

# BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

SEPTEMBER 2010 | VOL. 61 NO. 1 | \$1.95

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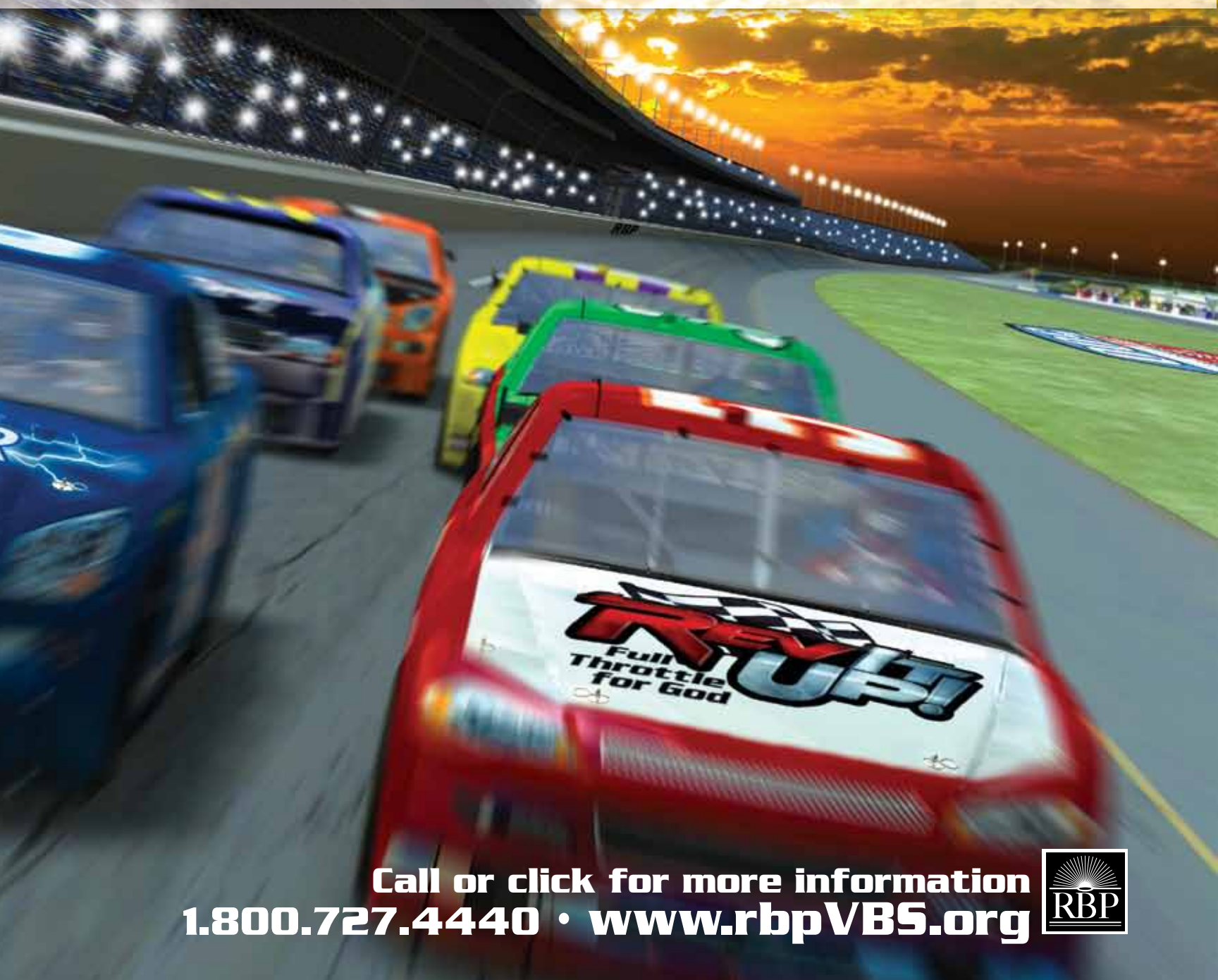
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ON THE TABLE

## 1960 also an important year

by Keith Bassham | Editor

About this time 60 years ago, preachers and church members were planning to take a trip to Springfield to celebrate the opening day of Baptist Bible College. For those excited founders, the World War II surplus barracks and the borrowed space at High Street Baptist Church represented a summer of prayer, work, giving, and sweating.

The practice of coming together on such an occasion was customary in the fellowship they had left. In fact, those forming the new fellowship were not radicals, and they wanted something like the older one. They wanted a loose network, where no single preacher or group of preachers or churches would exercise control over the others. Each local church was autonomous and each pastor had a voice in the affairs of the Fellowship. For that matter, they believed this whole fellowship business would be voluntary and participative. You joined simply by participating and agreeing with the others on what came to be known as the 20 Articles of Faith,

There were between a dozen and 20 adult missionaries, depending on how you count, in about a half dozen places, and they had purchased a piece of property in Springfield, Missouri, for a college. One short and tumultuous decade later, college enrollment had grown from a little over 107 to 565. The missionary force had swelled to 169 missionaries serving on 17 fields, and in 1959, the BBF Mission Office processed three quarters of a million dollars for those missionaries, an unbelievable amount in those days.

But in September 1960, the Fellowship was in a conflict over church autonomy, though at the time they were not aware that was the true issue. Specifically, some preachers had come to the position that we should require of our national officers something beyond what is spelled out in the 20 Articles of Faith. In other words, they wanted more rules based on applications of specific doctrines. The subject was debated and studied over a year's time, and the pastors came to an important conclusion. They believed that by adding more rules, even if the rules applied only to the officers, those officers were pastors of churches, and thus the new rules would affect churches as well. Very wisely, in September 1960, the gentlemen rejected additional rules, the 20 Articles remained as they were, and the requirements for officers were left alone. In the process though, the Constitution and Bylaws for the Fellowship were redrafted, and in particular this statement was added:

### ARTICLE IX - RELATIONSHIP TO CHURCHES

*All New Testament Churches are autonomous and self-governing; therefore, no article in this Constitution or By-Laws shall ever be interpreted in any way as to infringe upon or jeopardize the absolute sovereignty of any local church. The property rights, the missionary policies, and the practical procedures for autonomous, self-governing churches shall never be endangered in any way by the Baptist Bible Fellowship International, its agencies or subsidiaries.*

For a thorough analysis of this important chapter in Fellowship history, see the article "The BBFI Philosophy of Fellowship" by Mike Randall on the web at <http://bbfi.org/philosophy.htm>.

*Keith Bassham*

# BAPTIST BIBLE TRIBUNE

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## PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

# Opportunity to unite



by Mark Hodges | President | BBFI

Expect great things; attempt great things" was stated by William Carey in a sermon to the Baptist Association meeting in Northampton, England, May 30, 1792. Carey used the statement to urge his Baptist colleagues to enter the missionary enterprise.

For 60 years the Baptist Bible Fellowship has been in the business of carrying out the Great Commission. We are known worldwide for our church-planting thrust and sending missionaries to foreign lands. We are a movement of pastors who have seen the need of uniting together to do something great for God.

In recent days, we, as well as other independent Baptist groups and the SBC, have faced some difficulties. We were warned "that in the last days perilous times shall come" (2 Timothy 3:1). Yet difficulties should never be a deterrent to this Fellowship moving forward and witnessing some of our greatest days in the future.

The BBFI is known as the premier independent Baptist foreign mission organization. We assist local churches in getting their missionaries to the field. Under the leadership of Jon Konnerup, our future is very bright, but missionary prospects are a must for future growth and success.

In a relatively short period of time, the BBFI has become known for its church planting organization, the National Church Planting Office. We assist local churches in getting the information and finances to young men who are called to start churches. NCPO Director Wayne Guinn has done a marvelous job in establishing the office. Yet, new church planters are imperative for future growth and success.

God has used Keith Bassham and our *Baptist Bible Tribune* in promoting God's work through these organizations.

The Lord is coming back soon and it is my vision to see independent Baptists uniting together to do something BIG for God. I've spoken with two presidents of colleges who are not currently Fellowship schools. They have a desire to unite with us in our church planting and mission endeavors. The BBFI has the tools to unite all of us together in carrying out the Great Commission in a greater manner.

In the past, independent Baptists have been known for their divisions and it's high time that we show the world we can unite for the common goal of reaching this world for Christ.

I am thankful for the opportunity to have served as president of the BBFI. God has blessed us with a wonderful history and I believe that God can use us in the future. We will recognize our past *Tribune* editors and mission directors at the September meeting in Chicago. I will present a plan in our business meeting to show how we can revitalize and expand our Fellowship.

"Expect great things; attempt great things."

## WORLDWIDE MISSIONS

# Building today with eternity in mind



by Steve Bender | Associate Mission Director

Although this may sound trite to some, we Christians are here on Earth for just a little while. With this in mind, what we do in this life, be it leading people to Jesus and then helping them mature spiritually or building buildings where believers can be taught God's Word and worship Him, does not come without a cost. Baptist Bible Fellowship International missionaries have always counted the cost of leaving mother, father, children, grandchildren, and their home country to fulfill His command and take the message of God's love to our world.

The Missionary Projects Offering or MPO — a program to aid missionaries and their local congregations in buying property, building church buildings, and to help buy homes in which missionaries live as they minister in their fields — was established several years ago. Each year the Mission Office mails a brochure to all financially contributing churches detailing the missionary projects for church buildings or homes. Beginning in late May, the Mission Office works with the National Directors in presenting the MPO to pastors and asking them to lead their churches to invest in this offering that culminates at the September BBFI National Fellowship Meeting. Over the course of each summer, the Mission Office directors travel to as many state and local Fellowship meetings as possible to explain in detail the MPO's workings and its benefit to the missionaries and foreign churches. This past year, the MPO helped financially complete nine church buildings and five missionary homes in countries abroad.

Pastors and other donors are asked to look through the MPO brochure and find missionaries they already partner with in prayer and financial support or to find a project they feel led to support and send their financial investment designated and clearly marked with that project number to the BBFI Mission Office. Like every financial gift given through the Mission Office, 100 percent will be deposited to the missionary or project to which it is designated.

Often, pastors will lead their congregations to make a sizable financial commitment to a particular project either all at once or over the course of the year. Some churches make commitments of several thousand dollars per year and, each month when they send the funds, they designate them to a different project, thus investing in the ministries of many different missionaries.

The MPO is a success due to the combined efforts of the missionaries involved, the BBFI Mission Office, state-elected officers, and pastors of local churches who convey this vision to the members who pray and contribute financially to see this great work accomplished. Together, let's continue to build with eternity in mind and make this September's commitment one that will have significant impact.

For more information concerning the MPO or to request a copy of this year's brochure, contact Steve Bender at the BBFI Mission Office (PO Box 191, Springfield, MO 65801, (417) 862-5001, [www.bbfimissions.com](http://www.bbfimissions.com)).

# Rebuilding a State Fellowship



by Wayne Guinn | Director | NCPO

**I**t's been exciting to work with the Iowa state fellowship and their refocus on church planting. Vernell Lott, who recently completed the NCPO Church Planting School, is birthing a church in Des Moines. This is Iowa's first attempt to plant a church in Des Moines' black community. We have also co-sponsored a restart of Bethel Baptist Church in Carroll, Iowa, under the leadership of Pastor Randy Abell and the state fellowship. That work is progressing very well and we look forward to featuring this work in a future article.

Randy Abell, who oversees church planting for the state fellowship and whose church is a 2004 church plant of the Iowa Fellowship, writes:

*While the Iowa BBF has around a dozen participating pastors, it is a good example of how a state can pick up the pieces from past problems and begin to get something done for Christ. The Iowa BBF, like many other states, encountered problems around 10 years ago, losing many of their participating churches and causing a vacuum both in leadership, finances, and direction in planting more churches.*

*But those pastors who remained determined to reorganize, refit, and refinance their efforts are seeing the fruit of that now. They have been part of six church plants over the last six years, with five of the six doing well. They've helped church plants in Spencer, Urbandale, Omaha (Nebraska), and two in Des Moines. They also have given assistance to smaller churches that are struggling in their state, either due to the economy or to the lack of pastoral leadership. Partnering with the NCPO has been an added strength in accomplishing our goals.*

*Over the last decade, each of the last three state chairman, Phil Griffith (Ottumwa), Mark Carter (Des Moines), and Ed Matthews (Ottumwa), have worked hard to reorganize the state fellowship to make it the spiritually-healthy organization that it is today. They rewrote their constitution to give more flexibility in decisions, they send out a monthly informative newsletter to over 100 churches in the area, and they have raised and organized their finances to be able to help when needed and to finance church planters.*

*The state of Iowa has many cities and towns in desperate need of a Baptist church, and the Iowa BBF would love to hear from you! Please visit [IowaBBF.org](http://IowaBBF.org) and may God bless the Baptist Bible Fellowship!*

## FALL CHURCH PLANTER'S CANDIDATE SCHOOL October 11-15, 2010

First Baptist Church  
Medina, Ohio

Pastor Mark Million

Contact: [office@bbfincpo.com](mailto:office@bbfincpo.com)  
(417) 889-1017

# Confession



by Tom Wagoner | Pastor | Central Baptist Church | Dunn, NC

**I**am writing this note upon returning from the Texas Baptist Bible Fellowship gathering that combined with the NCPO for a training school. The theme was "Revival, Prayer, and Motivation." At the meeting, the heartbeat of everything was revival. Pastor Rick Carter had been praying and leading his people and that state to fasting and prayer in preparation for our meeting.

I received an email from a pastor that reflected the heart of so many that were at the altars each service asking God to forgive them and confessing sin. I was reminded of the scripture that we could quote forward and backward, "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). We have to believe that. We have to be willing to confess our sin. James 5:16 says, "Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another that you may be healed."

The thing that hinders revival most is our pride and our unwillingness to confess our sins before God. At some point, we began to believe that leadership somehow has to project a depth of spirituality beyond where our people are. I think they are waiting for us to genuinely confess our sins and repent and I think that they will follow us in that as they follow us in everything else. One young pastor wrote, "I want revival and I am willing to pay the price." He listed sins in his correspondence to me that I believe are a reflection of what he is confessing before God, others, and even in his church. God help us to be men who are honest enough to allow the Lord to "tear open our hearts" (Joel 2:13) and reveal what is inside so that we might have revival.

In every revival in history, there was a heavy emphasis upon the confession of sins and then repentance — first in leadership and then in the laity. It seems very interesting to me that when a message is preached on repentance in our Fellowship or in our churches, the people who respond appear to be the most godly. The other day I was reading a story of Bertha Smith, a spirit-filled missionary of the Southern Baptists for many years. Evangelist Bill Stafford tells the story of 98-year-old Bertha who was sitting in a revival service where he was preaching on repentance and confession, and among the first at the altar was that godly, bold missionary who was well known for her power, her fullness, and the fruit of the spirit in her life.

I believe someone is reading this article right now that needs to bow at this moment and begin to ask God to reveal sin in his or her life. If our hearts are torn open, God can and will reveal areas of deficiency, need, or sin in our lives. I am doing it right now. I hope that you will join me. Let's together confess our sins and repent.

See [www.revivaljourney.com](http://www.revivaljourney.com)

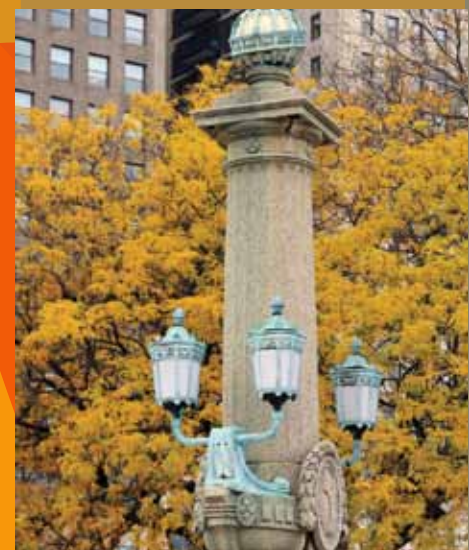




SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2010

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BBFI FALL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

MONDAY



Tom Wagoner



Host Pastor  
Bruce Humbert

TUESDAY



Steve Bender



Doug Fisher



Parker Daily



Richie Orrick



Bill Monroe

WEDNESDAY



Kelly McInerney



Armie Jesalva



Jon Konnerup



Linzy Slayden

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- LADIES MEETING — LAURIE HUMBERT
- THURSDAY — TOUR OF CHICAGO

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500 Holiday Plaza Dr.  
Matteson, IL 60443 | 708.747.3500  
\$99.00

**LaQuinta Inn (6.92 Miles)**  
7255 W. 183rd St.  
Tinley Park, IL 60477 | 708.633.1200  
RATES MAY VARY

**Country Inn and Suites (14.1 Miles)**  
18315 S. Lagrange Rd.  
Tinley Park, IL 60487 | 708.560.9300  
\$119.00 Standard / \$139.00 Suite

**Holiday Inn Express (5.33 Miles)**  
25640 S Friendship Dr.  
Monee, IL 60449 | 708.534.0022  
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**Hampton Inn & Suites (6.79 Miles)**  
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**Best Western (7.31 Miles)**  
4375 Frontage Rd.  
Oak Forest, IL 60452 | 708.687.4800

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# ONE MAN ONE WOMAN

## A LOSING PROPOSITION

California's battle over same-sex marriage points to more than just the moral depravity of society

by Keith Bassham

**W**e conservative Christians have been crowing about our success relative to the liberal mainline denominations at least a generation. While most of the country, certainly the majority of the nation's media and academia, was fairly unaware of the rising strength in conservative Christianity in the 60s and early 70s, they had noticed the theologically liberal Protestant denominations were shrinking. A few sociologists dug a little deeper, among them sociologist Dean Kelley who wrote *Why Conservative Churches are Growing* in 1972, but many more were in agreement with Lutheran theologian Peter Berger, who told the *New York Times* in 1969 that religion in the U.S. would soon be composed of groups "huddled together in little enclaves, surrounded by a sea of secularity."

As we watched the mainline Protestant denominations hemorrhage membership statistics, we felt vindicated for our doctrinal stands, for our continued faithfulness to God, His Word, the Gospel of Christ, the Cross, and all the other theological and cultural positions we believe to be important. We conservatives had more churches, larger churches, and not a small amount of political clout. The data indicated we had won, and we truly thought we had triumphed.

However, it is easy to miss something

under the surface. Earlier this year, Christian Smith published *Souls in Transition: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults*. The book is a follow-up to his widely read volume on the spiritual lives of teens, and a few paragraphs from it challenge our sense of triumph. Smith writes,

*"These are not the glory days of mainline-liberal Protestantism in America. Yet many observers are so focused on membership statistics and apparent political influences that they miss an important fact: that liberal Protestantism's organizational decline has been accompanied by and is in part arguably the consequence of the fact that liberal Protestantism has won a decisive, larger cultural victory."*

He goes on to cite the work of N. Jay Demerath, who in 1995 wrote a journal article in which he argues that the reason the liberal Protestant churches declined is not because they failed, but because they succeeded! Far from representing failure," he says, "the decline of Liberal Protestantism may actually stem from its success. It may be the painful structural consequences of [its] wider cultural triumph.... Liberal Protestants have lost structurally at the micro level precisely because they won culturally at the macro level."

In other words, Smith says,

*"liberal Protestantism's core values – individualism, pluralism, emancipation, tolerance, free critical inquiry, and the authority of human experience – have come to so permeate broader American culture that its own churches as organizations have difficulty surviving. ...In short, many emerging adults would be quite comfortable with the kind of liberal faith described by the Yale theologian H. Richard Niebuhr in 1937 as being about 'a God without wrath [who] brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a Cross.'"*

I am not certain of the process, who influenced whom, whether we are talking chickens and eggs here, or what, but I can tell you the observations are spot on. Therefore, when someone asked me about my response to the Federal judge's overturning California's Proposition 8, the majority-supported act to define marriage as exclusively a one-man-one-woman relationship, I asked, "And what did you expect?"

Actually, this is the second time this issue has received a ruling in a high court in California, the first occurring two years ago. At that time, the California Supreme Court

ruled that the state's Defense of Marriage Act defining marriage in traditional one-man-one-woman terms, was unconstitutional. Backers of the law believed at the time the only way to prevent a similar overturning was to amend the state's constitution, which they did in a voter referendum that fall. The amendment was contained in the language of Proposition 8 ("only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California"), and those who wanted to retain traditional marriage and prevent same-sex marriages in California thought that would put the matter out of the court's reach.

In the meantime, the homosexual activists and liberal politicians favoring same-sex marriage geared up for the inevitable showdown. The American Civil Liberties Union posted a strategy document on their website: "Make Change, Not Lawsuits." The downloadable document showed the logos of nine LGBT organizations and gave encouragement to the

I have demonstrated before that though homosexuality apologists deny there is any homosexual agenda, there is one. In their 1989 pro-gay book, *After the Ball*, Marshall K. Kirk and Hunter Madsen wrote, "The agenda of homosexual activists is basically to change America from what they perceive as looking down on homosexual behavior, to the affirmation of and societal acceptance of homosexual behavior." These same-sex marriage declarations are important to the homosexual community because what they are after is not tolerance but broad acceptance, and as long as this legal marriage barrier stands, homosexuality will not be regarded as normal.

Understand, this is not some plea for tolerance, a deliverance from culturally embedded and socially sanctioned physical persecution. Rather, the goal is, according to the same-sex proponents, a radical revolution in morality.

Nowhere is this more plain than in the language used by Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker in his ruling where he invokes the 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*. Walker wrote,

*"The arguments surrounding Proposition 8 raise a question similar to that addressed in Lawrence, when the Court asked whether a*

Marriage in California will transform the national debate on the freedom to marry....It will do that because California is an American trendsetter."

- ACLU strategy document

"religious beliefs that gay and lesbian relationships are sinful . . . harm gays and lesbians."

- Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker

same-sex marriage proponents:

*"The win in California was no accident. Cities in California started adopting Domestic Partnership policies in the mid 80s. The state adopted its first law in 1999, and expanded it over the next six years. Courts in California have been deciding important cases about discrimination since the 70s. With the victories in Massachusetts and California, we should be able to win marriage more quickly in other states.... Marriage in California will transform the national debate on the freedom to marry. It will do that because the decision is well-reasoned constitutional law from the most influential state court in the nation. It will do that because California is an American trendsetter."*

This more recent decision must be seen in the light of that earlier ruling and what we already know about the homosexual activist agenda.

This position has been confirmed again and again. Outspoken homosexual activist Michelangelo Signorile wrote in a column for

*OUT* magazine in 1994 of a strategy and goal, "to fight for same-sex marriage and its benefits and then, once granted, redefine the institution of marriage completely, to demand the right to marry not as a way of adhering to society's moral codes but rather to debunk a myth and radically alter an archaic institution."

More than 10 years ago, Hadley Arkes, writing in *First Things*, said,

*"For what drives the litigation for gay rights is the need to have the gay life recognized and confirmed in principle in every setting in which the issue may arise. Gay activists seem to understand that their interests will not be secured as long as there persists in the public a residual moral sense that there is something about homosexuality that is not quite right. Hence, the need to seek more and more occasions for inducing the public first to tolerate, and then, in small steps, to endorse or approve."*

*majority of citizens could use the power of the state to enforce 'profound and deep convictions accepted as ethical and moral principles' through the criminal code....They cannot. "*

In fact, woven throughout Judge Walker's ruling, just about any law based on a moral view, especially if related to religion, is suspect. That is, unless it corresponds with his view of morality. For instance, at one point in his decision he states as a fact (not his opinion, mind you) that "religious beliefs that gay and lesbian relationships are sinful...harm gays and lesbians."

Again, though, I ask, what did you expect? Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia dissented in the *Lawrence* case in 2003, warning this very event was inevitable. He wrote then,

*"This effectively decrees the end of all morals legislation. If, as the Court asserts, the promotion of majoritarian sexual morality is not even a legitimate state interest... Today's opinion (i.e. the majority) is the product of a Court, which is the product of a law-profession culture, that has largely signed on to the so-called homosexual agenda, by which I mean the*



*agenda promoted by some homosexual activists directed at eliminating the moral opprobrium that has traditionally attached to homosexual conduct. ... So imbued is the Court with the law profession's anti-anti-homosexual culture, that it is seemingly unaware that the attitudes of that culture are not obviously 'mainstream'..."*

Later, he notes that the majority opinion of Court is careful to say the present case "does not involve whether the government must give

*tion of marriage as they and their families have known it all their lives, and for countless generations, are irrational bigots. Worse still, if they are moved to act because of the union of their faith with their moral opinions, they are crazy religious folk, bent only on harming others whom they merely 'dislike' on grounds that cannot possibly be defended before a tribunal of right-thinking people. And those others, the same-sex-couple plaintiffs? They must be rescued from the 'harm' to their feelings that*

gelicals agreeing with acceptance was smaller (26 percent), but considerable. Christianity often is redefined so the new core value and evidence of morality is tolerance of just about anything except traditional morality.

President Obama, I think, gives us an example of this new type of "Christian" thinking. In his book, *The Audacity of Hope*, he mentions that his faith helped him to conclude that marriage is between a man and woman, a position he maintains publicly to the present time. Yet at the same time he favors repeal of the Federal Defense of Marriage Act, opposes

56% of those interviewed from mainline denominational churches agree with the statement: Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by our society.

- Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

"Nurturing families come in many forms, and children may be raised by a father and mother, a single father, two fathers, a step father, a grandfather, or caring guardian."

- President Barack Obama

formal recognition to any relationship that homosexual persons seek to enter." I'm thinking Justice O'Connor was using the last bit of her opinion to try to steer the homosexual activists away from using her as a legal basis for same-sex marriage arrangements in the future. Scalia saw it for what it was. His response: "Do not believe it.... Today's opinion dismantles the structure of constitutional law that has permitted a distinction to be made between heterosexual and homosexual unions, insofar as formal recognition in marriage is concerned."

Justice Scalia's next few sentences presciently quote Judge Walker (seven years in advance) almost word for word, for Walker says there is no legitimate state interest involved in proscribing same-sex marriage, precisely what Scalia said would happen after the Supreme Court decided *Lawrence*.

And so what of the majority of the people in this country, religious or not, who still believe that these matters should be decided in a democratic venue? Matthew J. Franck, director of the William E. and Carol G. Simon Center on Religion and the Constitution at the Witherspoon Institute in Princeton, New Jersey, writes, that according to Judge Walker and his allies,

*"Citizens who wish to defend the institu-*

*results from their exclusion from a historic civil and moral institution that has never hitherto been thought to have been built for them."*

Let's see if we can't twist all these threads together to see where we are.

First, I was planning to publish an apologetics article this month, one dealing with the question, "Can we be good without God?" when the news on the California decision came in. What is the source for our sense of right and wrong? How do we know what is right? Why do right? Those kinds of things. I had no idea the Federal judicial system would provide such a ready illustration. For, casting themselves adrift from God as Creator and Lawgiver, much as Paul describes in Romans 1, modern American culture finds itself without a moral compass, let alone a rudder.

Second, this casting adrift was done in collusion with liberal Protestant theology as we described above. Not long ago, the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life reported in the U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, 56 percent of those from mainline denominational churches agreed with a statement that said, "Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society." Only 34 percent said homosexuality should be discouraged. The number of evan-

a constitutional amendment declaring marriage is one-man-one-woman, and he opposed Proposition 8. Further, he advocates homosexuals openly serving in the US military, and unlike his immediate predecessor, has made two presidential proclamations for Gay Pride Month in 2009 and 2010. Finally, just a month or so back, in a statement honoring fathers on Fathers Day, he said, "Nurturing families come in many forms, and children may be raised by a father and mother, a single father, **two fathers**, a step-father, a grandfather, or caring guardian."

Third, temporally, it is hard to judge success and failure. One could argue that liberal Protestantism sacrificed their institutions but in so doing they achieved great success embedding their core values in American culture. Meanwhile, evangelical churches have grown in numbers but appear to be losing clout in society at large. Some attribute this to a backlash against political activism, while others say we have not been as active in this area as we yet need to be.

One thing is clear. If there is ability to take this nation back to a more biblical worldview, it will require full effort over a long period of time among those with a serious allegiance to God and His ways.

# let the nations rejoice

BBFI GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21-24, 2011

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cebu2011  
com



**As mission director of the BBFI,** I have had the opportunity to travel to many different countries where we have missionaries. Not only do I love to visit with the missionaries, I also enjoy meeting those the missionaries have reached with the gospel and have trained to be pastors. This is the goal of our missionary efforts. Everywhere I have met with national leaders, they have expressed their gratitude for the BBFI churches and the missionaries they have sent out. In fact, one Korean pastor recently remarked at Ike Foster's memorial service that he loved Texas. He said it's not because everything there is so big, but because the church that sent the missionary who reached him with the gospel is in Texas. Many of these national pastors have asked how things are going in other parts of the world. As I share these things with them, they listen intently, eager to know that they are a part of something bigger. They are always thrilled to know they are a part of the big picture and work that God has done, is doing, and will continue to do through the BBFI.

Because there has been so much interest in hearing what is going on around the world, Bro. Jun Lumagbas, of the Philippines, and I discussed the idea of having an International Fellowship Meeting in a foreign country. After sharing this with and getting the approval of the leadership of our Fellowship, we began to assemble a planning committee of leaders from around the world.

Cebu City, Philippines, was chosen as the ideal location for this meeting. Bible Baptist Church in Cebu

City is a great church with a wonderful history. A BBFI missionary, Bob Hughes, started a church and trained a man, Dr. Armie Jesalva, who later became the pastor of the church. He has now led this church for over 40 years. Bible Baptist Church has in turn started over 300 churches in the Philippines and has sent out numerous missionaries around the world. This is the exact picture of the purpose of the BBFI globally. This church can handle hosting a large meeting like this and they will definitely be a blessing to all who attend.

I have been burdened to bring attention to and encourage our co-laborers across the globe. Far from taking away from our own responsibility to world missions, the intent of this meeting is to rejoice in the results of our 60 years of labor as Baptist Bible Fellowship International. We are anticipating a great International Fellowship Meeting in Cebu, Philippines. It is important that as many pastors as possible attend this historical meeting.

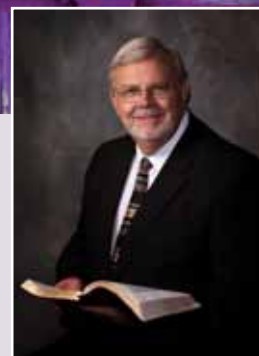
We hope to "Remember" the past with thanksgiving, "Rejoice" in what God is doing right now with praise, and "Renew" our efforts for the cause of Christ with great enthusiasm.

"Let the Nations Rejoice" is our theme. Let the nations rejoice as we join with them in reaching our world for Christ and may the nations rejoice as they hear the wonderful story of Jesus and turn to Him for salvation. May it all bring glory and honor to God.

**Jon Konnerup**  
BBFI Mission Director

## **For the last 60 years,**

God has blessed the Baptist Bible Fellowship International, and we thank Him for the way He has used this movement to send the gospel across the streets of our cities and around the world through our missionaries. With the spiritual needs of our world greater than ever before, I thank God for raising up a host of workers for the field from around the world. We have nearly 10,000 churches and missions around the world serving as guiding lights to their communities — founded on a heritage of faith and commitment to the cause of Jesus Christ. This is indeed an international movement of God. I encourage you to come to Cebu City, Philippines, for our first global meeting. If you would like to be a part of something historic, make your plans to join us. This meeting will expand our vision, encourage our hearts, and celebrate the Lord's work in our midst. Pastors, let me encourage you to bring all or part of your staff, perhaps sponsor a missionary, and include church members. Let the nations rejoice! Let's remember, rejoice, and renew our vision for world evangelism. I hope to see you there!



**Linzy Slayden**  
BBFI President-elect



# purpose

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 to 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 we all work together to reach our world for Jesus Christ.



## bible baptist church cebu city | pastor dr armie jesalva



Missionary Bob Hughes went to the Philippines with BBFI ideals running through his spiritual veins. The goal was always a global reach through the local church. Bob Hughes lived to see a strong local church established. As the current pastor of over 40 years, Dr. Armie Jesalva lives to orchestrate an ever-expanding global reach of not just the Cebu City churches but of churches all over the Philippines. The vision and dream of our BBFI founders lives on. Bible Baptist Church Cebu City has one of the largest church buildings in the Philippines. Their Bible college has seen over 800 graduates throughout its years of existence. Through the efforts of BBC Cebu City, 326 churches have been established by the church and numerous missionaries have been sent worldwide.

# rejoice

Join the many pastors, missionaries, and church leaders from every continent on earth to celebrate what our Lord has done through the efforts of the BBFI. Resulting from these efforts are well over 6,000 churches started outside the U.S. with an average church attendance of more than 1.2 million precious souls. God is working right now, through us, to reach the world.



# renew

As you join us at our destination of Cebu City, you will look with us to the future as we are inspired by the many other nations that are now sending their own missionaries around the world with the gospel. Together, we will renew our obedience to the Great Commission in these days of unprecedented opportunities worldwide. More people than ever need to hear the gospel. Ours is the greatest message the world has yet to receive, and we have the greatest power to get the job done — the power of Jesus Christ.



## host pastor

**Dr. Armie Jesalva** was born in Odiongan, Romblon, and as he grew up he determined in his heart that the circumstances in life must never defeat his ambition. He was saved through the fiery preaching of Evangelist Greg Tingson, the Filipino associate evangelist of Dr. Billy Graham. He graduated AB pre-Medicine in 1956 and from medical school in 1964. He was actively involved in Bible Baptist Church as a song leader, choir director, and teacher. Missionary Bob Hughes taught him the theory of soulwinning and Rev. Lloyd Baker the practical aspect of it. His goal was to witness to every patient before they received their medical treatment. He was called to preach in 1967 and became a pastor of Bible Baptist in 1969. In 1973, he decided to close his medical clinic and be a fulltime pastor. He has an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Liberty Baptist University, Lynchburg, Virginia, and Temple Baptist College, Cincinnati, Ohio. He also has an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Louisiana Baptist University.



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## japan

**Tsunehiro Michishita** was saved at the age of 24 in Tokyo while attending the university. He became a member of the Tokyo Bible Baptist Church which was started by a BBFI missionary several years before. Shortly thereafter, he was called into the Lord's service and he entered the Japan Baptist Bible College. In 1971, he was invited to be a pastor at Shimizu Bible Baptist Church in Shizuoka and has been working at the church for 39 years.



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## taiwan

**John Line Chow**'s father, Peter, was the pastor of a BBF church, working with the first BBF missionaries to Taiwan. John attended Fu-Jen University Law School, earned his M.Div. at Liberty Baptist Seminary in Lynchburg, VA, and earned his J.D. at Brooklyn Law School in New York where he is a licensed attorney. After working in New York City, he returned to Taiwan and worked as a partner in a law firm in Taipei while serving in the church with his father. Upon his father's retirement in 1991, he was chosen as the Senior Pastor of the Nan Kang Grace Baptist Bible Fellowship Church.



## usa

**Linzy Slayden** is the president-elect of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. He was educated at Baptist Bible College (BA), Springfield, Missouri; North-eastern State University, Tulsa, Oklahoma; and Temple Baptist Seminary (MM, MABS) in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He has pastored Friendship Baptist Church in Owasso, Oklahoma, for over 18 years.



## korea

**Dr. Daniel Wooseang Kim** was saved under the ministry of missionary Dr. Jack Baskin. He's pastored BulKwangDong Bible Baptist Church for over 49 years, ever since he and Dr. Baskin together started this church. Dr. Kim is the president of Bible Baptist Theological Seminary, which is fully accredited on Graduate School level. He is also the board of directors chairman for Korea Baptist Bible Fellowship J. P. He has a radio ministry called "Five Minute Word of God" with FEBC. It is the longest running radio program in Korea, having run for 41 years.



## brazil

**Edivaldo Cano** was saved at the age of 14 through the missionary work of George and Martha Simpson. He served as youth leader, Sunday school teacher, chorus director, and deacon. By trade he was a die maker, mechanic drafter, and mechanic and robotic projector. In 1979 the Lord called him to the ministry and he felt led to study at Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri. He graduated in 1983 with a Pastoral bachelor's degree and returned to Brazil as a missionary to his own people.



## congo

**Mukendi Cikala Jean** graduated from Lubumbashi University (D.R. Congo) in 1983 and started teaching English grammar and texts plus phonetics in a high school. He holds an Associate diploma in Theology and is a teacher of Genesis at Elmer Mary Deal Theology Institute. He was saved in 1986 and led his wife and family to the Lord. As interpreter for the Bible Baptist Fellowship of Congo, he started interpreting for missionaries Don Bowles and Elmer Lee Deal. He pastors the Bethlehem Bible Baptist Church and has been general secretary of BBFI Congo for 10 years.





## usa

**Georges Housney**, reared in Lebanon, is the founder of Horizon, a University student training center in Boulder, Colorado, which houses about 50 students each year from all over the world. They are helped with spiritual growth and specialized training for reaching Muslims for Christ. He not only is responsible for the full translation of the Bible into modern-day Arabic for the Bible Society, but he is also active in seminars and training of local church leaders to be involved in Muslim evangelism.



## australia

**Larry Nelson** and his wife, Dawn, have been BBFI missionaries since 1985. Involved in mission work in Western Australia for over 30 years, Larry also serves as senior pastor of Gospel Baptist Church in Perth. He is a graduate of Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College (B.A.) and Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary (M.A.). His father, Burl Nelson, opened the country of Australia for the BBF in 1968, when Larry was 12 years old.



## lebanon

**Malid Khaled's** Catholic background made him refuse the message of salvation for five years before accepting Christ in 1990. He has been associated with the Fellowship Bible Baptist Church in Hadat, Lebanon since 1993 by serving as a deacon, Bible teacher, youth pastor, and assistant pastor. He became the full-time pastor of the church in 2002. In 2005, he founded the Lebanon New Testament Institute in Hadat. He is presently working on his last course in the Masters Degree in Theology.



## korea

**Jae Kee Lee** was saved at Naedang Bible Baptist Church in November 1981. He then left a Presbyterian church and became a member of Daegu Bible Baptist Church. While going to Hampton University in Virginia, he attended Central Baptist Church where G. T. Hall was his pastor. He attended Dallas Theological Seminary. Among other degrees, he has a D.Min. from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as youth worker, assistant pastor, assistant to Dr. Daniel Kim, and is presently the senior pastor of SaRang Bible Baptist Church.



## hong kong

**Shoji Yoshida** was born into a Buddhist family where his grandfather and uncles were Buddhist priests. He was saved on March 20, 1983, after being invited by his sister to take her to church on his motorcycle. He graduated from Bible college in 1987 with a burden to preach the gospel in Taiwan and China. He learned Chinese and missionary work at Taitung Baptist Church (started by Dan Freeman, BBFI missionary). From 1996 to 2002, he pastored Lighthouse Baptist Church which Missionary David Homer started. He pioneered Hong Kong Cornerstone Baptist Church in 2003.



## philippines

**Jun Lumagbas** took his Bachelor of Arts (major in Sociology/Anthropology) college education at the University of San Carlos until 1972 when martial law was declared. He completed special courses in the United States (Institute of Basic Youth Conflicts and Institute for Neuothetic Counseling). He worked as a marketing/advertising executive with International Advertising, Inc. He was saved and baptized in 1960 under Bob Hughes and started his pastoral ministry 1977 at Bible Baptist Church, Cebu City. He presently serves as associate pastor, youth and choir director, and administrative assistant to Dr. Armie Jesalva.



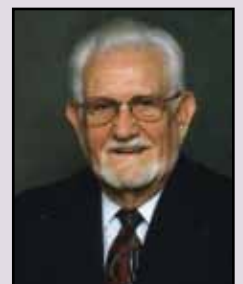
## cambodia

**Nuth Pick** was saved in 1997. He graduated in 2002 from Cambodia Bible Baptist College and was ordained the same year. He has been working with a Cambodian missionary who has started churches in several cities. He is a very gifted pastor who has a good sense of humor and good leadership qualities.



## congo

**Elmer Deal** and his wife, Mary, were approved as Baptist Bible Fellowship missionaries to the Belgian Congo in May 1957. They were forced to leave the Congo in 1973 during the revolution. The Deals became the missions professors at Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, during this time. They were permitted to return to their field in April 1982. On April 21, 2008, Mary went home to be with the Lord. They had been married 61 years with over 50 of those years being served faithfully on the mission field.



### cambodia

**Mike Valdez** was born in the city of Baguio and was saved in 1983. He graduated from Bible Baptist College in San Fernando, La Union, in 1989. He worked



as a church-pastoral staff member with American missionaries Bob and Gary Phillips. He started churches and pastored until being called to be a missionary at a mission conference in 1995. He and his wife felt the call to Cambodia and arrived there in 1997. They have been missionaries for 13 years.

### scotland

**Leonard James** was born in Glasgow, Scotland. He trusted the Lord as Saviour in 1976 under the ministry of James Ray who is now the president of BIMl in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He graduated from Baptist Bible College of Great Britain in 1983. He started pastoring in 1993 and became the pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Nuneaton, England. He was the dean of students at Baptist Bible College Great Britain for five years. Presently, he is pastor of Woodhill Baptist Church in Colwyn Bay, Wales. He has pastored for 17 years.



### mexico

**Alfonso Alvizio** was born in Mexico City, and was saved as a teenager at the Bethel Baptist Church, Queretaro, Mexico, under the ministry of Jimmy Lee, BBFI missionary. He established Lindavista Baptist Bible Church in Mexico City and pastored Fundamental Baptist Church in Tuxpan, Veracruz. He also worked beside missionaries Harold DeVilbiss and Ed Hoagland while being a teacher at the Latinamerican Baptist College. Since 2003, he has served as an evangelist of Mexico's Baptist Bible Fellowship.



### philippines

**Gerardo G. Nable** was saved in July 1974. He resigned from his secular job in 1994 to answer God's call to full-time church work in Bethany Baptist Church. He has served as a sunday school teacher, interim pastor, assistant pastor, and associate pastor. He was dean of Baptist Bible College for ten years and was president. He became senior pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in June 2000.



#### CONFERENCE HELPS & HINTS



This book is filled with ideas and helps for missions conferences and missions ministries in your church. It is packed with conference themes, international recipes, mission lyrics to well known tunes, guides for mailing overseas, guides for praying for your missionaries and developing missionary care programs in your church and much, much more.

#### GOAL POSTERS



These posters may be used by each Sunday School class or for the entire church family to mark the progress of weekly missionary giving toward the set goal. These posters are approximately 17 1/2" x 23".

## Planning a mission conference?

Let the Mission Office help with your mission conference materials

[www.bbfimissions.com](http://www.bbfimissions.com)

(417) 862-5001

#### FAITH PROMISE BROCHURE



Scriptural principles are used in this pamphlet to explain Faith Promise giving. The benefits of Faith Promise are outlined and plainly stated for complete understanding.



## philippines

**Paul Byars** was saved in 1963 and graduated from Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, in 1974. He and his wife were approved as missionaries to American Samoa in 1975 and changed fields to the Philippines in 1982. He has been active in church planting, leadership training, Bible college, and the Asian Baptist Clearinghouse.



## ghana

**Cherlsoon Yim** was saved in May 1974. After being called into God's service in 1986, he entered Korea Baptist Bible College and graduated in 1991. He served as a part-time and full-time staff member at Bulkwangdong Bible Baptist from March 1988 to January 1992. He graduated in 1994 with a MABS from Baptist Bible Graduate School of Theology, Springfield, Missouri. He graduated from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary with a M. Div. (1997) and D. Min (2004). In October 1997, he was approved as a KBBF missionary and has been serving in Ghana since January 1999.



## nepal

**Jeevan Sharma** was born into a high-caste Brahman Hindu family. He graduated from Kathmandu University in 1989 with a B.A. in English and worked for the Nepali immigration department in Kathmandu until 1993 when he moved to western Nepal to manage a hotel. While at the hotel, he was introduced to Christ in 1995 by BBFI missionary David Freeman who gave him a Bible during a stay at the hotel. After hearing the gospel message for three years, he accepted Christ in 1998. In 2000, he partnered with David Freeman to start Kathmandu Bible Baptist Church, which he currently pastors.



- travel document info
- budgeting and packing tips
- news updates
- speaker schedule
- lodging information
- things to do in Cebu City
- promo video and materials



## COUNTRY POSTERS



We provide full-color posters of nearly 100 different mission fields. These posters are approximately 17 1/2" x 23" and are attractive for special mission emphasis occasions as well as year-round decoration. The posters may be ordered separately or as a set.

## PLACEMATS

These full-color placemats can be used for your missionary banquets, international dinners or any occasion intended to emphasize missions. They are 11" x 17" and come in packets of 100.



## FAITH PROMISE CARDS

These commitment cards are designed especially to fit the appropriate groups in a congregation. They come perforated to allow one portion to be tallied for the Faith Promise Goal and the other portion is designed for the individual to keep as a reminder of his commitment to Faith Promise Missions Giving.



The Mission Office is working on a package for those who would like to travel together and be assisted by the Mission Office and our travel agent. The plan is to depart from Los Angeles on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, at 10:00 PM. If we get enough people to travel with us, the cost will be lower and we can use one plane provided by Philippine Airlines to fly from Los Angeles straight to Cebu City with a refuel stopover in Guam.

## Flight and Arrival Information

Your reservations can be made directly with our travel agent at:

Lagring Gonzalez  
City Tours and Travel  
3530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 270  
Los Angeles, California 90010  
Telephone: (213) 487-1227  
Fax: (213) 487-2183  
Email: ctourstrvl@aol.com



*By using our travel agent and this travel package...*

- They can assist you with your travels to Los Angeles from your home airport.
- They can help you with an open end on the return ticket if you want to visit another country on your return.
- Upon your arrival, you will be assisted in getting to the hotel from the airport.
- Your hotel room(s) will be reserved with this package.
- You will have assistance to expedite travel through airports and customs.

## Package Itinerary

Friday, February 18

**Arrive in Cebu at 7:00 AM**

- Buses to Crown Regency Hotel will be waiting
- Spend day at hotel and meals at hotel

Saturday, February 19

**Breakfast at hotel plus three options:**

1. Join organized local churches and participate in outreach activities in the Cebu City area. Afternoon is open
2. Join organized tour to the province and see the local area
3. Join organized group to spend the day at the beach

Sunday, February 20

**Join services at local churches**

- Different church options for morning and evening services
- Preaching opportunities are available if you desire. Contact Jun Lumagbas in Cebu for opportunity suggestions at [pjlumagbas@bbc-cebu.org](mailto:pjlumagbas@bbc-cebu.org)

Monday, February 21

- Sightseeing during the morning and afternoon on your own
- **Opening service starts at 6:00 PM at the convention center**

## Accommodations

**Crown Regency Hotel**

At the center of Cebu City, Philippines rises the Fuente Towers, hosting the prestigious Crown Regency Hotel & Towers. The tallest structure outside Metro Manila, the 23-storey, 22,000-square meter Fuente 1 and its equally arresting twin the 38-storey, 36,000-square meter Fuente Tower 2 majestically tower over the Queen City of the South. Its location on Fuente Osmeña and right in the pulse of Cebu City places Crown Regency Hotel & Towers in close proximity to the major points of commerce and recreation.



- Fully air-conditioned rooms
- Full bath with tub
- Breakfast included
- Non-smoking rooms
- Hair dryers and ironing boards
- In-room internet connectivity
- Car rental and city transfer
- Foreign exchange
- Safety deposit boxes
- Four restaurants on the premises
- Entertainment: 38th floor observatory, Cebu's only 4D movie theater, kids playroom, outdoor pool, aqua fitness indoor pool, fitness center, spa facilities





## Cost and Deadlines

Total package from Los Angeles and return (7 nights):  
\$2,000.00\*

**Flight only:** direct return on Friday 25, 2011:  
\$1,300.00\*

**Accommodations:** \$80.00 per day for double occupancy (www.crownregencyhotels.com/hotel/index.php)

**Meals:** avg. approximately \$20 per day per person

**Transportation:** to convention center will be provided – all other will be at your own expense

**Down Payment:** \$250 by November 1, 2010, will hold your place for the trip. Checks should be made out to the BBFI and need to be sent to the Mission Office at: Cebu Travel, P. O. Box 191, Springfield, MO 65801-0191

**Please, do not send your deposit with your regular contributions as it may delay processing.**

*\*Final cost to be confirmed and set by the travel agent. Flight costs for February 2011 are still forthcoming by the airlines. The total cost above is in relation to available rates as of July 2010. Traveling to other destinations at the end of the trip may result in an increased cost.*

## About Cebu City

**Cebu City** lies in the central part of the Philippines and is the second largest city in the country. Known as the Queen City of the South, Cebu has the second largest airport in the Philippines. Cebu City is modern, advanced, and English is widely spoken.

Cebu City receives foreign tourists each year by the hundreds of thousands and thus has accommodations for the budget conscious and for guests that prefer five-star amenities. International chains such as Marriot, Hilton, Marco Polo, and Shangrila have hotels in the city. All these hotels are within driving distance of Bible Baptist Church.



# THE MINISTER'S INSTRUCTION MANUAL

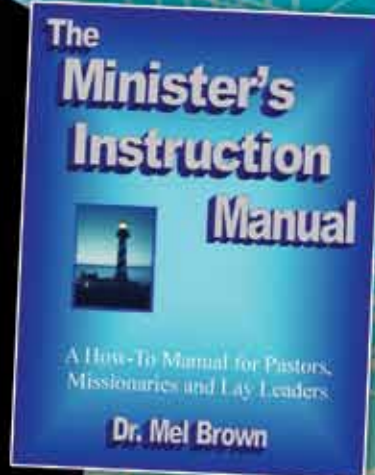
A HOW-TO MANUAL FOR PASTORS, MISSIONARIES, AND LAY LEADERS

BY DR. MEL BROWN

PASTOR, EDGEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

“THROUGH THE YEARS EDGEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH IN ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. MEL BROWN, HAS TRAINED AND PRODUCED SOME OF THE MOST PREPARED MISSIONARIES WITH THE BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL. THEY HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THIS THROUGH A VERY THOROUGH INTENSE TWO-YEAR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM. THIS MANUAL IS AN IN-DEPTH VOLUME OF SPECIFIC TRAINING IN EVERY ASPECT OF PREPARING A CHURCH PLANTER. MINISTERS AND CHURCHES WILL GREATLY ENHANCE THEIR TRAINING OF FUTURE LEADERS AS MISSIONARIES, PASTORS, AND CHURCH STAFF. WHAT A TREMENDOUS BLESSING THIS TOOL WILL BE TO MANY.”

JON KONNERUP  
BBFI MISSION DIRECTOR



\$29.95

307 PAGES OF  
INFORMATION IN  
THREE MAIN  
SECTIONS:

PERSONAL  
PREPARATION

DUTIES  
OF THE  
MINISTER

THE CHURCH

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**WWW.MINISTERSINSTRUCTIONMANUAL.COM**





# Thinking about FRANCE

by Jon Konnerup

**W**hat do you think of when you think of France? The Eiffel Tower? The Louvre? Notre Dame Cathedral? The palaces at Versailles? French bread? Cheese? Rich desserts? French toast?

All of these typify France and are reminders of the rich historical and cultural treasure France is to the world. More important than all the architectural wonders, the historical landmarks, the cultural traditions, and the food, are the people of France. There are millions of people who have not heard a clear gospel witness and who seem to have no spiritual hunger or thirst for God.

It is said that France is a missionary graveyard. Early missionary endeavors were made in France; however, in our modern times, France has become one of the slowest and most difficult places to spread the Good News. Why? There are a variety of reasons, but I want to highlight three.

One is the small number of willing workers. The spiritual ground in France is hard with little yield in the

last five decades. It can be discouraging when results seem to be sparse. The French are searching for spiritual meaning and find themselves empty after trying other paths. Continued patient evangelism and missionary work is necessary. We need people to be on the ground for an extended period of time to build relationships and trust, to get involved in our established churches and our camp, and to till the spiritual soil, softening it to receive the seed of the gospel. It will take surrender of more people in our churches to go to France so that we have more people to do the work and be that witness.

Another reason is the limited amount of financial resources. There is a misconception that France is a "comfortable" mission field where one does not need to make many sacrifices. This misconception not only makes it more difficult for missionaries to raise support, but it extends their time on deputation. France is a very expensive country in which to live and work, so the level of support a missionary needs is greater. Fuel for a car is currently around \$6 a gallon

and the purchase of land and buildings seems to be out of reach. The reports of salvations and churches started in France convey not only the difficulty of the field, but may reflect that many concerned for missions are interested in going to and investing in countries where the results are greater. It is going to take a dedicated effort to financially and prayerfully support those who serve.

The last reason I want to highlight is the spiritual dearth in France. France has a population of 60.7 million people with 10.7 million people in Paris alone. These numbers are growing rapidly by the day as more people migrate there from all around the world. Many believe that France is now the largest unreached western nation because of its strong growth in multiculturalism leading to many different false religious views. There are thousands of cities and towns without any gospel witness or Bible-believing church. Although France is now known for its rejection of the Bible which has led them to a philosophy of secularism, materialism, and socialism, certain religions are not dying.



RATIO OF SPIRITUAL MEDIUMS  
TO MEDICAL DOCTORS

6:1

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF  
MUSLIMS IN FRANCE

4.5  
MILLION

POPULATION OF PARIS

10.7  
MILLION

Islam is growing at an alarming rate, mostly due to the number of those entering from Islamic countries. It is estimated that 4.5 million Muslims live in France. Many cults are present and belief in the occult is also prevalent. It is said that there are six times as many spiritual mediums as there are doctors.

Consequently, missionaries are always under strong spiritual attacks from the Devil and it is difficult for people to be open to the Truth. Their hearts are blinded by the evil one who has gained a stronghold in France and will not readily relinquish it. These religions and cults have caused the French government to crack down on the activity of most religious groups. They have initiated legislation to limit their abilities to work freely. One day, this may affect our missionaries and their ministries. We need to do as much as we can now before such restrictions occur. Thankfully, at this time, our missionaries have the necessary recognition to freely serve as God has called and led them.

All of this became very personal and evident to me when my family and I visited France this summer.

Baptist Bible Fellowship International has four families currently in France who are all active in ministry and desire to see more churches started. The Dedeyans have been in France for 40 years, the Williams family for 35 years, the Autersons for 10 years, and the Van Meris family for about six years. People have been brought to Christ through their efforts and churches have been started who have in turn reproduced themselves by sending out their own to other cities. A highlight of our visit was attending and preaching in the main church where the Dedeyans have worked. The people's excitement for the Lord and interest to see the Truth spread in their country was encouraging. The Dedeyans have a three-week-long youth camp every July. Through the years, many young people have been saved and numerous have surrendered to serve the Lord while at this camp.

Our time with the missionaries was a blessing. I was amazed at their diligence in spite of the difficul-

ties and barriers they face. Missionary Paul Dedeyan states that the three reasons why the French find it hard to accept the gospel message are (1) the desire to put the family and entertainment first, (2) loyalty and dedication to their own religion, and (3) materialism. Each missionary family stated that despite all the hindrances, they see opportunities — great opportunities to reach people with the gospel and start new churches. Their plea is for more laborers to join in the task. Good things are happening through the BBFI missionaries in France.

So what can we do? Urgently PRAY! We must pray for God's power and protection for our current missionaries in France. Pray that God will enable the current churches to reach out to the many cities that are without a church. Pray that God will provide more laborers to partner with our current missionary force. Are we up to this task?



ABOVE: THE DEDEYANS (LEFT), THE WILLIAMS (CENTER), AND THE AUTERSONS (RIGHT) ALONG WITH THE VAN MERIS FAMILY (NOT PICTURED) ARE THE FOUR BBFI MISSIONARY FAMILIES IN FRANCE.



LEFT: SERVICES AT THE DEDEYAN'S MINISTRY.







## Bodies in the lagoon

# URBAN CURRENT

**B**ody found in the Humboldt Park Lagoon,” read the headline from a little over a year ago. Another one from a few years back, “Man’s body found in Humboldt Lagoon.” These are just a couple stories I’ve snagged and saved. I’m sure I missed a few. Humboldt Park Lagoon, not to mention the surrounding square of green in the middle of some of Chicago’s most desperate neighborhoods, has long been the battleground of 100 plus gangs.

For more than a generation, Humboldt Park and the surrounding area which goes by the same name, has been synonymous with the worst American cities can serve up; the usual menu of stick-ups, muggings, rapes, and general mayhem. Back in the day, driving through the park to various places, I would see dog packs of eight or nine animals roaming, foraging, threatening. Suffice to say, the park and its environs continue to live up to a grim reputation (Google Humboldt Park shooting).

I was convicted 12 years ago that we had messed up Jesus’ idea of believer’s baptism. We have privatized what Jesus meant to be public domain. We know baptism is to be the public declaration of Jesus’ lordship and attachment to His local body, but in reality we’ve taken the route of convenience. We schedule baptism in hidden, walled, sequestered pools, often in front of the smallest audience of the week. At any rate, I concluded that we were not maximizing water baptism by making it as public as possible. I thought it would be great to take baptism to the Humboldt Park Lagoon. I’m always looking for ways to get out of the church building walls anyway. What church activity needs to be in public more than baptism?

Decades ago, the lagoon was refitted to

make it an urban beach. A sorry beach it is, I have to tell you. Nonetheless, it gives us a great place to bear witness to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the lives of transformed urbanites. A gentle hillside overlooks the brown puddle. Between the bottom of the hill and the edge of the water is a huge weeping willow tree. The crowd seated on the slope looks across the lagoon at the dramatic downtown Chicago skyline. It’s an unbelievable setting. A beautiful blend of nature and man’s ingenuity.

The last Sunday in August, we take Sunday Nite Live 10 blocks straight south to our local Jordan River! A few years back we started noticing that every time we were there, not too far away a large crowd of a couple hundred urban rowdies was gathered. Come to find out, it was the annual picnic of one of the local street gangs. This, along with ball games, picnickers, strollers, always a few winos, is what surrounds us as we praise, preach, testify, and baptize.

One of our first candidates was a young man who grew up just a couple blocks from the park. He is now a regional director for FEMA. Our custom is to have people give their testimony of faith in Christ before they are baptized. A couple of years ago a young lady stepped to the mic and said, “Last year when you were here for this service I was right over there, hiding behind that tree. I had been at Armitage as a child and professed Christ as Savior, but strayed. A year ago tonight, you surprised me when you came for the baptism because you caught me drunk in the park.” Moments later we immersed her in the murky water.

Another year, two of those being baptized were the daughter of a Korean doctor and

a young Puerto Rican girl whose dad abandoned her. Then there’s the Polish girl one of our people met in the subway and brought to Christ. There was the gangbanger who had been in prison for a double murder. I remember the older gentleman who was won by the aforementioned Korean doctor. When the doctor found him in his nursing home bed, he couldn’t get out of bed. After sharing a powerful story of Christ’s saving healing power, this newborn oldster walked to the lagoon’s edge and into the water. Or there’s the American Indian, a slave of alcohol so long, who stood looking at his children on the shore. They surely never thought their dad would change. But Christ.... An African-American TV news reporter who came to do a story at Armitage got saved, and became one of the station’s news anchors, came up out of the waters dripping and smiling.

So this is one of the highlights of our year. We get to baptize some of our disciples under a summer sky, against the backdrop of a world-class skyline, surrounded by real estate from which blood cries out.

To date, without the help of police, we have lifted almost 100 bodies out of Humboldt Park Lagoon. Live ones. Regenerated. Delivered. Transformed. “...buried with Him...raised to walk in newness of life.”



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



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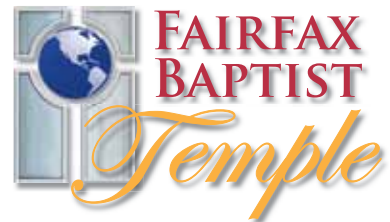
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BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

# Part of what God is doing



by Jim Edge | President | Baptist Bible College

In just a few short days, students will begin to return to the campus of Baptist Bible College. I get excited about opening day because it is like a holiday with students coming back together and new students beginning their time with us. Perhaps my greatest encouragement as president is to have the opportunity to spend time with students that God sends our way. I am constantly challenged by their passion and spiritual dedication.

One such student is Reuben Herrin. Reuben comes to us from Capitol City Baptist Church in Holt, Michigan. He surrendered his life to full-time Christian service between his junior and senior year of high school at Camp Chautauqua, when Brian Moore and the BBC Rec team were there. A 2010 BBC graduate, he now serves on our staff in the recruiting office. In a recent conversation, he said, "I can't shake the idea that God is calling this generation of young believers to live life according to what God has for them and not what the world has for them. It is awesome that God has opened the door for me to recruit. It gives me the opportunity to have an impact on their decision to serve Christ."

About his time at BBC, Reuben states, "I really learned through the students and professors how to be a true Christ follower, not just a nominal Christian. I learned the importance of practicing a biblical lifestyle."

The education of our students in how to make a difference for Christ is our number one priority. These students will insure a strong future for the cause of Christ, the local church, and the Baptist Bible Fellowship. We take that responsibility seriously. It is my conviction that true lasting biblical training includes much more than what takes place in a classroom. Our professors at BBC often spend time outside the classroom through local churches and service projects to influence our students. Under the leadership of Greg Christopher, our vice president for academic affairs, and Ray Adams, our dean of students, our students are mentored by professors and staff, and they gain valuable practical wisdom through real life experiences.

It is because of Reuben and many others like him that I have the assurance there is great hope for the future of Baptist Bible College and the BBFI. Thank you for being our partner in prayer and financial support. We are honored you have entrusted us with your young men and women whom God has called. By partnering with BBC you have joined with God in writing the next chapter in the exciting story of independent Baptists and the Baptist Bible Fellowship.

When asked "What's next for you?" Reuben responded, "I feel like God is getting ready to use BBC to make a huge difference in God's kingdom work. I want to be a part of what God is doing."



## Fall Fellowship Number—

# Baptist Bible

FOR BIBLE BEL

VOL. 1

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, F

"The Lord Therefore Hath Performed His Word"

## BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE OPENS AS IT SAID IT WOULD

8 O'clock; All Aboard

## "We Have Revised Our Estimates Upwards"

The picture you see across the top of this page, and extending clear across the top of the back page, is that of the faculty and student body of the Baptist Bible College, which opened—as it was announced that it would open—Tuesday morning, Sept. 5. There are 110 of these students from 12 states.

There are 67 in the first year class; 28 in the second; 13 in the third, and two post graduate students. The states represented are: Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Tennessee, Florida, Illinois, Ohio, Colorado and Arkansas.

You missed something by not being here for the opening.

First of all, was the weather. This is September, and September in the land of the Ozarks. In this land a September day is bright and crisp and fragrant in the morning; delectable toward noon, golden and full of dreams in the afternoon. At nights the thousands of acres of autumn glory are draped in a sheen of silver. God took His time when He designed this Ozark land.

Second, there was that intangible, mysterious, elusive thing called atmosphere. This College had it for its opening. It was natural, spontaneous—like that of a family gathered home after long and arduous journeys. Everybody seemed to know all about everybody else. They had been comrades and friends in one of the bitterest battles in the history of modern American Christianity. Their leaders had been attacked as no public men in our day have been attacked. The president of the Baptist Bible Fellowship had been publicly charged with being as bad a man as the men mentioned in the first chapter of the Book of Romans. The president of the College had been charged with being as bad as Judas Iscariot and Benedict Arnold. The manager of the College had been charged with being an embezzler. The editor of this paper had been charged with being a thief and a defrauder of innocent people.



BOSTON BAPTIST COLLEGE

# I watched a brawl last night



by David Melton | President | Boston Baptist College

I am not much of a fight fan. I like peace and tranquility. But brawls between major league baseball teams usually make me smile. I watched one last night on TV. It is mostly silly yelling and jersey grabbing — most punches are biblical... “as one that beateth the air!” What I like is the protocol. On the baseball field, if there is a brawl, it is understood — everybody out of the dugout and the bullpen. Stars, benchwarmers, coaches, nobody just sits and watches.

Now, I am not advocating bad sportsmanship, cheating, or vile language. What got to me about last night's eighth inning brawl was not boys behaving badly, it was teammates standing together.

I am privileged to be the president of Boston Baptist College as well as a pastor. I know some people want to be on a team and some don't. I have the greatest team I have ever had in Boston — starting with our trustees and regents, right on down the line. I also know what rejection is! Some value what we are doing in Boston and some don't. But being on a team of churches, that is a huge matter.

The concept of churches working together to do tasks bigger than our local ministries could not be more biblical. It is God's will. Paul did not launch out on his missionary journeys indifferent to the community of believers. Just the opposite, the church in Antioch sent him on his way. Years later, Paul commended the Philippians for their “fellowship in the gospel,” noting that they had sent once and again unto his “necessity.” The Philippians understood that God's work is “us” work — not merely “my” work. All over the Gentile world, Paul led churches to work together to help the saints in Jerusalem. There may be unhealthy ideas brewing in the minds of some that focus exclusively on in-house needs and visions. Biblically, though, there is a compelling pattern that churches need to work together as a team to do some tasks. That sure isn't always easy.

Leading Boston Baptist College is a constant lesson in this truth. I wish I could convince everybody to join our team, but that is no more likely than a missionary getting every church's support. As new students come to Boston this fall, I am reminded again what we do here. We define ourselves with quality, biblical education for the 21st century, we are soundly historic Baptists to the bone, and we are committed to educating young leaders who can eventually lead our churches and start new ministries that embrace historic doctrine and ethical innovation.

By the time you read this we will have another group of new students in Boston — kind of like spring training all over again. We are glad to get jerseys for them. Boston Baptist College is a team of churches and pastors and college leaders. If you value what we are doing, we've already got a jersey for you. This team will give all we have to do what we do for Jesus. And when battles come — when Satan throws a bean ball, even an economic one — this team comes running. Nobody stays in the dugout!



## Bible Tribune

REVIVING BAPTISTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1950 16 PAGES

NO. 12

And all of that was put out over a large radio station and printed in what claims to be a Christian paper.

And every kind of coercion had been brought to bear upon the students.

Even so, they were all there. Every detail was on schedule. Said Rev. Leaford Cavin, pastor of Faith Baptist church, Attica, Kas., a visitor:

“It was a privilege and a joy to attend the opening session of the Baptist Bible College and witness how God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we could ask or think. Our hearts were made to rejoice when we viewed the number of students enroll the first day, which was far above our expectations.

“Only God could supply such well qualified men as those on the faculty of this college. The schedule is evidence that the students will have a real workable knowledge of the Word of God upon completion of the 3-year course. As a pastor I can surely recommend the Baptist Bible College to our youth as a school where the Spirit of Christ predominates.”

### Buildings Being Completed

Temporarily the College is holding its sessions in the spacious buildings of the High St. Fundamental Baptist church, of which Rev. W. E. Dowell is pastor.

But by the time you read this, students will be moving into the College's \$50,000 dormitory. And about the same time, or a few days later, the College will be housed in its own buildings on the campus. There will be four buildings in all: (1) the dormitory; (2) a building for class rooms, auditorium and faculty offices; (3) the administration building, in which will be the president's office, the offices of the business manager and his staff, the offices of THE TRIBUNE, library, study hall and book store; and (4) the building which will house the cafeteria.

Already general plans are being made to build the second dormitory.

### “Couldn't Believe It”

A prominent Springfield investment executive, in a business conference, told the College officials that he never could have believed that this College could have been translated from blueprint to concrete and steel in 90 days. “To tell you the truth,” he said, “we have

[Continued on back page.]



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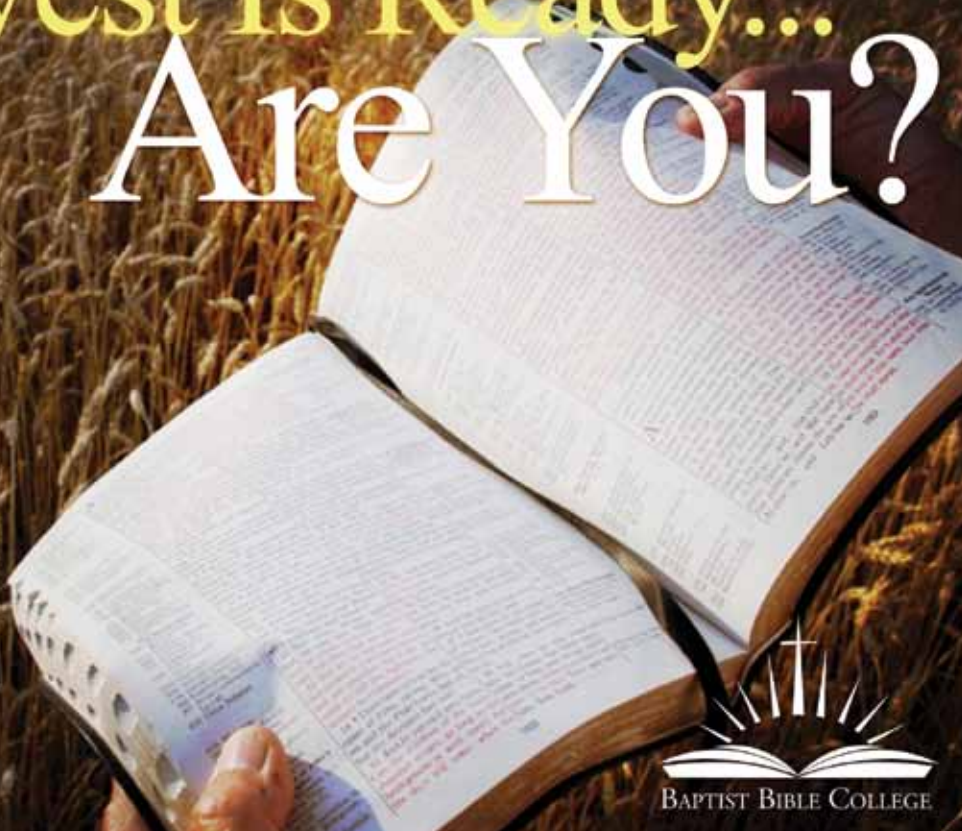
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# Carters; 25 years at Heatheridge

Tulsa, OK



The members of Heatheridge Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, surprised their pastor and his wife, Bill and Norma Carter, with a celebration service and gifts on the occasion of the couple's 25th anniversary with the church August 1. Bill and Norma had recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and the church presented them with an Alaskan cruise in addition to a love offering in honor of their service. Tribune Editor Keith Bassham was guest preacher for the occasion. In the photo, church members Don and Barbara Shoemaker present Bill and Norma Carter (center) their gifts.

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# Hulgin to retire after 45 years at Grace Baptist

Akron, OH

Phil Hulgin will retire as pastor Emeritus of Grace Baptist Church September 26, with special morning services and an afternoon open house. Hulgin has served Grace Baptist Church for 45 years.

Upon graduating from Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, in 1965, Hulgin and his wife, Vera, returned to their hometown and founded Shadyside Baptist Church in the Kenmore area of Akron in a storefront. Dennis Nutt became their first music minister, who also retired after serving the church for 45 years.

Shadyside Baptist grew and in 1985 the name was changed to Grace Baptist Church with a move to the Firestone Park area of Akron. Hulgin has had a radio broadcast in the Akron, Canton, and Cleveland area for over 40 years and the church is active in supporting over 80 missionaries and missionary outreaches.

Hulgin will begin a new ministry called Forget-Me-Not, an outreach of Grace Baptist Church. This ministry will help churches hold special meetings such as revivals and faith promise conferences with a focus on helping and encouraging pastors and their wives and helping young ministries. The Hulgins will also have a special focus on senior citizens and nursing homes in Ohio and Florida.

Grace Baptist will change pastoral leadership in October with co-pastors Robert Stephens and Jason Bowman, and their new minister of music, Tony White. All three of these men have served under Hulgin's leadership.

Hulgin can be reached through Grace Baptist Church, 704 N. Firestone Blvd. or PO Box 3798, Akron, OH 44314, or (330) 606-8941.



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## Akron, OH



Charles was active in all areas of life and passionate about the Lord's work. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Sylvia Eileen, two sons, and six grandchildren. Memorial services were held August 4 at Akron Baptist Temple with his son, Dallas Billington, officiating.

## Fort Worth, TX



Lee is survived by his wife, Marilyn, two daughters, five grandchildren, and his mother. Memorial services were held August 3 at Northwest Baptist Church, where Philip Hickman has succeeded Pastor Ingram. Fellow pastors Dave Hardy, Jack Alumbaugh, and Tom Waggoner spoke during the service. Dan Williford and Terry Kizer ministered at the graveside.

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• **The Fundamentalist Baptist Tabernacle**, 1329 South Hope St., Los Angeles, CA 90015, 213/744-9999. *Pastor Dr. R. L. Hymers, Jr.* sermon manuscripts at [www.realconversion.com](http://www.realconversion.com)

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• **Calvary Road Baptist Church**, 319 West Olive Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016, 626/357-2711, [www.calvary-roadbaptist.org](http://www.calvary-roadbaptist.org) *Dr. John S. Waldrup*

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• **Liberty Baptist Church**, 2451 Dora Ave., Tavares, FL 32778, 352/343-0061 *Pastor Timothy J. Green*

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• **Harbor Baptist Church**, 428 Tomoka Ave., Ormond Beach, FL 32173, 386/677-3116 *Pastor Ronald L. Todd*

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• **First Baptist Coconut Creek**, formerly Calvary Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 954/422-9611 *Pastor Jerry Williamson*

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# Shorty Leffit

By Elsie Fishgrab

Retired BBFI Missionary to the Navajo

Shorty grew up in the early days of the state of Texas. Outlaws, cattle rustlers, and horse thieves were prominent residents. And, following the example set before him, Shorty happily set forth to see what he could get by with.

At the ripe old age of 10, he started smoking, and then graduated to liquor and a few other things. Naturally, those things took money, so he had to swipe a few chickens, then a couple of billy goats. After that, he went on to bigger things, until one day he and a couple of friends tackled something really big. He'd been doing pretty good at getting away with things, but that day he didn't quite get away fast enough. He soon found himself heading for the Texas border, just one short step ahead of a very angry posse bent on frontier justice, which was often meted out at the end of a hangman's rope.

Well, Shorty couldn't wait to collect any of his personal belongings, so he just lit out of Texas on one fast horse and the clothes on his back. When he finally shook that posse and left the Texas border many miles behind, Shorty sat down to take stock of his present situation. It didn't look very good. Few clothes, no money, no food, and nowhere to go for help.

Of course, with a little careful maneuvering, he could probably find a change of clothes, maybe even a quilt, hanging on an unguarded clothesline — but money could be a real problem. He'd have to tread pretty carefully, as he was still close enough to Texas that his reputation could have arrived ahead of him.

After giving it some serious thought, Shorty realized he'd left everything he had in Texas. And, he'd even have to leave his name there too — otherwise he might end up back in Texas to pay for all his crimes.

"Well," he mused, "everything I had I left it in Texas, so what could be more right than I call myself Shorty Leffit? For that's just what I did, I leff it all in Texas."

Sometime later, Shorty found himself wandering around in No Man's Land. No Man's Land was an area several miles in scope surrounded by the states or territories of Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico. An area not claimed by any organized group, the only law available was a United States marshal that had to be called from somewhere in one of the surrounding states or territories — which could take anywhere from a week to a month to accomplish. This, of course, gave an outlaw plenty of time

to change locations or call in friends to help defend his territory. And most Federal marshals didn't much care to engage in a shootout with a gang of outlaws. So No Man's Land was a safe hangout for criminals of every sort.

For some of them, No Man's Land was also a place where they could take time to consider their lives and decide where they wanted to go from there. After due consideration, Shorty decided he didn't want to end up in prison — so he would just steal enough stuff to get himself a good start, then he would "go straight" from then on. Several outlaws, after a trip through No Man's Land, came out on the other

side owning land and cattle and becoming respected ranchers. Shorty himself came out with a wife and enough stuff to make a new start, and he was no longer known as Shorty Leffit, but was Shorty... Smith? Jones? Brown? Doesn't really matter, they were all generic names anyway!

And now you must be thinking, "Just what is the point in all of this?"

The point is that God has a place that we might call No Man's Land — a place where we must stop and take a good look at our lives thus far, a place where we can decide if we will go right on with our old, sinful way of living, or if we will make a right turn and "go straight" in the path the Lord will set before us.

When we choose to go His way, the Lord Himself will give us a new name. He will write it down in the Book of Life where it can never be changed or erased.

Shorty Leffit had many name changes in his lifetime, and always he worried that someday his real name would catch up with him. He lived in fear that he would be hauled back to Texas to pay for the crimes he had done. When the Lord changes our names, we are free from fear, for Jesus Christ himself will stand as our lawyer and plead our cause in time of trouble.

"...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden mana, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." Revelation 2:17

"He that overcometh shall be clothed in white raiment: and I will not blot out his name in the book of life, ...but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Revelation 3: 5





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