

BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

NOVEMBER 2014 | VOL. 65 NO. 3

*Give
Thanks*

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ON THE TABLE

Tradition

by Keith Bassham | Editor

A couple of months ago I introduced the young adults in my Sunday school class to *Fiddler on the Roof*. Tevye, the impoverished Russian Jew with a house full of daughters, was right there in my living room, singing and telling my 20-somethings and me the value of tradition. “Because of our traditions,” Tevye sings, “we’ve kept our balance for many, many years ... and because of our traditions, every one of us knows who he is and what God expects him to do.”

Those who know the storyline must agree Tevye is full of contradictions, but he really believes in the traditions and their importance, especially when we live in uncertain and unknowable times.

“Without our traditions,” he says, “our lives would be as shaky as ... a fiddler on the roof.”

Even though I had no particularly spiritual heritage growing up, I did experience tradition, especially in the fall of the year. There were family rituals for going back to school — new clothes and shoes, school supplies, and such. Halloween was a big deal, but Thanksgiving was even bigger. There were special things on the table we saw only at Thanksgiving, and everyone had their favorite part of the turkey, or the fresh roll in the corner of the pan, and mom’s one-of-a-kind stuffing. Mainly, though, it was a family get-together, as it is for some many others. Sometimes, the holiday really did include a trip to grandma’s house, just like the song, and even those six-hour road trips had their own sub-traditions — stops along the way, seating arrangements in the car, and games we played on the road.

Having those Thanksgiving traditions made it easy to spot something that “wasn’t quite right.” Even as kids, we knew when a trip landmark had changed, or when Mom missed an ingredient in the stuffing; things an outsider may not notice, but even the youngsters knew. Something was wrong, and life, for a time, was shaky.

Tradition has fallen on hard times. Partially because traditions are easy to ridicule and reject if we don’t know their origins; partially because we emphasize their defects over their benefits. I know traditions can morph into mindless rules, I also tend to agree with Tevye when he said that because of his family’s traditions, “every one of us knows who he is and what God expects him to do.”

Sometimes traditions are characterized as ruts in a road, and ruts are described by one preacher of my acquaintance as a “coffin with both ends kicked out.” I prefer to think of them as marks left by an earlier generation who would have gladly preferred to make a journey on a marked road, but without that choice, pioneered a wilderness. And having been the first, they left ruts in the road that said, “We’ve been here, and we made it. Now, you can benefit from our experience.”

Be thankful for everything this Thanksgiving, and enjoy your own traditions, both new and old.

Keith Bassham

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PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

Telling the story



by Eddie Lyons | President | BBFI

The story of Jesus is still compelling. The world still needs the Gospel. This generation needs it. Cultural changes in America have not made our country friendlier to the Gospel, but rather the reverse. More and more people declare themselves atheists. There is an all-out fight against God in public discussions like never before. People are now well educated and at the same time biblically illiterate.

I was teaching a Bible study one Wednesday night and a new couple was attending. Both the husband and his wife were very educated and managers where they work. I casually said as we discussed our passage, “You know the story of the Good Samaritan,” and I was going to make my point when this lady raised her hand and said, “I don’t know the story of the Good Samaritan.”

I tried my best not to act surprised and retold the story, but it left me stunned. I realized how little of the Bible the average person knows these days. Child Evangelism Fellowship reports that 60 to 80 percent of children in America are un-churched. That means most kids have never heard a clear and compelling presentation of the Story. The only thing they know about Jesus and the Gospel and Christianity is what they hear on television and in the movies, and most of those references are just for making fun. If we ever needed to pull together as a group of Christ-followers — especially among our pastors and leaders — to do more, to reach more, now is the time.

John (not his real name) was invited to church by a guy who attends High Street. John is a big guy, towering over me more than six feet tall. He attended church several weeks before I met him. One day the guy who invited him to church came to me and told me John was, in his words, “ripe for the picking.”

I set up a time to visit with him. John told me how this guy kept pestering him to come to church. Usually he was pretty good about refusing these invitations from people, but for some unknown reason, this time John decided to go to church.

And then he said, “When you preached, it was like you were speaking straight to me. Every week I returned, the message was like it was me you were talking to.”

John began to weep. I explained that what he was really feeling was God speaking to him, and I invited him to accept Christ. As we began to pray, he started but could not finish because he was weeping so much. He finally pulled himself together and accepted Christ. He now is in church pretty much every Sunday with his wife and son. This never gets old to me.

Our Fellowship was built on stories like this one thousands of times over. Let’s not let these stories be just a part of our past. Let’s do all we can to work together to keep these stories part of our present and lay a foundation for generations to come.

WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

The need for career missionaries - Part I



by Jon Konnerup | Mission Director | BBFI

Since the time of William Carey, the focal point of modern missions has centered around the local church and the missionary. God ordained the church as the organism to advance the Gospel around the world. In Acts 13, God gives a clear example of the Antioch church sending out those that were “set apart” to represent them in fulfilling the Great Commission to the uttermost parts of the earth.

As a Fellowship of churches, the BBFI has this same commitment of sending missionaries globally. Currently, we have missionaries, sent by local churches, serving in 90 different countries. The biblical mandate to send out missionaries cannot and must not be abandoned. In my foreign travels each year, people who have been led to the Lord through the ministry of our missionaries express their gratitude for those who preach, teach, mentor, and exemplify the life of Christ before them. On many occasions they have stated, “Watching them live the life of Christ before us on a daily basis through good times and difficult times is what encourages us the most. We need them here!”

In order for a church-planting movement to happen, we must have career missionaries on the ground. Romans 10:14-15 gives us an explanation on how it is to be done and why.

1. There must be people in our churches with as great a concern for the lost as Jesus had — people who will allow their burden to grow as they pray and research what God is doing around the world.
2. Once people see the need to share the Gospel with those who have not heard, they avail themselves to God by surrendering to go.
3. Upon arrival, they learn the language and culture and follow Paul’s example — preach repentance and the Gospel of salvation by faith. While God’s Word may be in another language, people in spiritual darkness need to hear the Gospel story in their heart language. This can only be communicated by someone who has lived among them and gained their confidence.
4. A place of worship is established where new believers can meet to study God’s Word. Mentoring these new disciples is best accomplished by living among them and experiencing the rigors of life with them over an extended time. A successful church planting movement can only happen when disciples are multiplied. Paul lived out the vision through his public preaching as well as from house to house. He also showed them how to be shepherds while building them up with the Word of God’s grace.

Next month I will conclude my thoughts on what it will take to have a worldwide church-planting movement.

Detroit opportunity



by Dan Greer | BBFI 3rd Vice President | NCPO

A 2011 University of New Mexico study report says, “Neighborhoods with churches present will have lower levels of crime than neighborhoods without churches.”

At the National Fellowship Meeting in Detroit I accompanied several leaders of the BBFI to one of the most crime-ridden areas in one of the most economically depressed cities in the nation. As we drove through the area, my soul groaned to see row houses, businesses, and schools that had been boarded up due to the economic collapse of that section of Detroit. You couldn't help but sense the darkness, the lack of hope, and the need.

David Janney, pastor of Orlando Baptist Church, led our expedition to a large vacant building that used to be the Packard showroom there in Detroit. Janney's organization, World Hope, has acquired the building to launch a BBFI church plant that will develop a unique outreach center bringing spiritual, economic, and social revitalization to that region of the city. We met Jerel Bland who has recently moved within blocks of the facility with four other families for a church that was launched on September 28, 2014.

Their vision is to make the church the hub of an outreach-rescue center that can offer services such as a youth activity center, a children's center, a shelter, a feeding center, a job search center, a skills workshop, a workout room, and an entrepreneurial development program where potential investors will consider projects from potential entrepreneurs that come through the center. Janney says he is contacting businesses owned by committed Christians such as the Greens of Hobby Lobby to set up distribution centers in the district to fuel economic growth by employing hundreds of residents living there.

The city of Detroit is divided into seven districts. We visited District 5, and we were moved with compassion for residents living there. I am convinced God has handed our movement an opportunity to partner with Him to do something that government cannot do. I would like to claim District 5 for the BBFI movement.

Jerel Bland, John Gross, David Janney, and I have begun talks to establish a partnership between this new church plant and the church planting division of the BBFI. K-LOVE radio has already partnered with the effort, helping to raise enough funds to sustain the operational needs of the ministry for some time, but the immediate need is to get the facility up and running and help facilitate the church plant.

The center needs a roof and an HVAC system within the next month at an estimated cost just over \$50,000. In the months to follow, BBFI churches, state fellowships, and local fellowships from across the country will be able to send construction volunteers, funds, and materials to the district on mission trips in a showcase of God's love.

Inner-city Detroit needs the BBFI at a time such as this. To get involved you may call BBFI Church Planting Director John Gross at (832) 748-8528, contact Dave Janney at davejanney@weareworldhope.com, or email me at dan@cbcwoodlands.org

ORLANDO BAPTIST CHURCH

FEB. 16-18 PASTOR DAVID JANNEY
BBFI NATIONAL MEETING



where to stay

All of these hotel properties offer shuttles to and from the airport. They are also all within five miles of the meeting site.

When you make your reservation please use the group name: Baptist Bible Fellowship

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Rate: \$75 per night

Fairfield by Marriott
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(407) 888-2666 | FairfieldInnOrlandoAirport.com
Rate: \$119 per night

Hampton Inn by Hilton
5767 T.G. Lee Blvd. Orlando, FL 32822
407.888.2995 | HamptonInnOrlandoAirport.com
Rate: \$129 per night

Springhill Suites by Marriott
5828 Hazeltine National Dr. Orlando, FL 32822
407.816.5533 | Springhillsuitesorlandoairport.com
Rate: \$134 per night

Marriott Orlando Airport
7499 Augusta National Dr. Orlando, FL
(407) 851-9000
Rate: \$189 per night

COMPELLED 2015



DIGRESSIONS

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

—Laurence Sterne

LifeWay publishes study of faith and mental illness

Among the findings of a recent study of faith and mental illness by Nashville-based LifeWay Research, researchers say:

Only a quarter of churches (27 percent) have a plan to assist families affected by mental illness according to pastors. And only 21 percent of family members are aware of a plan in their church.

Few churches (14 percent) have a counselor skilled in mental illness on staff, or train leaders how to recognize mental illness (13 percent) according to pastors.

Two-thirds of pastors (68 percent)

say their church maintains a list of local mental health resources for church members. But few families (28 percent) are aware those resources exist.

Family members (65 percent) and those with mental illness (59 percent) want their church to talk openly about mental illness, so the topic will not be a taboo. But 66 percent of pastors speak to their church once a year or less on the subject.

Source: www.lifewayresearch.com/files/2014/09/Acute-Mental-Illness-and-Christian-Faith-Research-Report-1.pdf

Pro-family Catholics reject Synod report, say it is 'a betrayal'

The General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (Catholic) has been meeting in October dealing with topics related to the family. In a mid-term report, the Synod is appearing to give its okay to a wider acceptance of behaviors considered anathema in Catholic doctrine and practice, and many conservative Catholics believe they have been betrayed by their leaders.

"The document, among its most controversial propositions, asks whether 'ac-

cepting and valuing [homosexuals'] sexual orientation' could align with Catholic doctrine; proposes allowing Communion for divorced-and-remarried Catholics on a 'case-by-case basis; and says pastors should emphasize the 'positive aspects' of lifestyles the Church considers gravely sinful, including civil remarriage after divorce and premarital cohabitation," according Patrick B. Craine writing for LifeSiteNews.com.

Houston, TX subpoenas sermons from five pastors

The Texas city of Houston is defending itself against a lawsuit based on an equal rights ordinance passed earlier this year. Opponents of the measure call it the Bathroom Bill because the ordinance requires businesses to allow individuals to use opposite-sex bathrooms if their "gender identity" does not match their biological sex. A petition was presented to overturn the measure but the city attorney claimed there were not enough signatures. Petition organizers then filed suit against the city, and the city attorney issued subpoenas asking five pastors to present any presentations, sermons, or speeches made by them with respect to the petition, the ordinance, homosexuality, gender identity or Houston's openly lesbian mayor, Annise Parker.

According to the pastors' attorneys, they are not parties to the lawsuit, but the city claims the churches were used for meetings, rallies, and petition drives. As the *Tribune* goes to press, the issue is unresolved.

School shooting used as excuse to restrict homeschooling

The Sandy Hook Advisory Commission, created by Governor Dannel P. Malloy in the aftermath of the school shooting in Newton, CT, claims that the Sandy Hook massacre occurred because Adam Lanza was homeschooled and his emotional problems went undetected. The commission recommends that homeschool students undergo mandatory mental health examinations to determine if they have emotional problems.

Dee Black with the Homeschool Legal Defense Association says Lanza was re-

ally a public school student studying at home. Although Lanza's mother pulled him out of the classroom, he earned a degree from Newtown High School, an option not available to any homeschooled student.

"When you look at the instances where we've had these tragedies in other public schools, they've always been committed by public school students. And in fact we know that Adam Lanza was at least somewhat a product of the public school system" the attorney says.

Black says reports that Lanza was homeschooled presented an opportunity for homeschool opponents to try to place restrictions on homeschooling.

Per the commission's plan, homeschool students identified as having emotional or behavioral problems would be required to follow an education plan approved by the public school district. If subsequent progress reports showed inadequate results, the right to homeschool would be denied.

Source: www.OneNewsNow.com

Our Fellowship Missions By F. S. Donnelson

Squatters Have Moved Off The Homer Property

News from the Homers, our missionaries to Formosa, indicates that God is blessing their work and preparing them for great things in the future. Their work in Chia-yi is an encouragement to all of us as we see them steadily making progress. A few years ago, they began the purchase of a corner lot in a good section of town, but there were a number of squatters' huts on the lot. It has been difficult to clear the property for our work, but gradually the squatters have left and now Bro. Homer reports that this strategic corner belongs to us. He has already built a nice temporary tabernacle on the lot, and the people are gathering in goodly numbers for services. They are holding weekly street meetings that are bringing in souls, and have divided their Sunday School into classes. Bro. Homer has started preaching in Tiawanese, and teaches Bible classes in the language, even though he senses a lack of accurate pronunciation. The Homers live in the house next door to the corner lot which is now the possession of the Fellowship. It is a Japanese house and very comfortable, although lacking in some American conveniences. Recently, the Logans and Yuchnovicz visited the Homers in Chia-yi and had a brief time of fellowship. All of our Formosa missionaries request special prayer in their behalf.

Movements of Our Missionaries Around the World

It is urgent that we pray for our missionaries going to and coming from their fields of service. The Marsdens are arriving from Japan for their first furlough. The Fosters are arriving in Japan on their way to Korea. The Gullions will sail November 4th for the Philippines, and the Colemans will sail November 19th for the Philippines (stepping-stone to their hoped for work in India.)

Granthams Make Trip to West Coast to Welcome Marsdens

Rev. and Mrs. L. T. Grantham of Abilene, Texas are meeting the Marsdens on the west coast as they arrive home from Japan. Bro. Grantham is the pastor of the Marsdens and for a long time they have looked forward to their coming home. Bro. Grantham has been one of our earnest, faithful Texas pastors for many years and is now pastor of the Highland Park Baptist Church of Abilene, where he is doing a great job.

Philippine Missionaries Open Bible School

Word from the Woosleys gives us the encouraging news that a Bible school for the training of native workers has been opened in the Philippines. This school will be under the leadership of Bro. Woosley, with all of the missionaries teaching, and will be held in our new church at Mandaluyong. At present, the enrollment is 18, the majority of which are girls, but they are praying for more young men to enroll.

Bro. Hooge is teaching Elementary Theology; Bro. Null, Old and

New Testament Exposition; Bro. Vella, The Life of Christ; and Bro. Woosley is giving a course in Apologetics and False Cults.

Recently, the monthly Fellowship meeting was held at Bro. Hooge's church. The meeting resulted in three coming to the altar for rededication and one was saved. A missions offering of \$75.55 was taken up. Besides the missionaries, a number of native preachers were present.

Recently, a man came to Bro. Woosley's home requesting a Bible. He had been informed about our church by his brother. All his life, he had been a Catholic, but his church had netted him zero spiritually. He had never heard about being saved or born again. Bro. Woosley read to him from a Catholic Bible how he must be born again. He expressed surprise that his own teachers had withheld this great Bible truth from him. He went away with his Bible under his arm and an earnest desire to know the truth.

Robert Woosley is taking an active part in the services with his accordion and piano. Lora Lee is taking piano lessons. What a blessing the children of missionaries can be as they in one way or another assist their parents in giving forth the Gospel.

Tulsa Baptist Temple Holds Missions Rally

November 3, 4 and 5 is the date of the Missions Rally being held in the Tulsa Baptist Temple, corner of 12th and Columbia Streets in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Rev. Clifford Clark is pastor of this fast growing church and has been for a number of months making an all-out effort to raise sufficient funds in this rally to provide Ray Morales with funds sufficient to build a church in downtown Veracruz.

The speakers at the Missions Rally will be Rev. Lonnie Smith of Hutchinson, Kansas; Rev. Ray Morales of Mexico; Rev. Dick Inlow, missionary to South America, and others. We bespeak for this missionary church a real victory in this meeting and pray God's richest blessings upon them.

News Like This Thrills the Hearts of the Missionaries

Recently a Michigan church that has for a long time been giving 10 per cent of its income to our missionaries has recently voted to increase the percentage to 15 per cent. The additional five per cent is for the support of one of our new missionary candidates preparing to go to South America. Such news should thrill us all. Sometimes we hear that we are getting top heavy from a missionary point of view, but this is not possible as all of our mission giving is on a local church basis, with little incentive to consecration outside the presence of our missionaries and the leadership of the Holy Spirit. But such incentive is sufficient. Our methods keep us from over-centralization, over-emphasis, over-lordship and over-paying! May God continue to bless our churches who are taking seriously the Great

Commission. May their number increase.

Vella Writes of Victories and Needs

Recent letter from Joe Vella, our missionary to the Philippines, to Rev. J. C. Brown, pastor of Grace Baptist church of Oklahoma City and representative on the Missions Committee for the Philippine work:

Dear Brother Brown: I have received your October 9th and 14th letters, and do thank you for your interest. In reference to the tracts, we are having a tract revival here. They are being placed in the hands of the people. Booklets, of course seem to be easier to handle than the two and four-page tracts. I am going to turn over to Brother Null the seven packages of "Peace and Assurance" that arrived here and request that you place an order for 10,000 copies of "Religion or Salvation, Which?" and also 10,000 copies of "Are You Guilty?" I have already printed 4,200 cards which I am using in our tract work here.

We have six prisoners who have sent in answers to questions. One of these has completed both the Gospel of John and the Book of Romans and is anxious to have further Bible study. Others have sent in replies, several have made professions of faith through the reading of these tracts in recent weeks. We have sent out many Gideon New Testaments, but are not able to send out whole Bibles.

We do not know what the future of this country is. The news reports of close neighboring countries don't sound too good. The government here has conflict with the "Huks" from time to time. This present administration seems to be going after the needs of the "little people," bringing living conditions up to a higher level for them; which they believe will do much to keep them from following the communist propaganda. We do ask your prayers that if it is God's will, He will keep this country open for a long time to come, or until Jesus comes; because the people are so hungry.

I want to tell you what God did last Saturday. We were in a home when someone came and told us a 70-year-old lady was dying, they thought. So we went and learned the priest had been there, but she wouldn't confess her sins to him, and they told us she couldn't talk. We asked our native co-worker to talk to her anyway and see if she understood, and though she had been lying there moaning, God opened her heart to the Gospel and she was saved. Day before yesterday, this dear one went to be with the Lord and tonight at a service held in the home, her 80-year-old sister trusted the Lord Jesus too.

Miss Willems came in with a good report that she had been out with the same native co-worker and his wife to visit a sister, and the whole family trusted the Lord and will come to church Sunday. I believe there were four boys besides the mother and father, and

the father has been in real sin, which has made their home unhappy. This native worker, Mr. Equilla, has been used of the Lord to bring in many souls to church, several have been saved; and his entire family except for the smallest children have been saved. God is giving us workers.

The Lord blessed with 153 in Sunday school Sunday and five saved during the day. Bro. Woosley spoke for us Sunday night. The monthly fellowship meeting will be held at our church for the month of November. We plan on having "poncit" for our snack. Wish you could fly over and speak for us and get to see some of your rewards.

May the Lord bless you and Mrs. Brown and supply the needs of the new church there and whatever else you need. It's such a privilege to send the good news of what God has done.

With Christian love,
JOE VELLA.

Next Meeting of the Missions Committee

The Missions Committee of the Baptist Bible Fellowship will hold its next meeting Tuesday noon, November 23rd, in connection with the Thanksgiving Missions Rally at Central Baptist church, Denton, Texas. This fine committee is composed of the following brethren:

Wendell Zimmerman, Mexico; W. E. Dowell, South America; Scotty Alexander, India; D. A. Cavin, Korea; J. C. Brown, Philippines; Art Wilson, Japan; A. D. Pringle, Formosa; Howard Ingram, Navajo Indians, F. S. Donnelson, Chairman.

MEET US AT DENTON DURING THANKSGIVING WEEK!

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Meeting in Taylor was a refreshing experience for the Fellowship

By the Tribune

Anyone who has participated in the Baptist Bible Fellowship knows the reputation of Pastor Herb Gilbert and Beacon Baptist Church in Taylor, MI. The church has hosted the Fellowship several times, and each visit to Taylor provides us with a boost in our spirits and a good example of a servant-based ministry experience.

Situated south of metro Detroit, the church's location is ideal for a fall meeting. The facilities are large and comfortable, the Beacon membership is ready to serve their visitors with joy, and the program planned by pastors Herb Gilbert and John Reilly was balanced with a good emphasis on worship, practical subjects, fellowship, and activities away from the church campus.

This year's fall meeting of the BBFI took place September 22-24, though several guests came early and attended Sunday services at Beacon, while some also stayed through Thursday for a golf tournament. Between those days, pastors, their wives, and their church

staff members attended services with uplifting music and preaching, breakout sessions for instruction, fellowship opportunities, and business sessions.

Keynote speakers were BBFI President Linzy Slayden (his term ended during the week), BBC President Mark Milioni, and BBFI President Eddie Lyons, whose term began Tuesday after the annual business meeting. On each of the evenings, Filipino preachers Dimver Andales (Monday), Gilbert Toquero (Tuesday), and Jun Lumabagas (Wednesday) also addressed the Fellowship.

Preachers during the daytime sessions were *Baptist Bible Tribune* Editor Keith Bassham, Boston Baptist College President David Melton, Missionary Paul Byars, and BBFI Mission Director Jon Konnerup.

New missionaries approved Wednesday during the fall meeting were Son and Stephanie Chau (Singapore) and Justin Rhoades (England). Two missionary couples were reinstated: John and Tammy Cooley

(Burkina Faso) and Phil and Vala Long (Madagascar). One TEAM missionary for a Restricted Access Nation was also approved (name withheld).

Women who attended the Taylor meeting were treated to a full day of activities. Cindy Lyons presented a website to help connect women in ministry. Their morning worship session was led by Jenell Bender. Afterward, the ladies were escorted by Dwight and Jeannie Billingsley to the Arab American Friendship Center in nearby Dearborn where the Billingsleys are currently ministering. They met with Arabic women and discussed their respective customs, and afterward enjoyed a lunch in a Lebanese restaurant.

Most of Monday was taken up with meetings among the officers and leaders of Fellowship ministries. During the morning, the Executive Committee met alongside newly elected officers who will occupy those spots the next two years. This was a practice initiated several years ago so that new



officers would be better prepared for their stewardships. In the afternoon, the same Committee met with the National Directors where they monitored reports from the Mission Office, the *Tribune*, the colleges, and NCPO. Mission Director Jon Konnerup and *Tribune* Editor Keith Bassham reported the results of audits from their two agencies (the Mission Office noted a slight operational surplus in their annual report while the *Tribune* reported an operational deficit). The editor reported he needed an additional \$35,000 in annual revenue to maintain the *Tribune's* current status.

The Mission Office and Vice President of Church Planting Dan Lamb reported the organizational changes taking place in the National Church Planting Office. The Office will no longer approve or issue loans and will limit its activity to recruitment, training, and equipping church planters. The Directors also ratified new college trustees and heard reports from the college presidents.

At the annual business meeting held Tuesday, this information was conveyed to the pastors. At the close of the business meeting, the presidency and other national offices were handed to those who had been elected during the summer. New president Eddie Lyons again spoke of his intention to encourage grassroots participation and a commitment to unity among the pastors and churches. See President Lyons' inaugural message to the BBFI published in this issue of the *Tribune* on pages 14-18. Audio versions of the messages preached in the Taylor meeting are on the church's website at <http://thebeaconbaptist.com/bbfiaudio.php>.

The next meeting of the BBFI will be hosted by Orlando Baptist Church and Pastor David Janney in Orlando, FL, February 16-18, 2015 (see www.bbf.org and page 19 in this issue of the *Tribune* for more details). The May meeting will take place on the campus of Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, May 4-7, 2015.



On the day of judgement, it is not the buildings and programs we have built that will stand before God.

Dimver Andales – Possessing our inheritance



Did you ever think about how much hope is in the statement, "I am the vine, ye are the branches."? We are actually connected to Him!

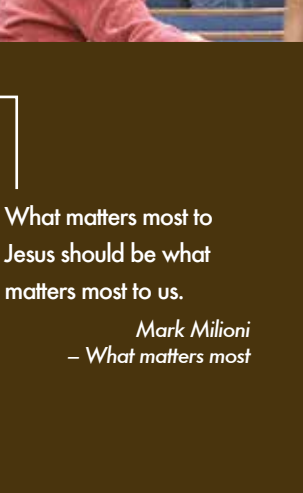
Linzy Slayden – The importance of being linked in

It's not what we bring to the table, it's about what we have done and whether we stay in the battle.

David Melton — *The parable of chess*

Greed is the enemy of grace.

Gilbert Toquero — *Blessed in grace*



What matters most to Jesus should be what matters most to us.

Mark Milioni — *What matters most*

Don't innovate unless there's a reason ... It's possible that some things are both cool and dumb at the same time.

Keith Bassham — *Innovation*





Our youth pastors and student pastors need to be challenging young people to consider the ministry.

Jon Konnerup – The mission

The disciples were more concerned about their lunch, but Jesus was more concerned about a woman's soul.

Jun Lumagbus – Missions 101: A reprise



The Gospel doesn't have to be changed, it just has to be done.

Paul Byars – The physics of missions



The local church is the plan of Jesus to reach the world.

Eddie Lyons — *It's our story*



CAREER

Son & Stephanie Chau — Singapore

Sending Church: First Baptist Church, Milford, DE

Contact Info: (302) 422-9795, son.chau@bbfmissions.org

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TEAM

A family has been recognized as TEAM missionaries to a Restricted Access Nation. They may be contacted through the Mission Office.

REINSTATMENT

John & Tammy Cooley — Burkina Faso

Sending Church: Calvary Bible Baptist Church, Westerville, OH

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OUR STORY

By **Eddie Lyons**, president of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International

Excerpted from a message Eddie Lyons preached at the BBFI National Meeting, Beacon Baptist Church, Taylor, MI, September 24, 2014.

The story related in Mark 16, the story of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and its implications, is the story that changed all of human history. The story is of a God so holy that no corruption can come into His presence. The story is of human beings who are sinful and dying. And so how can a holy God and sinful people ever be reconciled. All the righteous works of mankind are as “filthy rags” in the economy of this holy God. God is so holy he could not just wink at sin, sweep it under the rug, ignore it, or forget about it. His nature would not allow this.

And so what does He do? What is the plan? The holiness of God and the mercy of this God of great compassion come together on the cross where God Himself dies in all of his holiness to reconcile mankind. Jesus dies, and then three days later he rose again. And the story of the resurrection was not easy to believe. Even his disciples were early skeptics, some even after he appeared to them.

Their story was that they met a man named Jesus who forever changed their story. He taught truth, had incredible insight and wisdom, could feed the multitude, heal the

sick, and even raise the dead. But he had been violently crucified and laid in a tomb, and now he was dead, and they were confused and did not know what to do.

Their hopes that He was the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior of the world, had been crushed when he breathed his last breath and died, and now stunned, confused, and lost, they wept. And on Sunday these witnesses started coming and telling them absurd and impossible accounts of seeing Jesus and they could not believe. And then Jesus Himself appeared. Seeing the risen Christ they knew this story was THE STORY. God had come to save them. God had not left them alone. And then Jesus told them to go tell the Story.

Mark 15:15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

THIS IS OUR FELLOWSHIP'S STORY

The BBFI exists because of this Story. We are here today because we heard this story of a God who is here, a God who gave His Son to die for us, and we have to keep this story going.

This Fellowship itself is not an ecclesiastical organization as much as it is a collection of stories.

Stories like this one. There was a church in Tyler, TX, whose pastor was not content to just preach the Gospel in his town. He had a passion for people to hear about Jesus Christ. He left Tyler and began a tent revival in nearby Center, TX, with the intention of starting a church. The pastor's name was John Rawlings, and during the revival meeting the Hughes family was saved. The mother of this family had a son serving in the U.S. Air Force in the Philippines. She asked Mr. Rawlings if they had any missionaries in the Philippines. He gave her the names of Frank Hooge, Elmer Gullion, Joe

▼ Missionary Bob Hughes on a ship bound for the Philippines with daughter Cindy.



ORY

Vella, and others. She wrote to her son Bob and told him to go visit these missionaries. And so Bob Hughes traveled to Manila from the airbase and met these missionaries. He began making the trip often and attended the church of Frank Hooge, and there he heard the story of Jesus. One night he made his way to the base chapel and prayed and accepted Christ. The story of Jesus became his story.

His military service ended, and he went to Baptist Bible College where he met and married his wife Helen. The couple made plans to return to the Philippines as missionaries with their baby, who later became my wife Cindy.

How does this happen, that a man from Texas and other ordinary people are able to do this? They could never have gone as missionaries by themselves. They needed a church with people who cared enough for the mission to send them, a Fellowship to approve them, and many churches to support them. Church planting and missions is not a one-man show. It is the collective efforts of many unified in heart and purpose to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. It is the idea that people who hear about this great God in heaven Who sent His son because He wants to save them if they will call upon Him is the most important message on the planet and it must be shared.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH AND THE STORY

People ask what is the BBFI? How do you join the BBFI? We are a unique group. We are not structured for control but for cooperation. One pastor described the BBFI like this:

The BBF is the only no-strings-attached network in existence for church planters. Every other group for church planters requires that they give between six to ten percent of their offerings back in perpetuity. All we ask is that you pay it forward to somebody else in the network.

Our movement is designed for entrepreneurs. Our missionaries don't have managers telling them what to do or where to plant churches. Our church planters don't have babysitters who can fire them. Sink or swim, it's up to them. But in this network there are people around who are willing to help you along.

It pretty much comes down to this. If you love the Gospel and are compelled to get this story out to the people around the block and around the world and desire to do more than you could ever do alone, we think we have a pretty good plan to make that happen. And at the center of that plan is the local church

The local church is the plan of Jesus to reach this world. Jesus said, “Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” Now, I don't have to

convince this group that the local church is the centerpiece of evangelism and discipleship.

It is the local church that keeps the story of Jesus being told. Week after week, year after year, we tell the Story. This is the Story the world needs to hear.

If a cure for cancer was developed in some lab somewhere, it would be of little value if it did not find its way into the local doctor's office and was delivered at the local level. Jesus planned for local. It is the ordinary, constant, year-after-year story sharing of ordinary people in our local churches that change the world.

The power of this Fellowship is in the local church. Our churches are different. Some are in rural areas, and others are in cities. Some are big, and some are small, but each one is a place where the conversations about the Gospel take place week after week. I sat with a lady this week who told me she made a profession of faith when she married her husband, but over the next ten years, as she attended church, she began to realize she really had not accepted Christ. Finally, after sitting uncomfortably through hundreds of services, she made it real. Why? Because, the local church is powerful.

A couple weeks ago, my wife prayed with a teenage girl who responded to the invitation. She lived in a girls' home, and so many bad things had happened to her, but she told my

wife, “I’m just afraid I can’t be good enough to be saved, and I don’t know why God let so many bad things happen to me.” The conversation started, and that morning my wife led her to accept Christ. This just doesn’t get old. In this Fellowship we are committed to the local church.

But to get my missionaries to the field, I need you. This idea of world evangelism is bigger than just one church. That is why our founders pulled together and created this Fellowship. There was a desire on the part of local church pastors to be part of something bigger. We all want that, for the Great Commission is bigger than any one of us can do alone.

So, now I have been elected the president of this Fellowship, and I will be working for that principle of local church cooperation to obey the Great Commission, and by doing this our Fellowship will strengthen the grassroots, protect the unity, and create a culture of encouragement and inspiration.

The founders of our Fellowship, all local church pastors, held in common a love of the Gospel, and the love for the local church, and a heart for missions, and a short list of defined critical doctrines. Those doctrines are found in the document we often refer to as the 20 Articles of Faith. It is here that we have agreement. These articles provide a boundary and definition to who we are. Based on this common ground we can voluntarily become organizationally and relationally connected.

What happens, though, when the connections break down? Historically, keeping the unity in this group is one difficult endeavor, but it is critical because when we don’t keep the unity we fragment and splinter.

Local churches unified under a Fellowship increase their ability to evangelize the world, plant churches, and train leaders. The reason for our existence is missionary. It is this unity of purpose while allowing for the autonomy of the local church that is our DNA. One of the things we must guard against is the disunity that could fracture us and weaken our collective efforts to spread the Gospel. We are perhaps the only network of churches that provides a vehicle for cooperation while protecting our freedom. There are no demands outside of agreeing with the 20 Articles of Faith and a

heart for world evangelism by freely affiliating organizationally and relationally with other leaders with the same passion. There has always been tension because of differences in local church preferences and practices but our heart for souls to come to Christ has united us. No one is obligated to support any entity or any missionary they do not choose to support.

In 1959 there was a challenge to the unity of the Fellowship. Let me give you the “Cliff Notes” of what happened.

Wendell Zimmerman, who was one of the key founders of the Fellowship, was a natural to become the next president of the Fellowship. His candidacy became a “hot potato” because he and his church accepted non-Baptist baptism under certain conditions. A move was made in 1959 to add to the BBFI constitution wording that would have excluded any candidate who held Zimmerman’s position from being a candidate for national office. The measure was in fact voted on and passed before lunch, only to have the men return after lunch to reverse their decision and commission a 12-month study among the pastors regarding this idea of expanding qualifications for officers.

When they returned the next year the list of proposed reasons for exclusion of a pastor from leadership was lengthy and included more than the proposed alien immersion requirement. Some pastors had called for a statement against “Baptist Bride teaching, saying most of our pastors don’t believe it.” Others had proposed a rule against use of wine in communion. Still others wished to exclude anyone who was a lodge member, to exclude anyone who was divorced and remarried, and even to exclude anyone who allowed mixed swimming at camps, and more.

In the end, Fellowship leaders, after much prayer and seeking the Lord, decided against adding these additional requirements, saying that these additions infringed on the local church autonomy and would serve to weaken the spread of the Gospel through the collective efforts of the Fellowship because they would potentially be wedges that separate. In the end, the passion for the mission to reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus was preeminent.

There has always been this tension. It is

the duty of the leaders of this Fellowship to protect both the autonomy of the local church and the unity of the Fellowship.

Once again, today, we as your leaders choose to not impose our personal preferences on you, but to protect the freedom within the 20 Articles of Faith and the unity of purpose to accomplish the Great Commission.

And so today we go back to the values that have been handed down by our predecessors. I would like to suggest a framework for us to understand how to keep the unity in the Fellowship so we can accomplish more.

The definition of working with others in a fellowship implies that there is a difference between the local church and the Fellowship. No one can demand that everyone in the Fellowship do everything or see everything the way they do at the local church level. This is important. When we gather at our meetings we are not a local church — we are a Fellowship. Within the local church there can be an expansion in thought and practice outside the 20 Articles, but those expansions cannot be applied to other churches.

As pastors we have to make decisions. We can’t lead functioning churches without deciding who we are and what we are going to do. We pastors have to decide what Bible version to use in our church. We have to decide what we will name our church. We have to decide what strategy and programs we are going to use to accomplish the mission. You actually can’t choose everything. You have to choose something. We have to decide what worship and music styles our services will have. All of these choices have got to be made, and then we have to lead our people, and tell them why we have made these choices. We often do so with great conviction.

Now the problem is when we bring those local church decisions into the Fellowship discussions and allow these decisions to divide us and steal our love for one another. This kind of thing drives people away, fragments us, and weakens our potential.

The truth about our Fellowship is that our churches are not identical with one another. That is actually the design of God. He likes diversity. He made each one of us different. I used to get frustrated that God did not make us all franchises with a franchise manual like

**We all pastor
different
churches that
have made
different
choices and
do things
differently,**

but...

**WE ALL ARE
ABOUT THE
GOSPEL.**

McDonald's. And then it dawned on me that God is too smart to do that. He gives us the Gospel and allows us to plant local churches that fit our location, churches that reflect who we are, our personalities, strengths, and talents. God likes different. As a missionary raising support I quickly found out how different churches are within our Fellowship.

Here is a news flash. We all pastor different churches that have made different choices and do things differently, but we all are about the Gospel. The 20 Articles provide a great summary of what we believe while allowing for the flexibility to make us both the same and different.

When we insist on uniformity we destroy God's genius of the local church. So here is the deal. Let us recommit ourselves to not allow local church decisions to become the discussion flashpoints in the Fellowship.

We do not all use the same Bible version. That is a reality. Our founders resisted declaring a Fellowship version. Our current documents provide freedom in this area. So when we come together there will be freedom. We live in a world that is not reading the Bible. We need to celebrate that our brothers are teaching the Bible. We must not allow our personal preferences to weaken the unity that will make us a powerful force for the Gospel.

Everyone in this Fellowship appreciates the historic Baptist position that has formed our doctrinal statement. We do not all express our appreciation for our Baptist roots the same way. We see this in the naming of our churches. We are all Baptists, and, by the way, there are not a lot of people clamoring to be a part of us. Let's end this discussion about the names we choose. We should not presume our brother lacks appreciation for our history and roots because of the name on the sign. By the way, I talk to men who have made these naming choices because they are looking for the most effective way to overcome barriers to reach their communities with the Gospel. This is a local church decision. We should not be hurting each other. We should believe the best about each other and lift each other up.

Musical styles and programming choices do affect who you can and won't reach. We need churches with all kinds of styles so we can reach all kinds of people. This is a local church decision. When we attend a Fellowship meeting we are not going to our church. We should expect things to be different and new to us. That could mean more traditional at times, and at times it could mean a newer style. We must not allow these local church preferences to destroy our unity and fellowship.

I'd like to appeal to all that we focus on the

mission and graciously contribute to the unity.

There are many Gospel-centered groups, conferences, colleges, bookstores, and curriculum. I love going to the conferences. I think we should be going to the Catalyst, Seeds, Purpose Driven, Gospel Coalition, and Willow Creek Leadership conferences. We should listen to podcasts of men outside our movement. We know they have less in common with us than those in our Fellowship. There will be things we don't agree with, but there are things we can learn.

There are times when we will lend our voices to a cause with people with a different theology. We certainly could not do church with these people, but when the Catholics or Mormons or other groups speak in favor of a pro-life culture our voices will be with them. When there is discussion about the composition of marriage and a need to protect our religious freedoms we will speak in agreement with these people.

We are called to love the drunkard on the street, the lost and confused, and we have an easy time with that most of the time. Interestingly enough we sometimes are more friendly and charitable toward the drunk on the street

than the pastor beside us in the pew who does things differently than we do. This affects the culture of our meetings and diminishes our unity and potential.

AN APPEAL FOR OUR STORY

There was a time when I made some choices at High Street, and things at the time were not going so well. I had sought the Lord, tried to understand our people, where we were then and where we needed to be 20 years from then, to keep the church alive and effective. Change is hard, and there were a few years when I didn't know how things would go. I had heard criticism from within and some whispers from outside. I didn't much want to go to Fellowship meetings. I felt like they might say, "Here is the guy that destroyed one of our churches." But there were times in our Fellowship meetings when guys came up to me with words of encouragement that made a huge difference and kept me going.

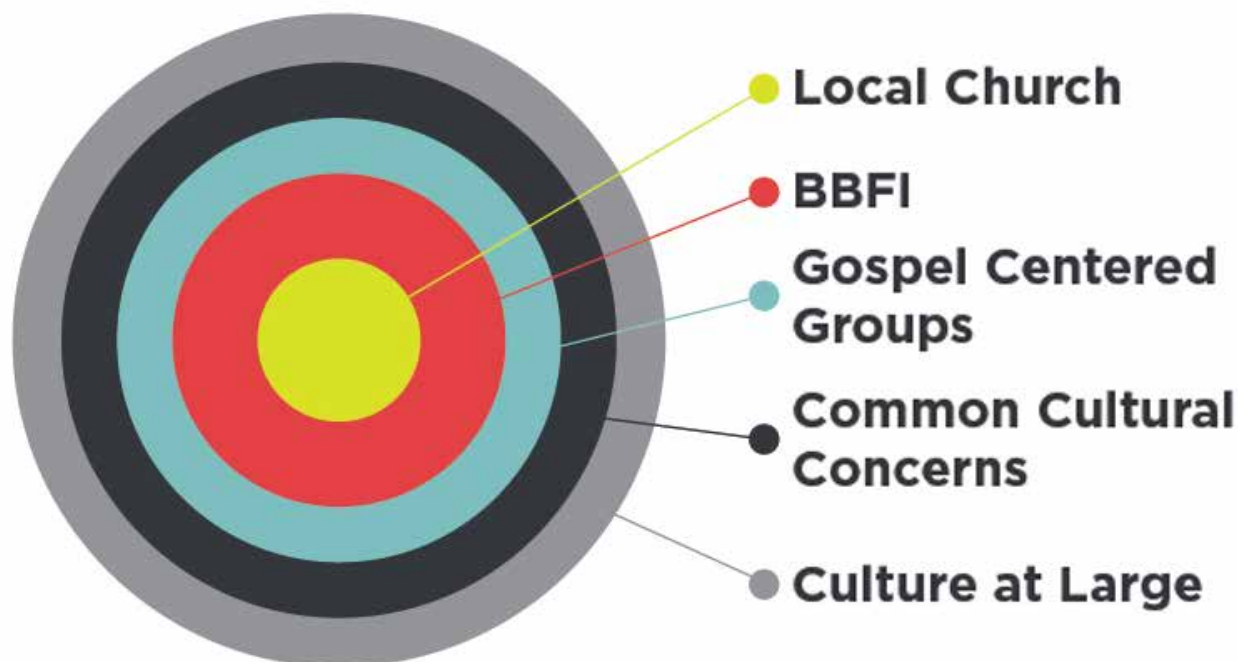
Some guys would never have made the choices I did, and I knew it, but they were kind and encouraging. There were others who maybe saw the look in my eye and told me not to quit, not to give up, and that gave me something to

hold on to. We are supposed to be a band of brothers. We are different in our choices, our styles, our preferences, and practice, but we love the Gospel, love the local church, and love each other. Now that kind of culture is what we need in this Fellowship.

I can't do everything you can do. You can't do what I do. Every church, every town, every one of us is different. But I can hold on to you and encourage you, especially when things are not going as well as you hoped.

We need to celebrate our differences. We should be a diverse Fellowship. We need to be around leaders who do things differently. We need different kinds of churches. We need churches for white people, black people, Hispanics, Asians, rednecks, white-collar workers, blue-collar workers, hipsters, and traditionalists. Our meetings should have pastors young and old who come even if they don't look like each other. We need to celebrate and cultivate this kind of diversity. No matter what school you come from, no matter what your style, no matter who you are called to reach, if you love the Gospel and agree with our 20 Articles of Faith you are welcome here. We believe we can do more together and so come and be a part.

We relate to our churches and other groups in different ways. Decisions we make in our local churches cannot necessarily be enforced and applied to others in the Fellowship. When we are relating to other Gospel centered groups outside the Fellowship, we use discernment and make other choices. And we will sometimes find ourselves joined to a cause with others who have similar cultural concerns but whose theology is not ours. We should recognize those different ways of relating and not allow them to diminish our unity and potential as we move outward from our local churches.



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COMPELLED 2015

BBFI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

February 16-18, 2015

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ORLANDO, FLORIDA | PASTOR DAVID JANNEY

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



RICK BLACKWOOD

*Senior Pastor
Christ Fellowship Church
Miami*



EDDIE LYONS

*President
Baptist Bible Fellowship
International*



DAVID NASSER

*Senior Vice President
for Spiritual Development
Liberty University*



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HISTORY

BAPTIST

ALBERT HENRY NEWMAN — Baptist historian

By Doug Kutilek

Though almost none of us includes them in our list of “favorite Baptists,” the Baptist historians collectively and individually have us greatly in their debt. This small army of dedicated men has done great service over the centuries in collecting, conserving, and recording our history. Without their labor — and make no mistake, history writing and the necessary prior research and study do require much labor — we would be irrecoverably ignorant of our past, our predecessors, our controversies, our achievements, our failures, and our foibles. Some notables among Baptist historians of former days are Thomas Crosby, Joseph Ivimey, David Benedict, Thomas Armitage, Henry C. Vedder, John T. Christian, and Albert Henry Newman. It is to the last of these that I wish to draw your attention.

I first became acquainted with the writings of A. H. Newman (1852-1933) over 40 years ago during my student days at Baptist Bible College, when his two-volume *Manual of Church History* was a required textbook. I read through both volumes then and found them worthwhile and informative reading, though I am sure I did not, at that neophyte stage in my education, appreciate them as much as I should have. I have since referred to them often, always with profit, even greatly so.

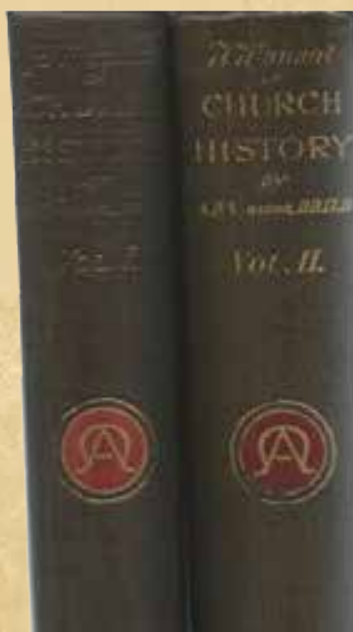
A knowledge of a writer’s background, education, academic qualifications, and personal character are valuable in evaluating the merit of his literary productions. So we ask: who was A. H. Newman? A native of South Carolina and converted there to faith in Christ at age 14, he was tutored in Latin and Greek by his pastor, then went to Mercer College, where he was granted advanced standing as a junior (though only 17 years old), and graduated at the head of his class of 15 in 1871. There he added the knowledge of German to his linguistic apparatus. He taught school for a year then went north to Rochester Theological Seminary in New York, where A. H. Strong was president and professor of theology. There Newman studied under Horatio B. Hackett, perhaps the leading New Testament scholar among Baptists of the North in those days. For a time he focused on theology and New Testament exegesis, but switched to Old Testament and Hebrew. In these latter studies, he was instructed in part by Bernard Pick, an expert in rabbinic literature.

He next invested a year at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Greenville, SC, studying Greek with John Broadus and Semitic languages with Crawford Toy, before heading back to Rochester to teach church history, where he remained four years.

For 20 years (1881-1901), Newman was professor of church history at McMaster University in Toronto, Canada. It was during this period that he was most productive in writing. Here he wrote his two-volume *Manual*, his notable *A History of the Baptist Churches in the United States* (1894; 513 pp.), and his monumental, *The History of Antipaedobaptism* (1896; 414 pp.), which demonstrated that apostolic and early Christian baptism was solely of believers and by immersion, that baptismal regeneration and infant baptism were subsequent human inventions, and that there have been groups throughout church history opposing these innovations. It was also during this time that Newman was chosen to be editor of articles relating to church history in the 13-volume *The New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge* (1907), edited by Samuel M. Jackson, a still valuable reference work. Though he continued to write articles for various publications after leaving Canada, he authored no more books.

Newman then taught successively at Baylor University (1901-1907), Southwestern Baptist Seminary (1907-1913), Baylor again (1913-1921), Mercer (1921-1927) and again McMaster (1927-1929). In all, he taught church history continuously for over 50 years, and gained a reputation as the preeminent church historian in North America.

While Newman’s lectures seem to have been characteristically drab (he rarely looked directly at the students as he taught, and had no perceptible sense of humor), his writings are characterized by thoroughness of research and precision and accuracy in statement. He was, in short, a most judicious, industrious, and careful scholar. His knowledge of languages and literature, both in and outside his field of expertise, was encyclopedic and detailed, as any student who asked him a question or sought information about a subject soon discovered.



Editor's note:

Thomas Ray, whose writings usually appear in this place, is taking some time off from the Baptist History columns. We look forward to his soon return.

URBAN CURRENT

Preaching to the Obama generation

Should the Gospel preached in an Iowa cornfield be any different from the Gospel preached in Times Square?

Cities run the world. For the first time in human history, one out of every two people on the planet live in an urban area. Non-urbanites live under the influence of urbanites. Urbanization has colored our culture. You live, eat, sleep, play, and minister in an urbanized world.

We must connect our proclamation to our reality.

Peter's message in Acts 2 is in a religious city, to a biblically literate crowd of God-fearing people, living in a theistically based culture. That world does not exist any longer.

Peter begins with people who already believe in the one true God, people so devout they have gathered from all over the Empire to celebrate the feast of Pentecost. They're familiar with the Old Testament Messianic Scriptures.

Notice how Peter preaches the Gospel at Pentecost? He quotes scripture they know (verse 16). He points to the Jesus they know (verse 22) and familiar cites and events (verse 32).

In Athens, Paul preaches to a pluralistic, hedonistic, materialistic, and humanistic crowd. Ah, this sounds more like our world where post-modernism rules.

Paul starts where he is. He's standing on the Areopagas. Sprawled below him is the bustling Agora. Soaring above him is the Athenian Acropolis crowned with the glorious Parthenon. We can't start with where we aren't. We aren't in Jerusalem. We aren't in the 1800s. We live in a post-modern, urbanized, 21st-century world.

Paul starts where his hearers are. They're in Athens, soaked in polytheistic mythologies, raised to worship humanity, the human form, human achievement, and human pleasure.

Paul starts where the people are. Isn't that the whole idea of the incarnation? Paul attracts their attention by referencing the Acropolis. You can almost see him gesture toward the

gleaming temples. He uses the known to bridge to the unknown. Paul begins with the Creator and creation (verse 24). He moves to logical thought (verses 24 and 25). He introduces reasonable ideas (verses 26-29). He skillfully applies the reasonable to move to the theological. He wraps up in verse 31, unashamedly supernatural, and eschatological.

Preaching an Acts 2 message in an Acts 17 world isn't spiritually wise. Put another way, it may be a whole lot of bad stewardship.

I've heard misguided minds try to make a case that, while Peter preached a strong Gospel message, Paul watered it down for the Athenians. Peter enjoyed unbelievable success with 3,000 immediate converts while Paul records none in Athens.

No. No. No. This is just the point! Paul's audience does not have what Peter's audience had. Paul's audience didn't start where Peter's audience started.

Today, we evangelize humanistic, hedonistic, pluralistic, materialistic, biblically illiterate self-worshippers. It's going to take a little longer. It's going to take time to build a foundation of who the true God is, how He has worked through creation and history, unfolding His plan to meet man's deepest need, that of a Savior.

I make these observations from an urban pulpit straddling two centuries, from a perch on the seam of two millennia. My perspective is informed by my life location. Chicago is a world-class city that wields disproportionate influence. Consider Al Capone's world fame. We are the city that tipped the nation for Kennedy in the 60s. Our Michael Jordan became a global icon. Even now, the "Chicago way" holds sway over the whole world, (or doesn't, depending on your view) through Chicagoan Barack Obama.

Can we acknowledge that we live in an urbanized world? This world is God's. The earth is the Lord's, all of it, the world and everybody

who lives in it. Urbanization didn't catch God off guard.

As believers, we are to love the world as God loves it. He gave His best. The 21st-century version of this is loving an urbanized world. This is not optional for Christians. If we love God, we will love what He loves.

Embracing an urbanized world begins with not fighting it, not running from it, but understanding our hearts and our arms are the heart and arms of God. Embracing an urbanized world means learning to live in it with spiritual effectiveness and fruitfulness. Jesus said He came not to be served but to serve. Surely living in an urbanized world means serving.

It is in the flow of this tide of urbanization that we think about proclaiming the Good News.

For we who live in this country, it means preaching to Obama's America. Our President is a symbol of the urbanized world.

This is our reality. God knew this would be our reality. The gospel is not deficient. It's powerful in Jerusalem, Athens, and Rome. Alexandria, Geneva, and London. Boston, Beijing, L.A., and Lagos. Keokuk, Shelbyville, and Timbuktu.

History is replete with gospel preachers who knew how to connect with their world. Chrysostom, Savonarola, Luther, Calvin, Wesley, Spurgeon, Booth, Moody, Williams, Criswell.

We need a generation of gospel-proclaimers who skillfully communicate with an urbanized world.

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



Remember, and give thanks



by Mark Milioni | President | Baptist Bible College

Thanksgiving always brings back grade-school memories of Pilgrims wearing black hats and white aprons and Native Americans wearing buckskin and feathered headdresses sharing a feast and giving thanks to God. They remembered, and they gave thanks. That is what God calls us to do in Psalm 136. “Oh give thanks to the Lord ...” Remember — His goodness, His love, His mercy, His grace. Remember, and give thanks.

Remember when you were a Baptist Bible College student?

Remember the hours spent in classes learning the Old Testament, the Life of Christ, and Bible doctrines, how to witness using FORM, how to preach and how to take the gospel to a lost world? I remember, and I give thanks for BBC.

Remember your time spent in the dorms with your roommate, in the cafeteria sharing not just a meal but the hopes and dreams and desires God placed on your heart, time spent in prayer petitioning God to use you? I remember, and I give thanks for BBC.

Remember how hard being a college student could be — the studying, all-nighters, personal conflicts, not knowing how you were going to make your next payment, missing your family, longing for your home church? I remember, and I give thanks.

I give thanks for those who came along during those hard times and encouraged me to never give up and reminded me to keep this goal in mind, “What will you do for Christ?” I remember, and I give thanks.

It is still hard to be a student, even at BBC. The struggles become more apparent as the end of the semester draws near. Students try to balance classes, working, serving, building relationships, and finding time to maintain a close walk with God with the pressures of finals, financial pressures, and homesickness. “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” stirs a longing in their hearts. They need someone to come alongside them, to encourage them, and to remind them to keep the goal in mind, “What will you do for Christ?” Can that someone be you?

Would you be willing to encourage a BBC student by sending them a note of encouragement or a care package? Would you be the one that a current student will remember and give thanks for? Cookies, packaged snacks, gift cards, or a check along with a note from you may be just what a student needs to remind them that the struggle is worth it. You can be the one a student remembers and gives thanks for!

To participate, simply send a card or package by December 1, 2014. Address it to your favorite student, or simply to:

Student Care Project
628 E. Kearney St.
Springfield, MO 65803.

We will make sure it reaches a student in need of encouragement. As always, I thank God for you and for your love and support of our college and our students.

A burger in Boston



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

This is a season of feasting. To hear New Englanders tell it, we virtually invented turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce. Who doesn’t love Thanksgiving — the meal and the event? But I will leave the bird and trimmings for you and yours, and talk instead about ... a burger.

I took a handful of Boston students out for a burger the other day. It was a long weekend and they were around. Besides, there is never a bad time for a burger. Anyway, here is something to be thankful for from a fast food restaurant.

I’m thankful for our young people. From just one very random sampling there is much to be thankful for, and impressed by.

It might surprise you that our Boston students come from all over. My lunch table gang predictably came from Massachusetts and Maine, but there was also a slice of Texas, Kansas, Virginia, Michigan, and Kentucky. That’s pretty important for you to remember about us. Boston is a great place to be “from” but it is also a great place to come to. Transcendentalists called Boston “the hub of the universe” and this city does, in fact, draw great young minds from the ends of the earth. That’s just one more reason why our Fellowship is blessed to be on the ground here. From outside our Fellowship and from within, they keep coming to Boston.

But my takeaway from lunch was about far more than just where our students come from. Let me tell you about what they are doing now while they are studying. Of the seven Boston students with me, three are involved in the weekly music leadership at their local church. Two more are youth leaders. Four more teach in Children’s ministry every Sunday. Six of them are active in other ministries at church. Okay ... I’m not a math guy but I can add enough to see that is way more than seven total. These students are not just finding a place to serve while studying at Boston Baptist College ... they are finding many places to serve! I am thankful for their whatever-needs-to-be-done mentality.

Let me finish up this burger talk with a look forward. A ministry college like ours is not a reservoir — we are merely a channel. Our sole purpose is to partner with our churches to help move along our finest young people toward future leadership in our churches. I don’t know, of course, where my seven lunch partners will end up serving the Lord, but two of them talk much about foreign missions. Those teaching children and teens are only going to get better and better in those ministries. And I won’t overlook this ... there were future godly moms and dads at the table. I drifted away from the happy banter momentarily to soak it in. Wendy’s had become something quite holy, and for me, a kind of Thanksgiving feast.

I am thankful for my blessings. I’m thankful for the yummy turkey. I’m thankful for burgers. And I’m thankful for the future leaders of our churches, sitting sometimes these days, in booths at a burger joint.

SPRINGFIELD, MO

BBC welcomes new director of admissions

The administration of Baptist Bible College is pleased to announce that John Decker has been chosen as the new director of admissions.

John is a 2003 graduate of BBC. He became a police officer and served the Springfield community as a patrol officer and in a unit that specialized in tracking gang activity. He became the youth pastor at Park Crest Baptist Church and has served faithfully and well under the leadership of Pastor Phil Housley. He and his wife, Mandy, have three sons.

John looks forward to working with students, staff, faculty, churches, and pastors to help recruit potential students for BBC. He says he is excited about how God has worked in his life to bring him to BBC, and wants to help young men and women begin their paths toward becoming a BBC Patriot



SPRINGFIELD, MO

Jerry Thorpe BBC chapel guest

Longtime minister of the Gospel Jerry Thorpe was the Baptist Bible College chapel speaker September 16, 2014. Thorpe spoke to students about a favorite subject, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Students were both receptive and motivated by the message.

Thorpe speaks from his own pastoral experience of 36 years as he served as co-pastor and then senior pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Odessa, TX. He has continued to serve the Lord since his retirement in 2000 by sharing his unique style of preaching, that combines biblical truths and relevant topics with vitality and humor, around the world.

He is a guest speaker at numerous youth camps, youth conferences, revival meetings, Bible conferences, marriage seminars, family camps, banquets, and college

campuses. He has been married to his wife, Freddie, since 1958. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Thorpe says of his BBC chapel experience, "It was a privilege to speak in chapel at BBC. I took the kids to the cross where Jesus died for our sins, and this great group of kids, who sang with such enthusiasm and were so excited to be here, sat with me and worshipped as we all together went to the cross and we were all

touched at what Jesus did for us. BBC is doing great and I expect even greater things in the future."



Jerry Thorpe prays during his message at BBC chapel service September 16.

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AUBREY, TX

North Texas BBF meets in Aubrey

Midway Baptist Church and Pastor John Theisen hosted the North Texas BBF in Aubrey, TX, September 11, 2014. Pastor Tommy Nelson of Denton Bible Church was the keynote speaker for the day. Theisen says, "Tommy challenged us to disciple and develop spiritually strong men in our ministries."

Among those attending was Jesus Gonzales, a graduate of Baptist Bible Institute in Mante, Mexico, who pastors a Hispanic work in Denton, TX. After the preaching services, pastors and church staff enjoyed a time of fellowship in a local restaurant.



North Texas BBF preachers enjoy fellowship in Aubrey, TX restaurant

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AUSTIN, TX

Austin church receives “Miracle Sunday” offering

Last October 31, First Independent Baptist Church and Pastor Mike Marcellus were literally “under water.” A torrential rainfall had caused flooding in the church’s neighborhood,

submerging the church’s property and ruining nearly everything the church had. For months, even though the property was dry, the facilities remained spartan as the church struggled to regain their facilities.

Marcellus says, “Our church is a multi-racial congregation, and a poor church, and as many knew we were devastated without flood insurance.”

Eleven months later, after receiving funds and help from around the world, much of it from churches associated with the BBFI, he happily reports that repairs and renovations are about 75 percent complete. He hoped that one more push, a Miracle Sunday he called it, would provide about \$25,000 toward the \$50,000 to \$60,000 the congregation needed to

complete the job.

When the day came, Marcellus says, “We had an awesome day with one saved, five baptized, three more that joined the church, a packed house, and we even had to video-stream into an overflow room.”

The offering received was more than \$40,000, making Miracle Sunday a reality for the church. An additional blessing was learning that the initial repair estimate of \$368,000 was far greater than the actual amount needed, which was about \$200,000. Marcellus said, “We had about \$2,000 in the bank when the flood hit, but with the offerings we received so far we have been able to pay cash for everything we’ve done.”

Pastor Marcellus has an encouraging word for pastors of smaller churches: “If you pastor a smaller, poorer church than most, like I have for almost 29 years, don’t ever give up. Don’t ever quit. God can and will work miracles in your ministry even if your faith is weak.”



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SANTA CLARA, CA

LifeCity Church launches in Santa Clara, CA

By John Markum

My wife, family, and a small team of four other adults relocated to the Bay Area of San Jose, CA, in the summer of 2013 — just 45 minutes away from San Francisco. We ended up just outside San Jose in the city of Santa Clara. This entire area at the southern end of the San Francisco Bay is considered by many to be the most unreached metropolitan area of the United States, and we see that first hand every day.

We took the time to learn and appreciate the diverse culture and the spiritual emptiness here in the South Bay area. We prayed big prayers, made new friends, joined the PTA, and served the neighborhood and city in whatever way we could find. Finally, after a little more than a year of sharing our lives and faith within the community, we knew the time was right and God was leading us to launch.



And so, on September 7, 2014, we launched LifeCity Church with 93 people in attendance, seven coming to Christ, and five being baptized. This was the beginning of the most audacious thing I ever dreamed of doing in ministry, and God showed up and blessed us in a profound way; our vision, "to lead the people of the South Bay to fully experience life in Christ," was now becoming a reality.

We're now working on turning a crowd into a congregation. We're training leaders and volunteers to co-labor with us. As church plant metrics go, we expect to dip to about two-thirds of our launch day attendance before given the

opportunity to build back up and become a healthy, growing church. We hope to move through this process and get back up to our "birth weight" of 90-100 some time this coming January.

It's not easy trying to lead newly born Christians and, in many cases, for us curious non-Christians to explore their faith and grow spiritually. But nothing worthwhile ever is easy. And getting to see some of the fruit from the seed God first planted in our hearts years ago is worth the struggle.

A short video from the launch is available at <https://vimeo.com/106295595>.

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FORT WORTH, TX

OMER HAROLD RITCHIE

Omer Harold Ritchie, 87, was called to his eternal home to be with his Lord September 17, 2014. Born in Mobile, AL, December 22, 1926, he devoted his entire life from the age of 14, along with his twin brother Homer, to teaching and preaching the Gospel of Christ. They co-pastored First Baptist Church of Fort Worth for more than 20 years. As a young preacher, Omer founded, organized, and pastored several churches in Arizona, Indiana, and Texas.

Omer is survived by his wife of 46 years, Cynthia, four sons, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. His twin, Homer, lives in Fort Worth.

OCILLA, GA

RON SCHAFFER

Pastor and evangelist Ronald L. Schaffer passed from this life September 19, 2014. Born August 8, 1937, in Kansas City, KS, he was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving during the Korean Conflict. Schaffer attended Baptist Bible College and held a PhD from Louisiana Baptist University. He pastored several churches, including Temple Heights Baptist Church of Tampa, FL, and Grace Baptist Church of Middletown, OH. He also founded the Hope Children's Home of Tampa.

Schaffer is survived by his wife of 57 years, Martha Ann Raines, four children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Services were held at Waterloo Baptist Church in Ocilla September 26, 2014.

FRANKLIN, IN

RICHARD LANE

Longtime pastor E. Richard Lane, 84, passed away September 3, 2014. Born April 28, 1930, in Canton, OH, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He graduated from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, and received further education from Indiana Baptist College.

Richard began his ministry at Massillon Baptist Temple in Massillon, OH, and then served as pastor of churches in Ohio and Indiana. He also taught at Indiana Baptist College 25 years.

He is survived by his wife, Wanda, whom he married in 1951, daughter, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. A memorial celebration was held September 8, 2014, in Franklin.

SHERMAN, TX

MARY LOU PERRYMAN

Mary Lou Perryman, 84, wife of longtime minister of the Gospel Bob Perryman, left this life September 17, 2014. Born April 9, 1930, in Springfield, MO, she attended and graduated from Willard High School in 1947.

Mary Lou married Bobbie Lee Perryman May 18, 1947, one day after her graduation from high school. They shared 67 years of marriage together. While she held several jobs, the position she cherished most was being a pastor's wife, beginning in 1961 when her husband surrendered to the ministry. Bob and Mary Lou served churches in Missouri and Kansas until 1990 when they started New Testament Church Planting. In their new ministry they built more than 250 churches. Mary Lou was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from Louisiana Baptist University.

She is survived by her husband, Bob, two daughters, five grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. Services honoring Mary Lou's life were held September 20, 2014, at Wilson Creek Baptist Church, Battlefield, MO.

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WEST VIRGINIA

• **Fellowship Baptist Church**, U.S. Rt. 60 E. at Huntington Mall, Barboursville, WV 25504, 304/736-8006 *Pastor Jerry Warren*

INTERNATIONAL

BELGIUM
• **Grace International Baptist Church**, Bruges, Belgium 8200 913/871-8901 VOIP, www.gibc.be *Pastor Tim J. Downs*

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(Sources: Constitution and Bylaws of the BBFI and The BBFI Contact Directory)

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An emotional blister

By Don Mingo, CEO of Mingo Coaching Group

One of my principles is, “Life is too short to spend it standing in long lines.” For that reason, I try to stay away from the big stores lending themselves to the Great-Wall-of-China-type lines. Yet, on one particular day I found myself waiting in quite a lengthy “queue” as the Brits call it (I did spend 22 years in South Africa after all). Behind me no fewer than five people stood showing their painful impatience. In front, was a woman loaded with her cart of goods and five children. Four of those children were under five years of age. After checking other aisles for an opportunity to move things along more quickly, I realized none existed. Here we all stood, whether we liked it or not.

As the cashier rung up the woman’s items, her speed and efficiency abruptly derailed as a host of items qualifying for payment by WIC coupons needed special attention. WIC is a federal assistance program of the Food and Nutrition Service of the USDA for healthcare and nutrition of low-income pregnant women, breast-feeding women, and infants and children under the age of five. As the cashier scrutinized each item matching it with the appropriate coupon, those behind me became restless. And vocal, mumbling under their collective breath.

The redheaded woman in front of me with all the kids did not waiver, nor did she show any emotion to the deeply exhaling, gawking heads in the line. As the process plodded on, the fellow directly behind me began mumbling, “I bet she doesn’t even know who all their fathers are ...”

Biting my tongue, but silently hoping those words might be his last, I heard him go on. With raised voice, a new barrage of unkindness came from his mouth:

“Hey lady, do you even know who these kids’ fathers are? Come on, here!”

Since two of the children were black, two were white, and the fifth obviously had special needs, I’m sure in his keen mind he thought perhaps some deep truth existed. Yet the redheaded woman, who so patiently took care of all those well-behaved kids, and worked with a handful of organized WIC coupons, carefully matched each coupon in sync with each qualifying item. She quietly carried on with her tasks. At some point, this bully behind me uttered another cruelly insensitive accusation, suggesting that perhaps this woman employed herself in some wicked nighttime activity, and that was the reason for the different varieties of offspring.

Just then, as I began to turn and confront the man, the oldest little girl in the group ahead of me, about seven-years-old, looked at me, puzzled and confused, and asked, “Papa, what is that man

talking about?”

The question itself totally uncovered the man’s ignorance, cruelty, and insecurity. As “Papa,” that is, I readied myself to verbally confront the man when my redheaded daughter-in-law said, “Dad, just leave it alone. Obviously, the man has never heard of foster parenting.”

His ignorance served up a huge helping of shame and embarrassment upon himself.

You see, I agreed to go to the big store that day to help my son’s wife with the children. Two of those wonderful children are my grandchildren! The third little boy is my adopted special-needs grandson, and the two little black children are foster kids, and perhaps will soon be my grandkiddos, too. My son and his wife have now cared for close to a dozen special-needs foster infants over the past six years, and my wife Kathy and I are moving in and teaming up with them to help care for more.

A blister is a small to large bubble on the skin filled with puss, fluid, or serum caused by friction, burning, or other damage. That day blistered my daughter-in-law and me, and it impacted my oldest granddaughter, as a man in complete ignorance leveled inhumane charges against a mother who is a pediatric nurse and foster parent caring for five children. My wounds and anger over what I termed a “verbal crime” blistered me and took some time to go away. But, this wonderful lady my son married cautiously corrected me, “Dad, it’s not the first time this has happened and it will not be the last. You can’t engage in people’s ignorance and stupidity.”

She is correct.

I thought of Jesus’ words when he said, “Better a millstone tied about one’s neck and cast into the deepest sea than to offend one of these little ones.” Those words give me some comfort, but I can’t help feel sorry for the man and his unmet needs that cause him to be so hatefully unkind.

Jesus taught us to forgive those who trespass against us. Surely this man trespassed upon our emotional premises that day. His ignorance caused great blisters in our lives. Those blisters challenge us to be as understanding as my daughter-in-law was that day and as innocently inquisitive as my granddaughter too, and more importantly, to be as loving as Jesus who said, “Father forgive them; they know not what they do.”

Don Mingo enjoys wildlife and nature photography, his sons, grandkids, and coffee with his wife Kathy. He blogs at “Just My Thoughts” (www.donaldmingo.com).

NOVEMBER 2014

PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Joseph & Darcy Flory <i>Russia</i>
2  <small>CHAPLAIN</small> LtJG. Steven & Jennifer Benefield <i>U.S. Navy</i>	3  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Ken & Debbie Norris <i>Choctaw Indians</i>	4  <small>T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY</small> Ali Alexander <i>Colombia</i>	5  <small>MISSIONARY</small> David & Hope Reinhardt <i>Chile</i>	6  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Georgia Webb <i>Mexico</i>	7  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Dwayne & Valerie Keefe <i>Australia</i>	8  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Lavern Rodgers <i>Japan</i>
9  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Marvin & Pat Matthews <i>Retired</i>	10  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Robert & Sandy Frazier <i>Mexico</i>	11  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Anna Marie West <i>Costa Rica</i>	12  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Jeremy & Karissa Lynn <i>Ethiopia</i>	13  <small>WORKERS IN</small> Restricted Access Nations	14  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Gary & Lisa Santino <i>Romania</i>	15  <small>BBFI MISSION OFFICE - SPRINGFIELD, MO</small> Reception Staff
16  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Keith & Mariella Mills <i>Scotland</i>	17  <small>T.E.A.M. MISSIONARY</small> Brandon & Rachel Adams <i>Kenya</i>	18  <small>MISSIONARY</small> John & Pamela Quinlan <i>Philippines</i>	19  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Shelly Henderson <i>Tanzania</i>	20  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Daniel & Laura Camacho <i>USLG</i>	21  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Zac & Whitney Pyle <i>Mongolia</i>	22  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Jim & Sybil Eberhard <i>Kenya</i>
23  <small>BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE</small> Faculty & Staff <i>Springfield, MO</i>	24  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Mike & Becky Winters <i>Japan</i>	25  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Greg & Nina Hunt <i>Canada</i>	26  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Christina Fulmer <i>Kenya</i>	27  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Lloyd Baker <i>Philippines</i>	28  MANNA Worldwide	29  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Robert & Jane Riddle <i>Mexico</i>
30  <small>MISSIONARY</small> Ron & Christina Enoch <i>South Sudan</i>						

As is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes,
so it is the business of Christians to pray.
Martin Luther

Editor's Note: On last month's Prayer Calendar, the photos were not correct for Oct 3 (Walkers) and Oct 4 (Taylors).

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