upgrading several times a year. Wait a minute, what's a missionary doing on this list?

I was visiting with a colleague recently on the importance of training missionaries. He has the unenviable job of trying to convince cross-cultural workers of their need for being taught in the skill of their profession. As we talked about the challenges of his task, we identified some obstacles of missionaries, new and old, buying into the idea they need for pre-field, post-field, and ongoing training. Some of the obstacles are philosophical; other areas of resistance are practical.

### **Missions is not a profession, it's a calling.**

No matter how you view career missions, a person still must learn some basic skills for cross-cultural work. Being called doesn't mean that God has supernaturally made a person better in relating to culture, made them more linguistically equipped, or gifted them supernaturally with the ability to communicate the message of Christ with relevance to people who are of a different faith worldview. These skills still need to be learned.

### **Missionaries have the Bible, they don't need anything else.**

While knowing the Scriptures is foundational for every missionary, most missionaries are taught from a mono-cultural and Western







perspective. They are also taught scripture from a specific theological/hermeneutical grid. Since scripture is as much a multi-cultural book as it is God's Word, missionaries need more training on how to present the gospel in the context of the target audience, not just merely how it is interpreted from one's own cultural context. Context gives meaning. The words one uses, even God's Word, have little to no effect until it is put into context.

### **More education doesn't make one more effective.**

I'm not sure if this is the old "ignorance is bliss" argument or just an anti-education bias. This is like the 1 Timothy 4:8 argument, "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things." Yes, compared to godliness, physical exercise is less important, but exercise does profit a little. Although more education doesn't ensure success, the lack of understanding of culture carries with it a greater risk of failure in ministry. The issue is not "how much knowledge," but what type of knowledge is needed for the task at hand. Having a Master of Divinity degree, with a good working knowledge of Greek is helpful, but how one utilizes that knowledge speaking to illiterate people in the bush of Africa or the polytheistic Hindu in Nepal is the real issue.

### **Time. It has already been a long process in getting to the field. Adding another 2-3 months of training is a hardship.**

Learning a new computer program is time consuming. A person has three options: 1. Just don't learn a new program and stay with the outdated system; 2. install it and play around with it until you figure it out; 3. read the manual and take a class.

Missionaries often just ignore training, believing that what they have learned in ministry and life thus far is sufficient for cross-cultural work. Cultures, like operating systems, are different and changing all the time. Just ignoring this reality will retard missionary effectiveness.

Learning as you go might work, but more times than not, on-the-job training ends up taking much longer in our quest to understand culture and to be effective. Sadly, many people give up on missionary life because frustration sets in when they are on the field and, rather than working through the issues they just go home.

Training, like reading the manual, takes an initial investment in time but the end result is that missionaries will be able to enter their host culture armed with at least some understanding on what to do and how to do it among the people they have committed themselves to serve.

### **Money. Raising money for training just delays getting people to the field.**

How much does preventative medicine cost? It's probably a whole lot less than going to the ER.

Career missionaries spend a ton of money for everything from plane tickets to flat-screen TVs and I don't begrudge them one bit for money needed to live and survive on the field. But a significant number of those people raising money will come home after their first term on the field and many others will remain on the field not making a significant impact on those who have never heard the gospel. Money spent on being fully equipped for cross-cultural service is not a waste. I would argue training is an investment for family and God.

If I have to call 911, I'm glad to know that the fireman trains every week to fight fires and the policeman is updated on procedures daily. I'm glad the nurse looking after me in the hospital is not functioning solely from the classes she took in nursing school 10 years prior, but she is up-to-date on today's medical technology. As a profession, career missionaries should be as current in their occupation as any vocation that deals with life, death, and eternity.

The argument against missionary training is really an attempt to take a shortcut to ministry. The need is too great and the call is too important to not be equipped for cross-cultural service.

# What needs to change in the preparation of 21st-century missionary candidates?

## Derrick & Amber Lewright **POLAND**

All missions students need to understand the difference between message and methods. The methods will change from one era to another. In order to connect with people on a level they understand, we must adapt our method while maintaining the gospel message. Flexibility in methods while maintaining faithfulness to the Word of God must be the emphasis of 21st-century missions.

## Jeffery & Judy Blanton **SOUTH AFRICA**

More emphasis on people and less on technology.

## Elmer Deal **CONGO**

More commitment to faithfulness in obedience to God.

## Tom & Regina Franklin **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

More practical, less philosophical, training from men and women with field experience.

## Craig & Amanda Dyson **ETHIOPIA**

They need to be as prepared as possible and professional as well. Prayer letters need to be void of grammar and spelling errors and their video presentation should be quick and to the point. They have one shot. This continues to get better, but all of us should make as good a first impression as possible.

## Robert & Margery Elam **BRAZIL**

The thing we must change is our thinking that our way is the only way. The only foundation we can have that will perform the task is that of God's Word. Jesus said that He would build His church! We must instill in the new missionary the necessity of Bible-based teaching, preaching, and church planting. When we have finished the work God has given to us, we will see the national pastors taking on the role of leadership in the churches without our interference. In order to do this, we need to change the direction of our teaching and orientation. It is not up to us to build American churches on international sites. We need not be arrogant. We need to be humble and allow Jesus Christ to build the church His way.

## Jim & Mary Blume **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Get back to the fundamentals and stay there.

## Lavon & Carolyn Waters **SPAIN**

They need to be up to date on technology. They need to know how to operate with a budget and live within their means.

## George & Ellen King **JAPAN**

They need more experience in preaching on a regular basis before coming to the field.

## Janice Baker **HAITI**

Missionaries need to be taught that unsolved problems now may cause failure on the mission field. Appetites are too often pampered and not seen as sin. We need to be stricter in our screening process. The college attended is not the problem if the person has the leadership of God.

## Sandra Loveday **SPAIN**

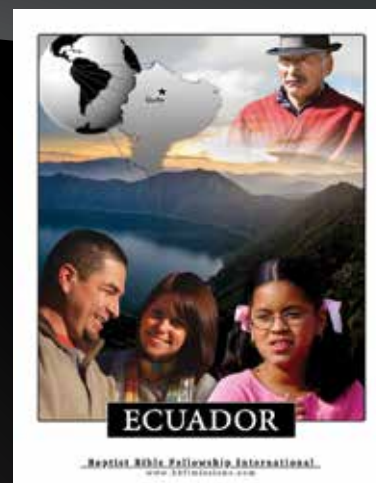
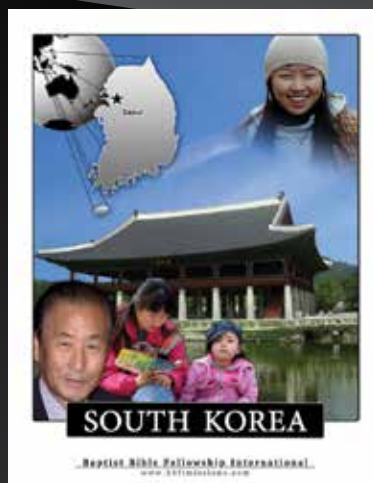
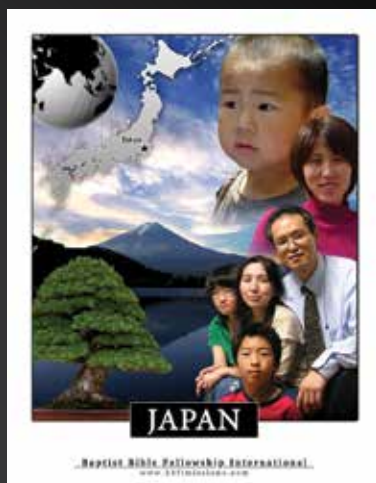
Updated information. Courses pertinent to the 21st-century missionary.

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**David & Edna Howell** BRAZIL

We have been here in Brazil for 40 years now. We have seen lots of missionaries come and go. They were all better supported than us, much more intelligent, and had lots of equipment. Most of them were gone in two years or less. All the ones I knew left because they took their eyes off Jesus.

**Ramzi & Ruth Kammar** ISRAEL

Raise the level of the spiritual requirements.

**Tom & Janice Crawford** INDONESIA

Less missionary professionalism, more basic Bible training. The missionary classes need to focus on the basics: 1) missionary life — living in a foreign culture 2) missionary ministry — starting churches in a foreign culture 3) missionary challenges — language study, dealing with foreign governments, money matters.

**Christine Pelletier** KENYA

Perhaps a greater commitment to personal evangelism one on one. I believe we need to train people to win others to themselves so that they can win them to Christ. In an increasingly hostile environment towards Christians and Christianity, I believe this to be the best preparation for 21st-century mission work. The large rallies and revival meetings and crusades, though helpful in spreading the gospel, do very little to help grow Christians to the point they're able to share that same gospel effectively within their own culture.

**Randy & Sandy Roberts** COSTA RICA

Many new missionaries are not grounded and settled in their faith. The 21st-century missionary needs to know more about who he is and why he believes.

**Christina Fulmer** KENYA

Personally, I believe faithfulness, good stewardship of support funds, and time alone with the Lord are vital areas of concern. It has been my personal experience to host "future missionaries" and their degree of dedication and faithfulness are shamefully lacking. Perhaps the current U.S. culture is to blame.

**Bobby & Lisa Bechtel** KENYA

They need to understand how to deal with terrorism and war situations. They need to understand the importance of vision casting among Americans which leads to better funding.

**Name withheld** TANZANIA

We need to equip and train missionaries beyond the field of missions theology, so they are qualified and prepared to enter least-reached and limited access nations and tribal groups. They need to leave school with two things: a degree other than just a Bible or theology or missions degree, and limited or no debt.

**Bill & Rhonda Smith** BELIZE

Logistically and financially it would be challenging, but if possible, spend a 6-12 month internship on the field before going full time.

**George & Luisa Dimakos** GREECE

Better use of technology and communications.

**Tim & Barbara Downs** IVORY COAST

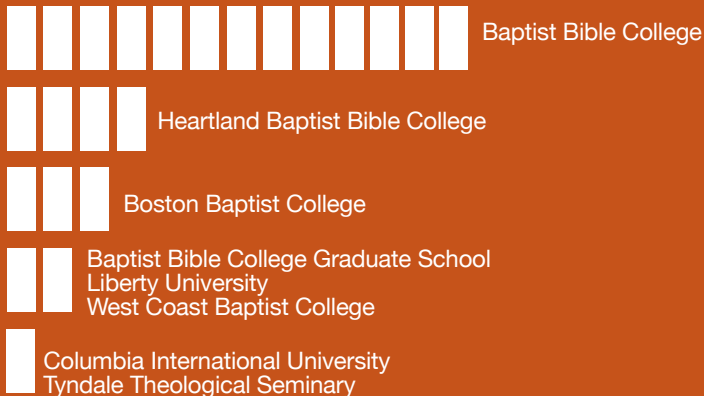
Exposure to people who are making an impact with evaluation of these same ministries. Mandatory time on the field (any field). Possibly more sociology training in an effort to identify and prepare for major cultural trends. I think we've been caught flat footed as we face a post-modern and post-Christian world.

**Bob & Dee Dodson** TANZANIA

Focus on basics and don't skip the requirements to get more candidates. Trust God and pray for workers in the harvest. He has a plan. We just need to know what it is, and get with it.

## RECOMMENDED SCHOOLS

Not all of the responding missionaries answered our question regarding their recommendation for missionary training, but the following graph represents the responses we received.



## WHERE WERE YOU TRAINED?

While the majority of the missionaries who responded to our questionnaire received their academic missionary training at Baptist Bible College and Baptist Bible College Graduate School, some of our missionaries have been trained at the following (*in no particular order*):

Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College  
Atlantic Baptist Bible College  
Louisiana Baptist University  
Baptist Bible College West  
Pacific Baptist College  
Columbia Biblical Seminary  
Fuller Theological School of Intercultural Studies  
Temple Baptist Seminary  
Calvary Bible College  
Trinity Baptist College  
Biola University  
Summer Institute of Linguistics



# If you had one hour with future missionaries, what would you tell them?

## Janice Baker HAITI

I would want them to understand the all-important principle: **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. I would talk about self-discipline, self-denial, and self-acceptance.

## Name withheld TANZANIA

1. Go prepared to stay. It's a commitment, like marriage, not like joining a fantasy football league.

2. Disconnect from America so you are ready and able to connect with your new culture, people, and language. I would advise no visitors the first year on the field and limited or no social networking for the first year.

3. **Make learning the language and culture your number one priority for your first term.** Do not succumb to the temptation to get involved in ministry until this objective is met. Focus on this and determine to become a part of the culture and society at all costs, even if it means personal and family sacrifices.

## Georgia Webb MEXICO

First of all, make learning the language your very first priority. **The Lord may be very gracious to you and use you to some extent through an interpreter, but never as much as He could if you were able to speak to the people in their heart language.**

Along with the language, learn the culture. Become a part of the culture, adopting the customs of the people insofar as they do not conflict with your Christian convictions. One cannot truly learn the language without the culture nor the culture without the language. If possible, find a national church to attend, not an English-speaking church. At first, you and your family will need to spend time with the Lord in your native language, but become a part of the national church as much as possible. Even before you arrive, try to learn all you can of its history. Find the textbooks used in the schools (starting with kindergarten) and start reading them in order to learn what people have been taught from early childhood on up.

## Elmer Deal CONGO

To be sure they are called by God, to know as much as they possibly can about the country where they are to serve, **have a working knowledge of the Word of God**, and love the people with a genuine love.

## Jim & Mary Blume PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**Live for others and be a servant.** In so doing, one will find true success in the Lord.

## Christina Fulmer KENYA

To commit to their call and let nothing hinder them from achieving their goals for missions, ministry, and personal growth.

## Ruth King JAPAN

**Get involved in ministry and develop ministry partnerships now.** Being a missionary is not something that will start one year from now or ten years from now. When He calls you, the process has already begun.

## Jon & Ruth Bergen SCOTLAND

Love the people God puts in your life. Stay where He puts you. Elmer Deal told me the key to staying is to buy a cemetery plot and ignore the pastors stateside and just stay — and when you want to leave — just stay!

## Craig & Amanda Dyson ETHIOPIA

Culture shock is going to knock you down. I knew about it. Everyone knows about it, but it is harder than you realize. I would also tell them to be honest in their prayer letters. **Don't be negative, but also don't try to always make it seem that everything is perfect.** If you are struggling, be honest.

## George & Ellen King JAPAN

Get all the classroom training that you can, **go out and start a church and learn how before coming to the field.** I would emphasize the need to develop a devotional life that will give you a great sensitivity to the daily working and leadership of the Holy Spirit.

## Tim & Barbara Downs IVORY COAST

1. Language: no shortcuts, never compromise. It must be a very high priority.

2. Find two windows on culture: One national that will be honest with you, and a veteran missionary that can help you understand what you are seeing and experiencing and how it matters to you and your work.

3. Keep two fundamental principles in focus:  
a) Begin with the end in view. By trying to identify what it will look like when we leave, we can keep a wise view of the end.  
b) Everything must be reproducible. **It is shortsighted and flawed to build a work that "feels" good to us, but could never be reproduced in the host culture or economy.**

## David & Mary Campbell WALES

Make sure you are following God and not people. **Have a thick hide and a tender heart as well.** Remember, most of the people to whom you will be ministering will be lost.

## Jim & Sybil Eberhard KENYA

I would talk to them about what it looks like to walk with God on a daily basis through the ups and downs of marriage, family, and ministry. **When your life finds a balance, at the end of the day you are confident that what you have done is what is important to God.**

They need to learn to keep the main thing the main thing — loving their families, then winning, discipling, baptizing, and raising up leaders.

I would want to stress God's plan of reaching the world through individuals and how I believe in the BBFI's rifle approach to missions. This is a specific plan with a specific target of raising up local churches that work to reproduce themselves. If missionaries have other plans to reach people let them see the importance of pointing them through the local church.

**Paul and Alexis Dedeyan** FRANCE

Learn the language well! That can take years! **Also learn the culture, for we do not at first realize how much a people's way of thinking, their mentality, determines how they understand what you say.** I think missionaries are often more misunderstood than they realize. Getting the words right is only the beginning! The next step is learning to express the concept.

Another piece of advice — watch, observe, listen, and learn! Be teachable. Try to prepare yourself mentally to be surprised, maybe disappointed, even by Christians, or by other missionaries, because new things are seldom what we imagine them to be. If God called you, He will provide what you need ... but you may need to readjust and revise your plans or your way of thinking. If possible, have someone you can confide in, a sympathetic ear, a prayer partner, a mature Christian who will keep a confidence and be encouraging.

**Christine Pelletier** KENYA

Don't put or keep God in a box. Never, never underestimate the power of His Word.

**Sandra Loveday** SPAIN

The road ahead of you will not be easy. Being a missionary is not for the faint of heart, but if you cling to Christ every moment of every day the rewards will be eternal. **Do not look for praise or glory in this line of business.** The pay isn't the greatest either, but the benefits and the souls saved make being a missionary worth every trial and obstacle you must go through.

**David & Edna Howell** BRAZIL

We live in a dangerous place. We have had things stolen from our car and even had our car stolen. We have been shot at. We have had our house broken into and cleaned out on several occasions. Our family has been held hostage. **I have been at the wrong end of a gun several times. Keeping our eyes on Jesus is what has kept us here all this time.**

**Bill & Rhonda Smith** BELIZE

You can't change the world overnight. Be committed for the long haul.

**George & Luisa Dimakos** GREECE

Stay close with God, with family, and with other missionaries. **Avoid strife at all cost, especially with other missionaries.** Display love and ethics at home and in the ministry.

**Jeffery & Judy Blanton** SOUTH AFRICA

Don't quit! **Build a good relationship with your sending church.**

**Kevin & Sarah Pine** ENGLAND

Keep close watch over your walk with Christ. Don't get discouraged. **Find a good mentor with whom to do an internship.** Communicate clearly with them. Ask good questions. Be flexible.

**Mike & Pam Hillhouse** BURKINA FASO

Each field has its own unique set of challenges and problems that one has to face. The goal would be to encourage each one of the new candidates to stay true to their call despite challenges that might arise.

**Max & Debbie Harmon** PERU

Learn the language. **Spend time and travel with nationals.** Keep your personal family involved in the ministry. Take time just as a family with no ministry involvement.

**Dave & Peggy Disney** CHILE

Make sure of your calling. Get your house in order — if it is not well with your spouse or kids, wait. **When you get to the field, learn from other missionaries, but develop your own ministry.** How about being a “pioneer”? Try looking for a place on the field you are going to that doesn't have a missionary, a place that has the greatest need.

**Randy & Sandy Roberts** COSTA RICA

How we need to depend upon God and not man. I would tell them that on their darkest days, God will shine the brightest. **When you know your calling is sure, hard times will not destroy you but make you a better servant.**

**Bobby & Lisa Bechtel** KENYA

Seek God. Follow God (even into the unknown). Seek the lost. Use humanitarian means as well as evangelistic means to reach people with the gospel. Thank God for the increase!

**Jeff & Andrea Williams** CANADA

Set a goal to make your first church-planting attempt within one year of arriving on the field.

To that end, isolate yourself for one year from English and English speakers. Do everything in your power to make sure you and your wife learn the language! That is your ministry. **Stop repeating the mistakes of the 90 percent who try to work language study in while they minister in a partnership. It will retard their language skills for a decade. I am a personal witness to this.** After one year of intensive full-time focus on language learning, anyone will be well on their way to reaching their full potential very quickly. This is a key!

During the year of intensive language study, avoid other missionaries' ministries. Go to churches that are truly indigenous in every way. Go there humbly, not to minister, but to quietly learn. See how they do it. Let them teach you. It is a great way to build new relationships that will last your entire ministry. You will see things from their perspective. It will protect you from the need to revert back to English, and force you to use your ministry skills. Learn the practical ministry that indigenous churches have in regard to baptizing, administering the Lord's Supper, weddings, funerals, visiting, and preaching.

There is no way to gain experience without experience. Being a pastor of people for the first time changes you. Being an intern, candidate, and associate are just not the same.

Use local church Bible institute training as soon as possible. You may not produce many full-time workers at first, but the intensive Bible study will produce powerful people in your congregations who know what we believe and why we believe it. Typically they will be very loyal and faithful. I was frustrated that we did not see men rise up into leadership as quickly as I liked. But the side effect of the institute was a group of powerful believers who were very well educated in the Word of God.



## WHAT STATEMENT OR QUOTE DO YOU REMEMBER HEARING AS A MISSIONS STUDENT?

**Why wait for a call when you have a command?**

*Bob Hughes*

**Missions is the right arm of the BBF.**

*Fred Donnelson*

**The best ability that a missionary can have is stick-ability.**

*Jack Bridges*

**Bloom where you are planted.**

*Barbara & David Lingo*

**He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.**

*Jim Elliot*

**The light that shines farthest, shines brightest at home.**

**Don't tell me what your pastor said. What does the Bible say?**

**Preach the Word.**

*R. O. Woodworth*

**If there is no absolute to judge society, then society has become the absolute.**

*Francis Schaeffer*

**Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.**

*William Carey*

**If I can talk you out of going to the mission field, then don't go.**

*Fred Donnelson*

**Be sure that God has called you and given you a special love for the people.**

*Elmer Deal*

**Failure is not final if you get back up.**

**Think what we can do together.**

*Carl Boonstra*

**Why stoop to be a king, when you could be a missionary?**

*Jack Baskin*

**The calling is the enabling.**

**Culture is a prison of disobedience.**

*Lingenfelter*

## Missionary Training: closing thoughts

Jon Konnerup • BBFI Mission Director

For 63 years the Baptist Bible Fellowship International has been spreading the truth of God's Word globally. We have had missionaries in 110 different countries. Because our churches are fulfilling the Great Commission given by Jesus, the missionaries they send out are involved in the most important endeavor given to man. Understanding this awesome responsibility, we have endeavored to place our best on the front lines of this task. The goal of our pastors and churches has been to send out those with passion for the lost and a pursuit of excellence in planting churches worldwide. These ministries today span the globe cross-culturally. Training national leaders through discipleship and formal education on the field has yielded amazing results, multiplying the efforts of the BBFI.

All of these great results for God's glory stem from a proven process we have followed these many years. We believe the local church is the scriptural sending agency where the process begins. It is the Holy Spirit who calls faithful members to a specific work that

He has prepared for them. The local church trains and discipless them, recognizes their call, and then tests them as individuals for future missionary work including them in different aspects of the ministry. The church then typically sends them off to Bible college, which focuses them exactly on what God has called them to do, and prepares them for that work. Upon graduation from college, their preparation continues in the context of the local church. After a one-year internship back in their own church, or in another one, they are passed on to the Mission Office. Here, they are screened and further equipped for the specific task of starting churches overseas. Then, the church sends them to where God has called them.

We at the BBFI Mission Office see the importance of the task before us and we recognize the process that begins with a call, and eventually leads to an arrival in a different culture with the gospel. Therefore, we desire to see the best-trained and prepared missionaries go to the regions beyond. The task before us is of eternal consequence for people around the world.



# URBAN CURRENT

## Out my window

**"O**ut my window" sounds funny when you stop and listen to the phrase. Is it correct? Sounds all wrong grammatically. I'm missing a preposition. Should it be "Out of my window?" "Out through my window?" or "From my window?" Okay, maybe "out my window" is just one of those colloquialisms or slang phrases that become part of our language. Anyway, "out my window" is not referring to the movement of anything from inside to the outside through my window. It references what I've witnessed looking out my window.

Unnumbered street altercations have gotten me up from my desk. I heard yelling, the kind you immediately know is angry. It's intense, raw, edgy. I looked out my second-story window just in time to see a woman, screwdriver gripped in her upraised hand, running up behind a man who had his back to her. He was digging around in the trunk of his car. There was no time to yell, to do anything. At the last possible second, he turned, knocking her arm sideways. A tussle ensued accompanied by quite a colorful soundtrack.

I remember looking out my window, my eye drawn to the wall that overlooks the alley entrance 100 feet away. Overnight someone had spray painted over all the other gang graffiti, "FREAKY RIP." Later in the day, I learned the guy I knew as Freaky, living a couple doors away from our church building, had locked himself in the garage the night before with a running engine.

It was a dull thud or pop. I looked out my window in time to see a car pulled very close to the next parked car. The new arrival had busted the passenger window of the next car over with a bat or pipe wrapped in a blanket. In a moment, he crawled through his open window and through the window he had just broken, to wrench the stereo from the dashboard. Mind you, this was just seconds ... pulling in close to the other car, breaking the window, crawling in,

ripping the radio out, dropping back into his driver's seat, squealing back into the street, and taking off. There was no time for me to react, dial 911, or barely comprehend what I had just witnessed. If there were Olympic events for this kind of thing, this guy was gold for sure!

Out my window streams of police cars are racing by. Looks like a parade. Somebody told me when you see that many cops going that crazy you know it's one of their own in trouble. I've watched innumerable fire trucks of all shapes and sizes, ambulances, squad cars, paddy wagons, and unmarked vehicles, lights flashing, screaming down Kedzie Boulevard.

Out my window I see the basement apartment in the building across the street. I got up one New Year's Day and heard there had been a fire in a basement apartment on Kedzie Boulevard. Five children died in that blaze. I remember the inner agony that news report caused me. I thought about the children, the mother trapped in the flames, the smoke, the aftermath. I'm reminded of them when I see that basement apartment out my window.

I hear on the news that President Bush is coming to speak at a dinner downtown. I'm listening to the reporter as he says, "The president has just left O'Hare Field." Our church building is on a line between O'Hare Airport and downtown. Moments later I hear the thump, thump, thump, thump of large helicopters. I look out the window and see the two-helicopter presidential fleet pass probably within 300-400 yards of my window. I pray for the president.

Not infrequently these days, as I look out my window, I marvel over our neighborhood's dramatic changes. We watched the ghetto tenement across the street go condo. A complete gut. Everything brand-spanking new. Then the *For Sale* signs. Next, the new owners arriving, looking quite unlike the people who used to live there. Our neighborhood has gentrified block by block. The city has been changing neighborhood

by neighborhood. Our area is just one more of those close-to-downtown neighborhoods overwhelmed by the tsunami of urban gentrification, yuppie money, and hipster cool. Who are all these white people? I didn't know there were this many left in the country.

Out my window, I have seen our creaking, battered church bus empty itself of scores and scores (I know, that's illegal) of kids and young people gathered from the highways and byways of Chicago's toughest neighborhoods arriving for VBS.

Out my window I watched the kids from our Christian school run up and down the boulevard parkway, have a blast, then sit in a circle in the grass for Bible study and prayer. Out my window I have watched the news trucks from all the major stations crowd the curb on Easter Sunday morning, getting ready to assist us in evangelism. Out my window I have seen the street blocked and filled with school children and parents for our back-to-school events. Out my window I have seen countless cars and vans pull up disgorging humanity from dozens of nations arriving for Bible study and church services.

Out my window I see God at work in my devil-bound city.

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





# HISTORY

# BAPTIST

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## ROBERT SMITH – The Courageous Martyr

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I could find no record of Robert Smith's parents or the time and place of his birth, however, his education and position in society clearly indicates he came from a family of wealth and influence in the 1500s. At the time of his arrest, it is believed he was a teacher at Eaton. His conversion probably occurred as the result of being given a Tyndale translation of the Latin New Testament and several of Tyndale's books.

Smith's study of the Scriptures soon earned him the reputation as a Bible scholar. His commitment to Christ and his defense of the truth exposed him to the attention of the ecclesiastical authorities, which led to his arrest for heresy in the fall of 1555. He was initially imprisoned in London. But shortly after his arrival, he was sent to be interrogated by the Bishop of London, better known as Bloody Bonner. During the reign of Mary the First from 1553 until her death in 1556, more than 300 men and women were martyred for their faith. Bishop Bonner was the most active and sadistic participant in this bloody massacre. Smith's appearance before Bonner is recorded in *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. It is impossible to print Smith's complete interrogation but I would like to examine Smith's beliefs about the church, the sacrament of the altar, and baptism.

In their first meeting Bonner asked Smith, "When was the last time you went to confession and participated in the sacrament of the altar?"

Smith replied, "I have not attended since my conversion and by the grace of God, I never will."

Bonner asked him what he believed about the church.

Smith stated, "I believe there is one Catholic church or faithful congregation, which as the apostle said is built upon the prophets and apostles, Christ Jesus being the head corner-stone, and the Scripture is its only authority in matters of faith and practice, and by the grace of God I am made a member."

Smith continued to explain that just as persecution forced the early church to meet secretly, "... the persecuted

church in England does the same today" (his day).

Bonner, frustrated by Smith's answer, asked him, "Well what sayeth thou about the sacrament of the altar? Is it not the very body of Christ, flesh, blood, and bone, as it was born of the virgin?"

Smith replied, "It is not God's ordinance as you practice it. The bread and wine are just that, bread and wine. They are intended to remind us of Christ's death."

Bonner angrily warned Smith that if he did not renounce his faith and return to the Church he would be burned for heresy. To which Smith responded, "You shall burn in hell if you do not repent."

**Bonner angrily warned Smith that if he did not renounce his faith and return to the Church he would be burned for heresy. To which Smith responded, "You shall burn in hell if you do not repent."**

Bonner then began to question Smith about baptism. It did not take the inquisitor long to discover that Smith rejected both infant baptism and baptismal regeneration. Bonner stated, "I believe if a child dies before they are baptized they are damned."

Smith, "You shall never be saved by that belief." Smith then asked Bonner, "Are we saved by water or by Christ?"

Bonner, "By both."

Smith, "Then the water died for our sins; and must possess life. This means that water, which God created

for our benefit, has become our Saviour. It is wicked to terrify parents by telling them their child is damned if they are not baptized." Smith sarcastically continued, "My Lord, that is a good doctrine, is it not?" Smith explained that baptism preaches to us the death and resurrection of Christ, and salvation can only be obtained by faith in Christ.

Bonner, unable to confuse Smith, finally in frustration condemned him to death for heresy. It is obvious that Smith and many of his fellow sufferers held Baptist beliefs; even Bonner admitted that several of the prisoners agreed with Smith's doctrine. This evidence proves that Baptists existed in England prior to the 1600s.

Robert Smith spent the last weeks of his life writing letters to family and friends, full of hope and encouragement. On August 8, 1555, Robert Smith finished his earthly life with courage and grace. Bloody Bonner did not escape the justice of God. In 1558, Queen Elizabeth came to the throne, and she had Bonner arrested and thrown into prison where he died.

by Thomas Ray



# Homecoming



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

American Homecoming celebrations often include parades, parties, and a ball game. Homecoming is a special time for alumni and friends to return to a place that was very special in their lives. It is a time to remember, attend class reunions, and catch up with old friends and family. It is a festive time with lots of time spent laughing and eating.

I grew up in Albion, MI, a small town and home of Albion College. Every fall the town would swell as alumni from all over the country came to celebrate Homecoming. Their annual trek was not about what they would get; it was not about what they would give; it was simply about going back to remember, to be encouraged, and to renew old friendships.

Some discuss whether Fellowship Week is important. Some say it is not worth the expense; some say they don't take away anything valuable; some say it is not important; some say another conference is better. Could it be that Fellowship Week is an entirely different kind of event? It is not a typical Bible or church-growth conference. I believe it is a very special event — Baptist Bible College's Homecoming.

It is our time to renew friendships, to remember, and to reflect on what the Lord has done. It's a time to catch up, swap stories, share pictures of bad leisure suits and big hair, and maybe even brag a little.

Will we have the latest digital 3-D imaging of our speakers? Not likely. Will you receive the latest in how to change the world by having the coolest coffee bar? Probably not. But, will our speakers share a message that God has laid upon their hearts just for you? Absolutely. Will you be encouraged and burdened to reach more? For this, I pray.

Maybe Fellowship Week is not about all you can get, but about letting the Lord remind you once again what He has done in your life and in your ministry.

This year we are celebrating Homecoming during Fellowship Week on Wednesday, May 15. We are inviting area churches, students, and faculty to participate in a special choir that will perform during the evening service. We would love to have you be part of this! Those interested should contact Nate Harmon, [nharmon@gobbbc.edu](mailto:nharmon@gobbbc.edu), for information.

On this Homecoming night, we will honor a very special couple, Richard and Beverly Boland. They will be receiving the Fellowship Faithfulness Award for their testimony, service, and ministry of godly instruction in our music department throughout the years.

Also, on Wednesday is our Alumni Banquet. At noon (following the morning Missions session) we will gather in the cafeteria for a time of fun, fellowship, and food. There is a lot to know about our newly reorganized Alumni Association so we are asking you to make this event a priority.

We are working hard to make this a great experience — I promise it will be fun and memorable and hope you will join us.

# Wandering with students (and wondering)



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

It was well past 3:30 in the morning. We were 6,000 miles from home, 44 of us, as we rambled off the big boat onto the dark dock. Day six of the Boston Baptist College Study Trip, 2013 edition (see photo on page 27). When we prepare study trips for our students each year, we always wear ourselves out for months planning and covering logistics. We want our Boston students to experience biblical and church history sites that will leave a mark on the heart! But I am keenly aware that when dragging dozens of college undergrads all over the world, off the beaten path, on a shoestring budget, with ambitious itineraries ... you have to cover all the bases or there are more potential problems than I care to imagine.

That is why at 3:31 a.m. on that Saturday morning, as the behemoth "Blue Star Ferry" closed up its doors behind us on that shadowy dock on Greece's Dodecanese Isle called Patmos ... well, my heart was pounding pretty good. I have long ago learned not to let them see me sweat, but this tiny island, in the middle of the night, with so many students. And now we had to wander on foot — at 3:32 a.m. — to a hotel that I wasn't exactly sure how to locate, and hope ... pray ... that all those emails had done their work. It's just a part of the world where most things don't go as you plan or expect.

We slogged up a hill, until after a few hundred yards I saw it ... the Hotel Effie! It was no Hilton, I assure you, but it sure looked beautiful that night. And the lights were on! That meant that the proprietor on that little bump of land in the Aegean Sea was awake. Imagine. Exactly one boat available to Patmos in a five-day window ... one boat to an island that has no airport ... one boat that arrived in the middle of the night? My plan had worked.

Why do we go through so much trouble. Simple, really. We are determined to do everything we can to imprint on our students not only a working knowledge of the Scriptures, but also the compulsion to understand God's Word and take it genuinely to heart. So how could we miss a chance to spend 28 hours on this island where, apparently alone, the last author of the last book of the Bible heard inspired words from God, and wrote them down for successive generations? Think about it! The last spot on earth and the last time God's inspired "voice" was heard.

I wonder, is it worth it? What price would we pay to see an 18-year-old sit on a rock overlooking the sea, and think about being exiled for the testimony of the Lord Jesus, and "being in the Spirit on the Lord's day."

I don't wonder very long. I will be wandering around with some of these same students and a bunch of new ones next spring.



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HARRISON, AR

## Howard and Donna Braymer celebrate 30 years with church

By Sarah Braymer

Nestled in the heart of the Ozark Mountains just a few minutes south of Branson is the place where Howard and Donna Braymer have been devotedly serving for 30 years. Their church, Open Door Baptist Church of Harrison, AR, was the site of a celebration of those 30 years when family, friends, current church members, and former ones gathered.

Howard and Donna received letters of encouragement and congratulations from fellow pastors and ministry friends, and even one from George W. Bush. The day included participation from their three sons — Chad, Jay, and Nathan — all in the ministry themselves.

Howard and Donna grew up in Tyler, TX. They graduated from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, in the mid-1970s, and moved to Arkansas in 1983 with two small boys and dreams of doing big things for God.

The Open Door church has thrived during Howard's pastorate, and the couple became well known as they made Harrison their true

hometown. Howard was a cross-country coach for the high school. Donna was very involved with the school district, serving as a teacher volunteer and an elected school board member for 15 years, and today she is the business editor for the local newspaper. She also writes character-building children's books about Rowdy Raccoon and is able to take her stories and characters into schools, libraries, and hospitals.

Their son Nathan sang at the celebration, and all three of their sons spoke about their parents' faithfulness in the past, present, and future. When asked about the day, Donna said, "It shows God's faithfulness and blessings for this church and encourages us that He isn't finished with us yet."

The couple's sons are all graduates of Baptist Bible College. Chad is the student pastor at Stillwell Bible Baptist Church in Clarksville, AR. He married Jennifer Goodman, and they have three daughters: Chloe,



Howard and Donna Braymer (center front) with their family

Nora, and Chelsea. Jay is part of the South Creek Baptist Church plant in Orlando, FL. He married Sarah Lawrence, and they have two children: Calvin and Landry. Nathan is an associate pastor at Winter Haven Baptist Church in Winter Haven, FL. He married Sarah Hodges, and their daughter's name is Katie. Donna says, "When everyone in the family is in the church business, it's very difficult to spend a weekend together." But this day, they did get together, and she says her cup is still "pouring over" having them there and participating in the service.





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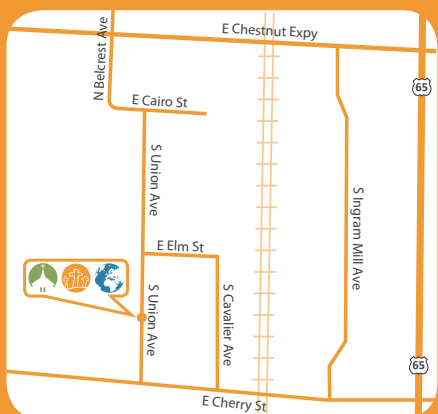
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DEARBORN, MI

## Arabic ministry reaching the Middle East via Michigan

"The Middle East mission field has come to us." That is the view of Dwight Billingsley, speaking from a converted cabinet shop in Dearborn, MI. He says Middle Easterners are arriving in cities in North America, often because of turmoil in the Middle East. The leading receptor of this migration is Detroit, MI, and its suburb Dearborn. With the current political upheaval

in Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon, what was once a trickle of immigrants is now a flood of those wanting to leave the war-torn areas and come to America and Canada.

Dwight and Jeannie Billingsley, who served in the 60s and 70s in Beirut, Lebanon, with the BBFI, have now moved into the heart of this wave of immigration. They could not have

known when Lebanon closed to missionaries during the Lebanese Civil War in 1975 that one day, decades later, they would find themselves working among Lebanese on American soil. God has opened amazing doors for them the past three years, and the churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship are beginning to take note of the opportunity.

Recent Fellowship guests to see this new phase of missions first hand include Jon Konnerup, Mission Director of the BBFI, Pastor Mike Fraser, Vice President of the BBFI, Pastor Dennis Jennings of Cherry Street Baptist Church of Springfield, MO, and longtime missionary consultant Jack Baskin. Billingsley outlined the strategy for reaching Muslims with this group as they were joined by 30 pastors of the Michigan Baptist Bible Fellowship in February. Billingsley encouraged the pastors to help make Michigan a fertile church planting area among the Arabic-speaking people and to financially support the efforts.

The Billingsleys moved into Michigan in 2010, purchasing a building in Clinton Township from Ed Owen, a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Washington, MI, where Ken Burdett is the pastor. The building was previously Owen's cabinet factory. After about five months, the equipment and sawdust were out of the building and modifications began. Since that time the offices have become

*(continued on page 27)*



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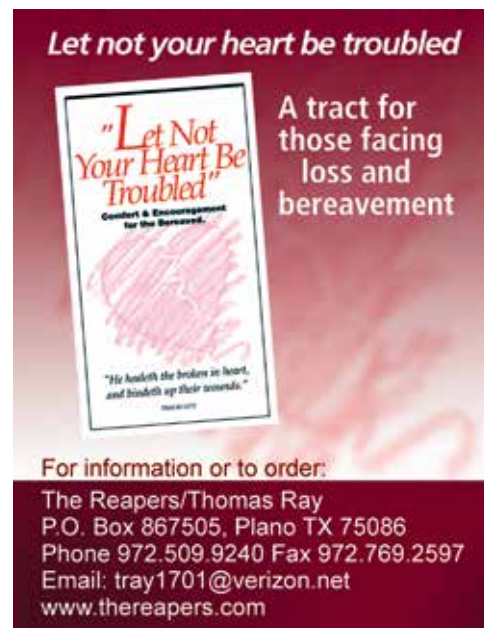
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BOSTON, MA

## Boston Baptist students take study trip



Students from Boston Baptist College during their study trip to Turkey and Greece (see article on page 21)

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## Billingsley (continued)

functional, the television-taping studio for Arabic telecasts has been installed, and work has begun on a chapel, a kitchen, fellowship hall, and Sunday school classrooms. The Billingsleys have put an apartment on the

second floor above the offices. The intent of this building, in addition to planting a church, is to be the ministry center for the Arabic-speaking outreach into Canada and the United States.

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Last July, an unexpected bonus came in the form of a school to teach English to adults from the Middle East. Some associated with the school, begun by Christians who wanted to reach Muslims with the gospel, had known about Dwight and Jeannie and their Baptist Student Center ministry in Beirut years ago. This facility is just a short drive from the largest mosque in North America. Today, 115 adults from the Middle East are studying English four days a week, and have the opportunity to attend a new church plant's Bible study each Sunday evening in the same facility. According to Dwight, about 40 of the students are from Yemen, 35 from southern Lebanon, and the balance of the student body comes from Iraq, Gaza, the West Bank, and Morocco.

Billingsley believes that every church of the BBFI should see this as an opportunity to reach Muslims and other Arabic-speaking people, and get involved. Churches wishing to assist in this ministry may send their gifts through the Baptist Bible Fellowship International, designating them for the Billingsley's Arabic work.

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# Congo civil war prisoner now a pastor

By Elmer Deal with Mike Randall

I have witnessed the sad and tragic effects of civil war in the Congo for much of the 55 years I have served in Africa. Pastor Gregoire, Deacon Constantine, and Deale (my namesake), son of pastor Bulaya Jean, were all killed by rebels in civil uprisings. In February and March of 1999, I was afraid we were going to hear that Desire (pronounced De-zee-ray) Kongolo, his four boys (aged three to 11), and infant daughter suffered the same fate. They were fleeing Rwandan rebels in the bush when Ngoy, Desire's wife, was separated from the family. Ngoy escaped, but he and

and three other adult family members pass through their army to safety. After two days of marching, Desire and his children were free and reunited with Ngoy.

Back in civilization, Desire got a job as an electrician, surrendered to preach, and in 2005 began Golf Baptist Church of Lubumbashi. Besides pastoring a large church, Desire is Chief of Maintenance with the city electric company. I watched him grow up in our main church in Kalemie and now, 14 years after he was delivered from the rebels, I had the privilege to preach in his thriving church. What a blessing to happily relive all God has done for them! What a privilege to carry the gospel to the regions beyond and see what our marvelous God can do.



Kongolo family with Elmer Deal. L to R, Benjamin (20), Auxilia (2), Ger-vanie (14), Esther (11), Desire, Plamedi (9), Ngoy, Beatrice (7), Elmer Deal, Juditte (5), Desire Jr. (22), Albert (17) and Simplice (25). The five oldest children were prisoners of war with their father.

the children were captured and marched several days to a remote location.

Throughout his 45-day ordeal, Desire prayed mightily and comforted his crying children with scripture. He cared for them and reassured them. He fed them with carrots of manioc, gourd leaves, and whatever other prisoners gave him. Finally, after 43 days of misery, fear, and threats, Desire made an impassioned plea to a group of rebel officers to let him go to other villages under rebel control and find some family or friends to help him keep his children alive. Amazingly, and in answer to prayer, God touched the commander, who agreed to let Desire



Golf Baptist Church of Lubumbashi ministers to nearly 1,000 per Sunday. Pastor Desire Kongolo planted the church in 2005.

*Note: You can find the full story of Desire's family's capture and escape in Elmer Deal's autobiography, Out of the Mouth of the Lion.*



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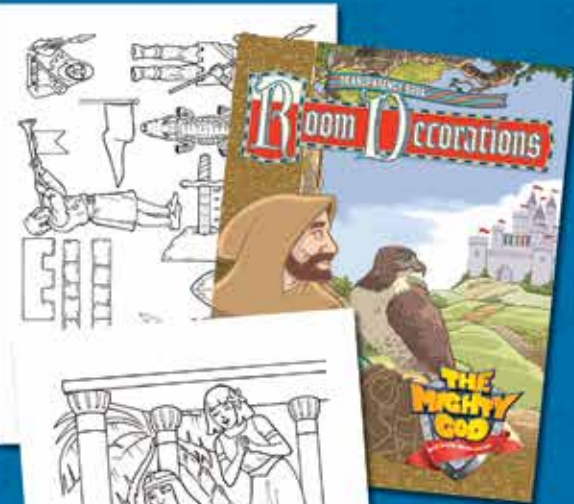


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