

B A P T I S T B I B L E T R I B U N E

MAY 2017



MISSIONS: GETTING EVERY MEMBER INVOLVED



p.7 Global Partners

p.17 60th anniversary for Bible Baptist

p.30 Boston students follow the Gospel

Together

May
8-11²⁰¹⁷

hosted by
Seminole Baptist
Springfield, MO

Because of serious facility issues at BBC, we are working with Pastor Don Baier and Seminole Baptist Temple to plan and host Fellowship Week '17. While planning with Pastor Don it really hit me, "We are better together."

It is our hope that through our time "Together" here in Springfield we can rediscover the power of working together. Please make plans to hear the great speakers, renew old friendships, and have your heart encouraged as we come "Together."

President Mark Milioni

All meetings and graduation will be held at Seminole Baptist

4221 S. National Ave.
Springfield, MO 65810

schedule

Monday

6:30 PM - Alex Himaya
8:30 PM - Food trucks @ Seminole

Tuesday

7:30 AM - Alumni breakfast (\$15)
(Classes of 1950-1979)
Springfield Tower Club
10:00 AM - Barry White and Ted Cunningham
11:30 AM - Business meeting
- Ladies meeting: Shelley Switzer
6:30 PM - Mac Brunson

Wednesday

7:30 AM - Alumni breakfast (\$15)
(Classes of 1980-2000s)
Springfield Tower Club
10:00 AM - Missions morning
6:30 PM - Evening session

Thursday

10:00 AM - BBC graduation: Herb Gilbert

Complete schedule is available at www.bbfi.org and on the BBFI mobile app.

Hotel info:

Hilton Garden Inn (\$124.00)
4155 Nature Center Way

Residence Inn
(\$119.00 – 1-bedroom suite)
(\$169.00 – 2-bedroom suite)
1303 E. Kingsley St.

Holiday Inn Express (\$109.00)
310 E. Montastery St.

Sleep Inn (\$84.00)
233 E. Camino Alto Dr.

Candlewood Suites
(\$89.00 – studio suite)
(\$117.00 – King with kitchen)
1035 E. Republic Rd.

SPEAKERS



ALEX HIMAYA
theChurch.at
Tulsa, OK



TED CUNNINGHAM
Woodland Hills Family Church
Branson, MO



BARRY WHITE
Park Valley Church
Haymarket, VA



MAC BRUNSON
First Baptist Church
Jacksonville, FL



DR. HERB GILBERT
Beacon Baptist Church
Taylor, MI

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ON THE TABLE Missions

by Randy Harp | Editor

If one word summarizes the BBFI more than any other, it is missions. This is true for missionaries, pastors, and church members. This is true for 60-year-old churches as well as church plants. For those who attended Baptist Bible College or Boston Baptist College, it is engrained in the educational requirements. Missions is simply in the DNA of anyone who claims affiliation with our Fellowship. Everywhere I travel representing the *Tribune*, BBFI missions is always discussed and prioritized.

We try to focus on missions in each *Tribune*, but a few times a year we set aside an entire issue on the topic. This is one of those issues. Every Christian has a three-fold responsibility regarding missions — to pray, to give, or to go. In these pages, we give personal examples of each and discuss how we can all be more involved.

As you read this, we are likely just days away from the BBFI National Meeting in Springfield. I love the theme President Milioni has chosen for this meeting — “Together.” Probably what I love about the Fellowship more than anything else is we can accomplish so much more together than we can alone. Over the past year, I have spoken in 20 different churches and in 13 state fellowships. I have seen such a wide variety of methodologies and philosophies of ministry, which I believe is one of our strengths. One thing I’ve learned — we are better together. We are stronger together. We can accomplish more together. We can reach more people together. I pray this will be a unifying meeting — a meeting we will look back on in years to come and celebrate God bringing us all together.

Once again, thank you to those who have partnered with us for the *Tribune’s* Annual Offering. We are still not where we need to be, but are finalizing our plans and vision for where we believe God wants us to go. Please continue to pray for us at the BBFI Communication Office.

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

MISSIONS



Global Partners **7**
Reaching the world with the Gospel is no small task, but the load gets lighter when everyone in the church gets involved.



Bible Baptist celebrates 60 years **17**
The church that grew out of the vision Bob Hughes had to reach the Philippines is still a ministry powerhouse in Cebu City.



Not our lucky day **18**
Where is the outrage when states ignore the research and promote legalized gambling? The payout never comes, but the destructive fallout is a sure bet.



Don't miss any of the *Tribune's* digital offerings on our website www.tribune.org.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT A MISSIONS LEGACY

The Baptist Bible Fellowship International has, from its inception, been committed to missions. The key has been local churches working together. Our missionaries have transferred our Fellowship's passion to the leaders they have trained all over the world. Today, the missionary outreach has multiplied as mission fields are now sending their own missionaries.

Recently, I was privileged to speak at the 60th anniversary of the church my wife's father, Bob Hughes, planted in Cebu City, Philippines.

Dr. Armie Jesalva has led this ministry for over 40 years. The evangelistic and church planting emphasis came across loud and clear during this great celebration. This ministry has planted over 400 churches. They have sent missionaries around the world. I met lay leaders in the church who now also pastor churches on nearby islands. Some of them continue to work in their professions during the week and spend their weekends serving as pastors. Evangelism and church planting is what makes this Fellowship so outstanding. The same can be said of the many mission fields all over the world. Our missionaries not only preach the Gospel and plant churches, they also instill within the leaders they train the DNA of the Baptist Bible Fellowship.

Missionaries approved by our Fellowship share their vision and ask churches to partner with them through monthly support. While this idea can seem quite ordinary, done over many years, it delivers amazing results — as seen in the story of Bob Hughes and Dr. Armie Jesalva in Cebu.

Let us not forget the power of local churches standing behind our missionaries to change the world. Missions continues to be our Fellowship's focus.



Eddie Lyons
BBFI PRESIDENT

WORLD MISSIONS AN URGENT MESSAGE

For nearly 67 years, the Baptist Bible Fellowship International has spread God's Word globally — at times in as many as 110 different countries. Our churches and the missionaries they send are involved in the most important endeavor given to man. Realizing this awesome responsibility, we have tried to place our best on the front lines — sending those with a passion for the lost and a pursuit of excellence in planting churches. As a result, cross-cultural ministries span the globe today, and training national leaders through discipleship and formal education has yielded a tremendous outcome, multiplying the BBFI's efforts.

These results stem from a proven process that begins with the local church as the scriptural sending agency. The Holy Spirit calls faithful members to a work he has prepared for them. The local church recognizes their call and begins the training and discipleship process, testing and preparing them for future missionary work by exposing them to an array of ministry experiences. The church then sends them to Bible college to further prepare them for the work to which God has called them. After a one-year internship or through the TEAM program, these individuals present themselves to the Mission Office and the

Fellowship for approval where they are screened and prepared for the tasks of evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. After completing deputation to raise financial support, they begin their adventure on the field.

We must recognize the importance of the process that begins with God's calling and yields well-trained and prepared missionaries who will arrive on the field ready to reach the regions beyond.



Jon Konnerup
BBFI MISSION DIRECTOR

BBFI LEADERSHIP

CHURCH PLANTING PRESENTATION IS PARAMOUNT

As a church planter, you need to consider your appearance, attitude, countenance, and the spirit of your message when delivering it. The following four elements of preparation will determine the outcome of your message.

Prayer: This is not the congenial prayer you give just before you begin your message. This prayer is for direction of purpose. Why are you giving this message? This is a prayer of subject matter. This is a prayer to help you contextualize and exegete the text from which you are about to speak. This is a prayer for passion for your subject.

Power: This is an anointing of power from the Holy Spirit — a power that exhibits the presence of God in the individual life. This allows people to say they have been with God when they leave the service. We are talking about an unction and power only God can give to the planter as he presents the message.

Presence: You must be there! You must be present in your countenance and expression. Your eyes are wide open; your shoulders are leaning forward; you're standing on the tips of your toes. You show you are glad to be there, you are present in the moment, and you have come to present the most

important message in the entire world.

Presentation: Without a doubt, the church planter's most important tool is his presentation from the pulpit on Sunday morning. Nothing is more important for reaching people and for bringing them back than the manner in which you are prepared, received, and perceived in the pulpit. The presentation of your message must be preceded in prayer, anointed in power, and have a presence of urgency.



John Gross
BBFI CHURCH PLANTING (APEX)

Baptist Bible College. Local churches. Mission Office. BBFI missionaries. The *Tribune*. We all strive to reach the world for Christ, each with our own methods, resources, and leaders. We often forget we are not alone.

We are better together.

Our college exists to train leaders to serve in our churches and on the mission field. Our churches send students who become the next generation of ministry leaders. Our Mission Office serves to support those who have been sent. Our missionaries are supported prayerfully and financially by our churches. We depend on each other. We are better together.

Plan to join us in Springfield

May 8-11 as we work “Together” to bring you Fellowship Week 2017. Due to boiler issues in the W. E. Dowell Fieldhouse, we are working with Pastor Don Baier and Seminole Baptist Temple to host this great event. The meeting begins on Monday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Seminole.

It is my hope Fellowship Week helps us rediscover the power of working “Together” to accomplish one goal — sharing the Gospel with the world. The week will offer great music, challenging speakers, opportunities to reconnect with old friends and fellow alumni, and a chance to come “Together” to be challenged to do great things for God.

Our speakers for the week include Mac Brunson, Ted Cunningham, Herb Gilbert, Alex Himaya, Shelley Switzer, and Barry White. Special events include alumni breakfasts, a women’s breakout session, and a coaching opportunity. For complete details and to register, visit www.gobbbc.edu.

Our May Offering emphasis is the current Fieldhouse HVAC need. Please consider how you can be part of this very important need.

We are better together.



Mark Milioni
BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

PERSPECTIVES

MISSIONS

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE **CHANGE OF STATUS**

I’m looking at Greece differently. *Koine* — New Testament Greek, was my minor in college. To this day I love to work on difficult texts by studying the original language. It’s a link from my own student days to now. Boston study trips will, no doubt, serve the same purpose for our students.

These are not glorified vacations but learning on steroids! And it’s for head and heart. Greg is a freshman, new to the faith, and excited about the Lord. He made me laugh as we stood on the long uphill stretch of the *Via Egnatia*, the ancient Roman road that led into Philippi. I was catching my breath (I hoped he would think

I was just being contemplative) when Greg said, “This is the way they came. Up this road. We are tracking the Gospel coming our way!” He was spot on. With eyes and feet, we were as close to Paul and Silas as possible.

For Thiago, Greece meant “Revelation.” On the isle of Patmos, I’m not sure Thiago left our little hotel much. He sat on a veranda, on a mission to read the entirety of The Revelation “on location” (as we say in study trip talk). The hotel owner even pulled me aside and asked if Thiago needed anything, he just seemed to read, talk out loud (I’m sure he was praying), and at one point he actually cheered and clapped! Our host

didn’t understand why a young man would do that instead of explore the shops and food stands. I understood. Thiago was experiencing the unveiling of the King of Kings, not so differently than John did! Greg and Thiago and others got it right. This was Greece as ministry education. The Boston way.

I hope you will read Bill Smith’s play-by-play (page 30) of our recent study trip with Boston students to Greece.

He is a pastor and professor who traveled with us and gives you the highlights.



David Melton
BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE PRESIDENT

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Baptist Bible College

2017 MAY OFFERING PROJECT

THE WALLS CRY OUT

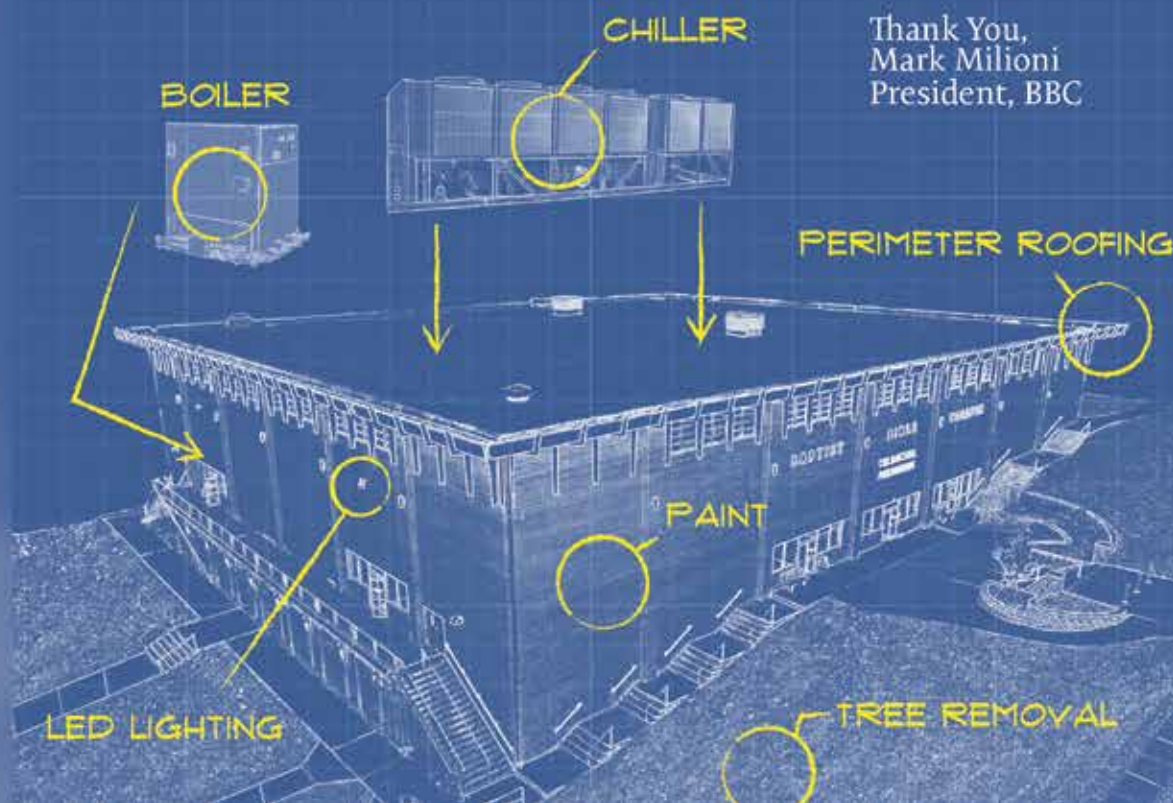
The Fieldhouse was built in 1968 and its location on the historic Route 66 makes it one of the most visible buildings in north Springfield. Unfortunately, it is not a pretty sight. The building has become an eyesore due to cosmetic needs which result from structural issues with the roof. The roof must be repaired in order to address the greatest need of the building, completely replacing the heating and cooling (HVAC) system, which is beyond repair.

This building still has a story to tell. What will it be?

We have put together a plan to address these needs. These proposed improvements would revitalize this beloved building and restore its functionality. The cost is steep. The original estimate to repair the roof, replace the HVAC, and update the exterior was \$1,250,000. Thanks to a local contractor and a donation from a local hospital, the remaining amount needed is \$500,000. This building still has a story to tell - will you help it to be a story of victory, of how we all came together to restore this special place?

For more information please contact me by email at president@gobbcc.edu or by phone at (417) 268-6008. To give a gift online, please visit gobbcc.edu

Thank You,
Mark Milioni
President, BBC





INVOLVING EVERY MEMBER

MISSIONS

INTRODUCTION

Jon Konnerup
BBFI Mission Director

Missionaries encounter many interesting obstacles as they serve on the mission field. They face the largest task ever – to reach the world. They face the strongest enemy – Satan himself. However, they carry the most important message – the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As they go, we must do our best to send them. We should either go to the foreign field or help send others to the foreign field.

In the book of Philippians, followers of Christ are commanded to get involved in sending and supporting our missionaries. This means all members of every church should be involved. You see, when church members personally get involved in missions, God uses them in ways they could never have imagined.

- Every church member should participate in world missions – Philippians 1:5
- We should demonstrate care for our missionaries – Philippians 1:7-9
- Praying on behalf of our missionaries is a necessity – Philippians 1:19
- We should communicate with our missionaries – Philippians 2:17-18
- We must support them financially to keep them on the field – Philippians 4:10, 14-16

In the late 1700s, William Carey, considered to be the father of modern missions, was beginning a new mission movement. He spent 40 years in India proclaiming Christ to the Hindus and pioneering many of the methods missionaries use today.

None of Carey's accomplishments would have been possible without the help of dedicated Christians back home. Andrew Fuller recalled Carey's request for help when he volunteered for the mission to India:

We saw that there was a gold mine in India, but it was as deep as the center of the earth. I asked, "Who will venture to explore it?" Carey replied, "I will venture to go down, but remember that you must hold the ropes."

Through the years, supporters firmly held the lifeline that sustained Carey and his family through difficult times of loneliness, defeat, and numerous attacks. The example of these faithful senders challenges us to consider how well we are holding the ropes for our missionaries.

We must all be willing to make sacrifices in reaching the lost. When our people are led to participate in missions, God moves upon their hearts to go, pray, and give.

GIVING

A CALL TO MISSION GIVING

Eddie Lyons

Pastor, High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

Raising money for missions is a key component to a worldwide mission program in a church. To grow a mission program means to grow the base of givers. Here are some thoughts we keep in mind as we work to do this.

Tell the stories.

People in our churches have stories of how the Gospel came to them. Nothing touches us more than to hear how God used people and circumstances to bring them to faith in Jesus. The mission of the church is to share this life-changing message with people in our cities and around the world. At High Street, we tell the stories with a brief video testimony each time we baptize someone. These stories reinforce the importance of sharing the Gospel. When our missionaries share the stories of people who have come to faith, it compels us to give.

Sustain the focus.

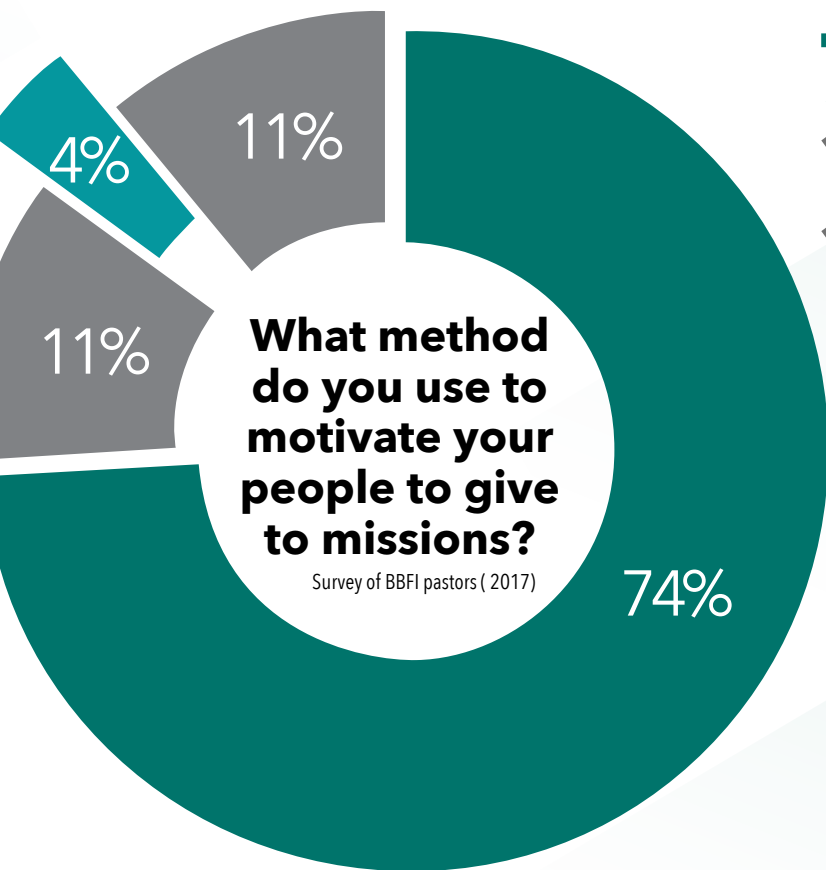
We try to keep the mission program of our church constantly in the forefront of what we talk about. We pray for missionaries in the service as we send them out. We plan regular mission-focused Sunday night events. We also use social media to keep our people connected to our missionaries. Our yearly World Project Conference is a whole week where we feature missionary guests. The culmination of the week is our commitment Sunday where people are challenged to give weekly offerings to missions. We have a candlelight portion of that service where people turn in commitment cards and light a candle to symbolize their part in spreading the light of the Gospel to the world. It is inspiring to watch the light fill the room as individuals light their candles.

Speak to the first-time givers.

When we plan our conference, we target people who have never given before. In our experience, people who have carried the bulk of mission giving are ready to give again. Our challenge is focused on those who have never given before.

This year our theme was "give a dollar." We asked those who had never given to start by giving a dollar. We asked those already giving to just add a dollar a week. We know the greatest success is not really the dollar amount given but the number of people who are involved. Recently, I spoke to a young man attending a state college in our town. He said he had never given anything to church before, but when he was challenged to just give a dollar a week, he decided to do it. He went on to describe how God has opened his eyes to see how he can sometimes give even more.

We have seen God bless our efforts to tell the stories, keep the focus, and speak to first-time givers. Mission giving has become a part of who we are as a church.



74% Faith promise
11% Annual commitment
11% Challenge people to give from time to time
4% Church designates percentage from General Budget

GIVING TO MISSIONS ON THE MISSION FIELD

Vernon and Mary Smith
 BBFI Missionaries, Tanzania, East Africa

Being a grandfather is one of the greatest joys in my life. Even though many miles and an ocean separate us, I think of those little guys basically every day! They are our legacy as we have passed the torch of faith to our children, and now our children to the grandchildren.

Likewise, we as church planters have the joy of passing the torch of faith to national men and women here in Tanzania. One of the most important torches we have passed to others is the torch of *Ahadi ya Imani* (Swahili), or faith promise missions, to further church planting. Our city church in Arusha, Tanzania, currently supports five church planters here in Tanzania and two foreign missionaries through the faith promise mission program. This is over and above their tithes and other offerings.

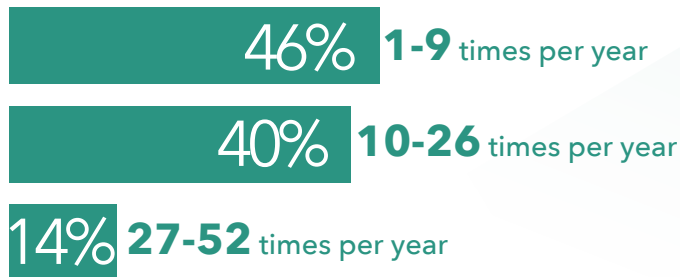
In a developing country like Tanzania, it would be normal to wonder if people can give more than their tithes, especially when they are financially challenged in the economy here. The answer is yes! Not only are they giving to the faith promise mission program, many people have learned the joy of giving faithfully in other areas of their lives as well. We have ladies who count their faith promise offering ten cents at a time as they take in sewing or extra cleaning jobs to fulfill their commitment to the Lord each week.

Also, our church planters and missionaries send prayer letters to us that are read in the services and posted in the auditorium in special display cases. There is a yearly mission conference highlighting the missionaries and their work. You see, it's a legacy American churches are passing on. In a very real way, these faith promise mission churches here in Tanzania are your grandchildren in the faith and in this mission endeavor.

Physically, and spiritually, I am praying for more grandchildren!

How many times do you promote giving to missions during the year?

Survey of BBFI pastors (2017)



"You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving."

— Amy Carmichael (1867-1951), Missionary to India

SURRENDER

IT HAS TO BE PERSONAL

Lonnie Lehrman

Pastor, Granbury Baptist Church, Granbury, TX

As church leaders, we can't expect our congregations to do what we are not willing to model ourselves. I would imagine everyone reading this article has his or her own surrender story. For me it was in 1987, at Baptist Bible College, during opening week ceremonies. A. V. Henderson made this statement, "God is still looking for someone to totally surrender all of themselves for the work of the ministry." He went on to ask, "Will you be that person?" Though he was speaking to a large crowd, I felt he was speaking directly to me. Before the formal invitation was even given, I made my way to the front of the stage where I knelt and said, "I surrender. Please use me in any way you want to use me." I still go back physically to that place where I first surrendered, and other times I go back to that place in my mind's eye, to be reminded of how important a moment that was.

We desire the members of our churches to follow our lead and make a similar commitment. For our people to follow us as we follow Christ and model surrendered lives, we also need to talk about surrender. I believe our congregations need to hear other stories and testimonies of surrendered lives. When they see us modeling surrendered lives (by the grace of God) and hear other stories and testimonies of surrender, hopefully

they will be willing to follow when we do the third step of surrender. This third step is asking folks to totally surrender. Many of us model surrender and talk about surrender, but the crucial step is asking for our folks to surrender. I believe there is gold in our pews and seats. I believe some folks won't respond until we ask them to jump in with both feet. It is our responsibility to ask the hard questions.

Luke 17:33 "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it."

To many, surrender seems like a negative term. It is incorrectly viewed as if you are giving in and at a loss. However, truth is, surrender is the only way to victory. When you surrender yourself to the Father, you lose yourself and gain the perfect plan He has for you.

I encourage all of you to be willing to model, preach, teach, and expect surrender.



"If a commission by an earthly king is considered a honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?"

*– David Livingstone (1813-1873)
Missionary to Africa*

FULL CIRCLE

Lance & Melanie Gotcher

BBFI Missionaries to the Philippines

When we went to the Philippines in September 2000, we had so many plans and dreams for our ministry. As usual, the Lord went far beyond what we could have hoped.

Building on the work Eddie and Cindy Lyons had already done at Sumulong Baptist Church, we wanted to teach our people missions was not just an American responsibility – it's a privilege every Christian can be involved in. To go beyond that and help send a missionary family to the field has been the pinnacle for us as missionaries.

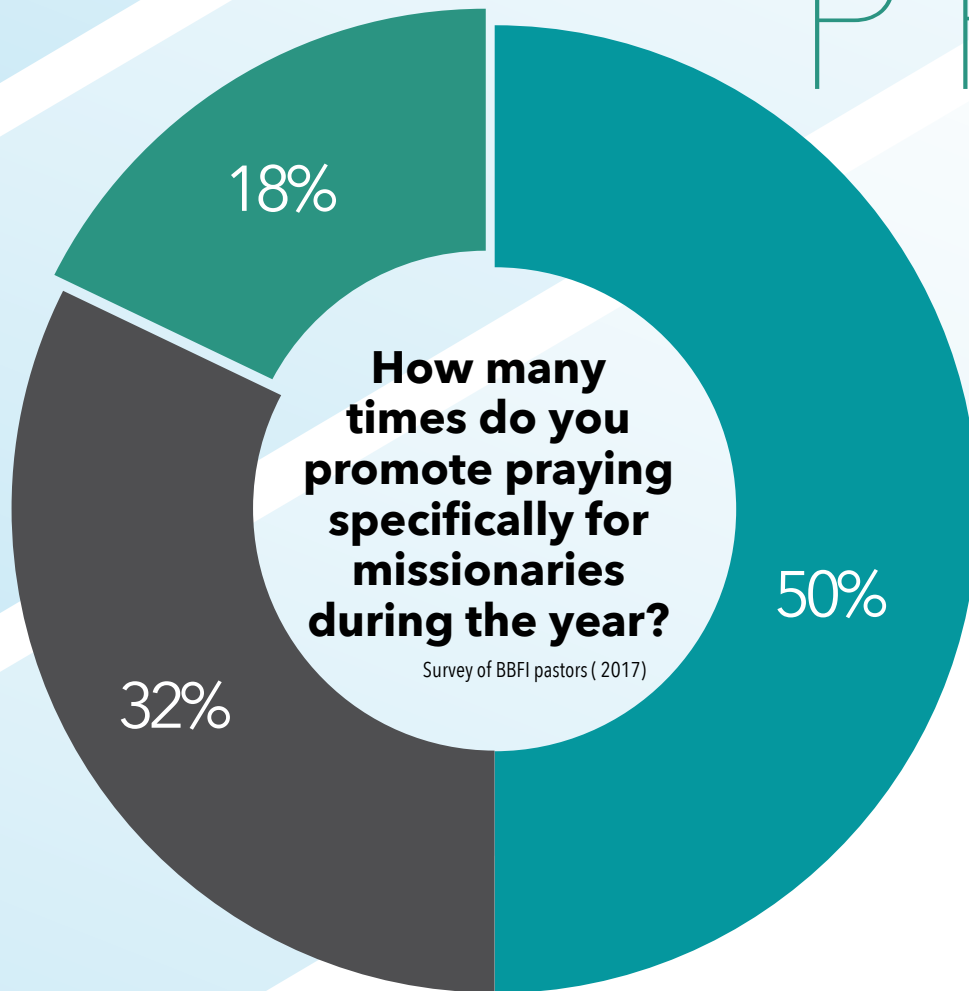
Edu and Joy Tamayo were one of the first couples to come to our first home Bible study. They began serving more faithfully in our church and God called them to be foreign missionaries. Edu

came on staff with us, helped launch two church locations, and then the Tamayos were approved by Asia Baptist Clearinghouse to the field of Cambodia. Our members were so excited that 19 of us went with the Tamayos to help get them settled on the field. We searched Phnom Penh for a vehicle their family could use and helped them purchase it that day. The road ahead looked bright, but only God knew what He would accomplish through this family.

Fast-forward 10 years. I went to visit our missionaries in February 2017, and what a difference a decade can make! What an amazing blessing to visit their works. The Tamayos will soon have six church locations. We have helped support the church in Prevang province for many years and our church even helped them build a small church building.

On this trip, I travelled to a new area called Udang where

PRAYER



18% 1-9 times per year
32% 10-26 times per year
50% 27-52 times per year

PRAYING FOR MISSIONARIES

Tim Taylor

Pastor, Victory Baptist Church, Vergennes, VT

As I was asked to write an article on praying for missions, it reminded me of sitting under Elmer Deal (Bwana Deal) in the late 1970s at BBC. He was such a passionate missionary. For a pastoral student, BBC could not have done a better job instilling a love for missions and missionaries. We knew we needed to pray for, support, and encourage BBF missionaries. We knew one day we would be called to lead our churches to do the same.

Now, having been a senior pastor for 32 years and a BBFI field rep for eight years, I have seen and understand the importance of prayer for our missionaries. In the New Testament epistles, we find three pointed texts where those early missionaries requested prayer for themselves. As we approach 1 Thessalonians 5:25, the context is a challenge to sincere and consecrated Christian living, followed by the simple request, "Brethren, pray for us." This is akin to Hebrews 13:18, "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly." Our missionaries are in the thick of the battle. Their personal faith and walk must be maintained if they are to be a light upon the hilltop beckoning to those who are lost in a sin-darkened world. Faced with trials and testings that could shipwreck the most diligent, we need to pray our missionaries will stay true. The third text that so boldly asks for prayer is found in 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2, "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men." Clearly, missionaries desperately need prayers for protection from the opposition forces and for Holy Spirit power in preaching.

Pastors with a heart for missions know it is essential

a young Bible college graduate is pastoring a church. Through our efforts in the Philippines with MANNA Worldwide, we'll start a nutrition center in a public school there that will open up more ministry doors in this community. We'll also help with this pastor's salary and other needs for a short time, all funded from a Filipino church.

The car we bought 10 years ago is on its last kilometers. One of our goals at our mission conference this year is to help the Tamayos buy a new vehicle. As I came back and shared the need with some of our people, they were excited. Why? Because these are *our* missionaries.

We have another family on our church staff praying about going to Romania as missionaries. Another is praying about Vietnam, and two others aren't sure yet where God is calling them.

Our mission giving has quadrupled over the past 10 years. People are excited to send out missionaries from the Philippines. That heart to give has also come full circle. Pastor Edu told me his church now gives around \$125 per month to missions! They are supporting and sending their own in Cambodia. Hopefully, one day, they'll send out their own Pastor Edu.

they cast the vision and motivate their people to give and pray. Every annual mission emphasis month or conference must press both. Each week at Victory Baptist, our bulletin has a featured missionary – not just a name and country, but with colored highlights and extra information. Their prayer letters are often referred to in sermons and the people are challenged to read the letter and pray for the missionaries. The church is reminded our missionaries are part of our church family by frequent visits from our missionaries. When we put together a bi-annual mission trip, our supported missionaries take priority. VBC people know them because we have been there. When we do a church directory, our missionaries are in it, and our website has our missionaries on it. When you enter our foyer, there is a large metal world map on the wall. Visiting missionaries put their displays under it.

Prayer is the lubrication that keeps the mission machine running. Just like mission giving, you cannot promote prayer halfheartedly. Promote it like your missionary's life depends on it, because it does.

IMPACT OF PRAYER

Mike & Pam Hillhouse
BBFI Missionaries to Burkina Faso

Intercessory prayer has always been a coveted resource by missionaries even though we don't always understand its impact. For example, I often wonder how many times the Lord has protected me from hitting a bicycle, motorcycle, donkey, etc. as we battle the crazy traffic here in Ouagadougou.

That said, there are times the Lord allows us to feel and see the direct impact of those prayers. One of the most difficult situations we had to deal with in ministry was a land dispute with a group of Wahabi Muslims. They seized a piece of property given to us by the government for a church plant and MANNA feeding center. Over four years, the situation escalated to the point of them trying to sue us, their court order leading to rioting, and our name being slandered on a local radio station. It was discouraging. However, every time we felt like throwing in the towel, the Lord gave us the grace and peace to persevere.

On several occasions, we received messages from friends and supporters letting us know they had prayed for us that day. I can't tell you how many times that happened on days when we really needed it. Prayer support is invaluable to the success of missions, and each of us can participate in it.



Since the days of Pentecost, has the whole church ever put aside every other work and waited upon Him for ten days, that the Spirit's power might be manifested? We give too much attention to method and machinery and resources, and too little to the source of power.

Hudson Taylor (1832-1905)
Missionary to China

IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Max & Debbie Harmon
BBFI Missionaries to Peru

Debbie, my wife, has said many times to supporters and friends, "Your financial support got us to the field, but your prayer support has kept us there." In 35 years as missionaries, the importance and effectiveness of prayer cannot be overemphasized. It always concerns us when an old prayer warrior goes on to glory because I know he or she kept our names constantly before the throne of grace.

Novalene Ray, Debbie's mother, effectively prayed for us many years. I believe Novalene doubled down on her prayers when all missionaries had to face terrorism in the early 1990s. Sendero Illuminoso put a price on my head back then, but I am still alive because of prayer for my safety.

Dionne, our oldest daughter, graduated from a high school that was mainly for children of ambassadors in Lima. The school waived very expensive fees to have a native English speaker in the classroom her senior year. An almost impossible answer to prayer.

Our six-year-old son, Cade, had the same gun held to his temple that shot missionary Tom Brown. Cade now serves in the Army defending our country. Shay, our youngest daughter, contracted typhoid fever in Lima and had a temperature that reached 106 degrees. She is now a healthy mother living stateside.

So, you see prayer warriors, you help keep our families safe and on the field!

IMPLICATIONS OF PRAYER

Craig & Fran Lingo

BBFI Missionaries to Colombia

In the late 1980s, Pablo Escobar and a group of drug lords called *Los Extraditables* issued a threat to kill five Americans for every person extradited to the United States. Mission agencies called their missionaries and many boarded flights out of the country. People were praying for us, and since we felt no direct threat, we decided to stay in Colombia. As I headed home from driving a missionary friend to the airport, I asked myself, "Craig, are you doing the right thing?" Just then, the cassette I put in the radio began playing Amy Grant's "Angels Watching Over Me." Immediately God's peace flooded my heart! When I memorized Philippians 4:6-7 in my Sunday school class as a six-year-old boy, I had no idea how helpful those verses would become all these years later!

After the drug cartels came the guerrillas and the paramilitary organizations. We have been in Colombia 44 years ... there has been some kind of conflict for 52 years. We have never known peace! God calls me to pray for kings, and for all who are in authority, that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. Then God explains why: Because He wants all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. It is in the interest of missions that I pray for peace, but I also know true peace will only come when God reigns forever and ever!

What are some ways you encourage your people to pray for your missionaries?

Survey of BBFI pastors (2017)

1. Missions Mondays in which we encourage folks to pray for the weekly missionary at a set time that day.
2. Selected missionaries each week in the church bulletin along with excerpts from most recent letter.
3. Display prayer letters.
4. We hand out a prayer booklet that has all of our missionaries' names and countries as well as an article titled "How to pray for your missionaries."
5. Give a printed set of prayer cards to each family.

CONNECTING

SENT TEAMS

Dennis Jennings

Pastor, Cherry Street Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

The church's mission is the Great Commission! The responsibility to share the light of the glorious Gospel does not stop at the boundaries of our city, county, or metro area. As the church at Antioch sent out Paul and Barnabas, so our church needs missionaries to take the Gospel to the lost around the world. We can't do what the Lord has called us to do without partnering with missionaries from like-minded churches. But it is not enough to just support missionaries sent from other churches. Every church ought to pray God would call someone from their congregation so they can send their own missionaries into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.

There are many challenges for any pastor who takes missions seriously – vetting new missionaries, promoting and funding mission endeavors, and assimilating the communications received from supported missionaries. These all take more time than most busy pastors have to give in any day. Add to that the greater responsibility of those missionaries sent from the church, and it can become daunting.

I was introduced to the concept of "Sent Teams" at an equipping event at Heritage Baptist Church, Lynchburg, VA. The idea is simple: Give church members the opportunity to sign up to be part of a team that communicates with and ministers to the missionaries sent from the church. They meet at least once per quarter to discuss communications, opportunities to serve, and pray for their missionary. Team leaders keep the team connected.

One important thing: our Sent Teams are not fundraisers for the missionaries. Their role is to raise prayer support within our church, provide encouragement, and keep the church and pastor in-the-know about their missionaries. Missionaries have different needs at different times. A Sent Team can help their missionaries by keeping the church aware of their needs.

In the last few months, Sent Teams from CSBC met at the airport to welcome missionaries returning from the field. Others went to help transport luggage and pray with missionaries who were leaving for their place of ministry. Sent Teams have provided dinners for a missionary family who arrived back in the States and even helped coordinate a reunion with their local family. Most recently, Sent Teams organized a going-away reception to close out the last service before the missionaries left for their fields.

Missionaries, church members, and pastors are all winners when Sent Teams are functioning. Sent Teams help the church better serve their missionaries. Church members who serve on Sent Teams have a missionary awareness and focus long after the church's annual mission emphasis is over. The pastor who equips, trains, and challenges the church family to love and care for their missionaries is wise indeed.



"We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer. If we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God's work on behalf of the people for whom we pray."

– Corrie Ten Boom (1892-1983)
Nazi concentration camp survivor

INVOLVING SENIOR ADULTS

Loran McAlister

Sr. Adult Ministry, Friendship Baptist Church, Owasso, OK

From the day I surrendered to be a missionary, missions has been part of my life and ministry. My 18 years as a missionary and 15 years in the BBFI Mission Office only increased that burden. I enjoyed traveling on the weekends preaching missions in our churches. After retiring from the Mission Office, I have enjoyed serving in the senior adult ministry at Friendship Baptist Church in Owasso, OK.

Missions has always been part of Friendship's DNA. From the very first Sunday, missionary giving has been a priority. Because of this, it has been easy for me to promote missionaries and their works in our senior adult ministry.

One main way I keep missions before the class on a regular basis is by sharing stories from our time on the mission field. In each church we started on the field, we taught nationals the importance of giving to support missionary work. When the first church we started sent out its first missionary, the church provided 60 percent of his financial support, moved him to the field, and purchased a van for his ministry. I challenge my class to give sacrificially and encourage them to partner with people around the world who are doing the same.

If we have guest missionaries, I allow them to share their work in our class. The Great Commission teaches every believer ought to be involved in missions. This can be done in several ways. Praying for missionaries, giving to missions, and talking with the missionaries who visit our church. Some of our people have gone on mission trips. From time to time, we have the opportunity to take missionaries out for a meal and I ask class members to join us.

Let me wrap this up with a simple truth: what is important to the teacher will be manifested in his teaching and personal life. You have that influence – use it for the furtherance of the Gospel.

How do you connect students and children to mission work during the year?

Survey of BBFI pastors (2017)

1. Combine our youth ministry with all adult SS classes for missionary presentations
2. Teen mission trips
3. Encourage our youth to spend time with MKs
4. VBS funds are designated to a specific missionary
5. We have a missionary at our junior camp

MISSIONS IN STUDENT MINISTRY

Bryan Hunt

Student Pastor, Capital City Baptist Church, Columbia, SC

The Great Commission is at the very center of God's Word. This means missions should be at the very heart of each ministry of the church and especially a church's student ministry. We incorporate missions in our student ministry to inform, involve, and encourage our students to invest in missions. We strive to accomplish this in different ways.

Inform

There is no better way to educate students than by starting with God's Word and developing a series for your youth group on Biblical missions. In our annual mission conference, students spend time with missionaries for five days hearing burdens, challenges, and needs missionaries have. They also have time before and after each service to talk to missionaries one on one and develop relationships that last even after the conference. We conclude our conference with a prayer service where each student commits to pray for a missionary family each day for one year. We contact missionaries and let them know who their prayer partner for the year is and our students can keep up with the missionary family through social media and missionary prayer letters.

Involve

We put a great emphasis on students serving right here in our church as well as going on our student short-term mission trips. We partner with a missionary we support as our students begin training at least a year in advance. This is an experience unlike any other. Students not only see missions but also get involved in God's work around the world. Students must qualify to go on these trips by attending extensive training, being involved in the ministries of our church, and raising the money needed for the trip. This allows students to see mission work is actually God's work and God will supply the finances and strength they need to do the work of the ministry.

Invest

We teach faith promise missions giving even when students think they only have a little. Another way we get students to invest in missions is to host a mission trip through our inner-city ministry. By hosting a trip, students can invest in leading other students to do the work of the ministry.

We believe God has entrusted us with raising up the next generation of missionaries. That is why we make missions a priority in our student ministry. It is important to implement a plan in your youth ministry so your students will be informed, involved, and invested in worldwide missions.

NEVER TOO YOUNG FOR MISSIONS

Stephanie Loderhouse

Kids Ministry Director, Friendship Baptist Church, Owasso, OK

When involving kids in missions, you must have the support, vision, and passion of your lead pastor. Missions must start from the top and bleed downward to your church family, including your youngest members, the kids!

We provide events and opportunities for our kids to give to missions. Some are big events and some are small ones. Whether the kids are physically rubbing shoulders with a missionary or simply giving a quarter during offering time in kids' church, we try to get our children to understand the vision and importance of giving to missions. We do this in a couple of tangible ways:

All year long kids can give an offering specifically for the missionary kids who will be present in our upcoming mission conference. On missions Sunday, our children present the offering to the missionary kids who attend our conference.

During our mission conference, we want our kids to see "real live missionaries!" We ask our missionary families to come into our kids' Sunday school classes and present their fields to our children. Kids love hearing all about the missionary's country.

During our annual Vacation Bible School, we pick two missionary families to be recipients of the offering. We still have the normal penny offering challenge between the boys and the girls each day, but we also ask at least three teenage boys and three teenage girls to be team captains. The captains have the responsibility to go out in our community and raise money for our missionary families. By the end of the week, babies, toddlers, kids, teenagers, and even adults have given to missions.

The most important thing we can convey to our children about missions is that God can call anyone. We teach our kids that God wants to do something great with them right now. Children are never too young to understand missions or to give to missions. We teach them their role in God's plan for missions. They correctly believe every penny, quarter, and dollar they give will impact missionary families and the people they are trying to reach. Do not underestimate the power of a giving child. God will use them!



CONNECTING TO MISSIONARY KIDS

Jill Wolf, BBFI Mission Office

For missionary kids (MKs) “home” is very difficult to articulate. Growing up abroad, they often do not fully relate to the American culture of their parents. But, as Americans, neither do they seamlessly relate to the culture where they were raised. To varying degrees, most MKs enjoy the benefits of a multi-cultural background, yet they may struggle with identity, mobility, belonging, grief, and loss.

Graduating from high school (on the field) and moving to the U.S. to begin their adult lives, either in college or fulltime work, can be one of the most challenging times for MKs. The BBFI Mission Office is taking steps to help them through this transition stage. We distribute information packets covering critical areas such as college, employment, finances, residency, culture, and church in America. Also, a six-member team within our office connects with over 350 BBFI MKs to fulfill our mission statement to “provide care for our MKs through preparation, ongoing encouragement, and support during transition.”

How can your church help? First, your church can take an active part by implementing the new Kidz4MKz VBS Offering program. Not only will it inspire your children towards missions, but the program also teaches them how they can give to help MKs. Visit www.bbfimissions.com/vbs/ for more details. Second, by designating funds to the MK Program (in addition to your regular giving) you help us provide resources and training for missionary families embarking on this volatile season of transition. Third, every member of your church can take a personal interest and responsibility in making MKs feel welcome and comfortable as they live and mingle among you. Your efforts can have a lifetime impact on how well MKs navigate this difficult time.



NEW!



Kids4MKz VBS materials:

- 5 one-minute missionary kid videos
- MK collector cards
- MK glow-in-the-dark Prayer Team bands
- 77 fundraising ideas
- Graphics for printed VBS materials
- Complete instructions

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

www.bbfimissions.com/vbs

Bible Baptist Church celebrates 60th anniversary

By Cindy Lyons

In 1957, God led my parents, Bob and Helen Hughes, to Cebu City. They started the Bible Baptist Church with just a handful of people. Daddy dreamed of not only reaching Cebu, but also the rest of the Philippines.

He would go up the hills overlooking the surrounding islands and pray for a harvest of souls. He faced many obstacles with a strong belief that, with God, nothing is impossible!

Dad and Mom opened their home every week for young people to come over. These people became strong leaders in the ministry. Early on, Dr. Armie Jesalva and his wife, Betty, joined the team. My father's passion for training leaders led him to start the Bible college. This was the beginning of a strong church-planting movement that continues today. We saw God change lives and do amazing things as people came to know Him.

In 1972, the church built a large facility and on opening day they had 5,000 in attendance. At this point, Daddy said, "We must not allow the walls of the building to limit the size of

the church." This began a new strategy to take the church to the people by holding extension services in neighborhoods all around the city. Over 20 of those extensions have now become self-sustaining churches.

In 1976, at the age of 44, my dad went to be with the Lord, but his dream never died. God has continued to bless Bible Baptist Church through Armie Jesalva's leadership. They have planted over 400 churches and have missionaries serving all over the world. Several years ago, Dr. Jesalva led an evangelistic initiative to reach the Philippines for Christ. Saturation teams have been sent throughout the islands, sharing the Gospel one on one. To date, over six million people have accepted Christ as a result of this initiative. Evangelism and church planting continues to be the strong focus.

The Jesalva's son, Kent, pastors a church in Metro Cebu and also serves on the leadership team at Bible Baptist Church. This year, his daughter, Arli, and her husband,

Curt Motsinger, are returning as missionaries to join the leadership team as they help expand this church planting movement.

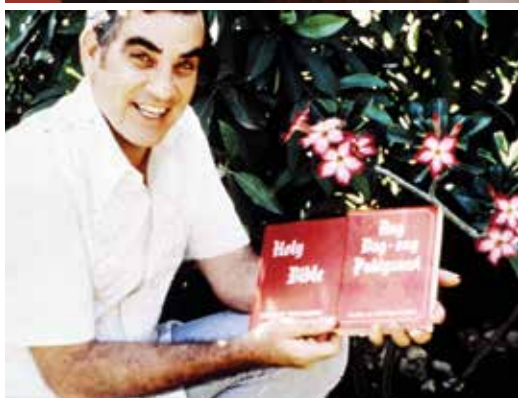
As over 6,000 people gathered on the campus of Bible Baptist Church on March 26 to celebrate the church's 60th anniversary, we rejoiced to see God's faithfulness. Extension services throughout the city brought the total combined attendance to over 17,000. Several hundred responded to accept Christ and 45 were baptized.

At just the right time, God raised up Dr. Armie Jesalva, an amazing leader who shares the same heart and passion for souls I saw in my father. God continues to prove that with Him, nothing is impossible. When I think about the many pastors and leaders who are a part of this movement, I am encouraged to know the story is not over ... and the next generation will continue what was started 60 years ago.



Left: Dr. Armie Jesalva at the anniversary celebration.

Below: Bob and Helen Hughes with daughters Helen and Cindy. Bottom: Lyons and Jesalva families.



URBAN CURRENT

Not our lucky day

The sin-sellers want to convince us gambling is gaming. A problem: one definition of game is “an illegal or shady scheme or maneuver, a racket, as in ‘gaming the system’” ... or, in the case of gambling, gaming the masses.

I was going to list all the studies I had gathered, but you can Google “Low-income gamble disproportionately.” Suffice to say, numerous studies from many states confirm those with lower incomes are disproportionately accessing casinos and state lotteries. Just under

33 percent of people who play are at or below the poverty level. The leading lottery states are the leading welfare states.

I’m still wondering how Mississippi, which according to the last census has more Baptists than people, became such a big gambling state. Can anybody help me out here?

HOW ABOUT CRIME?

Belterra Casino in Indiana was fined \$2.26 million ... for hiring prostitutes to entertain high-stakes gamblers.

Reported crimes in the Biloxi, MS, community increased after the first casino opened in 1992.

The crime rate in Atlantic City is three times higher than cities with similar population characteristics.

The National Academies of Science found that “pathological gamblers engage in destructive behaviors: they commit crimes, they run up large debts, they damage relationships with family and friends, and they kill themselves.”

WHAT ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE?

In America, more than 7.9 million adolescents suffer from problem or pathological gambling.

A Louisiana survey of 12,000 adolescents found that 10% had bet on horseracing, 17% had gambled on slot machines, and 25% had played video poker.

The National Gambling Impact Study Commission found adolescent gambling is “associated with alcohol and drug use, truancy, low grades, problematic gambling in parents, and illegal activities to finance gambling.”

...youth ranging from 8 to 17 tried to purchase [lottery] tickets – 80% were successful. The youngest purchaser was 9.

Over half the students surveyed at Atlantic City High School reported gambling in casinos. About 10% indicated they gambled weekly.

96% of compulsive gamblers begin gambling by age 14.

THEN THERE IS “ADDICTION”



Problem and pathological gambling comes with social costs that include fraud, theft, bad loans, bad checks, lost work time, unemployment, welfare benefits, insured or publically supported medical costs, criminal justice system costs ... increased rates of suicide, car accidents, and child abuse ... loss of productivity of spouses, impaired judgment, inefficiency on the job, divorces, added administrative costs for unemployed, and the costs of depression and physical illness related to stress and lower quality of family life.

People who live close to a casino are twice as likely to become problem gamblers as people who live more than ten miles away.

40-60% of casino revenues are earned from problem gamblers.

WITH DATA SUCH AS THIS, clenched in their greedy fists, the Illinois Lottery was caught red-handed targeting minority communities with their advertising.

Cities have long been centers of various illegal gambling operations. However, in the last generation, more and more municipalities in state governments have turned to gambling as a source of revenue.

Cities are disproportionately impacted due to the higher concentration of people in poverty.

Lower income populations and therefore significant swaths of minority populations are the biggest victims of state-sanctioned gambling. This is not racist? Where are the marchers? Where are the media screamers?

The data on gambling and crime available for all to peruse does not keep politicians from pushing for more gambling, and saying they are working to fight crime. Can anyone say hypocrisy?

FOR EXAMPLE ...

ATLANTIC CITY

Atlantic City is in a class all by itself. It provides a window into both the concentration of access and gambling’s impact on a single municipality.



ECONOMIC “BENEFITS”

Thousands were hired by the casinos, but the rest of the city saw no benefits at all ... still has trouble sustaining even a single grocery store.

Has highest unemployment rate in the state.

The city’s total assessed property value in 2010 was \$20.5 billion. By 2014, it had fallen to \$11.3 billion.

Is on the brink of bankruptcy. Around 20,000 industry jobs and half of annual gaming revenues have been lost in the last decade.

When four casinos closed in nine months, almost 8,000 workers got pink slips.

Federal and state government is kicking in a combined total of about \$30 million to help cover essential services, including firefighters, through the end of the year.

WITHIN 3 YEARS OF THE FIRST CASINO OPENING ...

40% of local restaurants closed
2,000% increase in homeless people
~200 arson-related fires in homes of people who refused to sell their property to casinos.



by Charles Lyons, Pastor
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THE RIGHT ANGLE

BIBLICAL WISDOM FOR A CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Q.

How do I handle
“difficult” people in
life?

By Kevin Carson

A • Almost everyone has “difficult” people in life — a family member, coworker, neighbor, church member, teacher, student, or friend — with a multitude of peculiarities and/or potentially sinful behaviors. So how do you respond to these “difficult” people?

First, recognize what you have in common:

- **You both are made in the image of God**, which needs renewal as you become more like Christ (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18). As a result, you share far more in common as fellow image-bearers than what you have in contrast.
- **You both are in a spiritual battle** fighting with indwelling sin (1 John 2:15-17).
- **You both need to walk in the Spirit** and by love serve each other (Galatians 5:13-25). God wants each of you to live daily with a God-consciousness.
- **You both share the same purpose** — to become more like Jesus Christ through life’s circumstances (Romans 8:28-29). God’s design is to help you grow in any situation, difficulty, or problem (James 1: 2-5).
- **You both are to prefer the other as more important than self** (Philippians 2:1-11). Do you want your way in this circumstance rather than thinking of the other person?
Second, consider the nature of difficulty. You want to ask several questions in this step. Consider the person’s conduct;

what is he or she saying and doing? You evaluate only what you can see or hear, not what you assume is the motive. If you are concerned about the person’s motives, ask questions from your observations; do not make accusations. Place what you can hear or see into three categories: 1) Is it sinful? 2) Is it an issue of preference? 3) Is it a response to suffering?

When determining your options for response, begin with prayer for you and the person with whom you are concerned. Pray for wisdom, discernment, a sensitive heart toward the Gospel, a willingness to examine motives, self-control, gentleness, and clarity. Remember you are an ambassador of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). Your goals, values, words, and actions should faithfully represent the one you serve. Consider your timing as you go to discuss the issue. Is this the best timing? Do I need to exercise patience? Does anything force this conversation now or does wisdom look like waiting until a better time? You also need to consider your motive. What motivates me saying something? Do I want restoration and reconciliation? Am I seeking revenge? Am I trying to get my own way?

Your response should reflect the type of issue it is.

- **Sin. If it is a sin issue, what is the person’s attitude** (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15)? If it is willful sin, approach humbly seeking to introduce truth into the situation to challenge the person’s will. Potentially the person is sinning but does not understand

what the Bible says about his or her actions and words or there are issues of fear and timidity. If this is the case, approach the person as an encourager. Furthermore, the person may have a sense of inability and although he or she understands what to do, they do not believe they can do it.

- **Preference.** If it is an issue of preference, you should consider a few different questions. First, can I in love put up with this? Is there any reason I cannot be patient? What keeps me from choosing to allow love to cover this and respond in kindness? Second, am I preferring the other person over myself? Am I being reasonable? Do I desire for his or her pleasure as much as my own?
- **Response to suffering.** Have I considered the circumstances of this other person? His or her response may have nothing to do with you. You may be the receiver of an uncomfortable circumstance, but it may not be against you specifically.
- **Is this person a believer?** If this person is an unbeliever, then you may want to recognize what you are receiving is typical to his or her sin nature. Furthermore, the best thing you can do is suffer through it while pointing him or her toward the glories of the Gospel.

In sum: think before you respond. Then, respond in a way that honors the Lord and represents the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Have a question?

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

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

BAPTIST *history*

By Thomas Ray

Originally published in
the Tribune March 2009

JOHANN GERHARD ONCKEN — Every Baptist a missionary

Charles Spurgeon described Johann Oncken as “The Apostle Paul of Germany.” Baptist historian Irwin Barnes states, “Oncken was the father not only of the German Baptists, but of the entire modern Baptist movement on the Continent.” Johann Oncken was born January 26, 1800, at Varel, Germany. His father died when he was only two, and his grandmother attempted to provide not only for his physical but spiritual needs.

Johann was baptized as an infant in the Lutheran Church and was confirmed when he was 13 years of age. That same year, John Anderson, a Scottish merchant, arrived in Varel. While visiting with Johann’s grandmother, the Scotchman took an interest in the fatherless youth and invited him to return with him to Scotland. With his grandmother’s approval, Oncken began a spiritual journey that would change the course of his life and turn him into one of the continent’s most effective evangelists and church builders.

While residing in Scotland, Oncken, for the first time in his life, was exposed to the Gospel. Nine years after his arrival, he left Scotland and moved to London. In London, Oncken began to seriously think about his eternal destiny. His conversion occurred one Sunday morning when he attended a Methodist chapel and heard a sermon on Romans 8:1. His surrender to Christ was complete and from that day he

resolved to devote his life to propagating the Gospel.

His first act of service was the distribution of Gospel tracts, a ministry he would continue throughout his long and useful life. Although Oncken had no formal theological training, the Continental Society appointed him as a missionary to Germany. He arrived in Hamburg in December 1823.

A month later he preached his first sermon to a congregation of 18 people. In less than two months,

the meeting place could not hold the crowds. His ministry, although plagued by civil and religious persecution, prospered beyond his wildest expectations.

Although Oncken was not a Baptist, his study of the Scriptures caused him to question the validity of infant baptism. After much study and consultation, Oncken embraced believer’s baptism by immersion. (This was in spite of his pastor’s objections. It is worth noting his pastor, T. W. Matthews, would eventually also embrace Baptist principles.) There were no Baptists in Germany who could baptize Oncken, therefore he sought advice first from Scotland and then London, but the only advice he received was to baptize himself or make the journey to England and be baptized there. Neither of these alternatives seemed to Oncken a feasible course of action.

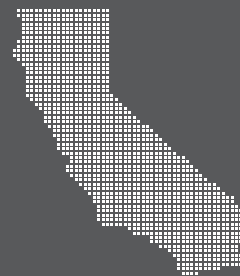
Eventually, news reached America of the young German evangelist who had embraced Baptist principles and who desired to be scripturally baptized. In 1834, Barnas Sears, an American Baptist visiting on the continent, contacted Oncken and on April 22 at midnight he baptized Oncken and his wife, along with five other believers, in the Elbe River. The following day he organized them into a Baptist church with Oncken as their pastor.

When Oncken’s baptism became known, his former friends and associates treated him as a traitor. The opposition to his Baptist principles was great, but God’s blessings overcame and defeated his enemies. Using Hamburg as a center for his ministry, he took the Gospel into Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, Holland, and Russia.

His personal ministry came to an end in 1879 when he suffered a stroke. He lingered an additional five years and entered into his well-earned rest January 2, 1884.

Oncken’s life was truly remarkable. During his ministry as a Baptist, he and his associates constituted over 280 churches, 1,222 preaching stations, and they formed 771 Sunday schools in Germany. They also founded over 170 churches in Scandinavia and the Slavic States. It is estimated he was responsible for distributing over two million Bibles and untold millions of Gospel tracts. His motto, “Every Baptist a missionary” should be indelibly written upon the heart of every Baptist.





Officers

Chairman	Brian Moore	Anaheim	Crosspointe
Vice-Chairman	Otis Ledbetter	Clovis	Sonrise Baptist
Secretary/Treasurer	Ken Goodban	Bellflower	Calvary Baptist

CABBF History by Jim Baize

It was 1973 ...

The U. S. agreed to a ceasefire in Vietnam, Bill Nolde was the last American officially killed there, and the first planeload of POWs came home from Southeast Asia. L. B. J. lay in state in the Capitol rotunda. The Watergate inquiry continued and Egypt invaded the eastern bank and Golan Heights on Yom Kippur. The Arab Oil embargo caused crippling oil price increases in the U.S. That same year, Willie Mays retired from baseball, psychiatrists determined homosexuality was not an illness, and O. J. Simpson became the first player ever to rush for more than 2,000 yards in one season. Patricia Hearst was abducted, and state laws denying early abortions were voided.

In December of that year my wife and I moved to San Diego, CA. I had come to pastor Midway Baptist Church in Imperial Beach, CA. B. B. Garrison had come from Texas (the World Baptist Fellowship) in 1947 and founded Midway. After he finished a 25-year pastorate, Ron Bates came for one year, then the church called me. That was toward the end of the "Jesus movement" and Hal Lindsey had written *The Late, Great Planet Earth* – it was a time of continuous revival and soul-winning by the churches of the CA BBF.

Some of my heroes in the state were Ed Rothenberger, who had built a wonderful church in Oxnard; George Golden, who was tearing it up in Ventura; and H. Frank Collins of Bellflower. As I recall, Bill Whitaker was in Dublin and Jimmy Combs was still in Costa Mesa. Locally, Ken Johnson had a great church. When he hosted an annual CA BBF meeting, it was not uncommon to have over 100 pastors, missionaries, and staff from Fellowship churches. And, of course, there was Jack Baskin heading up Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College. The saying in California was, "The best is in the West!"

During the 70s and 80s, California's May fellowship was on the campus of PCBBC. The other two meetings (April and October) would rotate from northern California, to central California, and then southern CA. The guys who pastored larger, established, and growing churches were always there to encourage the younger guys. (I was a younger guy in those days!) Their help was invaluable.

In those days, the pastors would show up for our youth camps and we would have as much fun as the campers!

Those were great days for the CA BBF.

The "nones" are increasing

"None" is a religious affiliation for those claiming no religion at all. From 2000 to 2010, that number in the Los Angeles metro grew from 2,834,688 to 4,604,495 (62%). Only 8.3 percent of the city's ten million residents affiliate with an evangelical church.

San Francisco metro

Percentage of population claiming no religious affiliation

64.7%

Oakland metro

Percentage of population claiming no religious affiliation

66.3%

Redding

Percentage of population claiming no religious affiliation

73%

Los Angeles metro

Percentage of population claiming no religious affiliation

46.9%

CHURCH PLANTING IN CALIFORNIA by John Markum

I began building a relationship with the California BBF three months before I moved to California. Since starting our church four years ago, several California pastors have been intentional about connecting with me, supporting our ministry financially, and investing in me personally. Ken Goodban, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Bellflower, has twice brought a

team from his church to serve with us in our community. Brian Moore and Steve Boschen have sent some of their staff to help in our volunteer development. Other pastors in our state fellowship have helped pay to send me to national Fellowship meetings, a mission trip to Mexico, and other opportunities otherwise outside the financial limitations of the average church planter. I've been asked to share what

God is doing in our ministry and I've gotten the sense these men are sincerely trying to learn from me as much as I am from them. They have allowed me opportunities to not only sit at the same table with them, but have a voice of influence. I believe this is what a fellowship is supposed to be and I'm glad to be welcome in it.

SPRINGFIELD, MO

MISSION OFFICE HOSTS BBC FOR WORLD MISSION FORUM

The BBFI Mission Office hosted Baptist Bible College students and faculty for the World Mission Forum in the newly updated Boonstra Chapel April 11-13. Students participated in breakout sessions and other events as they were encouraged to think "Beyond Borders." The forum's main speaker, Pastor Matt Keller of Calvary Bible Baptist Church in Columbus, OH, challenged attendees from the story of Jonah. Tuesday evening, the Mission Office hosted an International Prayer Night that included messages on why we pray and how to pray for our missionaries. The night concluded with a time of prayer and an international food sampling.



ST. CHARLES, MO

GRACE BAPTIST HOSTS "WHEN MINISTRY IS TOUGH" CONFERENCE FOR PASTORS

Pastors from Missouri and Illinois gathered at Grace Baptist Church, St. Charles, MO, for worship and fellowship April 3-4. Monday evening, choir members from three churches joined voices for a powerful rendering of "Glorious Day" to a crowd of over



230. Kempton Turner, church planter in East St. Louis, followed, preaching from Isaiah 6 and challenging the congregation to say, "Here am I, send me" when God calls them to minister in tough places.

Tuesday morning, Randy Patten, of TEAM Focus Ministries, taught pastors and church leaders how to deal with tough problems and tough people in the church. After lunch and a business meeting, 30 participants extended their fellowship at a Major League Baseball game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs. One attendee commented, "It was great to see the unity and fellowship among the churches in the St. Louis area. It is truly an example for our entire Fellowship." Audio of the sermon and sessions are available at www.gracebaptistchurch.info.

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Dr. Elmer Towns

Co-Founder of Liberty University,
Author, and Professor

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- Cajun Feast and Graduation will be held at Summer Grove Baptist Church located at 8924 Jewella Avenue.
- Cajun Feast is 5:30 p.m., May 11th.
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LINCOLN, NE

NEBRASKA BBF HOSTED AT GENTLE SHEPHERD BAPTIST

Pastor Gary Fuller and Gentle Shepherd Baptist Church hosted the Nebraska Fellowship Meeting March 21, featuring Baptist Bible College Director of Recruiting John Decker and BBFI Communication Director Randy Harp. Attendees included pastors, missionaries, ministry leaders, and several church members. Fuller said, "The messages, two each by the guest speakers, were powerful, informative, and inspirational." He reports it was the best-attended meeting in recent years.

That evening, Decker was the after-dinner speaker at the business meeting and annual banquet of the Lincoln (NE) Chaplaincy Corps

of the Lincoln Fire and Police Departments. Speaking from his experience in law enforcement, Decker encouraged the chaplains in the importance of their work. "John did an outstanding job relating to the law enforcement officers, firefighters, city council members, chaplains, as well as to both the police and fire chiefs," Fuller commented. During the business meeting, Fuller, the

Nebraska BBF state chairman and national representative, was named senior chaplain of the organization.



John Decker (at left) addressed the Lincoln Chaplaincy Corps

ALBIA, IA

BRIAN HARRIS GUEST SPEAKER AT ZAMBIA CHURCHES AND CONFERENCE

Pastor Brian Harris of Albia Baptist Temple traveled to Chipata, Zambia, March 1-14, to encourage and teach at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Chipata and a new church plant in the village of Makungwa. Both ministries are led by Harrison and Michelle Banda. During his visit, Harris taught on leadership at the village church and spoke on priorities to the adult Sunday school class at Bethlehem.

March 6-9, Harris was also guest speaker for Bethlehem's Bible conference held twice a year. Approximately 65 pastors from Chipata and surrounding communities were in attendance. Banda translated for Harris as he taught a series of lessons on 1 Corinthians.

Harris reports Bethlehem Baptist Church has erected a church building and also has a building they use for a Bible institute. In the countryside, life is primitive. The village church meets in a primary school building and is partway through construction of a church building. "The people in the two churches are joyful and happy. Their laughter is infectious. But they are challenged with HIV and broken family relationships," says Harris. "The trip was a blessing. I am grateful for the experience and for all who provided financial support for the trip."

Albia Baptist Temple began supporting Michelle as a single missionary to Zambia in 2007. Michelle met Harrison Banda on the field and they were later married. They have three

children. The Bandas have been working in Chipata for approximately 10 years establishing Bethlehem Baptist Church and the church plant in Makungwa.



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PASIG CITY, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BBC ASIA GRADUATES 762; AWARDS HONORARY DOCTORATE

Baptist Bible College Asia graduated 762 students during commencement exercises held March 11 at Ynares Stadium in Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines. For the first time in the school's history, BBCAsia awarded an honorary doctorate. Recipient Senator Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao was recognized for his Christian testimony and influence for the Gospel. Pacquiao has served as senator since 2016 after six years in the Philippine House of Representatives. His role as a professional boxer has brought him international acclaim, having won numerous world titles.



Senator Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao (right center) was the recipient of BBCAsia's first honorary doctorate degree.

InTouch Ministries, founded by Charles Stanley, gave fourth-year graduates a tablet in recognition of their hard work. Baptist Bible College Asia is profoundly grateful for InTouch Ministries' generosity, and students were overwhelmed to receive this gift.

Baptist Bible College Asia is reported to be Southeast Asia's largest Bible college, with many graduates serving in the Philippines and as missionaries to other Asian nations. To view a video of this year's graduation scan the QR code at right. For more information on BBCAsia or to support their ministry, visit www.bbcasia.org.



SPRINGFIELD, MO

CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED BBFI BY-LAWS TO BE VOTED ON IN MAY 2017

New content is shown in red.

Article VII – Directors

C. Concurrently, the responsible sub-committee is tasked with providing a recommendation to approve/disapprove the Executive Committee decision. They will then submit their recommendation to the State Representatives. The State Representatives may vacate the recommendation/decision of the Executive Committee with a two-thirds vote.

Article VIII – Committees**B. Elections**

1. A State Representative shall be elected by each State Fellowship or shall be appointed **as an interim for not more than sixty days** by the Executive Committee if a State Fellowship does not elect a State Representative to ensure participation by that state at a national meeting. In the event that the Executive Committee makes the appointment of a State Representative, such State Representative shall be a pastor from that state.



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GADSDEN, AL

NEW ALABAMA BBF OFFICERS ELECTED

Cornerstone Church and Pastor Daniel Woodcock hosted the Alabama BBF Saturday, April 1, in Gadsden, AL. Speakers were Pastor Tommy Duke of Calvary Baptist Church, Savannah, GA, and BBFI Communication Director Randy Harp. During the business meeting, Sean Odom (Exalt Church, Daphne) was elected state chairman, Rick Hopkins (Good Samaritan Baptist Church, Birmingham) was voted in as vice-chairman and secretary, and Jamey Ketchum (Exalt Church, Daphne) was elected treasurer. Other discussion included writing new by-laws, brainstorming vision and strategy, and determining future meeting schedules. Pastor Toby Hollingsworth and Easley Baptist Church in Oneonta will host the fellowship's next meeting August 5. Pastors from Alabama and neighboring states are invited to attend.

Odom says the Alabama BBF is undergoing a reboot after a vote to disband in January. "Jamey Ketchum and I felt burdened to see the state fellowship restarted," states Odom. "So we began reaching out to other pastors to see if there was interest in a new start." After a positive response, the first meeting was held January 28.



MANSFIELD, OH

OHIO BBF HOSTED AT COOK ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jack Hackworth and Cook Road Baptist Church, hosted the Ohio BBF March 7. "The meeting was very encouraging and well attended," said Hackworth. Speakers for the day included Mike Harmon of Louisville Baptist Temple, Jerry Pelfrey of Grace Baptist Church, and Mark Ballmer of Westwood Baptist Church.



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PUBLIC NOTICE: HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION TO VISIT BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Baptist Bible College is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will host a visit October 23-24, 2017, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission. Baptist Bible College has been accredited by HLC since 2005. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet HLC's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college to the following address:

**Public Comment on Baptist Bible College
Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411**

The public may also submit comments on HLC's website at www.hlcommission.org/comment.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing. All comments must be received by September 25, 2017.

OWASSO, OK

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Friendship Baptist Church and Pastor Linzy Slayden, of Owasso, OK, celebrated the church's 25th anniversary April 2, 2017. A choir of children, teens, and adults performed for the congregation, emphasizing the day's theme, "Generations." Those in attendance signed their names on a Generations Wall and placed family stones around the church's 12 Stones monument.

Morning service were held on campus and included a teen drama, special presentations from BBFI leaders and city and state officials, a church history video, and a time of honoring charter members and staff, followed by Slayden's message on Joshua 4. Wes Flaugh of Liberty Baptist Church, Siloam Springs, AR, was asked to speak as the first of many called to fulltime ministry out of Friendship Baptist.

Christian comedian and illusionist Matt Fore performed in the morning service with a full performance at Friendship's Celebration Luncheon held at Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa, OK. Local businesses contributed to several door prizes given at the luncheon. "It was a time of celebration of God's blessings, challenge to keep going, and reminiscing with old members and new," says Slayden.

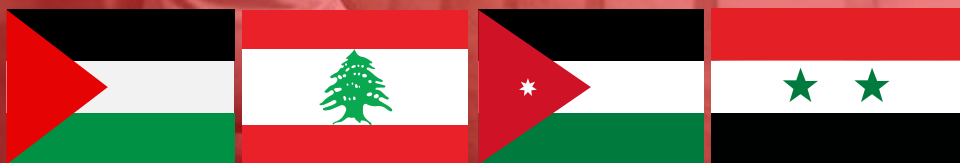


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SAN ANTONIO DE ACATITA, MEXICO

TIERRA ALTA COAHUILA CAMP MINISTRY HOSTS PASTORS AND LEADERS

The staff of Tierra Alta Coahuila, a Rawlings Foundation camp, welcomed 914 pastors and church leaders from around Mexico February 20 to present the camp's purpose and facilities. The day's events included a video presentation, explaining the camp's ministry, a time for questions and answers, lunch, and a walk-through of the facility.

Tierra Alta Coahuila began operations in 2015 with a few events and camps for teens around the state. Wanting to reach more teens with the Gospel, this event was planned to encourage participation from churches throughout the country. As of March 31, 2017, 5,600 teens have attended Tierra Alta Coahuila.

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WITH THE LORD

CENTERPOINT, AL

ARNOLD HOWARD HOPKINS

A. Howard Hopkins departed to his eternal reward March 22, 2017. Born in Birmingham, AL, September 4, 1934, to Troy and Mattie Hopkins, Howard was married to his wife, Bobbye Tillery Hopkins, 65 years.

In 1959, Howard heard Billy Graham preach on television and became convicted of his sin. The following Sunday, he took his family to Burton Baptist Church in Burton Township, MI, and accepted Christ as his Savior. He attended Baptist Bible College, graduating in 1966. He later earned his bachelor's degree in Religious Education from Baptist Bible College of Alabama and a Doctorate of Divinity from Liberty Baptist College, Milton, FL.

Howard served as associate pastor of Twin Cities Baptist Church in Gran Blanc, MI, until 1969 when he started Grace Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL. In 1988, he started Good Samaritan Baptist Church, Centerpoint, AL, which he co-pastored with his son, Rick Hopkins, until 1998. At that time, he and Bobbye became missionaries to Central America, retiring in 2004. They returned to Good Samaritan in Alabama where he served as pastor emeritus until his passing.

Mr. Hopkins is survived by his wife, Bobbye, six children, 13 grandchildren, and 31 great-grandchildren. His home going celebration was held March 25 at Good Samaritan Baptist Church, Centerpoint, AL.

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Boston Baptist students follow the Gospel through Greece

By Bill Smith | Pastor | Temple Baptist Church | West Bridgewater, MA



A special Boston Baptist College tradition is reading on location (ROL) at biblical sites in Israel, Egypt, Rome, and Turkey. This tradition continued when Boston Baptist College President Dave Melton led our BBC study group of 45 to some of the most influential peaks in Greece. However, a new tradition was born when we met missionary George Dimakos on our final night in Greece.

We began our trip viewing the *Meteora* monasteries built atop vertical cliffs overlooking the town of Kalambaka. From Kalambaka, we traveled through the Macedonian region. We traced the steps of Paul in Berea, Thessalonica, and then at the port of Neapolis where Paul first landed on European soil (Acts 16:11). Our steep climb up the *Via Egnatia*, a Roman road built in the second century B.C., gave us the same view Paul would have had as he left Neapolis and made his way to Philippi, our next destination. Our group read Acts 16 and Philippians among the ruins of biblical Philippi where Lydia, a young girl, and a jailer received the Gospel.

Next we arrived in Delphi, the ancient center of Greek paganism, set on the slopes of Mt. Parnassus. From these spectacular heights we saw the depths of pagan depravity and the sad results of hearts and minds void of the knowledge of God (Romans 1:21). Among these ruins an inscription was found in the early 20th century at the Temple of Apollo — an ancient letter now known as the Delphi Inscription. A reference to Gallio in the inscription provides the definitive date (51 AD) that coincides with Paul's trial at Corinth (Acts 18:12-17). The Delphi Inscription has plagued skeptics, liberal theologians, and doubters of the historicity of the New Testament for decades. For our group,

Delphi was a place of rejoicing as we viewed an unimpeachable piece of evidence.



Our group then traveled to the Isle of Patmos where John was exiled. We took the opportunity to do more reading on location in the place in which Revelation was composed. Another highlight was gathering on the island's shoreline on the Lord's Day. As we looked out over the Aegean Sea, we worshiped, sang, and read Revelation together.

From Patmos, we went to Corinth where Paul met Aquila and Pricilla, and wrote letters to the Thessalonians and later Romans, while ministering in that city. We stood beside the Bema seat (Acts 18:12) and marveled at the Erastus inscription: "Erastus the chamberlain of the city" (Romans 16:23). Our group climbed to the fortress Akrokorinth, once home to the pagan Temple to Aphrodite. Seeing what Paul faced gave new meaning to the words and tone in his letters to the Corinthians.

God saved the best for last when we ended our trip in Athens. The Acropolis stands high above the city, and although only partially restored, we could imagine what it looked like when Paul first entered Athens as "his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry" (Acts 17:16). We stood on Mars

Hill and read where Paul gave his defense of the Gospel to the Athenians (Acts 17:19-34). Today, Athens' 3.75 million souls need the same Gospel Paul preached.

In Athens, our group met BBF missionary George Dimakos. His exuberant personality and love for Christ overwhelmed us as he introduced us to a dozen Iranian refugees who have become believers. His ministry is difficult. It can take years to reach one Greek citizen with the Gospel. But something unique happened about ten years ago as the flood of immigration hit Europe. George and his church responded to the crisis of immigrants with a commitment to demonstrate the love of Christ and share the Gospel. The church has successfully reached refugees from Iran with the Gospel. Many Iranian refugees, who made their way to Greece through Turkey in search of a better life, have now found freedom in Christ.

Our final night in Greece provided the greatest spiritual impact of the trip. While we fellowshiped with Iranian believers who shared testimonies, songs, and their devotion to Christ, we witnessed the fruit of what the Apostle Paul began in Europe nearly 2,000 years earlier. As we ate together, a new face emerged in the refugee crisis as well as the ongoing U.S.-Iran standoff. Although a political solution seems out of reach, the Gospel provides hope. A quiet revival is taking place among Iranian refugees and God is using BBF missionary George Dimakos and his ministry. One student commented, "Of all the incredible sights we've seen in Greece, this night was the highpoint of our trip."

Note: Our trip resulted in two students surrendering their lives to return to Greece.

DailyFeedmissions

1

Psalm 96:3

Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

2

"The Bible is not the basis of missions; missions is the basis of the Bible."

– Ralph Winter

3

Pray for missionaries serving in Asia

4

Matthew 9:36

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered ...

5

"To know the will of God, we need an open Bible and an open map."

– William Carey

6

Pray for missionaries serving in Europe

7

Matthew 28:19

"... Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ..."

8

"Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist."

– Oswald Smith

9

Pray for missionaries serving in Africa

10

Luke 10:2

Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

11

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply."

– Hudson Taylor

12

Pray for missionaries serving in South America

13

John 20:21

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

14

"God had only one Son and He made Him a missionary."

– David Livingstone

15

Pray for missionaries serving in North America

16

Acts 1:8

"... But you shall receive power ... and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

17

"No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once."

– Oswald Smith

18

Pray for missionaries serving in Australia

19

Romans 10:13-14

For "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."... And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

20

"The history of missions is the history of answered prayer."

– Samuel Zwemer

21

Pray for churches in America to have a greater burden for missions

22

Acts 13:47

For so the Lord has commanded us: "I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth."

23

"Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a mission within a yard of hell."

– C. T. Studd

24

Pray Christians in America will pray, give, or go

25

Mark 16:15

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature ..."

26

"Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work."

– A. B. Simpson

27

Pray for the BBFI Mission Office

28

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

29

"Sympathy is no substitute for action."

– David Livingstone

30

Pray you will have a greater burden for missions

31

Isaiah 6:8

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

go ye
into all
the world



Colossians 4:2

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.



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