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THE
TRUTH
ABOUT

suffering



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ON THE TABLE

William Tyndale, pioneer Bible translator and reformer

by Keith Bassham | Editor

The last Sunday of October is traditionally Reformation Day among Protestant churches. We Baptists ordinarily take little note of the day, but we should not overlook the importance of the Reformation, and the events preceding and following. In fact, two events that made the Reformation a reality were the translation and printing of non-Latin Bibles.

John Wycliffe, among the first of the English translators, had begun translating in the 1300s and earned the title the Morningstar of the Reformation. William Tyndale, born about a century after Wycliffe's death, became acquainted with the Greek New Testament as a student at Cambridge and Oxford in the early 1500s, and he saw with his own eyes that the church-sanctioned Latin version distorted the gospel. He illegally obtained a copy of Martin Luther's German Bible in 1522, and was thereafter committed to taking the Bible directly to the people of England.

Defying the law (but only after he had been refused official permission), he began translating from the Greek, just as Luther had. By August 1525 his translation of the New Testament was complete. Printing began at Cologne, Germany, but authorities destroyed nearly all known copies (I think only one is known today). Tyndale moved up the Rhine, and arranged for copies to be printed and sold in England in the spring of 1526. Official opposition in England led to the destruction of most of these early copies, and Tyndale then became a fugitive. Eventually, he was imprisoned in Belgium, and in a letter he wrote in 1535 from his cell he asks his keepers for "a warmer cap...warmer coat also,...cloth for repairing my leggings,...a woolen shirt of mine," and "I also ask for leave to use a lamp in the evening, for it is tiresome to sit alone in the dark." Finally he asks for "my Hebrew Bible, Hebrew Grammar, and Hebrew Lexicon, and that I might employ my time with that study."

You can hear in the letter an echo of the phrases Paul used in his second letter to Timothy: "Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: ...The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments..."

Tyndale did not live to complete his Old Testament translation. He was executed for heresy at Vilvorde, Belgium, on October 6, 1536, his dying prayer that the Lord would open the eyes of the King of England. He left behind a manuscript containing the translation of the historical books from Joshua to 2 Chronicles that was finally published in 1537.

His dying prayer was answered in 1539, when Henry VIII decreed that an English Bible should be made available in the churches of England, and we are still reading Tyndale's work today, since 90 percent of the New Testament in the King James Version (KJV) is his. Without question, Tyndale's first printed English New Testament became the basis of all future English translations.

Keith Bassham

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Unity of purpose



by Linzy Slayden | President | BBFI

First of all, special thanks go to Pastor Bruce Humbert and the people of Sauk Trail Baptist Temple for a wonderful fellowship meeting. And then I thank you for the confidence you have placed in me by electing me president of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. I look forward to getting to know the pastors, missionaries, and working committees of the BBFI better.

What I want to talk about in this column is something God desperately desires for His people. It is one thing that Satan fears and works day and night to undo. It is something for which Jesus himself prayed just before He went to the cross. It is the one thing the Bible says will convince people that the church has something the world does not. It is something that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is meant to accomplish. What is it that I am talking about? Unity. It is important for any relationship but especially important for the cause of Christ. We all desire it in our churches, and we desire it for our Fellowship.

While no one expects uniformity or unanimity in our Fellowship, I do believe we can have unity, and by that I mean oneness of purpose. I am talking about strong-minded, God-called men coming together for a common purpose — world evangelism. The BBFI has been called “the greatest church producing machine of the past century” and “one of the greatest evangelical lifeboats of our time.” Somebody said, “Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; but working together is success,” and I for one do not think the Lord is finished with the BBFI.

In Psalm 133, King David compares unity to dew, and in that hot Mediterranean climate, dew is absolutely vital to plant life. Dew is like refreshing lotion that God sends to lubricate that dry parched land there in the nation of Israel. You can get up in the morning and see dew on the grass sparkling like a million diamonds in the sun. It is so refreshing you can almost smell it in the air. I don’t have to tell you that in our work, unity and harmony are like the morning dew on a parched and thirsty land. In the absence of rain, and with no irrigation, there was not a more beautiful sight to a Hebrew farmer than that morning dew he knew was sent from God to water his crops.

There is nothing sweeter than when the dew of unity falls on our efforts. You see, the dew makes the land green; it makes it fertile; it makes it fruitful; it increases productivity. Dew gives the land its greatest potential to do what it was created to do; be fruitful for its Creator. What dew does for the land, unity does for the work of the Lord. I’m limited in what I can do alone for God. However, we are virtually unlimited by what we can do together with the Lord’s blessing.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

New resources on our websites



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director

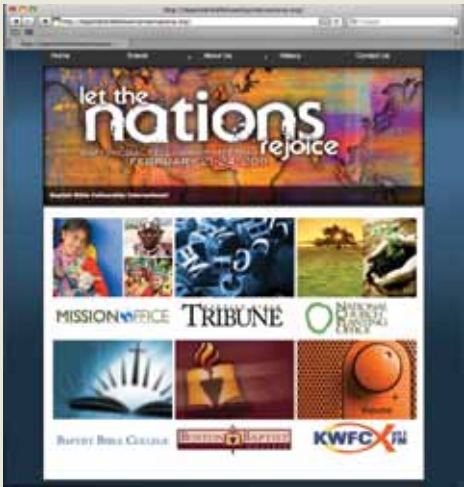
We’ve made it easier for all the Fellowship family to contact the entities in our Fellowship through one website portal: www.baptistbiblefellowship.org. From there you will find links to the *Tribune*, the National Church Planting Office, KWFC Radio, our colleges, and more, all in one easy-to-navigate location.

The most up-to-date and accurate information for the World Mission Service Center (the BBFI Mission Office) is at www.bbfimissions.com, accessible from the main portal. Here you will find information such as contact numbers, addresses, bios, and pictures of BBFI missionaries in the Missionary Lookup section, you can find churches in the BBFI Contact Directory, get useful ministry tools, and all sorts of information concerning the Baptist Bible Fellowship International, the Mission Office, and missionaries.

You will also see a tab you can click to get your free subscription to the Weekly ConnectionPoint news bulletin and access to the Hall of Honor. In the resources section of our website, you will find ministry tools such as brochures, a catalog of items to use in missions conferences, missions promotional videos, Mission Office videos, and missionary videos.

You can take your people around the world by downloading the missionary videos. Following are links that will take you directly to the video categories.

Main Page - <http://www.youtube.com/user/bbfimissions>
Promote Missions - <http://bit.ly/bbfimissions>
Mission Office Videos - <http://bit.ly/movideos>
Missionary Videos - <http://bit.ly/missionaryvideos>



Georgia church plant holds youth rally



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

On August 21, 2010, Trinity Village Baptist Temple and Pastor Victor Baxter held their first annual Back To School Youth Rally in Eastman, Georgia. The event was a huge success with several people making professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Two groups traveled to Eastman to help canvas neighborhoods and work in the rally. They were a team of 13 from Park Crest Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri, Pastor Phillip Housley, and Pastor James Richardson, his wife, Cathy, and Evangelist Eligah Moore from Living Water Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama. Evangelist Marvin Del Collins from Valdosta, Georgia, also helped with canvassing during the week.

There were approximately 130 people who attended the youth rally where free food and school supplies were provided. The Park Crest and Living Water teams were also able to take part in TVBT's Nursing Home Ministry at Heart of Georgia Nursing Home where they have been averaging approximately 30 people in attendance and have witnessed several people saved. The following day 32 people attended their initial Sunday morning service where five people made professions of faith in Christ. "I can't express the gratitude I feel towards everyone who traveled great distances to be a part of what God is doing in Eastman. It is truly a picture of the love of Christ in action. Everybody did a tremendous job with great enthusiasm," says Baxter.

Trinity Village Baptist Temple is a new church plant in Eastman, Georgia. Victor Baxter was presented by the NCPO as an approved church planter at the Fall BBFI National Fellowship in Richton Park, Illinois. Living Water Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama is their sending church. Pastor Vic and his family arrived in Eastman on July 3. Since their arrival they have had over 35 professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Baxter states, "Eastman is a town where the ground is very fertile and people are hungry for the truth of God's Word. People are hearing and responding to the word of God. This youth rally and the nursing home ministry is evidence of this. There has not been a week since we arrived in Eastman where we haven't seen someone saved!"

Please pray that God continues to build his church in Eastman, Georgia, and pray for the Baxter family. If you would like to partner with the Baxters and the work in Eastman prayerfully and/or financially, you can contact him at (478) 231-5164. His mailing address is: Victor Baxter, Pastor; Trinity Village Baptist Temple; P.O. Box 4278 Eastman, GA 31023.



The team from Park Crest

let the nations rejoice

BBFI GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY 21-24, 2011

The purpose of this historic, international meeting is to see the nations rejoice for God's glorious gift – Jesus Christ. We want to remember the past, rejoice in the present, and renew our efforts for the future. We want to celebrate what God has done over the past 60 years, rejoice in the current opportunities we have, and cast a vision for the future with the intent of coordinating our efforts from each nation to reach out to all peoples with the Gospel.

Those who attend this meeting will see the big picture of God's work around the world through the BBFI. Leaders will meet leaders from other regions enabling them to see they are not alone but all work together to reach our world for Jesus Christ.

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Revival and service highlighted the fall meeting

"We turned some corners this week ..." – BBFI President Linzy Slayden

By the *Tribune*

In his inaugural message before the Baptist Bible Fellowship, newly elected President Linzy Slayden said he believed the Fellowship turned several corners during the week of the Fall Fellowship Meeting. He said this in the final service of the meeting that took place September 27-29 in Richton Park, Illinois.

Pastor Bruce Humbert, the Sauk Trail Baptist Temple, and all the staff and volunteers surely did their part to help steer the Fellowship around those corners. The invited preachers made their individual cases for revival, prayer, and unity in services that did in fact resemble those of a revival meeting. Music minister Bric Bolin's competent musical leadership was highlighted by the church's enthusiastic choir and instrumental ensemble who were joined in the final evening by choir members from two area churches planted by the host congregation. The spirit, hospitality, attention to service, and prayer on the part of the people of Sauk Trail were more than symbolic – they modeled Christ-likeness at every turn.

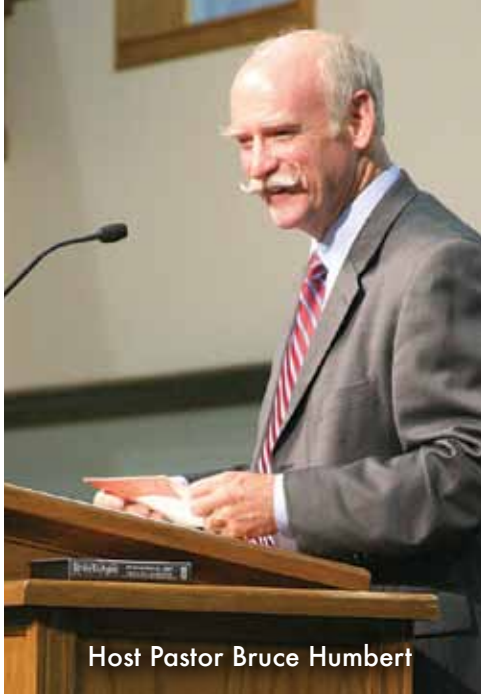
Tom Wagoner, the keynote speaker, began the week with a plea for revival and the humility that would accompany a move of God among us. Steve Bender spoke about prayer with passionate glimpses from his own experience with spiritual warfare. Chicago pastor Charles Lyons stirred the Tuesday morning crowd with a vision of "the towering Jesus" in John's Revelation vision. Parker Dailey's comments on revival came from a life given to consistent service to God. New missionary Richie Orrick's enthusiasm complemented Bill Monroe's no-nonsense appeal to a biblical pattern for revival. Wednesday's missionary presentations, introduced by Kelly McNerny's message and capped with evening sermons from Jon Konnerup and Linzy Slayden, made the week a complete picture of the burden of the Fellowship to strive for revival internally while spreading the gospel.

There was little business to transact, which is unusual for a September meeting. This was the first meeting after the Fellowship revamped its voting procedure for

national officers. In the new system, the election is completed during the summer of the election year instead of at the fall meeting. This allowed new officers to meet alongside those leaving office in the Executive Committee meetings. Newly elected national officers officially assumed their positions and former officers Mark Hodges, David Shafer, and Jim Stady were recognized for their service. Outgoing President Mark Hodges, who was appointed to finish Gary Grey's term of office in 2009, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the BBFI.

New career missionaries approved are Jonathan and Joanna Liggett (Italy), Sandy Loveday (Spain), and Rich Moeller (Scotland). TEAM missionaries approved are Tony and Cathy Matta, and Trevor and Christi McNellis. College Presidents Jim Edge and David Melton reported to the pastors, as did Mission Director Jon Konnerup, *Tribune* Editor Keith Bassham, and NCPO Director Wayne Guinn. Pastors approved new NCPO church planters Victor Baxter, Chris Housewright, and Vernell Lott. No new business was introduced. New BBFI President Linzy Slayden ended the business session with an encouraging address and a promise to meet soon in a strategy session with Fellowship leaders.

In many ways, Sauk Trail provided an ideal venue for this meeting. The church has a long history, and they are facing the challenges of a changing neighborhood locally and a very secular culture in their back yard. In that sense, the church is the Fellowship in microcosm. Pastor Humbert's strategy to meet these challenges has been to grow through church planting (two within the past three years), to involve his congregation in intensive prayer (with a special emphasis on his men), and to encourage an aggressive personal witness. The result is success in an atmosphere in which others have given up. If the Baptist Bible Fellowship will follow Sauk Trail's lead in growth, prayer, and witness, the future will be a bright one.



Host Pastor Bruce Humbert



We've confused revival with a meeting that starts and ends.

-Tom Wagoner

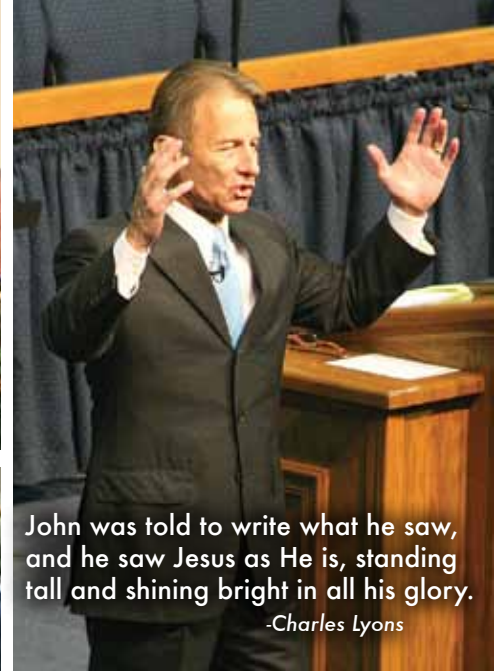


Too often we are delinquent on the the debt we owe society to share with them the gospel of Jesus Christ.

-Richie Orrick



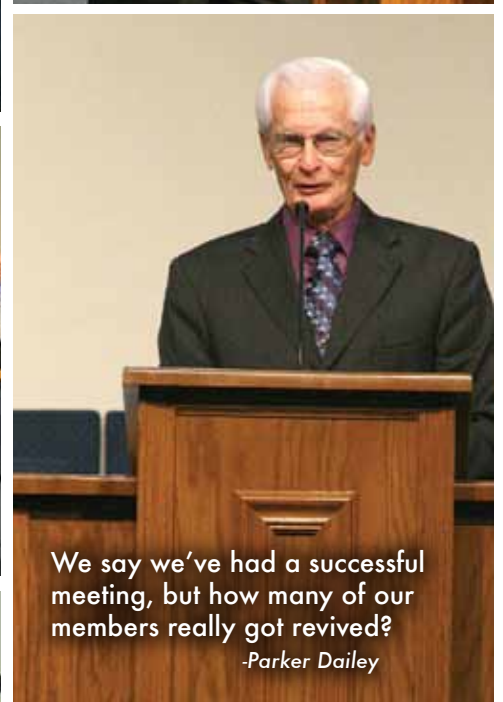
Unity is something God wants for His people.
Unity is not uniformity.
-Linzy Slayden



John was told to write what he saw, and he saw Jesus as He is, standing tall and shining bright in all his glory.
-Charles Lyons



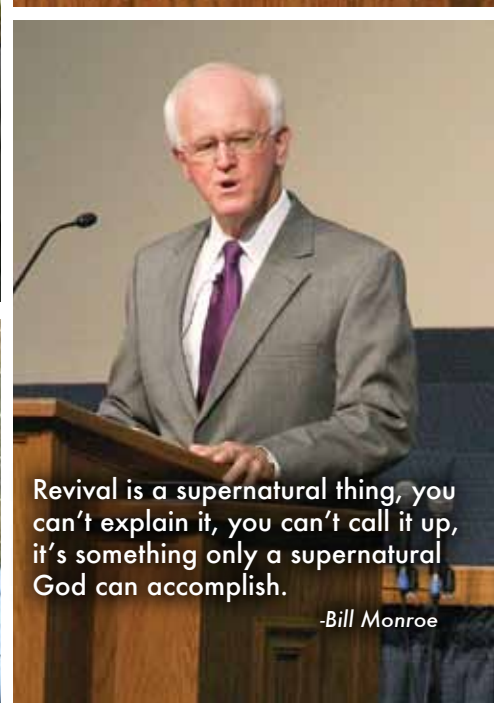
As a pastor I need to lead my people in soulwinning, not just encourage them in it.
-Kelly McInerney



We say we've had a successful meeting, but how many of our members really got revived?
-Parker Dailey



You can get by on your talents and abilities for a little while, but anything great that will be accomplished will be because of God's power.
-Steve Bender



Revival is a supernatural thing, you can't explain it, you can't call it up, it's something only a supernatural God can accomplish.
-Bill Monroe

Newly Approved Missionaries

Career

Italy

Jonathan and Joanna Liggett

Sending Church:

Berean Baptist Church
Albuquerque, NM

Sending Pastor:

Don Weakland

Contact Info: (505) 299-4151

Jonathan.Liggett@bbfmissions.org

Spain

Sandy Loveday

Sending Church:

West Division Street Baptist
Church

Springfield, MO

Sending Pastor: Charlie Bell

Contact Info: (417) 862-8644

Sandy.Loveday@bbfmissions.org

Scotland

Rich Moeller

Sending Church:

Friendship Baptist Church
Clancy, MT

Sending Pastor:

David Klass

Contact Info: (406) 442-8080

Rich.Moeller@bbfmissions.org

TEAM Missionaries

Costa Rica

Tony and Cathy Matta

Assisting: Randy and Sherry
Rhoton

Sending Church:

Heritage Baptist Church
Georgetown, TX

Sending Pastor:

Don Ledbetter

Contact Info: (512) 863-8106

Tony.Matta@bbfmissions.org

Philippines

Trevor and Christi McNellis

Assisting: Greg and
LuAnn Lyons

Sending Church:

Family Fellowship of Green-
ville; Greenville, TX

Sending Pastor: Paul Blue

Contact Info: (903) 455-2360

Trevor.McNellis@bbfmissions.org







THE TRUTH ABOUT suffering

Ninth article in the series

With Good Reason

by Keith Bassham

Bart Ehrman, whom we noted in the last Apologetics article, says that God has a problem, and that problem is this: He either cannot or will not prevent suffering. I am certain Mr. Ehrman has a nice stack of letters and printed emails from thousands of believers who believe they have solved “God’s problem,” but I doubt any have done so to Mr. Ehrman’s satisfaction.

The fact is, if someone asked me today why God does not prevent innocent suffering, I could not answer the question put to me in those terms.

It is a very old problem, one that has its own name: theodicy. Philosophers usually place the question like this (take a look at these three sentences):

1. God is good.
2. God is all-powerful.
3. Bad things happen.

After placing each of these sentences on a board, the philosopher confidently tells us that all three cannot be true at the same time. If God is good, and if God is all-powerful, then

bad things should not be happening. Or let’s say if God is good, and bad things happen, then this means God is not powerful enough to prevent the bad. Or, if God is powerful enough to prevent bad events and does not do so, then God is not good, but bad.

Mind you, those who are actually suffering rarely put the problem in such lofty and theoretical terms. That is because those suffering have not only a logical problem but an emotional one at the same time. Their cry is usually something like, “Why?” and they leave it at that. If my granddaughter Penny accidentally gets her finger caught in the car door and leaps into her mother’s arms, Mom is not going to begin reciting the three-phrase theodicy formula, nor is she going to be giving an extended lesson combining lectures on forces and kinetic energy with the biological basis of pain receptors and nerve endings. What Penny needs has nothing to do with the intellect. A comforting hug, a kiss, and quite probably a bandage imprinted with a fairy princess will be sufficient answer for her “problem of evil.”

I place this emotional aspect here in the study so you can sort out for yourself which type of apologetic response is appropriate when called on to defend your faith.

For instance, as I have noted before, most of us will not be called upon to give a philosophical explanation to a person such as Bart Ehrman. However, you need to have some basic idea of the logical consistency type of argument when faced with an objection to the existence of God, such as, “How could God allow the Nazis to kill so many Jews during the Holocaust?” an example Mr. Ehrman uses in his book, *God’s Problem*.

It did happen, and it is a vivid example of how evil humans can be. And one could even make an argument that it is an example of human free will and depravity, both of which have a biblical basis. But how would one then go on to explain a tsunami, seemingly a random occurrence with no human input? Or, if you wanted a smaller, much smaller, but equally tragic example (think Dostoevsky’s *The Brothers Karamazov* here), what about the death of

a single child from AIDS, malaria, respiratory infections, or diarrhea in Africa — something that occurs about every three or four seconds.

This is much more difficult to answer, but there are two things to think about here. First, we live in a fallen and very imperfect world. Climate systems create deserts and marshes, ice fields and everglades. People conceivably live in all these conditions and are subject to the forces of what we would call nature. We are all carriers for various microbial life forms, some beneficial and some not. Death and disease strike all — even those we consider the “innocents.” We tire and age. Though we make strides toward overcoming the effects of the Fall (Genesis 3) through technology and chemistry, the bent of our world is toward degeneration. We know that a new creation will supplant this one, and that new creation will not be subject to the same limitations and forces we experience in this one. But this is the world we have.

You can hear in Dostoevsky’s Ivan Karamazov’s complaint the echo of so many disappointed as he says, “It’s not that I don’t accept God, you must understand; it’s the world created by Him I don’t and cannot accept.”

The second part of my response has to do with the existence of good and evil. As Andy Naselli has written, “The problem of evil is an argument for God, not against Him. Christians must account for the problem of evil, but atheists must account for the problems of both good and evil. On what basis can atheists say that anything is inherently good or evil? If they do (and humans are universally outraged at moral and natural evils), they are borrowing from the Christian worldview.” (“What Is Evil”, *Reformation* 21, June 2009)

While nonbelievers may struggle with some of what I’ve written above, I think Christians do as well. We have to live with a certain amount of mystery and tension and paradox. I remember reading a passage in a Will Rogers biography in which pioneer aviator Wiley Post was explaining why pilots often crash their planes in bad weather. He explained that a disoriented pilot will start trusting intuition instead of the panel instruments before him. Instead of ascertaining a direction, pitch, and course from his instruments, he “thinks” too much and flies until he runs out of fuel.

Jesus asked, “Why?” from the Cross and

received no reply (Matthew 27:46). Generations before, Job asked, “Why?” but the response consisted of God asking questions that Job could not answer (Job 42:1-6). Joseph may have been asking “Why?” in the pit and in the prison (we have no record of him doing it) but he proposes his solution to such a question years later when he says that what seemed evil at the time worked for good at the end (Genesis 50:20).

The book of Hebrews lists people of faith who were delivered from danger and death:

“Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again...” (Hebrews 11:33-35),

AND YET WE READ,

“...others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.” (11:35-38)

Was God attentive to the needs of the first group, only to go on to ignore the cries of the

second, though all are described as people of faith? Or is it better to humbly maintain that God is sovereign, that humanity is in need of redemption, and that God is far more than a cosmic cushion as He dispenses justice, saves sinners, and judges evil?

And perhaps natural evil is a way to get us to focus on moral evil. I am nearly always surprised by what does and does not outrage people. C. S. Lewis was probably on to something when he described pain as “God’s megaphone.” As I was writing this article a friend sent me a thought:

“I have concluded that the single hardest thing for God to do is to humble and subdue the human heart without destroying the individual. He couldn’t do it with the generation

“I have concluded that the single hardest thing for God to do is to humble and subdue the human heart without destroying the individual...”

before the flood, or Pharaoh, or Belshazzar, or Judas. They wouldn’t let Him. Perhaps the single greatest ‘tool’ in God’s arsenal to subjugate in time and bring to submission the human will is suffering and pain. Suffering will break and instruct a man as nothing else can.”

Finally, I conclude with a three-part problem (thanks again to Mr. Andy Naselli):

1. God is holy and just
2. We are sinners who offend God’s holiness and deserve His just wrath
3. God forgives and justifies sinners through faith in Jesus, who endured the punishment for our own evil on the cross — “...while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

You can believe all three statements to be true, with good reason.



SOAKING IT UP

A BBC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SPECIAL FEATURE

by Marty Hughes

Fount of Christian knowledge, Baptist Bible College...

The familiar words of our beloved school song seem to ring truer every year. As I have the opportunity to participate in the work that the Alumni Association is doing, it gives me reason to consider all of the impact that BBC has had in my life and ministry over the last 30-plus years. Our school truly has been a fount of Christian knowledge to me. I arrived on campus in 1976 along with 1,100 other freshmen, pretty full of myself and ready to whip the devil at the drop of a hat. I was the perfect embodiment of R.O. Woodworth's old adage. He used to say, "BBC is a vast repository of Christian knowledge. The freshmen arrive on campus knowing so much and the seniors leave knowing so little, it must be here somewhere."

I am very thankful that the first thing

that God was able to do for me as a student at BBC was to break down that high wall of arrogance and ignorance that I had built around my heart. I came to genuine faith in Christ as a freshman and God brought godly professors and pastors into my life that have served as a well-spring of inspiration, information, and accountability in my ministry down through the years.

The classes that I took at BBC gave structure to my understanding of the Bible. They didn't teach me what to think as much as how to think. They gave me the tools that I needed to properly interpret and apply the Word of God to my daily life and to proclaim the truths that I learned with power and clarity. Very few times in my 32 years of ministry have I gone back to my notes and syllabi to find the answer to some problem that I was

dealing with, but I constantly draw on the training I received in how to hear God's voice, find His will, and obey His plan through total dependence on His Word.

If Baptist Bible College is a fountain, then its students and alumni are a river that has made its way by a very circuitous course to every corner of the world. At almost every turn, God has used a classmate or fellow alumnus to help direct my course down through the years. As a pastor, the missionaries that I invite to our church, the evangelists that I have speak, and the churches that I fellowship with are almost all connected in some way to Baptist Bible College. This is not because of some bias or prejudice, it is simply because I know their hearts, recognize their vision, and share their passion, and all of these things were instilled in them while at Baptist Bible College.

I value the heritage of BBC, but I am also thankful for those who are faithfully serving now so that its legacy can continue. As a pastor, I am thankful to have a school that I can wholeheartedly recommend to the young people of our church as they surrender to the call of God upon their lives. I am thankful for a school that recognizes that the rapidly-changing culture in which we live demands creative and innovative methods which find their power in the never-changing message of the gospel. I am thankful for the passionate spirit that I see in today's BBC students. Psalm 24:6 says, "This is the generation of them that seek Him, that seek thy face...." I see in the present-day students a hunger for God that is refreshing and exciting. If the Lord tarries, this generation of BBC students will face a much different world than my generation faced. Islamic extremism,

the secularization of American culture, and the headlong plunge into worldwide moral decadence makes the world a much more dangerous place in which to live and minister. But the generation that seeks the Lord's face will also see His hand.

Like any other resource, it is easy to take a fountain for granted. I am particularly blessed because I live and serve only two hours from Springfield. I am on campus fairly regularly almost year round, even more so during basketball season. As a result, I have a perspective on the school that many of my classmates are not blessed with. I am refreshed by the spirit, challenged by the passion, and encouraged by the vision that I witness every time that I am on campus. It encourages my heart to know that the "fount of Christian knowledge" from which I drank so freely in the past is still flowing vibrantly today and will bless the lives of others for generations to come.

Kevin Kennedy - Class of '79 *Graduate of Theology, B.S. in Education*



Kevin has ministered in two churches his entire ministry. He was youth pastor at Concord Baptist Church, Wilmington, Delaware, while completing his degree. In July of 1979, he became youth pastor at Trinity Baptist in Abilene, Texas, where his father, Leland Kennedy, was pastor. Kevin was called as senior pastor in 1991. Kevin has led Trinity to be a training center for evangelism in Abilene and around the world. Missions has played a major role in his ministry. His most recent trip was to Korea where he spoke at the 55th anniversary of Bible Baptist Church of Seoul, founded by missionary Ike Foster. While touring the buildings, Lee Jung-Bum showed him the spot where Daniel Kim prayed and received Christ. This was especially of interest because as a teenager at Twin City Baptist in Mishawaka, Indiana, God used Kim to soften Kevin's heart to surrender for vocational ministry. He and his wife, Pam (McCaskill), have two sons: Chad, a graduate of Liberty University, teaches theatre at Abilene High and leads worship at Trinity; and Ryan, a graduate of Rice University, teaches and coaches in Rockwall, Texas. Ryan married Whitney (Mentzel) in May and plans to enter law school next fall.

Randy Eggert - Class of '87 *Pastoral Theology*



Randy grew up under the ministry of Parker Dailey and his youth pastor, Bill Boren, at Blue Ridge Baptist Temple in Kansas City, Missouri. After graduating from BBC, Randy attended Missouri State University and received a MA in History in 1988. Afterwards, Randy attended University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law in 1991.

From 1991-1997 Randy served in several different areas of law. For the past 13 years, he has worked as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, out of the Springfield, Missouri, office. In 2002, Randy was named the Prosecutor of the Year for the Midwest Region by the White House Drug Policy Office.

In addition to his work, Randy stays involved in many community projects and since 2009 has been a trustee of Baptist Bible College. Randy also teaches part time at BBC and since 1999 has been an adjunct faculty member at Drury University.

Randy is married to Barbara Bean, who is an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Missouri, and they have two daughters, Emily (10) and Anna (6). The family attends Park Crest Baptist Church in Springfield where Phillip Housley is pastor and where Randy teaches a Sunday school class.

Lonnie A. Brooks - Class of '60 *Graduate of Theology-Mission Course; '93 BA (BBC correspondence course); MDiv '94 Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary; MABS '94 (same); PhD '96 (same)*



Lonnie and Georgine were married in November 1957 and approved as missionaries to Ethiopia in May 1961 where they stayed until 1975. Due to the revolution in that country, God led them to Costa Rica for a few months. However, their hearts were still in Africa and thankfully the Lord led them to Kenya where they labored there from January 1978 until August 1998 when they had to leave the field due to Lonnie's health. However, God was not finished with them and gave them the vision of SMORS (Skilled Missionaries Offering Relief Service), creatively named by Diana Blankenship, secretary in the BBFI Mission Office. SMORS missionaries go to a field where a few months relief is needed. The Brooks have served as SMORS missionaries in Malta, Korea, South Africa,

2010 Scholarship Recipients

Scotland, Australia, Jamaica, and Belgium. They also were able to evangelize in China and New Zealand where God blessed and souls were saved! In February 2008, the Brooks retired but are still active at Seminole Baptist Temple where Georgine has worked in AWANA and does craft work with the younger ages, and Lonnie teaches a Sunday school class and is a deacon. The Brooks have three children, Keith and his wife, Paula, Karen and her husband, Calum, and Kelly. They have six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Fred Young - Class of '87



Pastoral Major

Upon graduation, Fred returned to his home church where he served as the full-time youth pastor. He and his wife, Laura, also

worked in the Christian school. In the fall of 1988, Fred became the pastor of Marshall Baptist Temple in Marshall, Missouri. The church was three years old with just a handful of people. In January 1992, Fred assumed the pastorate of Aurora Baptist Temple in Aurora, Missouri. This congregation was a well-established church with a rich heritage. After seven and a half years the church had more than doubled in attendance and a new family life center was constructed. In the fall of 1999, Fred became the pastor of East Side Baptist Church in Independence, Missouri, a strong church of nearly 600 in attendance. In the past 11 years, East Side has more than doubled in attendance to its current average of 1,300. Two major building projects have been completed. Fred loves reading, riding his motorcycle, and is a sports enthusiast. Fred has been married to Laura, his high school sweetheart, for 27 years. They have two sons: Todd (23) and Tyler (20). Todd and his wife, Hannah, reside in the Atlanta, Georgia, area.

Charles (Chuck) Snyder is from Marysville, Michigan, and is currently a sophomore majoring in Pastoral Studies pursuing God's calling to go into full-time ministry as a senior pastor. In Michigan, Chuck was a master electrician owning his own electrical contracting company and he served in many capacities at his home church including: deacon, trustee, leader of the youth group, and various other ministries. Chuck is trying to finish a four-year degree in three years while working full time, having a family, and serving as college and career director at his local church, Baptist Temple, Pastor Mark Round-saville. Chuck says, "My family and I have seen the Lord work in our lives in so many amazing ways. There is no way I could mention them all here! We are excited to see Him continue to provide for us in this new journey. Thank you for the Alumni Scholarship. It has been one of God's amazing blessings for us."



Tiffany Jasper Foltz is from Shreveport, Louisiana, where her home church is Baptist Tabernacle, Pastor Jon Isbell. Tiffany married Nathan Foltz July 31 of this year and says she "loves it!" Tiffany and Nathan are planning on going to Tanzania, East Africa, shortly after graduation where they hope to become church planters and see many saved. Tiffany says, "When we first get there, while I am in language school, I am hoping to help my husband's mom, Joanne Foltz, with her school there in Tanzania by holding a teacher's class and by teaching." Obviously, Tanzania and the Tanzanian people are their passion and they are excited for what the future holds.



Esteban (Michael) Martinez is from Wichita, Kansas, where, before coming to BBC, he worked in a Christian school and volunteered as the youth director at Friendship Baptist Church, Pastor Steve Day. Michael and his wife, Gennifer, have three children: Reyna (12), Marcelo (8), and Nehemiah (3). Michael is a Pastoral Studies major and is planning to graduate Spring 2011. Michael says, "Because of the Alumni Scholarship I was able to take a few more classes than normal, both this semester and next, which is contributing to me being able to graduate in three years rather than four." Michael and Gennifer are presently serving at Cherry Street Baptist Church, Pastor Dennis Jennings, where they teach the 5th grade Sunday school class. Michael says, "The Alumni Scholarship was a tremendous blessing in so many ways — financially, spiritually, and motivationally. I am very grateful and thankful for the Alumni Association and all that they do to improve the life of the students as a whole and individually. Thank you Alumni Association."



Ali Alexander is from Overland Park, Kansas, where her home church is Overland Park Baptist Temple, Pastor Tracy Roby. Ali is a senior at Baptist Bible College and will be graduating in May with a major in Intercultural Studies and a minor in Teaching English to Speakers of a Second Language. Ali is planning on being a missionary to a Spanish-speaking area but is still praying about where God is leading her to serve. While on the field, Ali would like to work with children and eventually use her TESOL education to possibly start an English school in order to further the gospel. While at BBC, Ali attends Seminole Baptist Temple, Pastor Don Baier.



2010 Alumni Project

Last year's Alumni Project was to renovate and refurnish the two commons areas in the men's dorms and what had been referred to as the Florida Room in the women's dorm. Through the generous efforts of the alumni, the \$15,000 project has now been completed. The next phase in enhancing student life on campus will be to renovate and refurnish the Student Center, which has not been addressed since its opening in 2004. Dean of Students Ray Adams says, "The Student Center is one of the most popular places on campus for students to gather and visit, and the prospect of having it renovated is very exciting." The furniture, computers, TVs, and lighting are all in dire need of replacement. The Alumni Association has set an ambitious goal of \$20,000 for this project in order to provide a first-class setting in which students can gather, fellowship, and study together. Please consider giving generously to this exciting project.

Get involved!

TO: BBC FACULTY
FROM: ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

One of the efforts that the Alumni Association has traditionally made at this time of year is to raise money to provide Christmas bonuses for the BBC faculty. These faithful men and women are the ones who keep the "fount of Christian knowledge" flowing. Please give generously so that we can be a blessing to the ones who have served so sacrificially through the years teaching and ministering to our students.



Join the Alumni Association and get your 2010 membership card today!

By becoming a member of the BBC Alumni Association, you partner with other alumni to enhance student life at BBC. The cost to become an Alumni member is \$25 annually. This money is used to enhance student life by providing scholarships, supporting student government, funding student and alumni events, and paying for alumni campus projects.

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HISTORY

BAPTISTS

JOHN TANNER — He was shot for obeying God

John Tanner was no stranger to religious persecution. He was imprisoned and almost killed for preaching Baptist principles. Nothing is known of Tanner's youth or when and how he became a Baptist. The first mention we find of John Tanner is when he established a Baptist church prior to 1773 in Halifax County, North Carolina. Like most of his contemporaries, he did not limit his ministry to the church he pastored. His itinerant ministry included North and South Carolina and Virginia.

In May 1773, John Tanner and John Weatherford were arrested for preaching in Chesterfield County, Virginia, approximately 100 miles from Tanner's home in North Carolina. This gives us an idea of the distance these early Baptist preachers often traveled to preach the gospel. The old court records of Chesterfield County say, "John Tanner an itinerant person calling himself an Anabaptist preacher taken by my warrant...did on his examination confess that he has at divers times convended numbers of people in this county and more particular on this day did convene numbers and preach to them in this county, not being qualified by law so to do, which is contrary to law and tends to disturb the peace and good government of this colony." Both John Tanner and John Weatherford were found guilty of disturbing the peace and were incarcerated in the Chesterfield jail. We do not know how long Tanner was a prisoner but John Weatherford was imprisoned for five months.

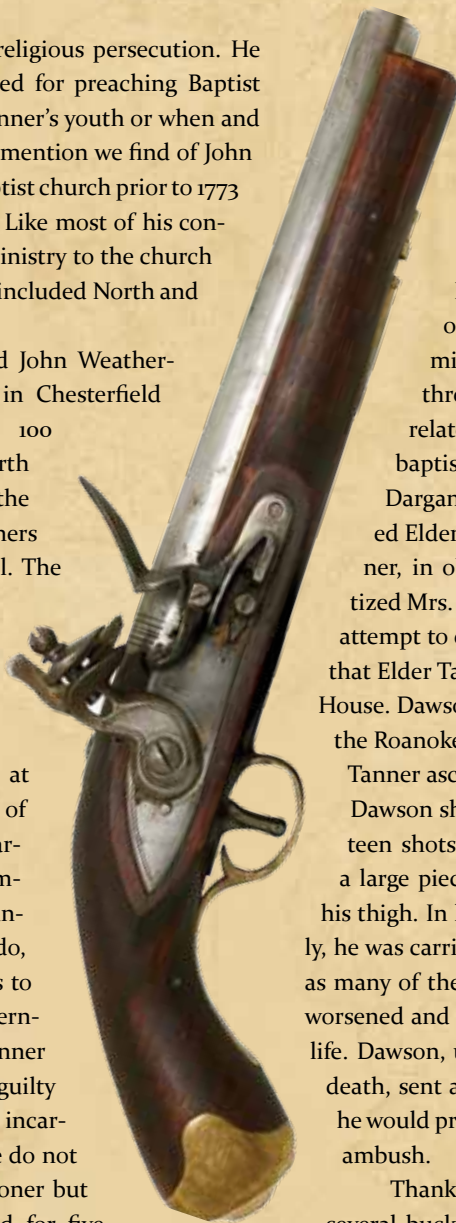
Tanner's next ordeal occurred four years later in North Carolina. Elder Jeremiah Dargan, the pastor of the Baptist church in Windsor, North Carolina, had a Mrs. Dawson converted through his ministry. But her husband, a violent and wicked man and a bitter enemy of the Baptists, threatened to shoot any man who baptized his wife. It was decided that under the circumstances it would be best if Mrs. Daw-

son deferred her baptism and attempted to convince her husband to allow her to be baptized. Unfortunately, her pleas fell upon a hardened heart and deaf ears.

In 1777, John Tanner was on one of his itinerant tours of North Carolina. One of the places he was scheduled to preach was at Elder Dargan's church in Windsor. It was at one of these services that Mrs. Dawson was determined to do her duty in spite of her husband's threats. She presented herself to the church and related her salvation experience and requested baptism. The church approved her request. Elder Dargan, who was an aged and infirmed man, requested Elder Tanner to conduct the baptismal service. Tanner, in obedience to Christ's command, joyfully baptized Mrs. Dawson. At the baptism, Mr. Dawson made no attempt to carry out his threat, but in June 1777 he heard that Elder Tanner was to preach at the Sandy Run Meeting House. Dawson traveled from Windsor to Norfeets Ferry on the Roanoke River, and concealed himself and when Elder Tanner ascended the River bank from the Ferry landing, Dawson shot him with a large horseman's pistol. Seventeen shots went into Tanner's thigh, one of which was a large piece of buckshot that went completely through his thigh. In his wounded condition and bleeding profusely, he was carried to a nearby house where a doctor removed as many of the shots as he could locate. Tanner's condition worsened and for several weeks his friends despaired for his life. Dawson, upon hearing that Tanner was at the point of death, sent a doctor to treat him, realizing that if he died he would probably hang, especially since he shot him from ambush.

Thankfully, John Tanner did recover but he carried several buckshot pieces in his thigh as a reminder of his ordeal. Tanner made no attempt to seek revenge or financial recompense from Dawson, but counted this experience as persecution for Christ's sake. Tanner moved about 1784 to Kentucky where he organized and pastored the Tate's Creek Church. He eventually moved to Missouri near Cape Girardeau where he died in 1812.

Thank God for these early Baptist ministers who allowed no hardship to deter them from their God-called task.



by Thomas Ray





URBAN CURRENT

City and family — A good mix?

Debbie (D): Having lived in the inner city Chicago 29 years, I can say I never wanted to be anywhere else.

I'm speaking with John and Debbie Thompson who have two sons, two daughters, and 12 grandchildren. John has been on the staff at Armitage for 12 years, and served as one of our pastors since 2003.

John (J): We moved into Chicago's Humboldt Park, declared one of the worst gang-saturated neighborhoods in the nation by a University of Chicago sociologist. We wrestled with that reality. I reflected on my theology. God impressed upon me that the safest place in the world is right in the center of His will and that the most dangerous place is outside of His will.

D: I felt safe — what does that mean? For me, it means being in the will of God. In the city or in any place around the world we adjust and surrender to the place God sends us. I've never been apprehensive of doing God's will.

Have you seen some city horrors up close and personal?

J: Well there was the gang fight right in front of the house, the wife trying to stab her husband, the lady of the night being dragged up and down the alley with little to no clothes. We have had some close calls, but we have never been injured and our house has never been broken into. God has helped in a hostile environment.

What about the fear factor and the kids?

D: We were not afraid so we did not transmit fear to our children. There's a big difference between not being afraid and not being wise. We taught our children street smarts from the earliest ages. They were never afraid of where they were living.

The kids get to school age, now what?

D: I made a decision to disciple my kids and I knew that home schooling would provide the time and the vehicle to do that. I have never regretted that decision. We talked about everything.

Were your kids ever challenged?

D: One time a carload of gang bangers pulled up by Jamie and Curtis who were probably in junior high at the time. "Whatcha be about?" somebody yelled. *(I need to inject some interpretation here. That question is a major challenge in street parlance. The wrong answer and you die.)* Jamie and Curtis responded "We be about Jesus." After a moment of puzzlement the car drove off. We were known as the church people. We were always out in the community walking up and down the streets. We made sure kids came to our house and played in our little yard. Then everybody was safe and we could keep an eye out.

Any difficulties?

D: Well, our children became so acculturated that they struggled with prejudice against white people and especially suburbanites. They had to wrestle through identity crisis. At one point my 16-year-old daughter said, "I'm plaid." She knew she was Anglo but she thought and felt like a Puerto Rican.

What are some of the deliberate things you did as parents that were especially effective?

J: We kept the kids involved in ministry.

D: Our children accompanied us as we visited the poor, those on drugs or alcohol, troubled families, the sick. They observed us treating the homeless and prostitutes with respect, even inviting them on occasion for a meal. Primary relationships came from church and other fam-

ilies that shared our faith and values. Our kids were never alone as they moved around the city. They were either with parents or in a group of trusted peers.

Do you feel like you sacrificed your family?

J: No. They got their spouses here. I came from a very prejudiced background. They are now completely free of prejudice. They have watched us live our faith. We never sheltered them from our struggles. When we had no money for the mortgage, they knew we were trusting God. They watched God provide again and again. In other words, we involved them in the trials of life. God became real to them.

How about it Debbie? Any regrets?

D: God raised my kids. God took this little wimpy girl from a small town and let me mother these kids.

Each of our children loves Jesus and is active in ministry. Our three oldest are married and have wonderful families. Our oldest daughter serves in leadership with her husband in a city church. Our oldest son is pastoring in one of Chicago's worst neighborhoods. He, his wife, and three children live where they serve. Our second son and his wife are working as full-time missionaries at our first son's church. Our youngest daughter is very involved at church and is a senior educator with a Christian organization teaching abstinence in the public schools.

J: City life is a school for life. It's been rich living.

by Charles Lyons, Pastor
Armitage Baptist Church,
Chicago, Illinois
charles.lyons@armitagechurch.org



BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Exciting partnerships



by Jim Edge | President | Baptist Bible College

Mega-changes are taking place within our American and global culture, and they affect you, your church, and ministries around the world. Society is marked by moral decline, economic uncertainty, and spiritual confusion. The world is looking for hope. As believers, we believe God has placed us here “for such a time as this.” Society’s ongoing search for hope gives us tremendous opportunities to impact our world. To do so requires that we have a clear vision and a focused strategy. We know our only hope is found in Christ. “The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” (Proverbs 18:10)

At BBC, God has allowed us the privilege of building upon the past as we move into the future even during these difficult times. We are able to do so by fixing our eyes on Jesus. Let me share with you three of the many improvements we are making at the college.

First, we are refining and expanding our Christian Life Ministry component. Because of our emphasis in the local church, we want to make sure our students are participating and leading in ministries in their local churches here in Springfield. The city of Springfield is home to many fine churches. Our administration and faculty are currently evaluating the CLM program and will bring refinements to enhance this important aspect of the students’ education.

Second, we want every graduate to have a global relevance; that is, a real perspective of the gospel advancing around the world. One goal is that every graduate will visit a mission field by the time they graduate. With the recent introduction of the Bob and Ann Baird Scholarship Fund to help fund these internships, our goal is closer to becoming a reality. We also want to welcome foreign students from around the world to become students at BBC and to rub shoulders with students. At BBC, we want the world to be a classroom.

Third, we are working strategically to expand our financial partnerships. We are thankful for 446 churches that have supported BBC thus far in 2010. We are working tirelessly to build on that base and expand the number of churches who partner with us. In recent months, we have determined it is necessary to have more than one avenue of contributions to support the college. In response, we have established the Patriot Alliance (www.gobbc.edu/partners/), and are inviting individuals to partner with us also. Please pray for us as we build a solid family of churches, individuals, and businesses who will join with us to train the next generation of Christian leaders.

By fixing our eyes on Jesus we are able to see above the noise and confusion of our society and lead BBC into the 21st century. By God’s grace we will not retreat; we will not stand still. By God’s grace we will continue to improve in every area to become the college our founders envisioned over 60 years ago and one the pastors of the BBFI expect today.

BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE

The words you know



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

I was in the auto repair shop the other day and noticed a weird tool on the ground. I asked Jimmy, my mechanic, what that “thingy” was. Wrong move. My native New England mechanic would only roll his eyes and smirk. He knew he couldn’t have a meaningful auto repair conversation with me. Tools aren’t “thingies” (it was some kind of calibrating-something-or-other).

Good reminder. For serious business, you really need a meaningful vocabulary. Come to Boston and ask where Fenway Stadium is — the retort you get won’t be pretty!

I watched a football game last night. Every time there was a penalty, the entire crowd quieted itself to hear an official use vocabulary. There was no ambiguity. Never once did I hear one of those striped-shirts say, “Sort of sketchy pushing and shoving” or, “Kind of standing in the wrong place.” Nope — it’s *offsides*, and it matters!

Nobody wants a physician who uses a *thing-a-ma-bob* or a *do-hickey*. Right? Christianity is just as dependent on vocabulary. Recent studies like that by the Pew Research Center have shown that our country is increasingly and dramatically illiterate on matters religious and particularly with biblical terminology. That is a tension. We need to speak *to* our audience, but we also have a significant conversation to be had. And a conversation demands vocabulary. Anything less is a flailing debacle of miscommunication. It might look cool on witness-wear to say “God Rocks,” but that won’t carry the conversation to where it needs to go.

I cringed to my core recently when I heard someone say, “Jesus is my homeboy” — not because it was some predicable publicity-grabber, but because it was someone who seemed to care about Jesus!

So here’s for a renaissance of healthy spiritual vocabulary. Who talks much about *virtue* anymore? There’s a term to recycle. One of my favorites is *piety*...my students here know how much I like that one. I don’t know how you talk about the gospel without *repentance* and *damnation*. You can’t adequately replace that with *change* and *less-than-desirable consequences*.

I wish we could presume a working vocabulary on all things biblical, but we can’t. What we also must *not* do — especially in ministry education — is cripple our capacity for conversation by abandoning the vocabulary that empowers it. So let’s learn some new words if we need to, and teach some old words because they need to be known. In Boston, we won’t insult our future leaders by pretending they can’t meet and exceed those who have gone before. Instead we want them to build on that foundation...we are determined to educate the most competent church leaders any generation has even seen! Times are too hard, spiritual needs are too vast, for “thingy” church leaders.

“Thingies” aren’t even good enough to fix a fan belt. I learned that from Jimmy.

BBC education unit recognized by MO Board of Ed.

Springfield, MO

Greg Christopher, vice president of academic affairs of Baptist Bible College, is pleased to announce that on August 17 the Missouri State Board of Education granted approval for the Baptist Bible College Education Unit to continue offering education programs leading to state licensure.

In the fall of 2009, a team from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted a peer review of the professional education unit and programs. The team

cited several strengths of the programs including strong academic, professional, and personal relationships between candidates, program completers, and faculty. The State Board of Education further distinguished BBC by recognizing their involvement as one of the four colleges/universities in the Springfield Teacher Education Alliance. This alliance was formed in the Springfield area to address the unique environment of local schools designated with title I status and is being observed and reviewed by other universities and

accreditation agencies across the nation.

Baptist Bible College's recognition as one of the almost 40 institutions approved by the State of Missouri to offer teacher certification programs will continue through 2017. The Education Unit leaders' desire for excellence continues as plans to add more education programs on the campus of Baptist Bible College develop. For more information about the education programs at BBC call (417) 268-6067 or by email at educationoffice@gbbcc.edu.

LBU hosts conference in Gatlinburg, TN

Shreveport, LA

Louisiana Baptist University co-hosted a Prophecy Conference with Jimmy DeYoung Ministries September 13-17 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The conference was held at the Glenstone

Lodge. Keynote speaker for the event was Jimmy DeYoung with LBU president, Neal Weaver, also participating. This is the second time LBU and Jimmy DeYoung Ministries have held the

in on-campus students for the fall semester. External student enrollment has also surpassed 2009.

In January 2011, LBU will offer two new majors, Apologetics and Religious Education. Though the university has offered Apologetics courses in the past, it did not offer it as a major.

Furthermore, on January 17-19, 2011, LBU will hold a workshop on Church Growth and Evangelism. The workshop will be held on the Shreveport campus. The university has scheduled a total of eight modulars and workshops for 2011.



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Canton Baptist Temple; Roberson in Christian HOF

Canton, OH

Canton Baptist Temple kicked off its fall season with several exciting events. First, Block Party 2010 was held in the church parking lot with Evangelist Steve Carrier of Mega Force Ministries. Carrier currently holds the Guinness Book of World Records for breaking 30 Louisville Slugger Baseball bats over his thigh in 44 seconds. Saturday night, August 21, Carrier performed feats of strength and preached a youth rally at the church. On Sunday, he performed feats of strength and preached on the outdoor stage. During the weekend, several thousand attended the festivities and 147 public decisions were made.

Lee Roberson, long-time pastor and founder of Tennessee Temple Schools, was inducted into the Christian Hall of Fame September 7. John Roberson, Lee Roberson's son, was present for the induction. This is the 107th original oil painting that has been added to the Christian Hall of Fame that was founded by the late Harold Henniger. To view the entire gallery, visit

www.christianhof.org.

September 7 was also National Back to Church Sunday and was the start of Canton Baptist Temple's fall Sunday school attendance campaign, The CBT Fall 100. The campaign goes through November 7 and has already brought



The Fraziers (left) with John Roberson and the painting of Lee Roberson that will appear in the Christian Hall of Fame at Canton Baptist Temple.

in 67 first-time visitors, multiple professions of faith, and an increase in the overall Sunday school attendance.

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Historic West Texas church hosts fellowship

Snyder, TX

Calvary Baptist Church and Pastor Larry McAden hosted the Central West Texas BBF meeting September 13-14. Guest preachers for

the meeting were Chuck Reynolds, Wes Bygel, and *Tribune* Editor Keith Bassham. The Monday evening portion of the meeting took place in the church's Christian life center with a steak dinner and gospel music concert performed by singer/composer Jayson Steelman.

The communities and churches in Central West Texas have been hit hard economically the past couple of decades as much of the area was built up during the oil boom years. The church in Snyder was founded by Gerald Cates in early 1950, and it was one of the

first churches to express support for the beginning of the Baptist Bible Fellowship when the congregation made a resolution in July 1950 to be a part of the new movement.

Larry McAden has been pastor at Calvary since 1979.

LBU GRADUATES ARE SAYING...



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Speaker, Author,
President of Shofar
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Christian Schools of Springfield now nationally accredited

Springfield, MO

Christian Schools of Springfield (CSOS) in Springfield, Missouri, received full national accreditation from the American Association of Christian Schools during the association's Annual Legal Conference in Washington, D.C. in early September. CSOS is sponsored by Baptist Temple of Springfield where Mark Rounsaville is pastor.

Accreditation comes after five years of preparation and work among the faculty and staff of the school, which has a K-12 program and a structured-curriculum preschool. When asked the importance of this milestone Rounsaville said, "The A.A.C.S. accreditation assures our parents and community that we are committed to a high degree of excellence as we strive to accomplish our mission of developing passionate followers of Jesus Christ who are academically and spiritually equipped to make a positive difference in the world." School Administrator MaryLou

VonderStasse stated that it also "paves the way for the continued development of our school's future."

CSOS also completed an exterior facelift on its East Campus facility this summer, including new energy-efficient windows and drainage systems, stucco wainscoting, and a complete paint job making the whole building look brand new.

Beginning with this school year, CSOS also introduced multiple on-line courses in mathematics and science for high school students in



The AACCS Accreditation Commission with CSOS administrators: (L to R) Dan Brokke, Keith Wiebe (AACCS President), MaryLou VonderStasse, Mark Rounsaville, Gary Peltier, Dave Nichols, Jeff Walton (AACCS Executive Director).

addition to its traditional teacher-led classes. A variety of foreign languages are also offered in the school's on-line computer lab including French, German, and Latin. Another first for the school is to enroll homeschoolers for individual, traditional, and on-line classes as well as its fine arts and athletic programs.

Vermont church hosts BBQ competition

Vergennes, VT

Victory Baptist Church in Vergennes, Vermont, and Pastor Tim Taylor combined the National Back To Church Sunday campaign with a pitmaster's BBQ competition September 12. The morning church attendance that day swelled to 387 from a summer average of 205.

Taylor notes that his church was also in an attendance competition with a church in Massachusetts for that Sunday, but adds, "Country gentlemen never tell the names of the defeated."

Seven teams competed in three divisions: beef, pork, and chicken, and there was a side competition for pies. With over 100 pounds of barbecue, about 50 pies, and all the side dishes, there was plenty of food for the crowd who came to church that morning. Visitors also completed forms for a gift basket drawing, and the con-

gregation is following up on all the new contacts.

There are relatively few independent Baptist churches in Vermont. Taylor says, "While statistically Vermont is the least religious state in the nation, per capita, clearly the fields are white unto harvest, unfortunately, the laborers are few. Maybe the Lord is speaking to others about the need in the far Northeast."

And then he adds with a sly smile, "You can even bring your favorite barbecue recipe."



Pastor Tim Taylor



Church hosts wedding in Sunday morning service

Pittsfield, IL

When Pastor Bill Herald was counseling prospective groom Joe Lynch and his bride-to-be, Yovonne, about a wedding date, the best day to share their celebration with family and friends fell on Sunday, September 5. So that day, Calvary Baptist Church had a wedding in the morning worship service.

Pastor Herald says, "Joe and Yovonne came to church as a result of our Vacation Bible School, and that Sunday night, at one of our Life Groups, Joe accepted Christ as his Savior. That next Monday morning he asked Yovonne to marry him."

He further explains that the couple had seven children between them, so Bill says, "I had the opportunity to explain to them the things they needed to do if they wanted God's best for their lives, and they agreed to do what they needed to do to achieve God's best."

The couple first separated physically, and they were both baptized (Yovonne had made



Yovonne, pastor Bill Herald, and Joe

a profession of faith as a child). Next, a date was set. Herald says, "And then we began to watch God do some amazing things." Yovonne's 73-year-old grandfather began attending church, and was saved and baptized.

On the day of the wedding, Herald preached a message about how marriage is a picture of the love of Christ to a crowded auditorium with 190 attending the service. He notes the auditorium can seat 160 comfortably. He also says Joe and Yovonne wanted to have their wedding during a Sunday morning service because they wanted their friends and relatives to know why their lives had changed so dramatically. One of Joe's family members even said, "The only reason you are having this thing on a Sunday morning is to get us to church, isn't it?" and Joe said, "Yep! That's why."

Since the wedding, Joe and Yovonne have become active in the church. She is working in the AWANA program, and the couple has opened up their home to host a Life Group. Their seven children have become a big part of the Sunday school and AWANA programs. Joe and Yovonne pray their children will come to Christ soon.



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Stewardship materials available

By Rick Carter, Senior Pastor of Canyon Creek Baptist Church
Richardson, TX



One of the things I learned when I started my first church in Mississippi in 1973 was that when it came time to start making payments on a new building and land, some of the people who were so eager to see us get our own building were not as eager to help us make the payments. Reality sat in. Knowing I had to do something to meet the financial obligation, I organized and conducted my first stewardship conference in January 1974. Even though in that first stewardship emphasis my motives were wrong, God blessed and began to show me that stewardship is not about raising money but about raising people.

Much more recently, I was invited to speak to a group of 75 pastors. While my topic was not stewardship, I asked them how many of them were struggling financially in their church, and 70 of them raised their hands. Then I asked how many of them had an annual organized stewardship campaign and only five pastors raised their hands. They were the only five who were not struggling financially in their church. For whatever reason, Satan has been far too successful in keeping pastors from helping their people see, understand, and practice biblical stewardship. Therefore, their people struggle and the churches struggle.

Some preachers pride themselves in only occasionally or never preaching on stewardship. I remind you that Jesus had more to say about stewardship in the New Testament than He did about heaven or hell. Some pastors do not conduct stewardship emphasis simply because they don't know how.

After conducting and writing my stewardship material for over 30 years, I have decided to make the ma-

terial from our Stewardship Emphasis January 2010 available. Our theme was "Let the Church Grow," because the church cannot have measured and sustained growth if our people are not growing.

Many churches are stagnant because the pastors and people are not growing. QUESTION - Are you growing in the Lord? I did not ask if you have grown or are planning on growing, but can you immediately, upon being asked that question, identify an area of growth in your life. If you have to think about it, you probably are not growing.

Another way to detect spiritual growth is to ask yourself what has changed in your life recently. If you say you are growing, and everything is remaining the same, you are probably just fooling yourself. Let me encourage preachers to accept the challenge to be a growing pastor and to initiate a stewardship emphasis that will challenge your people to grow.

Pastor Carter is making available the complete program of "Let the Church Grow" on CD, which includes 10 sermons, six Sunday school lessons, 27 daily devotions, eight personal testimonies, plus samples of his stewardship booklet, communication letters, placemats, and commitment card. The cost is \$59 and you can order the material by emailing rick.carter@canyoncreekbc.org, or call (972) 231-4753.

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First Cool Kids Kollege West scheduled

Springfield, MO

For the first time, Steve Harney and Cool Kids Ministries will host Cool Kids Kollege West, taking place November 5-6 on the campus of Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri. Fifteen speakers from across the nation will share their expertise on how to be better prepared, equipped, and excited to reach this generation for Christ.

The event will begin on Friday night with a worship service and a dinner. Kollege speakers include Ronnie Caldwell, Scott Phillips (head of the children's ministry department at Liberty University), Sheldon Rhodes, Gene Cordova, Chuck Rathel, and Steve Harney of Cool Kids Ministries. Some topics to be covered in

the classes are: having a successful after-school program, ministering in public schools, effective storyteller, using technology in the classroom, reaching parents, disciplining your children, organizing records, creating an E-Team (children evangelizing other children), and training children to minister and serve.

The last three Kids Kolleges have been held at Camp Chautauqua in Miamisburg, Ohio. This March, the Kollege had 250 plus attendees from over 50 different churches representing 10



different states. Harney says, "Attendance has grown every year at the Kollege. We expect Kids Kollege West to do the same thing."

For more information, registration, schedule, speakers, and hotel info, go to www.coolkidskollege.com or contact Steve Harney at (606) 305.4218 or steve@coolkidsministries.com.

GuideStone: Are contributions in line with your needs?

By Dixie Beard

A new year is fast approaching and many people are already thinking about what kind of resolutions they'll make. Most of us will resolve to lose weight, and many will plan to be better stewards of their money.

While losing weight is a laudable goal, may I talk briefly about the need to be better stewards of our income?

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, near-

ly nine percent of Americans over age 65 lived in poverty in 2009. It's safe to say none of them planned to end up in poverty during the so-called "golden years." Many are there because of circumstances beyond their control, but many are there due to the simple lack of planning.

So, how do you plan? Well, if you participate in the BBFI retirement plan through GuideStone Financial Resources, there is a great resource called GPS: Guided Planning Services (provided by GuideStone Advisors, a controlled-affiliate of GuideStone Financial Resources). The service is available at no cost to you and can help you determine your retirement savings needs. You can access the service by setting up an appointment with an adviser by calling 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) or by logging into your account at www.MyGuideStone.org.

But what if you need to contribute more than you're currently contributing to stand a better chance of having a financially secure retirement? Chances are good that the amount you are contributing today will be less than what you need to save for a comfortable retirement. However, if you can't make the jump to the amount you should be contributing, GuideStone has an option designed for you.

GuideStone's 1% Club (www.GuideStone.org)

is an easy and convenient way to help you build your retirement savings. When you enroll, GuideStone will send you annual reminders, including an annual Salary Reduction Agreement so that you can increase your contributions to your retirement account.

Those small increases each year — whether one percent or more — can help put you on track toward a financially secure retirement.

In his excellent resource *Antology*, GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins details the parable of the ant in Proverbs 6:6-7 and applies it to retirement planning. Solomon instructs the hearer to look at the ant as a guide to preparing for tomorrow. Hawkins writes, "No minister of the gospel should think about 'retiring,' but instead should put the focus on 'retooling' for the most productive years of life and ministry which could potentially take place during those 'retirement' years."

Let us help you take the steps you need to take to prepare for your future. Visit our website, www.GuideStone.org, or call us between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. CST, Monday-Friday at 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433). You can also email Dixie Beard at Dixie.Beard@GuideStone.org. We look forward to serving you.

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Carl Bush

El Dorado, KS

Long-time BBFI pastor Carl Bush, 88, went to be with his Lord September 9, 2010. Carl was born November 13, 1921, in Enid, Oklahoma, the son of Carl C. and Mildred (Swain) Bush. He spent 62 years of his life in the ministry. He was married to Helen Frances Fitz who passed away in 1994.

Pastor Bush led seven churches as pastor and started two. During WWII, he served his country in the United States Navy. In 1972, he was called to El Dorado to serve Temple Baptist Church. He was married to Lucille Pennock on March 17, 1995, at Temple Baptist. Carl was an avid fisherman.

Surviving family includes: his wife, Lucille, one son, one daughter, three stepchildren, 11 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held September 16 at Temple Baptist Church in El Dorado.



Robert Lee Shotts

Battle Creek, MI

BBFI pastor Robert Lee Shotts went home to meet the Lord on Friday, September 24, 2010. Born April 29, 1926, in Vina, Alabama, he was the son of Robert Paul Shotts and Lula Floy Thorn Shotts. His family moved to Detroit, Michigan, to find work following the Great Depression.

He graduated from Detroit Cass Technical High School as an ROTC graduate, eventually serving in the United States Navy and Reserves for 12 years, ending his Navy career as a Lieutenant, part of which time was spent during the Korean Conflict. During his early years in the USN, he received a Bachelor of Naval Science degree from the University of



Notre Dame. He also held a Masters in Education from Indiana University, and two theology degrees from Bob Jones University.

September 2, 1948, Robert was married to Dorothy Jane Pettit in Detroit. He was ordained to the ministry by Temple Baptist Church in Detroit in 1950. His pastoral ministry took him to churches in Georgia, Indiana, North Carolina, and Michigan. He spent 17 years in Crawfordsville, Indiana, as pastor of Fremont Street Baptist Church.

Robert is survived by his wife, Dorothy, of 62 years, six daughters, one son, 18 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at the Shottsville Community Church, in Shottsville, Alabama, September 29, 2010. The family can be contacted at PO Box 61, Dowling, MI 49050.

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Paul D. Outland

Lawrenceville, GA

Paul D. Outland went home to be with Jesus Christ his Savior August 10, 2010, at the age of 84. Paul was born in Paducah, Kentucky, and the Outland family moved to Akron, Ohio, when he was still an infant. He was saved as a 12-year-old boy at the first revival service held at Akron Baptist Temple. He graduated from Garfield High School and enlisted in the United States Navy, serving at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, and other assignments in the Pacific.

In January 1946, he married Mary "Mickey" Leatherwood. Upon his discharge in 1946, he and his wife moved to Ft. Worth, Texas, where



he attended Baptist Bible Seminary. In January 1950, he was called back to his home church, Akron Baptist Temple, and had a career there that spanned more than five decades. In the early 1980s, he had a doctorate degree conferred upon him from Northwestern Baptist Seminary in Detroit, Michigan.

In 1997, the Outlands moved to Lawrenceville, Georgia, and after the death of Mrs. Outland in 2005, Paul became involved with the Gospel Preachers Association.

Left to cherish his memory is his daughter, Sandra, and her family. A memorial service for Mr. Outland was held September 9 at Galilean Baptist Church in Lawrenceville with Robert Leatherwood and Rex McPherson officiating.

Dorothy Blue

Albuquerque, NM

Dorothy Suzanne Blue, wife of Pastor John Blue, went home to be with her Lord, September 20, 2010. Suzanne was born on August 21, 1931. She was married to John for 62 years, and they served together as he pastored Fellowship Baptist Church 40 years and was a principal and teacher at Fellowship Baptist Academy.

Suzanne is survived by her husband, a son, a daughter, and several grandchildren. Services were held September 23 at Mountain Spring Fellowship Baptist Church in Albuquerque.



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Giving thanks with contentment

By Kevin Carson

Co-pastor, Sunrise Baptist Church, Ozark, MO

Have you ever had a year when you thought Thanksgiving holiday didn't fit it very well? Tragedies. Job loss. Recession. Natural disasters. Politics. Add to this the times people have sinned against you through reckless gossip, broken promises, neglected relationships, or dishonest business. Oh yeah, plus family with health problems, maybe even your personal health difficulties. As we gather around friends and family this year, in all honesty, many in our churches will find it hard to say the time-honored Thanksgiving family prayer from a grateful heart.

Maybe you find yourself asking the question, "How can Paul say that he had learned regardless of the circumstance to be content?" (Philippians 4:11) Consider Paul's circumstances: he is writing from a prison. Others (actually preachers) are choosing to sin against him. He is not sure if he is going to live or die. Some in the church are preaching a false gospel. Good friends were not getting along. Yet, in spite of all this, Paul still could say...regardless of where I am and what is going on, I find a way to be content.

Foundation of Paul's Contentment

Christ was at the center of Paul's life. His relationship with Christ was based upon Christ's humble obedience to the Father and not on his (Paul's) efforts (Philippians 2:5-11; 3:3-7). He thought of Christ as his example — and the example for all believers. Christ demonstrated how to suffer. He selflessly lived life not for His own glory, comfort, or plans; but instead, Christ accepted God's will for His life in total submission as he perfectly loved God and served others.

Paul also determined to gain Christ, to be found in Christ, and to know Christ, specifically the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his suffering (Philippians 3:8-11). Paul understood that God did not accept him based upon his own righteousness. Those things that looked like righteousness from Paul's perspective were as refuse. Instead, Paul enjoyed the righteousness of Christ and lived in the power of the resurrection. Likewise, Paul considered it only natural and right

to suffer for Christ. Since Christ suffered more than any other in order to provide righteousness, Paul wanted to share in that same suffering as a means of worship and gratitude.

He wanted to live up to Christ's purpose for his life (Philippians 3:12-14). Paul accepted Christ's goal for his life. He understood when he was saved that Christ had certain expectations. He recognized when he became a follower of Christ that Christ had an agenda. He was saved with specific purposes in mind. Therefore, he made it his ambition to be like Christ.

Paul as well eagerly waited for the joy of the return of Christ. In other words, he lived life on earth with eternal life in view (Philippians 3:17-4:1). Others, whom Paul called enemies of the cross, lived for this earth, today, present comfort and glory; whereas Paul saw the guaranteed hope of ultimately being with God and having a glorified body to motivate him. With eternity as the lens to view life, he called on fellow believers to stand fast in the Lord.

So how could Paul be content while a prisoner, being sinned against by others who proclaimed Christ, and not knowing if he was going to live or die? He could because he viewed life through the prism of the gospel: what Christ did in the past, what Christ is doing in the present, and what Christ will ultimately do in the future. This is why he concludes, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

How to Grow Your Contentment

1. First, keep an ongoing list of things for which you are thankful. Add ten new items each day on Monday through Friday. Then on Saturday and Sunday review your list. You could also begin a prayer to God by specifically reading back your list to God.
2. Rehearse the gospel each day. Take time daily to consider the love of God, the humble obedience of Christ which led to His death, the ever-present ministry of the Spirit, the joy of life in the body of Christ, the privilege to have free access into the throne of God through prayer.
3. Memorize at least one verse each week. Take time to consider its meaning and how it applies to your life situation.
4. Develop a prayer list with a specific focus on your church, your church family, and others.
5. Find at least one person or family each week to serve without any expectations in return.

Each of these five first-responses will keep your attention on Christ and others and not your own circumstances.

Final Words

Paul demonstrates amid incredibly tough circumstances that contentment flows from a life totally surrendered to God. So as we live life, we can also grow in contentment as we focus, relish, and enjoy life as the redeemed. When our circumstances become greater in our eyes than the reality of life in Christ, in just a matter of time we will be discontented. However, when we keep our mind (inner man) engaged on what is right and our actions consistent with it (Philippians 4:8-9), contentment will grow. May God richly bless you in Christ and happy Thanksgiving!

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